

GI SPECIAL 3D3:

BLIND STUPIDITY IN ACTION



President Bush at the White House while his top military advisors look on, September 28, 2005.
(Jason Reed/Reuters)

**Lessons Unlearned:
Only Two Things Prevent U.S.
Imperial Victory In Iraq:
1. A Blind, Stupid Political Leader
2. A Blind Stupid Military
Command Utterly Ignorant Of The
First Principles Of Counter-
Insurgency Warfare;
[Otherwise, Everything Is Just Fine]**

[From: WAR IN THE SHADOWS: THE GUERRILLA IN HISTORY, BY Robert B. Asprey (West Point); William Morrow And Company; New York, 1994]

LYNDON JOHNSON FAILED in Vietnam for many of the same reasons that John Kennedy failed.

The key to failure lay in substituting ambition for policy.

Stop communism appealed to Johnson, a man of "...little background and much uncertainty in foreign affairs" (in the words of one subordinate), even more than it had appealed to Kennedy.

A Texas Baptist, Johnson had been raised in shadows of GOOD and EVIL. He was a great believer in the Bible and the Sword, and while he quoted one, he wielded the other. When neither faith nor force served him well, he was lost.

A long time ago, Clausewitz noted that ". . . the most important single judgment a political or military leader can make is to forecast correctly the nature of war upon which the nation is to embark. On this everything else depends."

Johnson's military advisers failed to forecast correctly the nature of this war; Johnson held neither knowledge nor experience to question their judgment, and he lacked inclination to consult those who could have helped him.

We have already discussed Westmoreland's attrition strategy—a dependence on superior U.S. military manpower, firepower, and mobility to wear down and finally force the enemy from the war.

This was a quantitative, as opposed to a qualitative, or selective, strategy: an open-ended strategy in a challenge that called for task-force strategy.

If so many men and machines could not "win," its proponents argued, more men and machines could "win."

Considering size and weight of the American military machine, commanders probably felt much as Roman commanders had felt when setting out to subdue recalcitrant Iberian tribes, or as Napoleon's generals felt two thousand years later when leading armies into Spain. Our own command confidence was as misplaced.

It is a great pity that our officers and officials had not analyzed these and other irregular campaigns, that they had not heeded warnings such as that delivered by Jomini in 1838:

“All the gold of Mexico could not have procured reliable information for the French (in Spain); what was given was but a lure to make them fall more readily into snares.

“No army, however disciplined, can contend successfully against such a system applied to a great nation, unless it be strong enough to hold all the essential points of the country, cover its communications, and at the same time furnish an active force sufficient to beat the enemy wherever he may present himself.

“If this enemy has a regular army of respectable size to be a nucleus around which to rally the people, what force will be sufficient to be superior everywhere, and to assure the safety of the long lines of communication against numerous bodies?

“The Peninsular War should be carefully studied, to learn all the obstacles which a general and his brave troops may encounter in the occupation or conquest of a country whose people are all in arms.. .”

Having committed the military crime of underrating the opponent, our military leaders fell victim to tactical panaceas occasioned by technology.

Early ground actions caused a good many commanders, not all, to believe that they had found the key to fighting insurgency warfare. The key was the helicopter, which furnished mobility essential to locating the enemy and bringing superior firepower to bear on him. So impressed was Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara with early operations of the 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) Division, that he said the helicopter marked “. . . the beginning of a new era in land warfare.”

Other shortcomings in American tactics soon appeared.

Increased mobility proved expensive.

The army’s airmobile concept, while sacrificing armor, armored personnel carriers, and firepower heavier than the 105-mm. howitzer, nevertheless demanded hefty logistic support— as much as 500 tons per day if the entire division is in combat”— and could be met by air transport delivery only at virtually prohibitive cost.

Thus land communications, in this case from the coast to An Khe, had to be kept open—a supporting operation that neither broke up guerrilla units nor brought relief to peasants, yet furnished targets to guerrillas.

The security requirement of the base camp, a huge area essential to house and feed the helicopters, also proved onerous, as did security requirements of outlying bases, permanent or temporary. If a hundred thousand troops were needed to maintain twenty thousand combat troops, then fifteen thousand combat troops were needed to produce five thousand troops actively pursuing the enemy.

Neither did the initial impact of the helicopter last long. Guerrillas heard and recognized helicopters, which meant that the user often forfeited tactical surprise.

Although commanders developed decoy techniques and low-level approaches, the deception nonetheless alerted the enemy that something was up.

More often than not, he slipped away before the machines landed, or he fired on machines and then slipped away, or he engaged landing parties and then slipped away.

At the same time, American units wasted time, effort, and money in blindly pursuing the enemy.

Noise limitation combined with excellent enemy intelligence caused a veteran if disillusioned marine combat officer to claim that “ . . . less than two percent of all U.S. offensive operations produce any contact whatsoever with the Viet-Cong.”

Neither did blocking operations prosper.

Units along Cambodian and Laotian borders expended great effort in blocking Viet Cong lines of communication only to find, as commanders had discovered throughout history, that they expended the bulk of their strength in static defense duties while the enemy made end runs around them.

The United States could not furnish enough troops to seal off borders, and strength in one area meant weakness in another.

<p>If defense concentrated on a particular zone, the Viet Cong, unburdened by maintenance of large barrack areas and supply depots, ceased operations in favor of striking - elsewhere.</p>
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Conventional weapons “killed” without question—but they killed quantitatively. When weapons killed the innocent, they contributed positively to the insurgent cause. And when weapons were used in such abundance as they were used in Vietnam in 1965-68, they killed many innocents.

The problem of enemy identification constantly plagued American commanders.

Lacking an enemy actually firing a weapon or attempting to hide same, the American soldier was forced to identify on the basis of observation (a patrol, for example, sighting an enemy unit) and interrogation.

His best intelligence source remained the peasant, but, in addition to usual hazards of obtaining military intelligence from civilians and of obtaining exact information from Orientals, the linguistic block asserted itself in nearly all cases, as did fear, distrust, and general xenophobia.

The collection process is difficult enough under the most favorable circumstances.

In South Vietnam, the American soldier’s distrust of the native complicated it.

His superiors could speak loud and long about “hearts and minds,” and President Johnson could continue to praise those “true democrats,” Thieu and Ky, but the words didn’t mean very much. Excepting a few isolated instances, Americans did not readily identify with South Vietnamese, toward whom they generally displayed contempt, sometimes genial, sometimes not—at worst reflected in such tactical savagery as that occurring at My Lai.

The young soldier, like his superiors totally untrained in the psychology of insurgency warfare, could not be blamed for this attitude.

It was more an exuberance of confidence than of innate arrogance, more a blind belief in the American way of life.

The monthly pay of an American private exceeded that of senior South Vietnamese officials and army officers.

The young American raised in a technological society could not be expected, without a great deal of training which he did not receive, to respect Vietnamese peasants, the more so since he could not communicate with them. Despite the claims of many American servicemen to a Christian ethos, the bulk of them regarded peasants as gooks or slope-heads; they were human beings, yes, they should be fed and protected where possible, yes—but they were an inferior race.

This probably did not surprise the peasant, who had suffered decades of humiliation from the French and from ruling Vietnamese mandarins and army.

It added, however, to a fundamental xenophobia that further widened the gulf to damage greatly the intelligence-collection process with the concomitant result of repeated tactical failures and ever-mounting casualties.

In time, and not a very long time, the young soldier began to feel that anyone not in American uniform was against him. [Unlike the political and military leadership, the young soldier was not an idiot. He also decided that officers wearing American uniforms were also against him, and proceeded to slaughter them in great numbers by fragging. No, he was not an idiot.]

As jungle environment told, as fevers appeared, as sores opened and festered, as men fell victim to mines and booby traps, as units walked into ambush, tired and nervous men grew more tired and more nervous and, if fired upon, sometimes did not hesitate to invoke the available total wrath of the American equivalent of Zeus.

Commanders who were enjoined to kill as many enemy as possible at cost of the fewest American lives, too often failed to delimit the target before committing the vast armory at their disposal.

When such fury failed to evoke expected results, tempers flared further and sometimes innocent people suffered as a result.

Early denunciations of ARVN cruelty to villagers horrified many Americans. Yet, as the war continued, American forces sometimes indulged in the fatal error of promiscuous brutality.

One disillusioned marine combat officer, Lieutenant Colonel Corson, charged that "... search-and destroy tactics against VC-controlled areas have degenerated into savagery. The terrorism of the enemy has been equally matched by our own."

Corson's indignant cry was dismissed by hawks as that of a malcontent. Unfortunately, his words soon gained currency when My Lai became a part both of the American vocabulary and American shame.

MORE:

Pushing Guerrilla Fighters Out Of One Town Often Means They Show Up In Another

October 30, 2005 Boston Globe

U.S. troops still struggle to tame the vast desert border region they call Iraq's Wild West. Progress is being made, but pushing guerrilla fighters out of one town often means they show up in another, separating and joining up again like beads of mercury.

MORE:

Crack-Heads In Command

November 1, 2005 From: U.S. Department of Defense News Transcript, Presenter: Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Peter Pace

SEC. RUMSFELD: The Iraqi security forces have done a wonderful job.

GEN. PACE: So I see the insurgents' acts as a(n) indication that the Iraqi people are in fact moving -- making progress, moving forward, and their government is as well.

MORE:

The Flawless Example Of A Commander Who Has Learned Nothing About Counter-Insurgency Except How To Kill His Own Troops

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

Nov. 01, 2005 By Drew Brown, Knight Ridder Newspapers

Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said he couldn't estimate the level of support that insurgents have in Sunni-dominated al Anbar province, where U.S. troops are frequently attacked.

But he suggested that the insurgency wouldn't subside until the "thugs and intimidators" behind it were eliminated from the local populace, which only Iraqi forces can accomplish.

"It goes back to Elliott Ness and the Untouchables," he said, referring to the famous crime buster who brought gangster Al Capone to heel in Depression-era Chicago.

"We had to break the spirit and break the back of the mobs. You come in and blow up one business and intimidate a hundred. And we're seeing that's about what's going on out there right now.

"They're just thugs and intimidators, and until we can quell that, the rest of the town is not going to jump up and start pointing them out."

MORE:

The Anatomy Of A Lost War: Cold, Hard Military Facts: No Spin Possible; Sorry About That

Then the inhabitants of the place that US forces have reduced to rubble will try to rebuild their homes in conditions of squalor and deprivation. And who do you think they will support from now on and forever?

It certainly won't be the US troops who killed their people and destroyed almost everything they possessed. It will be the guerrillas who want to kill as many Americans as they can.

October 22 / 23, 2005 By BRIAN CLOUGHLEY, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

At the moment there are some 154,000 US troops in Iraq.

But it doesn't mean there are 154,000 rifle-wielding soldiers and marines available to combat the insurgents. Far from it.

For Bush to claim that he will "clear out enemy forces" city by city is absurd because there are not enough US troops to do so.

Once you "clean out" a city, you have to secure it. There is no point in US forces flattening a city and going on to destroy the next one, as has happened and is at this moment happening, because the people who are fighting against the US occupation will just move on.

Then the inhabitants of the place that US forces have reduced to rubble will try to rebuild their homes in conditions of squalor and deprivation. And who do you think they will support from now on and forever?

It certainly won't be the US troops who killed their people and destroyed almost everything they possessed. It will be the guerrillas who want to kill as many Americans as they can.

A battalion of 700 men can muster perhaps 500 at any one time for an operation. It has to administer itself, and has, inevitably, some on the sick list, and must protect its base camp, so has to leave behind a number of troops for that.

Then there are the HQ and administrative staffs. Thousands of them.

I could go into detail about what we used to call 'mathematactics', but suffice to say that of the 154,000 troops that Bush has sent to his Iraqi killing grounds, at the very outside 90,000 are available for fighting duties, of which most are simply self-protection.

And don't think they are available 24/7, because even soldiers need a break from being involved in nerve-wracking operations in which they are, at any moment of every hour of every day, liable to be killed the instant they set foot or wheel outside their bases.

In fact they are more likely to be killed while on the way to carry out Bush's "offensive operations", because by the time they get there most of the guerrillas have decamped for another location, having planted bombs along the entry routes.

Bush the "War President", the would-be tactician and strategist, has tricked and swindled America's fighting men and women.

There are some 80 cities/towns in Iraq with populations of over 6,000.

Of these, about a half are in the US occupation zone, and to "clear them" à la Bush, would take a minimum of 2000 troops for the smallest towns and exponentially more as the population figure increases.

Of course the attractive option is to use fewer troops and blitz them with helicopter gunships and strike aircraft blazing away with rockets and pulverizing them with guided bombs.

(The bombs are extremely accurate ; the problem is that the houses they accurately destroy contain women and children whose deaths seem to be vital in the Bush war for global domination.)

So if Bush goes from "area by area, city by city" to clear them of enemy in futile but majestically destructive operations that take a week or so, it will take another year to declare Mission Accomplished Again.

And then, because the guerrillas keep moving on, one step ahead of the assault troops, in classic guerrilla warfare tactics (do none of these generals read history?), the whole thing will begin all over, resulting in yet more deaths of American soldiers and marines.

And when US troops move on from whatever town or city they have pulverized with their tanks and helicopter gunships and rocketing bombing F-16s, Bush imagines that Iraqi troops will be able to provide security.

In a pig's ear.

If these ill-trained Iraqi soldiers are of the same religious persuasion as the locals they will help the guerrillas. If they are of other sects or different ethnic loyalty they will persecute the population and thereby encourage yet more insurgent violence.

Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz are criminals.

They have sacrificed the lives of American soldiers because they refuse to admit they were wrong.

Bush the strategist is a phony who prefers to look after the "haves and the have mores", as he declared on October 20, 2000. His loyalty is not to his troops or his country. It is to money and power and looking good in macho fancy dress. Bring on impeachment.

MORE:

COUNTER-INSURGENCY WARFARE: LESSON #1: Cause And Effect:

CAUSE:



US Soldiers from the First Battalion, 17th Infantry force a door open during a raid in the city of Mosul. (AFP/Cris Bouroncle)

[The lesson unlearned: 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. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush that busts down their doors and searches their homes on a regular basis.]

EFFECT:



A man a holds war trophy: a piece of a broken U.S. machine gun from the remains of a destroyed US humvee, in Ramadi Nov. 2, 2005. Insurgents used guns, rockets and roadside bombs to attack U.S. patrols late Tuesday, said police Capt. Nassir Al-Alousi. (AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. soldier walks near the site of a car bomb blast in the northern town of Kirkuk, November 2, 2005. REUTERS/Slahaldeen Rasheed

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Baghdad IED Kills U.S. Soldier

Nov 02, 2005 By ROBERT H. REID, (AP)

A soldier from the Army's Task Force Baghdad was killed by a roadside bomb Wednesday in a southern district of the capital, the military said.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Balad

Nov 02, 2005 By ROBERT H. REID, (AP)

In Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, a U.S. soldier was mortally wounded when his patrol came under small arms fire Wednesday, the military said. One insurgent was killed when the American patrol returned fire and another died when a U.S. Air Force jet blasted the building where he had taken refuge, the military added.

Oklahoma Soldier Killed



Army Pfc. David Jeffrey Martin was killed while on patrol Monday south of Baghdad. Martin was the son of Edmond, Oklahoma, residents Rick and Janet Martin and a 2002 graduate of Edmond North High School. (AP Photo/Martin family)

SUPER COBRA DOWN NEAR AR RAMADI; TWO MARINES KILLED



AH-1W Super Cobra Helicopter

November 2, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-11-02C & AP & Reuters

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Two Marines assigned to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action today when their AH-1W “Super Cobra” helicopter crashed near Ar Ramadi at approximately 8:15 a.m.

The military said the cause of the crash was being investigated. APTN quoted an Iraqi man who said he saw the crash and that insurgents "fired at the helicopter and shot it down."

Eyewitnesses in Ramadi said the helicopter came down in the Albo Ubaid district of the city and U.S. forces quickly cordoned off the area while more helicopters flew overhead.

MARINE AND SAILOR KILLED BY IED IN AR RAMADI



Remains of a destroyed US humvee, in Ramadi Nov. 2, 2005. (AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)

November 2, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-11-03C & AP

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – **A Marine and a Sailor assigned to 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward), 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 in ar Ramadi Nov. 1.**

Insurgents fought with American ground forces in the city and destroyed at least one of their Humvees.

Associated Press Television News video from the streets of Ramadi showed a burning civilian vehicle and what appeared to be the wreckage of the destroyed Humvee.

A crowd of Iraqis gathered at the site, and one man, who waved a damaged machine-gun in the air, said the attacks caused U.S. casualties. Police Capt. Nassir al-Alousi said insurgents used guns, rockets and roadside bombs to attack U.S. patrols late Tuesday.

US Military Truck Hit Near Of Al-Qaim



Smoke billows from the burning tires of a US military truck hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) near the town of al-Qaim, October 2005. (AFP/File/Patrick Baz)

Newest IEDs Pose Major Threat to U.S. Troops in Iraq: Shaped Charges Easily Cut Through Military Armor

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

The force from the explosives can send the projectile more than a mile per second, penetrating armor up to four inches thick at a range of more than 100 yards. "Basically you are taking about a molten jet of metal coming in one side of the vehicle, going straight through everything in its path in the vehicle."

Oct. 31, 2005 ABC News Internet Ventures

The U.S. military has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on armored vehicles in Iraq, but insurgents are adapting their tactics and using more sophisticated and deadlier devices.

Pentagon documents obtained by ABC News say new "explosively formed projectiles," or shaped charges, pose an "extremely serious threat" to U.S. troops.

The risks from the new explosives are serious enough that commanders had briefing documents prepared so soldiers in the field would know just how deadly these devices can be and how technically advanced the insurgents have become.

The documents show how these particular shaped charges -- which were pioneered by the Lebanese Hezbollah militant group -- are constructed from a six-to-nine-inch steel pipe filled with explosives. One end of the pipe is sealed, and a curved copper or steel plate is fitted to the other end, forming a weapon that amounts to a giant bullet.

The force from the explosives can send the projectile more than a mile per second, penetrating armor up to four inches thick at a range of more than 100 yards.

"Basically you are taking about a molten jet of metal coming in one side of the vehicle, going straight through everything in its path in the vehicle," said John Pike, director of GlobalSecurity.org, a Virginia-based defense, space and intelligence policy group.

Insurgents typically pack the devices in foam to camouflage them. One was painted gray to match concrete blocks on the side of the road.

As a vehicle approaches the bomb, the triggerman turns on a motion sensor in the device. When the vehicle crosses the infrared beam, the bomb goes off. Military officials say the shaped charges are responsible for the deaths of close to 50 soldiers in Marines in recent months.

They fear they may claim the lives of many more.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Dutch Copter Down; 3 Injured

November 01, 2005 Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A Dutch helicopter on a peacekeeping [translation: occupation] mission in Afghanistan made an emergency landing on a mountain and three of the 17 Dutch troops on board were injured, officials said Tuesday.

The twin-rotor Chinook chopper was flying from the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif city to the capital, Kabul, on Monday when the incident occurred, it said.

The injured were evacuated to Bagram, the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan. Two have already been released.

The Netherlands has 1,170 troops in Afghanistan as part of the 12,000-strong NATO-led peacekeeping [translation: occupation] force, which is responsible for security in Kabul as well as northern and western parts of the country.

TROOP NEWS

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?



11.2.05 An Iraqi man is seen through the windshield of a US Humvee near the town of al-Qaim. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

[For starters, what about sending troops out in vehicles with windshields so compromised from prior attacks they couldn't protect the occupants from a firmly thrown rock, let alone a well aimed shot from a sniper?

Who, exactly, is responsible for this homicidal practice?

If assigned one of these pieces of shit, maybe it's time to just say no, or insist the commanding officer come along for the ride. T]



Kendra Murphy, 11, sister of U.S. Army Reserve Spc. Kendell Frederick, who was killed in Iraq on Oct. 19 during a press interview at the family's house Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2005, in Randallstown, Md. (AP Photo/Matt Houston)

Soldiers Say Many Prisoners Innocent

October 31, 2005 Long Island Newsday, October 31, 2005

Former U.S. soldiers at the Pentagon's military prisons overseas have given evidence that a great many of the captives held in the war on terror are innocent.

MORE:

Three Years In Prison For Writing Satire Of Bill Clinton

October 31, 2005, Long Island Newsday

After three years in Guantanamo, Afghan writers found to be no threat to United States. Two Afghani brothers have been held at Guantanamo since 2002, put there because they wrote satirical articles about America's Bill Clinton.

It took the brothers three years to convince their American jailers that they posed no threat to Clinton or the United States.

MORE:

Desperation Seen In Guantanamo Suicides: One Incident During Lawyer's Visit

11.1.05 Washington Post

A Guantanamo detainee tried to commit suicide while his American attorney was at the prison. His attempted suicide is believed to be the first witnessed by an outsider at Guantanamo, one of several signs that lawyers and human rights advocates contend point to growing desperation among the 500 detainees held there.

500 Air Force Troops Off To The Imperial Slaughterhouse: “Some” Convoy Duty

11/02/05 (AP)

Four hundred members of the Red Horse heavy construction and repair unit from Malmstrom Air Force Base and the Montana Air National Guard have been called to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 280 Malmstrom and 120 MANG experts in mobile construction are scheduled to leave Great Falls on Nov. 21 for a month of training at an Army camp in La Crosse, Wis., before being sent to Iraq and Afghanistan, said Col. Bob Staib, commander of Malmstrom's 819th Red Horse Squadron.

The airmen will be doing work normally done by Army Reserve construction forces, so they will receive extra training on Army convoy procedures and weapons, “but don't ask me why we're training in Wisconsin in December to go to the hot Iraqi desert,” Staib joked.

The Army assignment will require more personnel than the combined Great Falls Red Horse units have, so another 150 airmen obtained from 10 regular Air Force civil engineering units from around the country will be grouped with them.

“We're sending virtually everyone our Red Horse units have,” Staib said. “The only ones not going have medical waivers, are transferring somewhere else or retiring.”

After the Army training, the 550 Air Force construction workers will be sent to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The airmen will be doing heavy construction and repair of airfields, roads and buildings.

Most of the Red Horse work in Afghanistan will be within the secured perimeters of a base, but some work in Iraq will involve convoying to a job site away from bases and repairing roads along a convoy route.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOU CAN: JOIN THE “VETERANS FOR PEACE” IN CITY OF PHOENIX VETERANS DAY PARADE

DATE: 11 NOVEMBER 2005

TIME: PARADE STARTS AT 11:00AM

LOCATION: CAMELBACK RD AND CENTRAL AVE.

For the first time since the beginning of the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade a peace organization has been allowed to enter!

The Veterans For Peace will be marching in the parade on 11 November 2005. We are limited to what we can carry; only our banner and an American Flag.

Cindy Sheehan will be marching with us. The VFP invites any veteran or non-veteran who wishes to march in the parade to join us.

We will stage (area blue) in the North parking lot by the Ambulatory Care Unit of the VA Hospital. Entry into our staging area is off 3rd St. by the hospital. You must park your car in the de-staging area at North Phoenix Baptist Church at Central Ave. and Bethany Home Road. You can catch a shuttle to the staging area. We must be in the staging area by 10:00AM. E-mail John Henry at ekjh7470 or telephone at 480-704-0192 for more information on the parade.

For those who want to show their support but not march can bring your signs and protest the war at the corner of Camelback Rd. and Central Ave. The parade starts at 11:00AM.

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.

***True During Vietnam;
True Now:***
**Higher Income Types Favor Iraq
War But Won't Fight In It:
Working Class People Oppose The
War And Do The Dying**

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

November 1, 2005 by Joseph Carroll, gallup.com

"Americans living in higher-income households (\$75,000 or more per year) are slightly more positive than negative in their assessments of the war, with 48% saying it was a mistake and 51% saying it was not.

These results are more negative among lower-income households, with the "mistake" percentage at 52% for those earning between \$30,000 and \$75,000 per year, and at 62% for those earning less than \$30,000 per year."

Military Faces Parental Counterattack

11.1.05 Washington Post

High school recruitment, a longtime tradition, raises worries in wartime.

Parents of high school students want military recruiters to stop visiting school campuses in search of new recruits.

Staff Sgt. Charged In Iraq Fragging

[Thanks to Garrett R who sent this in.]

Nov 1 By DIANA ELIAS, Associated Press Writer

A U.S. soldier could face the death penalty after an Army probe recommended Tuesday he be court-martialed in the Iraq war's first case of alleged "fragging," slang for the murder of superior officers. [Wrong. Second case.]

Staff Sgt. Alberto B. Martinez of Troy, N.Y., had a "personal vendetta" against one of two higher-ranked officers who died in an explosion June 7 on a U.S. base near Tikrit, north of Baghdad, military investigator Col. Patrick Reinert said at the end of a two-day hearing in Kuwait.

Reinert said he found "reasonable cause" to believe that Martinez, 37, planted and detonated an anti-personnel mine in the window of a room used by Capt. Philip Esposito, 30, of Suffern, N.Y., and Lt. Louis E. Allen, 34 of Milford, Pa., in a former palace of Saddam Hussein's.

Three hand grenades were also allegedly used in the attack that killed the officers.

No clear motive was discussed in the hearing, but legal expert Maj. Matthew Ruzicka said Esposito had relieved Martinez of his supply duties and he was afraid that the measure would affect his civilian job back home.

Capt. Carl Prober, one of nine witnesses who testified in the investigative hearing on Monday, said Martinez told him twice that he hated Esposito and was going to "frag" him. "Frag" is a Vietnam War term [Wrong. That's like saying "tank is a First World War term."] for soldiers killing their superiors. [Correction: "superior officers," who are not necessarily "superior" to anything.]

Between 1969 and 1971, the Army reported 600 fragging incidents that killed 82 and injured 651.

In 1971 alone, there were 1.8 fraggings for every 1,000 American soldiers serving in Vietnam. Diana Elias, October 31, 2005, Associated Press

Protests Against U.S. Basing Rock Japan

October 31, 2005 By Hiroko Tabuchi, Associated Press

TOKYO — Plans to realign U.S. military forces in Japan triggered protest rallies Sunday and drew harsh opposition from local officials and citizens' groups, who say not enough troops are leaving the country and the burden of hosting them is just being shifted from one community to another.

On Japan's southern island of Okinawa — which hosts most of the 14,460 Marines in the country — activists on Sunday staged a 5,000-strong rally to protest crimes, noise and pollution long associated with Marine bases, and to demand that more U.S. troops be moved out of Japan than the 7,000 Marines envisioned in the plan.

Rallies also took place in Yokosuka, just outside Tokyo, where the U.S. plans to deploy a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, as well as in western Japan.

“We cannot agree with a plan that simply passes around the burden of U.S. bases within Japan,” Gov. Sekinari Nii of Yamaguchi prefecture (state), which hosts another large Marine contingent, told reporters Sunday.

Iwakuni Mayor Katsusuke Ihara said his city and others had not been included in the decision-making process.

“Japan and the U.S. have made a unilateral decision, with no consultation whatsoever with local communities,” Ihara said. “I urge the Japanese government to provide an explanation, open its ears to local opinion, and enter into talks.”

“The U.S. is simply playing a trick with numbers,” activist Takashi Kishimoto of the Okinawan Peace Movement Center said of plans to transfer about 7,000 Marines from Okinawa to the U.S. Pacific island territory of Guam. “The actual functions of U.S. bases in Okinawa, as well as risks to the local community, won’t be reduced at all.”

Okinawa Gov. Keiichi Inamine earlier criticized plans to transfer the Futenma Marine Corps Air Station from one part of Okinawa’s main island to reclaimed land off another part.

Inamine said he wanted to see U.S. bases moved off Okinawa altogether.

Also Sunday, Tokyo Mayor Shintaro Ishihara complained that the city’s demand that a U.S. air base in Tokyo be opened up to civilian flights had been ignored in the plans.

OOPS

01 November 2005 By Alicia A. Caldwell, The Associated Press

Fort Bliss, Texas - A man once considered a top al-Qaida operative escaped from a US-run detention facility in Afghanistan and cannot testify against the soldier who allegedly mistreated him, a defense lawyer involved in a prison abuse case said Tuesday.

A Pentagon official in Washington confirmed Tuesday evening that al-Farouq escaped from a US detention facility in Bagram, Afghanistan, on July 10. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“Now I Tell My Children That America Is The Worst Country In The World”

Hanna Ibrahim, when American Helicopters and Humvees were passing the Women’s Will Office said, "Hadhal Doostor, Hadhal Doostor.-This is the Constitution, this is the Constitution."

October 26, 2005 Brian, Iraqwar.mirror-wworld.ru. [Excerpt]

I was in a communication center in Amman when I realized I was surrounded by Iraqis. Jebel Hussein is an area of Amman that is frequented these days by Iraqis, particularly those of Christian religion, but there is a mixture of them all. A communication center is a place you can go to make phonecalls to areas outside of the country, at a cheaper rate.

Sabih Nawaf was listening closely to my conversation with Ra’fat, my fixer in Amman. I noticed he was listening a little too closely, so while Ra’fat was using the phone, I said to him, "Min Wayn?" which means, "From Where?" in Arabic.

"Iraq, inta min wayn?" was his reply.

"Amreekee, eela Bush, ana asif.-American, for Bush, I’m sorry."

From this point we engaged in a broken conversation, his English not being perfect, but being much better than my Arabic. He told me he went to University in Tulsa Oklahoma and showed me his Oklahoma State driver’s license.

"You see? I like the American people, but not their gov’t. If I was President, the main thing I would do is to fight the gov’t."

At this point the man next to him, who looked exactly the part of any Sportscaster on ESPN in the States, chimed in his agreement. I didn’t catch his name, but he told me he was, in fact, a famous sportscaster for Football-not the American kind. He is also from Iraq, from the north, and is a Christian.

I didn’t even have to ask to get his feelings on the Occupation in Iraq. "If someone came to your house and killed your wife and your daughter, what would you do? I think this would make you like crazy-man, crazy-person."

Sabih told me, "I think the Constitution, is an American Constitution, just like the Iraqi Interim Government is an American Government."

I asked him what his impression of Sistani and why he thought the Interim Government was an "American Government."

"You know Sistani? Don't mention Sistani to me-I think when I see him, now he looks like Bush. What we want is to elect our own Iraqi Government to write an Iraqi Constitution."

I heard this viewpoint a few times in Amman, Khalid Jarrar mentioned the common phrase used in Iraq, "This Government came here on the American Tanks."

Later, when I reached Iraq, this viewpoint was continuously emphasized.

Hanna Ibrahim, when American Helicopters and Humvees were passing the Women's Will Office said, "Hadhal Doostor, Hadhal Doostor.-This is the Constitution, this is the Constitution."

The Football commentator also echoed this sentiment regarding the Constitution and America's policy in Iraq.

"I was educated at Tulsa University in Oklahoma. The American people are my friends, I always like them. But now I tell my children that America is the worst country in the world. And you know, when I think about Baghdad, I am just wanting to cry." At this point I feel its important to mention that Sabih is a big guy, with a thick Iraqi mustache, and neat pants and shirt. Except for his skin color, he looks like any American sitcom Dad, the Wonder Years and Family Matters come to mind.

"I hope there will be peace in Iraq. I am going back tomorrow. You should know now, the journalists, most of them seem as the same as the soldiers, no, not soldiers, killers. They are supporting the American Occupation.

"I have relatives in Ramadi and I talk to them everyday. In Ramadi, maybe the Resistance kills one person and the Occupation, the Americans, they just kill so many people. I don't just hear these things, I saw them myself, with my own eyes, people killed in the streets."

Sabih Nawaf got up at this point to enter the phone booth, as Ra'fat had finished. We left the communication center as he wished me luck in Baghdad. He also reminded me that, to the American people, "All the Iraqi people say hi..."

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

Assorted Resistance Action

October 31, 2005, By Thomas Wagner, Associated Press & 02 November 2005
Aljazeera & Reuters

Nine Iraqi soldiers have been killed in two separate explosions targeting their patrols in Baghdad, Al Jazeera has learned from Iraqi police.

Nine other soldiers were wounded in the blasts.

BAGHDAD - Five Iraqi soldiers were killed and four wounded when a roadside bomb went off near their patrol in the southeastern district of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - One policeman was killed and five wounded when their patrol was attacked in southern Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A policeman was wounded when armed fighters attacked an Iraqi police patrol in western Baghdad, police said.

A bomb aimed at a bus carrying workers to an oil refinery in the Dura neighbourhood wounded another five people, ministry officials said.

KHASIM - Iraqi police said they retrieved a body from a river in the small town of Khasim, near Hilla, south of Baghdad. The body was identified as that of a senior member of the city council of Khasim who was abducted three days ago.

BAGHDAD - The chief of police of Ninevah escaped death when insurgents attacked him in northern Baghdad, police said, adding that two of his guards were wounded.

In Bani Saad, a town near Baqouba city, which is 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, two mortar rounds hit a local Iraqi army headquarters, killing two soldiers and wounding seven, police said.

<p style="text-align: center;">IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**“Those Words Engraved In The
Marble Of The Supreme Court,
'Equal Justice Before The Law,'
Have Always Been A Sham”**

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

November 2005 By Howard Zinn, The Progressive Magazine [Excerpts]

When the Constitution gets in the way of a war, it is ignored.

When the Supreme Court was faced, during Vietnam, with a suit by soldiers refusing to go, claiming that there had been no declaration of war by Congress, as the Constitution required, the soldiers could not get four Supreme Court justices to agree to even hear the case. When, during World War I, Congress ignored the First Amendment's right to free speech by passing legislation to prohibit criticism of the war, the imprisonment of dissenters under this law was upheld unanimously by the Supreme Court, which included two presumably liberal and learned justices: Oliver Wendell Holmes and Louis Brandeis.

It would be naive to depend on the Supreme Court to defend the rights of poor people, women, people of color, dissenters of all kinds. Those rights only come alive when citizens organize, protest, demonstrate, strike, boycott, rebel, and violate the law in order to uphold justice.

The Constitution gave no rights to working people: no right to work less than twelve hours a day, no right to a living wage, no right to safe working conditions. Workers had to organize, go on strike, defy the law, the courts, the police, create a great movement which won the eight-hour day, and caused such commotion that Congress was forced to pass a minimum wage law, and Social Security, and unemployment insurance.

The right of a woman to an abortion did not depend on the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade. It was won before that decision, all over the country, by grassroots agitation that forced states to recognize the right. If the American people, who by a great majority favor that right, insist on it, act on it, no Supreme Court decision can take it away.

The rights of working people, of women, of black people have not depended on decisions of the courts. Like the other branches of the political system, the courts have recognized these rights only after citizens have engaged in direct action powerful enough to win these rights for themselves.

Still, knowing the nature of the political and judicial system of this country, its inherent bias against the poor, against people of color, against dissidents, we cannot become dependent on the courts, or on our political leadership. Our culture-the media, the educational system-tries to crowd out of our political consciousness everything except who will be elected President and who will be on the Supreme Court, as if these are the most important decisions we make.

They are not.

They deflect us from the most important job citizens have, which is to bring democracy alive by organizing, protesting, engaging in acts of civil disobedience that shake up the system. That is why Cindy Sheehan's dramatic stand in Crawford, Texas, leading to 1,600 anti-war vigils around the country, involving 100,000 people, is more crucial to the future of American democracy than the mock hearings on Justice Roberts.

That is why the huge peace march in Washington on September 24 bodes well.

Let us not be disconsolate over the increasing control of the court system by the right wing.

The courts have never been on the side of justice, only moving a few degrees one way or the other, unless pushed by the people. Those words engraved in the marble of the Supreme Court, "Equal Justice Before the Law," have always been a sham.

No Supreme Court, liberal or conservative, will stop the war in Iraq, or redistribute the wealth of this country, or establish free medical care for every human being.

Such fundamental change will depend, the experience of the past suggests, on the actions of an aroused citizenry, demanding that the promise of the Declaration of Independence-an equal right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness-be fulfilled.

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Iraq Officers Learning Pentagon Ways: “They Understand Money And Authority”

11.1.05 Washington Post

U.S. military trainers in Iraq say that the Iraqis they turn into soldiers are only as good as the officers in charge of them, and when those commanders fall short, or get killed, their units often fall apart. Iraqi officers believe in then prestige of their positions, but don't get the concept of fighting for duty, honor and country.

They understand money and authority.

Received:

Impeach Bush And The Whitehouse Clan Now

From: LORETTA R
To: GI Special
Sent: November 02, 2005 8:24 AM
Subject: The Whitehouse

Impeach Bush and the Whitehouse clan now. He's the worst thing that ever happened to America.

PEACE
Loretta R 11206

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