

GI SPECIAL 3D31:

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Relatives and friends attend the wake of Honduran-born US Marine Sgt. Ramon Gonzales, 30, in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Aug. 22, 2005. He was killed by small-arms fire in Ramadi. (AP Photo/Neptali Romero, La Prensa)

U.S. Casualties Climbing Again: Command Caught Telling Silly Lies About Resistance Losses

Nov. 28 By MARTIN SIEFF UPI Senior News Analyst

The latest figures issued by the Department of Defense and other U.S. and Iraqi official sources reveal an insurgency still raging unabated in which the number of total casualties inflicted on U.S. troops is once again climbing, and where the insurgents appear to be switching resources from targeting Iraqi security forces to carrying out Multiple Fatality Bomb (MFB) attacks.

As of Monday, Nov. 14, the total number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq since the start of U.S. operations to topple Saddam Hussein on March 19, 2003, was 2,106 according to official figures issued by the Department of Defense, a rise of 45 in 14 days.

Improvised explosive devices, or roadside bombs, continued to account for more than half the total casualties inflicted on U.S. troops -- an ominous indicator that the technical expertise of the insurgents is steadily advancing.

The Iraq Index Project also notes that the U.S. estimates of the number of its urgency combatants killed remains very rough and approximate. The estimates are rounded off at 3,000 per month for the three months of August, September and October.

There is good reason to greatly look at the accuracy of these estimates: If correct they would mean that the insurgency lost 9,000 troops in only three months when other U.S. military estimates have calculated that there are never more than 20,000 insurgents active at any one time.

Those figures, therefore, would if true mean that the insurgency had lost almost 50 percent of its active and experienced manpower in less than three months, a rate of attrition that has only been seen historically in the closing stages of counter-insurgency operations when the guerrilla movement is literally disintegrated and rapidly losing its ability to inflict casualties.

There has been no sign whatsoever of that process so far in Iraq.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Ark City Soldier Killed

Nov. 30 KAKE.com

Another Kansas soldier has been killed in the War in Iraq.

23-year old Jerry Mills of Arkansas City was killed by a roadside bomb.

His family says he was on his second tour of duty and was scheduled to come home in January.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Humvee Damaged North Of Baghdad: Casualties Not Announced

Nov 30 (KUNA)

Iraqi police said an explosive device blew up near a US army convoy on the highway north of Baghdad. A humvee patrol was damaged.

Texas Soldier Killed



Spc. Javier A. Villanueva, 25, of Temple, Texas, died in Iraq on Nov. 24, 2005, of injuries sustained on Nov. 23, when an improvised explosive device detonated. (AP Photo/Temple Daily Telegram)

11/30/05 AP

BARSTOW, Calif. Fellow soldiers are remembering how an Army medic killed last week in Iraq had kept their spirits high with his sense of humor. Officials say Specialist Javier Villanueva died Thanksgiving Day in Al Asad, Iraq, of injuries suffered the day before when an improvised device exploded.

The 25-year-old married father of a Temple, Texas, family was with the Second Squadron of the Eleventh Armored Cavalry Regiment based at Fort Irwin, California.

Colleagues said Villanueva took his job seriously while trying to aid morale. Specialist John Void says Villanueva "took every mission and completed it." At the same time, his comrades "could always count on him for a good laugh."

Villanueva is survived by his wife and a one-year-old daughter, who live in Temple.

Car Bomb Damages U.S. Convoy Vehicles In Kerbala: Casualties Not Announced

11/30/05 Newkerala

In Kerbala, south of Baghdad, a car bomb detonated by remote control exploded as a US military convoy was passing there.

Police said a number of vehicles were damaged, but declined to say whether there were US casualties.

Convoy Attacked By Car Bomb North Of Najaf



US servicemen inspect the site of a car bomb attack on a U.S. military convoy, north of Najaf November 30, 2005. (Ali Abu Shish/Reuters)

**NOTES FROM A LOST WAR:
*“They were told the Americans
wanted to discuss plans for a
U.S. military pullout.”***

The Americans said they called the meeting to discuss security, talk about what conditions would lead to a U.S. withdrawal from the province, and encourage Sunni participation in the upcoming national elections.

But the clerics in the audience said they came for one reason: They were told the Americans wanted to discuss plans for a U.S. military pullout.

"We hoped we would see an already made plan and not discuss it any more," another sheik, Anwar Khirbeet, said of the talk of American withdrawal. "People here are against the occupation forces. We frankly consider the current government as a terrorist government."

[Thanks to D and PB, who sent this in.]

November 30, 2005 By Ellen Knickmeyer, Jonathan Finer and Omar Fekeiki, Washington Post Foreign Service. Finer reported from Fallujah.

RAMADI, Iraq, Nov. 29 -- Outside Ramadi's city auditorium, the mortar rounds fell, two, then three, each rattling the concrete walls slightly. Inside, locked in an intense debate about what it would take for American troops in Iraq to withdraw, none of the camouflaged Marines or robed Sunni Arab tribal leaders even flinched.

"We all want the withdrawal," Nasir Abdul Karim, leader of Anbar province's Albu Rahad tribe, told scores of the armed Marines and Sunni sheiks, clerical leaders and other elders at the gathering Monday in Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad.

"We all believe it is an illegitimate occupation, and it is a legitimate resistance."

"We're committed to withdrawing," responded Brig. Gen. James L. Williams of the 2nd Marine Division, "as soon as we have strong units" in the Iraqi army to replace U.S.-led forces.

"I understand the resistance," Williams added, commenting later that he was referring to the peaceful opposition to the U.S. presence in Iraq. [Oh right; cover your ass time.] "But you must understand we're military people. People who are shot at will shoot back."

The spirited exchange in Ramadi came at the largest meeting yet between those suspected of supporting the Iraqi insurgency ["Suspected"? The whole city supports the resistance.] and the U.S. forces battling them.

The comments by the tribal leaders, and similar remarks to reporters Tuesday in Fallujah, 30 miles away, offered fresh evidence of how the debate in the United States about pulling out troops is also echoing through Iraq.

Nowhere is support for a U.S. military exit stronger than in Anbar province in western Iraq, heart of the insurgency, where fighters control whole communities along the Euphrates River, **and where money and materiel flow in from neighboring Syria. [Throwing in bullshit like this is expected if you want cooperation from the occupation as you do your reporting. Lame bullshit at that, as if everybody on**

earth doesn't know bringing weapons into Iraq is about as necessary as importing sand fleas.]

"The people of Fallujah love Cindy Sheehan," declared Farouk Abd-Muhammed, a candidate for National Assembly in Dec. 15 elections, referring to the mother of a slain Marine who became a U.S. antiwar activist. He spoke Tuesday at a pre-election meeting of local leaders in Fallujah, 35 miles west of Baghdad, scene of the largest U.S. offensive of the war in November 2004.

Abd-Muhammed described watching recent television reports with his family showing Americans waving banners that read "Stop the war in Iraq."

"I salute the American people because we know after watching them on satellite that they are ready to leave," Abd-Muhammed said.

"We know that there are now voices, even in the Congress, that want America to leave Iraq as soon as possible," said Fawzi Muhammed, an engineer who is the deputy chairman of Fallujah's reconstruction committee. *"It makes us feel very happy and comfortable because it is the only solution to the problems in Iraq."*

Unlike Fallujah -- seen now by some U.S. commanders as a model of cooperation between Sunni leaders and the military [Throwing in bullshit like this is expected if you want cooperation from the occupation as you do your reporting, but this is loony.]- people in Ramadi appear to know comparatively little of the debate in the United States over the war. Fighting here, including insurgent bomb attacks, knocked out most of the provincial capital's communications to the outside world, and U.S. forces were able to restore a vital fiber-optics cable only this month.

But the distrust -- and the disconnect -- between the U.S. forces and the Iraqis here runs strong. Sunday, the day before the meeting, was the first "zero casualty" day the city had experienced in some time, Williams said.

Heavy fighting, and a heavy U.S. presence to try to curb it, have left the city a bombed-out, weed-overgrown, deserted wasteland.

As observers arrived for the meeting, Marines prodded them to run from the government building to the nearby meeting hall, fearing that bullets or mortar rounds would make it over the blast walls.

Williams said he had discussed the planned gathering since July with Mamoun Sami Rashid Alwani, the third governor of Anbar to take office so far this year. One of Rashid Alwani's predecessors was killed in a U.S. firefight with insurgents; the other quit after his sons were kidnapped.

Rashid Alwani, a target of insurgents because he has worked with the new Iraqi government and the Americans, survived "seven or eight" assassination attempts before the meeting came about, Williams said.

For U.S. officers, the fact that the gathering took place was heartening. "If there's a debate today, the whole city is seeing democracy," Capt. Philip Nash, a Marine commander in Ramadi, said before it began. "It's a town-hall meeting in Ramadi."

"Today's awesome," Nash added as scores of U.S. Marines took up positions for the meeting, and Iraqi forces checked the Sunni leaders filing in for weapons. "They're coming, and I haven't seen that before."

An Iraqi journalist for the country's state-sponsored al-Sabah newspaper, waiting with Nash for the meeting to start, looked at him. "In Saddam's day they would have slaughtered a sheep for visits like this," he told the American captain, referring to the ousted president, Saddam Hussein. "Today I think maybe they will slaughter you."

The Americans said they called the meeting to discuss security, talk about what conditions would lead to a U.S. withdrawal from the province, and encourage Sunni participation in the upcoming national elections.

But the clerics in the audience said they came for one reason: They were told the Americans wanted to discuss plans for a U.S. military pullout.

"We want them to withdraw from the province," Muhammed Dulaimy, an Arabic professor at Ramadi's Anbar University, said as about 200 of the province's elders settled into their seats. "They called the meeting. We came to see why they are talking to us. We didn't come to talk about the election. If it's about the election, we'll leave."

The American pitch was simple: Encourage tribal members to join the military, so that Iraq's national forces can build to a strength that would allow U.S. forces to withdraw, and to discourage attacks on American and Iraqi forces.

The Anbar elders' demands were equally straightforward: Allow the tribes to build up their own army division for Anbar. Leave, and the attacks will stop. [Damn, there's an exit strategy. Leave and the attacks will stop.]

Linguistic Divide

But the disconnect ran strong, and as always for Americans in Iraq, the inability to speak the language didn't help.

Marine interpreters, Arabic speakers hired from outside Iraq, repeatedly bobbled the point.

"Your best step would be to convince your sons to join the army and police, so these people not from your city can leave your city," Lt. Gen. Hikmet Hussein, commander of the Iraqi 7th Division here, told the tribal leaders.

"You need to move forward in this city," translated the Marines' interpreter, who appeared to be from North Africa. "You need to get involved."

Speakers complained of the heavy American presence in the blasted city center, of sniper shootings, of arrests and raids. Unheard by Americans, the elders occasionally catcalled from the audience.

One stood up to complain when a female American political adviser sat down next to a white-bearded imam. "Show some respect for the turban!" the man shouted.

"God bless you, God bless you," others in the audience added, after the woman moved to another seat.

"We haven't seen anything since Saddam fell!" another man shouted.

"I think it's really a helpful debate," a Marine watching from the back told a reporter, as Arab man after Arab man rose to complain of the U.S. military presence, some thrusting a finger at the Marines.

One after another, Sunni men identified themselves by their officer rank in Iraq's former army as they spoke, as if Hussein's force was still in existence. [How dim can anybody be? Of course it's still in existence. It controls Ramadi. Who the fuck do you think you're having a meeting with? Who do you think organized and gave the commands to the mortar teams described below? Duh!]

A Greater Enemy

"We hoped we would see an already made plan and not discuss it any more," another sheik, Anwar Khirbeet, said of the talk of American withdrawal. "People here are against the occupation forces. We frankly consider the current government as a terrorist government."

Khirbeet drew the only applause of the day when he warned that Sunni Arabs faced a greater enemy in Anbar than Americans: the Iranian-allied religious parties of Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority, now in power in Baghdad.

"The occupation will end sooner or later; the most dangerous thing we can face is the Iranian involvement," he said, to loud clapping from the crowd.

"They'll bring us the Wolf Brigade next!" shouted a man in the audience, referring to the Interior Ministry force that many Sunnis allege is linked to the late-night kidnappings and killings of Sunnis.

By 3:15 p.m., five mortar rounds had landed outside, to the left of the meeting hall. The mortar fire was heavier than usual, Americans said, and clearly launched to make a point. Then, the nearest round of the day hit, apparently overshooting the building and striking to the right, making the windows rattle briefly in their frames.

"These spoilers out there are trying to intimidate," Williams said, taking note of the firing for the first time that day. "Not one of you blinked an eye. So that's very good." The elders murmured, approvingly. **[Another complete dimwit. Of course nobody blinked an eye. They know exactly who is firing, what the firing schedule is, it's purpose (to remind the occupation General who runs Ramadi), and have carefully selected the best mortar teams to provide the instructional entertainment for the meeting.]**

"We're here to work through the problems," Williams urged.

"These are complex problems. There are not easy solutions, but there are solutions." His words were translated differently, however. "I don't have any time to waste," is how they were conveyed by another army interpreter, an older Lebanese man, seemingly impatient after five hours of talks, and improvising in an apparent effort to bring them to a close. "Even if you all do have time to waste, today's not the day."

Thus prodded, Marines and tribal leaders reached an agreement: Anbar's elders would come up with a plan that would satisfy U.S. conditions for security and allow U.S. troops to pull out of Ramadi, and Williams would try to pitch it to Baghdad. [Right. Lots of luck.]

Despite the disconnect, both sides had gotten across enough of their points to satisfy, at least to a degree. [The mortar display probably helped.]

"It may work," said one Hussein-era army commander, identifying himself as Gen. Sant-Rawi, standing up to go, *just before the day's seventh mortar round landed outside.*

Senior Army Analysts Say War Is Fucked: “Unlikely That U.S., Iraqi And Coalition Forces Will Crush The Insurgency”

[Thanks to PB who sent this in. He writes: THE ANALYSTS ADMIT THE WAR IS BASICALLY LOST, BUT ARE AGAINST IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL. TRANSLATION: MORE DEAD SOLDIERS AND IRAQIS BECAUSE ENDING THE WAR IMMEDIATELY WOULD DAMAGE AMERICA'S "CREDIBILITY."]

"It appears increasingly unlikely that U.S., Iraqi and coalition forces will crush the insurgency prior to the beginning of a phased U.S. and coalition withdrawal." "It is no longer clear that the United States will be able to create (Iraqi) military and police forces that can secure the entire country no matter how long U.S. forces remain."

Nov 30 By CHARLES J. HANLEY, AP Special Correspondent

Two senior Army analysts who in 2003 accurately foretold the turmoil that would be unleashed by the U.S. invasion of Iraq offer a bleak assessment in a new study of what now lies ahead in that bloodied land.

In their new 60-page report, veteran Middle East scholar Terrill and Crane, director of the Army Military History Institute, say a U.S. troop presence in Iraq probably cannot be sustained more than three years further. Meantime, they write:

"It appears increasingly unlikely that U.S., Iraqi and coalition forces will crush the insurgency prior to the beginning of a phased U.S. and coalition withdrawal."

"It is no longer clear that the United States will be able to create (Iraqi) military and police forces that can secure the entire country no matter how long U.S. forces remain."

The Army scholars devote their closest analysis to the current debate over whether Washington should set a predetermined, step-by-step schedule for a troop pullout. They see "catastrophic" dangers in that approach.

They see one circumstance in which a timetable is useful, if "the Iraqi government may have only a small chance to survive, but the U.S. leadership does not wish to announce publicly that we have basically given up on Iraq."

REAL BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



AFP Oct 31, 7:12 PM ET US soldiers from Bravo Company 1-87 Infantry 10th Mountain Division 1st Brigade Combat Team during a patrol in western Baghdad. (AFP/David Furst)

TROOP NEWS



This holiday season you are cordially invited to show how YOU "Support the Troops"
Will you be one of those that sacrifices the presents given this year to replace them with sharing the true meaning of the holidays to others in need? It is a wonderful feeling, and here is your chance to experience it.

***THE STATE DEPT. OF LABOR ESTIMATED 193,000 VETS ARE HOMELESS
EACH NIGHT**

***VA FUNDING PROVIDES FOR 10,000 BEDS**

***2004 SURVEY SHOWS 1 IN 6 IRAQ VETS SUFFER FROM PTSD**

(POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER) THOSE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE GUARDS OR RESERVERS

***PTSD IS THE #1 FACTOR FOR HOMELESSNESS**

***NEARLY 900 VETS RELEASED FROM SERVICE IN THE LAST 4 YEARS APPLIED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT**

To the American Public:

Instead of spending hundreds of dollars on family & friends this year, most of whom already lead a comfortable life, find a Veteran, any Vet, who doesn't. There are hundreds or thousands of Vets in dire need. This is how you do it...

**Do a google search on "homeless Vets"*

**Ask a neighbor if they have a military family member in financial hardship*

**Go the local VFW, American Legion, or even a church, ask if they know a Vet in need*

**Visit your local Armory Hall. They should have the information available you are looking for right there*

***DO NOT USE CHARITIES! MOST TYPICALLY KEEP .70 TO .90 CENTS ON EVERY DOLLAR!**

We give the gifts gotten for others directly, in person or by mail. Do the same for a Veteran.

Show the world you truly do "Support the Troops" by giving a gift that will tell them loud, clear, and in person,

"here is my sacrifice for yours already given."

Don't keep this a secret! Send a card to the individuals who would be receiving the present with an explanation.

It is not your actions you will be telling of, but those your gift will be making possible for an otherwise forgotten, or struggling Veteran.

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, MAKE THOSE BUMPER STICKERS REALLY MEAN WHAT THEY SAY, and...

"SUPPORT OUR TROOPS"

By Alycia Barr

HELP DEFEND THE HAMPTON STUDENTS: Plantation Overseers Charge Them With “Cajoling,” “Proselytizing” [And Thinking While Black]



From: Charles Jenks
To: GI Special
Sent: November 30, 2005
Subject: Help requested for Hampton University students

Here we have another egregious case of campus repression of peaceful student protest, this time at the historically black Hampton University in Virginia.

I am asking for a statement in support of these student activists or a letter to the university administration. A phone call (numbers are provided below) would help too. We will post statements and letters, which the students will use at their press conference this Thursday, Dec 1 at Hampton University and at the hearing on Friday.

Students learned only Monday that they are facing a hearing with possible expulsion on Friday, December 2nd. They need help.

The university had cancelled a previous scheduled hearing after it had given notice at 5:00 p.m. Friday, November 18 to appear at an administrative hearing at 10:00 a.m. Monday, November 21.

Students, with the support of activists across the nation, recently won at Kent State, where the university dropped its disciplinary proceedings, in the face of hundreds of calls

and emails and calls from media, including Rolling Stone, Dateline, Ohio newspapers and British television.

All this in the context of campus police brutality or clampdowns on student protest at George Mason University, Holyoke Community College, Wisconsin/Madison and Harold Washington College in Chicago.

Here is a summary by Hampton University students, who are members of a Campus Antiwar Network chapter:

On Wednesday November 2, 2005 students at Hampton University participated in a Nation-Wide Student Walkout and highlighted problems such as the massive urban renewal in New Orleans, HIV and AIDS, Homophobia, the crisis in Sudan, and the War in Iraq,

This protest was sensationally repressed by the CAMPUS POLICE.

During the walk-out, several students were booked just because they had on Resist or Die stickers and others were booked for looking "suspicious."

Some students were even threatened with expulsion.

On December 2, students have a hearing on the grounds that they were "cajoling" and "proselytizing," observed putting up unauthorized flyers, and involved in unapproved protest and demonstration. These students attempted to educate the student body about political and social issues.

Because they decided to participate in the student walk-out, the most severe punishment for this peaceful protest is expulsion from Hampton University.

Take action now to support Hampton University Students right to educate and inform the student body about human rights.

Please contact the Hampton University administration:

Tell Hampton University:

- Drop all charges and cancel all hearings against the student activists**
- Change your restrictive policy on student protests and demonstrations**

Be sure to call and/or send a letter to the following decision maker(s):

Dr. Bennie McMorris,
Vice President for Student Affairs
757-727-5264
bennie.mcmorris@hamptonu.edu

Woodson Hopewell,
Dean of Men
woodson.hopewell@hamptonu.edu
757-727-5303

Jewel Long,
Dean of Women
jewel.long@hamptonu.edu
757-727-5486

If you send me a copy of your letter to the university, or a statement in support of the students, we will post it at http://www.traprockpeace.org/hampton_university_students/ and the students will be able to refer to it at their press conference before the hearing.

Thank you.
Charlie

Charles Jenks
Chair of Advisory Board and Web Manager
Traprock Peace Center
103A Keets Road
Deerfield, MA 01342
413-773-7427
fax 413-773-7507

21,000 From Hood Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

11/30/05 KWTW

Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division's Fires Brigade and 2nd Brigade Combat Team will leave Fort Hood Wednesday for a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

Hundreds of 4th ID soldiers said goodbye to loved ones and boarded planes Monday for the trip to Iraq.

Baskets were laid out on tables for soldiers to pick up writing paper, packets of sunscreen, American flags and decks of playing cards as parting gifts.

By the end of December, nearly 21,000 troops from the division at Fort Hood are scheduled to deploy to Iraq.

52-Year-Old Grandfather Ordered To Army Duty: "They're Just Looking For Bodies To Fill In"



Gary Olson, 52, accepted early retirement from the Army in 1992 after 17 years of service but had to remain on ready reserve until age 60. He's been ordered to report for duty Dec. 4. Photo/AP

Nov. 28, 2005 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Mosinee - Gary Olson is a 52-year-old grandfather, a retired U.S. Army veteran - and soon to be a soldier again, thanks to the need for troops in Iraq.

Olson was ordered to report for duty Dec. 4 in Fort Jackson, S.C.

"They're just looking for bodies to fill in. I have been out cold turkey for 13 years," Olson said. "My philosophy is this: I'm going to prepare for the worst and hope for the best. If I have to go, I have to go."

Sally Olson, his wife of 33 years, said that she was shocked by the orders and figured the chances of it happening were "slim to none" when he took early retirement more than a decade ago.

"Why don't they just go to the draft if they are getting this desperate for people?" she asked. "In a couple of months, he will be 53."

Sally Olson said she disagrees with President Bush that the war in Iraq was justified.

Gary Olson said when his wife showed him the large brown envelope the Army sent last month, he knew without even looking inside that it contained his orders because two years ago he declined the military's invitation to voluntarily come out of retirement.

The Army told Olson, a sergeant first class mechanic when he retired, to prepare for 18 months away from home after he passes his physical.

Olson thought his days as a soldier were done when he accepted early retirement from the Army in 1992 as the military sought to downsize after Operation Desert Storm. A condition of the deal was Olson, who had spent 17 years in the Army, had to remain on ready reserve until age 60, he said.

Olson makes windows at a factory in Mosinee and hasn't worked as a mechanic since he retired from the Army, he said.

He now has three grandchildren, ages 1, 2 and 7, who all live nearby.

Sally Olson said the news of her husband's return to the Army hit the 7-year-old grandson hard.

"He said, 'Why does Papa have to go?' And we told him they need Papa to come back and help some more and finish a job that is not quite done," she said.

Then the grandson asked if his grandpa was going to die, Sally Olson said, fighting back tears. "We just said, 'There is always a chance of being hurt. You say your prayers and hope everything is OK.' "

Gary Olson said he does not fear going to Iraq, where more than 2,050 troops have been killed since the war began. He's concerned about his wife and family. "The wife, she's pretty upset," he said.

Disgusting

11.29.05 AP

A recent survey by the Department of Veterans Affairs found that six in 10 women who served in the National Guard and reserves say they were sexually harassed or assaulted.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

Nov 30 (KUNA)

Nine Iraqi soldiers were killed and 12 others injured in a car bomb blast in the town of al-Mishada, north of here, police said on Wednesday.

The soldiers were killed and injured when a booby-trapped vehicle blew up near an army check point in the area, read a statement by the interior ministry.

Eyewitnesses said a bomber drove the car towards the army check point.

BAGHDAD - Two security guards were wounded when snipers fired at the office of Salama al-Khafaji, a member of the National Assembly, in western Baghdad, police said. She was not in the office at the time of the attack.

MANZILAH - An Iraqi army officer and two soldiers were seriously wounded when a makeshift bomb went off near their patrol in Manzilah village southwest of Kirkuk, 250 km north of Baghdad, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

A Word From Thomas Paine

[Thanks to John Gingerich, Veterans For Peace]

Thomas Paine:

"My country is the world and my religion is to do good."

He was wanted dead or alive in Christian England when he wrote this in 1794.

Biggest Turkey In Texas To Get NO Pardon

Many "Gold Star Families For Peace" and "Iraq Veterans Against the War" members were also in attendance as I mentioned earlier, and again we must applaud those brave souls for protesting this war, when they should be the LAST people that should have to endure their staggering losses by having to speak out and be ridiculed by the war freaks. PLEASE give any and all help to those to groups, in any way, shape, or form, because as per our strategy, it is simply them that must lead our movement.

11-29-2005 by Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against The War

Happy Thanksgiving my ass, Mr. Bush. You are the biggest turkey in the world, and you will get NO pardon.

On the 4-day Thanksgiving weekend, hundreds of Camp Casey demonstrators, including, among others, Daniel Ellsberg of "The Pentagon Papers" fame, a true American hero and Marine veteran, came together to get in the face of our CIC, to insure that his "Thanksgiving" was as horrible as it was for the tens of thousands of U.S. families whose lives and Thanksgiving he has ruined forever.

Ellsberg joined eleven other protestors, including Iraq Veterans Against the War member Charlie Anderson, and former diplomat Ann Wright, in getting arrested for the purpose of challenging a law that the County in which unCurious George resides has enacted since Camp Casey 1 days, back in August. The new law, which forbids standing or sleeping in ditches on PUBLIC right-of-way, was mysteriously put in place since war protestors occupied those very ditches which are next to the ranch of the president.

Can this CIC do ANYTHING that isn't dishonorable?

Billy Kelly and I, both members of VVAW and VFP, and both Infantry vets, had the good fortune to be assigned (NEVER volunteer!) to take (and guard) Mr. Ellsberg, to and at the Waco airport, after the demonstration, so we got the immense privilege and honor of actually spending a few hours alone, and in deep conversation with, this wonderful man, a man who smuggled 7000 documents out of the Pentagon in order to expose the lies about Viet Nam being told by every politician and general complicit in lengthening the war.

Bush again passed within a few feet of Cindy Sheehan and the rest of us, coincidentally, just as Mr. Ellsberg was wrapping up his inspirational speech, and again Bush didn't have the balls to stop and converse with Cindy or a bunch of Iraq and other vets, even for a few minutes. No surprise there...he has plenty of courage to babble "bring em' on" from a fortified bunker 10,000 miles from the fighting, but not enough to talk to a Gold Star mom or military vets.

The "Crawford Peace House" again hosted all who could take the time from their Thanksgiving responsibilities, to trek to Crawford, Texas, to again challenge this horrific war against an innocent nation.

This weekend was doubly-important, as the administration has slid to all time lows in approval, with high-ranking federal officials being indicted for crimes, the war getting worse daily, and the facts about how and why we went to "war" with Iraq and Afghanistan become more and more exposed, and we are at a critical juncture in our fight against this fascist regime in the White House.

In some ways, the participants in this weekends actions had a reunion of sorts with others that had been in Crawford last August, an action which has blossomed into the most effective anti-war action so far, one which simply compliments the many thousands of actions taken around this nation and the world against the neocons. Camp Casey attendees from August, with many VVAW, IVAW and VFP members, such as Billy Perry and his beautiful wife Terry, Dennis Kyne, Jim Goodinow, Ms. Wright, Elliot Adams, Nick Przybyla, Charlie Anderson, and simply too many more to list, returned.

Many "Gold Star Families For Peace" and "Iraq Veterans Against the War" members were also in attendance as I mentioned earlier, and again we must applaud those brave souls for protesting this war, when they should be the LAST people that should have to endure their staggering losses by having to speak out and be ridiculed by the war freaks. PLEASE give any and all help to those to groups, in any way, shape, or form, because as per our strategy, it is simply them that must lead our movement.

Hopefully by next Thanksgiving, the biggest turkey(s) in Crawford, no offense to the bird intended, will be "roasting" in fear and cowardice, as they await a war-crimes tribunal, but knowing the Chickenhawk-In-Chief as well as I do, I am sure he and the real president, "Little Dick" Cheney, will resign to avoid prosecution. These "turkeys" will get NO pardon if they don't, and shouldn't, regardless!

Dare to dream my brothers and sisters, because we are finally winning. Peace out!

Katrina Blows....Bush Sucks!

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Welcome To Liberated Iraq: Kids Available Cheap To Be Human Shields For Occupation Troops

November 28, 2005 Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

BROOK PARK, OHIO - Cpl. Stan Mayer has seen the worst of war. In the leaves of his photo album, there are casual memorials to the cost of the Iraq conflict - candid portraits of friends who never came home and graphic pictures of how insurgent bombs have shredded steel and bone.

In Iraq, repetition of any sort could be an invitation of the wrong sort - an event for which insurgents could plan.

So Mayer and [Cpl. Jeff] Schuller took out some of the candy they carried, thinking that if children were around, perhaps the terrorists wouldn't attack.

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

Iraq's "Free Press" Bought And Paid For By The Occupation Military Dictatorship

[Thanks to Anna B and Ron R for sending this in.]

"Absolute truth was not an essential element of these stories," said the senior military official who spent this year in Iraq. Zaki said that if his cash-strapped paper had known that these stories were from the U.S. government, he would have "charged much, much more" to publish them.

November 30 2005 By Mark Mazzetti and Borzou Daragahi, The Financial Times

As part of an information offensive in Iraq, the U.S. military is secretly paying Iraqi newspapers to publish stories written by American troops in an effort to burnish the image of the U.S. mission in Iraq.

The articles, written by U.S. military "information operations" troops, are translated into Arabic and placed in Baghdad newspapers with the help of a defense contractor, according to U.S. military officials and documents obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

Many of the articles are presented in the Iraqi press as unbiased news accounts written and reported by independent journalists. The stories trumpet the work of U.S. and Iraqi troops, denounce insurgents, and tout U.S.-led efforts to rebuild the country.

The operation is designed to mask any connection with the U.S. military. The Pentagon has a contract with a small Washington-based firm called Lincoln Group, which helps translate and place the stories.

The Lincoln Group's Iraqi staff, or its subcontractors, sometimes pose as freelance reporters or advertising executives when they deliver the stories to Baghdad media outlets.

According to military officials familiar with the effort in Iraq, much of the effort is directed by the "Information Operations Task Force" in Baghdad, part of the multinational corps headquarters (MNC-I) commanded by Army Lt. Gen. John R. Vines.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are critical of the effort and are not authorized to speak publicly about it.

One senior military official who spent this year in Iraq said it was the strong pro-U.S. message in some news stories in Baghdad that first made him suspect that the U.S. military was planting stories in the Iraqi media.

“Stuff would show up in the Iraqi press, and I would ask, ‘Where the hell did that come from?’ It was clearly not something that indigenous Iraqi press would have conceived of on their own,” the official said.

Employees at Al Mada said that a low-key man arrived at the newspaper’s offices in downtown Baghdad on July 30 with a large wad of U.S. dollars. He told the editors that he wanted to publish an article titled “Terrorists Attack Sunni Volunteers” in the newspaper.

He paid cash and left no calling card, employees said. He did not want a receipt.

The name he gave employees was the same as that of a Lincoln Group worker in the records obtained by The Times. Although editors at Al Mada said he paid \$900 to place the article, records show that the man told Lincoln Group that he gave more than \$1,200 to the paper.

Zaki said that if his cash-strapped paper had known that these stories were from the U.S. government, he would have “charged much, much more” to publish them.

According to several sources, the process for placing the stories begins when soldiers write “storyboards” of events in Iraq, such as a joint U.S.-Iraqi raid on a suspected insurgent hide-out, or a suicide bomb that killed Iraqi civilians.

The storyboards, several of which were obtained by The Times, read more like press releases than news stories. They often contain anonymous quotes from U.S. military officials; it is unclear whether the quotes are authentic.

“Absolute truth was not an essential element of these stories,” said the senior military official who spent this year in Iraq.

One of the storyboards, dated Nov. 12, describes a U.S.-Iraqi offensive in the western Iraqi towns of Karabilah and Husaybah.

“Both cities are stopping points for foreign fighters entering Iraq to wage their unjust war,” the storyboard reads.

It continues with a quote from an anonymous U.S. military official: “Iraqi army soldiers and U.S. forces have begun clear-and-hold operations in the city of Karabilah near Husaybah town, close to the Syrian border,” said a military official once operations began.”

Another storyboard, written on the same date, describes the capture of an insurgent bomb-maker in Baghdad. “As the people and the (Iraqi security forces) work together, Iraq will finally drive terrorism out of Iraq for good,” it concludes.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER
Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling

Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Unconquered. Unconquerable.



Palestinians hurl stones at a Zionist army vehicle during clashes with troops in the Occupied Palestinian West Bank City of Nablus Nov. 30, 2005. Palestinian witnesses said dozens of Palestinian youths threw firebombs and stones at the troops who entered the city with 40 jeeps, backed by Apache helicopters, and surrounded houses. (AP Photo/Nasser Ishtayeh)

[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

THIS IS NOT A SATIRE:

THIS IS A GOVERNMENT THAT IS UNFIT TO GOVERN ONE DAY MORE

30 November 2005 By Deb Riechmann, The Associated Press

President Bush, facing growing doubts about his war strategy, said Wednesday that Iraqi troops are increasingly taking the lead in battle but that "this will take time and patience." He refused to set a timetable for withdrawing US forces.

30 November 2005 ThinkProgress.org

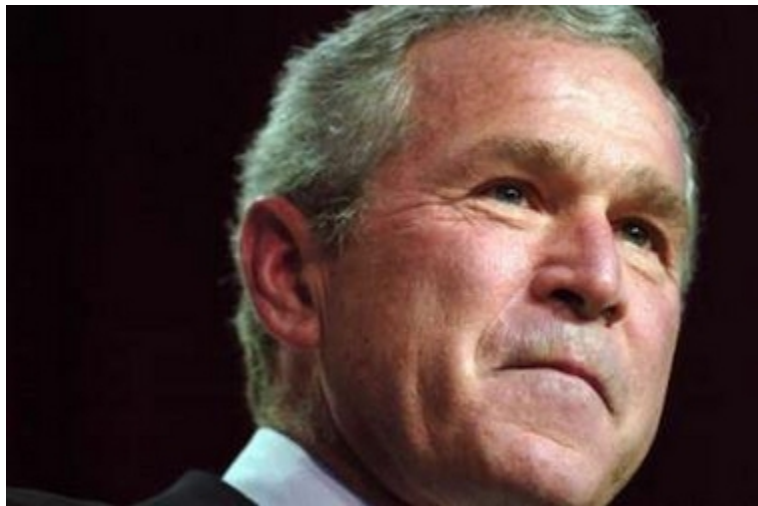
The president's address was accompanied by the release of a 35-page White House document titled "National Strategy for Victory in Iraq."

On the economic front we are told, "Our restore, reform, build, strategy is achieving results."

On the political front: "Our Isolate, Engage, and Build strategy is working."

On the security front: "Our clear, hold, and build strategy is working."

“COMMON ENEMY” INDEED: THE LIMB OF SATAN



REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

**“Iraqis and Americans share a common enemy.”
Bush: 11.30.05**

"And the Devil, taking him up into a high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the Devil said unto him, 'All this power I give you and the glory of them; for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will give to if thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.'" -- The Gospel According to Luke

“Either Senator Lieberman Is So Divorced From Reality That He's Completely Lost The Plot Or He Knows He's Spinning A Line”

11.29.05 Atrios.blogspot.com

Time magazine Baghdad bureau chief Michael Ware on Morning Sediton this morning:

I and some other journalists had lunch with Senator Joe Lieberman the other day and we listened to him talking about Iraq. Either Senator Lieberman is so divorced from reality that he's completely lost the plot or he knows he's spinning a line.

Because one of my colleagues turned to me in the middle of this lunch and said he's not talking about any country I've ever been to and yet he was talking about Iraq, the very country where we were sitting.

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.

Rumsfeld At It Again: “They Are Busting The Unions With This”

November 28, 2005 By Stephen Barr, Columnist, The Washington Post Company
[Excerpts

Almost anytime there's a discussion of the Bush administration's regulation to revamp workplace rules at the Defense Department, one expert or another will pronounce that "the devil is in the details," the cliché that signals no judgment can be made until more information becomes available.

But John Gage , president of the American Federation of Government Employees, got a glimpse of what he believes is a regulatory devil: a new Pentagon proposal that would give unions 20 days to challenge Defense managers who void contracts or contract provisions because they are deemed in conflict with the regulation creating the new National Security Personnel System.

Gage, in a telephone interview last week, called the proposed 20-day time limit "a bum's rush" and "unfair." He added: "They are busting the unions with this. Collective bargaining will mean nothing."

The union president's frustration flared earlier in the month, at a hearing in the Senate attended by Sens. Susan M. Collins (R-Maine), George V. Voinovich (R-Ohio), John W. Warner (R-Va.), Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii) and others.

"This is a setup," Gage testified Nov. 17. "Our people are extremely concerned about this. There is no way for us to provide representation to our members in such a scheme."

Since 1978, the government's labor-management system has been defined in civil service law and interpreted by the Federal Labor Relations Authority, an independent agency that rules in disputes between agencies and unions. Most federal unions cannot bargain over pay and benefits; federal employees are not allowed to strike.

With such big-ticket items off the bargaining tables, unions have focused on "impact and implementation" of agency decisions. They have negotiated over the procedures for employee assignments and deployments, the use of technology and other workplace issues, such as flexible work schedules.

The NSPS shifts the Defense Department from the statutory system -- which officials have faulted as too slow and insensitive to military needs -- to one created by regulation and internal directives. NSPS has been designed to take issues off the bargaining table, especially negotiations over issues linked to operations, such as overtime and work assignments.

When the NSPS regulation goes into effect, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld will trigger the start of the department's new labor rules.

He will name at least three members to an internal labor board, which will rule in union-management disputes. The members will probably be current department officials or people who once served in the department.

The NSPS regulation will override union contracts, allowing Defense officials at local bases to notify unions that certain contract provisions "are unenforceable," Bunn said.

Gage, however, contends that the Pentagon is trying to attack collective bargaining rights. He noted that AFGE, which represents 200,000 Defense employees, operates in 357 locations and will find it almost impossible to dispute management decisions if confronted with a quick deadline.

"We will not be able to argue and protect valid contract provisions because of the way they have structured the appeals process and the burden they have put on unions," Gage said.

A federal judge has set Jan. 24 to hear the union's arguments against the NSPS labor rules. So, in keeping with another cliché, stay tuned.

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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/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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