

GI SPECIAL 3D34:

IMPOSSIBLE MISSION: FUTILE EXERCISE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Jose Murillo of Waltham, Massachusetts, 2nd Marine Division, searches for the Arabic word for husband in a pocket language guide, while an Iraqi soldier talks to a family in Saadah, eight miles from Syria, Dec. 2, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

**“We Are Looking At Your
Political House With An
Eye To Pulling It Down”
ON POWER:
AN OPEN LETTER TO CONGRESS FROM
A VETERAN AND MILITARY DAD**

To those of you who are openly supporting this criminal administration, we'll see you in the street, and history will consign your names to the chapters about imperial bullying, comb-over machismo, and cognitive mediocrity.

To those of you who call for half measures, phases, and strategies, you are directly in front of us now. You are standing directly in our path, and we are not going to go around you.

December 1, 2005 By Stan Goff, Stangoff.com

(Disclaiming in advance for the rare exceptions in Congress)

If there is one thing we can always count on, it's politicians who walk over human corpses to show fear only in the face of something as formless and abstract as an opinion poll.

The veterans and military families antiwar movement are well-versed on so-called realism – and that deference we are supposed to exercise when we approach elected officials, hat in hand, for a few crumbs of your attention and support.

We understand power very well.

You are fighting each other for your careers, and you are retaining your power over us through distance and guile, and trying to promote that power by pretending you are hearing our "concerns." But we have more than "concerns" at stake here.

It is because we understand power that we haven't the slightest intention of allowing ourselves to be used to promote your careers past the 2006 elections.

If you fail to demand US withdrawal now, you are supporting the war; and if you support the war, as far as we are concerned, you can go straight to hell in 2006.

It is because we understand power that we are not going to forgive and forget that when the war fever was up, fed by the lies of Republicans, the war was facilitated by the eager xenophobic complicity of most Democrats, and by the slavish obedience of the corporate press. Most of you not only co-signed what you knew to be an illegal invasion – you have continued to sign the checks to perpetuate the war.

You wanted to be lied to about the war, because the polls supported the war, and you were sniffing the political air.

It is because we understand power that we know that most of you did this out of craven opportunism and a concern for your political ambitions – knowing full well that no one you loved was likely to be sent home without a limb, without an eye, without a life.

It is because we understand power that we know how cynically cavalier you are with the lives of others, and how narcissistically self-promoting.

It is because we understand power that we understand why many of you are backpedaling in your support for the war.

You are maneuvering to be "critical" of the war. You "demand" the administration provide "an effective exit strategy."

And you haven't said a goddamned substantive thing, as the cameras shutter away for you.

And you want us to play along – so you can beat Republicans without taking a single real position.

You don't want to stop this war. You want to win an election. By the time you win that election, another thousand troops and another 20,000 Iraqis could be dead. We do not calculate time the way you do.

It is because we understand power that we know most of you will stand by while those of us with less privilege see our loved ones sent to kill and die. The real corpses produced by the exercise of power are no more to you than a political calculation.

We understand power, because we know what really stands behind it. Power is embodied in the mounted cops you use to police our protests. Power is expressed by the armed guards for your gated communities. Power is the ability to kill and maim and get away with it, even if you dress it up in \$5,000 suits and trot it out on the talk-show circuit, on C-Span, in your interviews with CNN.

Power is projected onto other peoples using your Cruise missiles and A-10s and Bradley fighting vehicles and the people who join the military.

And the price of that power doesn't merely come from our pockets. We probably wouldn't fight you about how you rob us for your pork barrel defense contracts.

The price that has us in motion right now – you really must understand this, because it means we will never back off – is exacted on the bodies of human beings.

The price is exacted with mortars, with IEDs, with high powered rifle ammunition, with bombs, with the same A-10s and Bradleys; and it is exacted on the bodies of our loved ones and the loved ones of the Iraqi people.

That's why we are not going to grant you the power to manipulate us, to contain us, to corral us, or to pimp our grief over this war and its costs on behalf of your political careers or the needs of a political party.

That's why we are going to be rudely explicit when we say that your bombast against the Bush administration – as if they did this without your help – in calling for a more effective "exit strategy" and demanding that people merely think about a plan for withdrawal from Iraq that will take months or years...this verbiage is meaningless and manipulative.

We will never stand for studying a withdrawal, for phasing a withdrawal, for delaying a withdrawal, for setting conditions for a withdrawal, or for partial withdrawal. Never.

Our demand from the beginning remains unchanged. It is for withdrawal, and for immediate, unilateral, unconditional withdrawal; and if political careers go up in smoke as a consequence, we do not give a good goddamn.

People are dying in Iraq as a direct result of this war every single day.

Go back to your fucking law offices and let our children live.

Gradual, phased, planned, strategized, conditioned, delayed, partial withdrawals get implemented, if at all, while those military sedans continue to roll up in front of people's houses to announce the extinction of a human being to his or her family... and while the bodies are dropped into the fresh graves at the cemeteries of Iraq.

Gradual, phased, planned, strategized, conditioned, delayed, partial withdrawals get implemented, if at all, while the poisons accumulate in the soil and water and food of Iraq, and in the bodies of Iraqis and occupation troops.

Gradual, phased, planned, strategized, conditioned, delayed, partial withdrawals get implemented, if at all, while the hospitals fill up with the lamed, maimed, blinded, and disfigured.

Gradual, phased, planned, strategized, conditioned, delayed, partial withdrawals get implemented, if at all, while the grief and horror associated with this criminal war become the daily emotional fare of more and more people, occupation forces and Iraqis.

No member of Congress has the moral right to dither on the question of his or her precious career while a single constituent is facing the fear of that devastating knock on the door.

We say the emperor has no clothes; and we say we know you when you feign "concern" with your eye fixed firmly on your ambition.

An exit is not a strategy. An exit is a command.

If the commander in chief won't give that command, then you in Congress – if you want to salvage anything that looks vaguely like a conscience or a soul – will refuse to grant this administration another penny to continue this war.

We are not hearing you when you tap dance about political "realism." The mounting mass of corpses, that you have walked over every time you voted a cent to continue this war, is about as real as it gets.

Don't you dare ever lecture military families and veterans about realism. And don't you doubt that we understand power.

You may think you can respond to your careerist concerns in the face of reversing polls. You may think you can pretend to do something, that you can bewilder us into accepting half a loaf better than none.

To the tiny handful of you in Congress who have said what we say, "Out Now!," we commend you and thank you for your principled voices.

To those of you who are openly supporting this criminal administration, we'll see you in the street, and history will consign your names to the chapters about imperial bullying, comb-over machismo, and cognitive mediocrity.

To those of you who call for half measures, phases, and strategies, you are directly in front of us now. You are standing directly in our path, and we are not going to go around you.

We are not going to commend you on being "better" than the reactionaries.

We are not going to thank you for our half a loaf.

We are not going to try and give you the political cover you need to wiggle around those shifting opinion polls while you salvage your careers.

We do not love you. We find your ambivalence contemptible.

We love the people who are facing the real consequences of this war while you schmooze your way through the chicken-salad circuits of imperial power, nattering on about realism and phases and strategies.

You will not divert our attention away from you.

You will redirect neither our anger nor our will away from you.

It is you who are standing directly in our way; and every time you try to dicker about people's lives with us like we are in street market, every time you try to pimp our outrage at this crime, as a mere "concern" that only you are entitled to address with your careerist half-measures, we will call you to account. We will embarrass you. We will shine a spotlight on your cowardice, your opportunism, and your grotesque cynical hypocrisy.

November 2006 is not an election to us; it is a body count. If you think you can take us for granted over an election, think again.

Get it right, because we have never wavered on our position.

The mass of American society is moving toward us, not you.

They are listening more and more to us, and less and less to you.

We are about saving lives, not saving face.

So get it right, and get it right fast.

We are looking at your political house with an eye to pulling it down.

We understand power very well.

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Portland Marine Killed

December 03, 2005 By Theresa D. McClellan, The Grand Rapids Press

PORTLAND -- For the Huhn family, tragedy struck again Friday when they learned their youngest son, U.S. Marine David Huhn, 24, had been killed in Iraq.

Huhn's mother, Diane Huhn, called her Portland neighbors before dawn Friday with the news of her son's death, a family friend said. Word spread quickly through their rural neighborhood.

"She called us at 3 a.m. She and my wife are quite close, and she wanted to make sure we heard it from her. My wife hasn't slept since," said friend and neighbor Larry Schueller.

He recalled David as "a quiet young man, very mannerly with a good sense of humor.

"He lived his entire life in the neighborhood and he was just very quiet and respectful of adults."

Huhn graduated from Portland High School in 2000.

The soldier was last home in February to attend the funeral following the sudden death of his father, Larry Huhn, who suffered a massive heart attack.

David Huhn lost his sister 15 years ago in a farming accident, neighbors said. His older brother, Kevin, is a former Marine.

"The poor mother, we're just worried and feeling for her," Schueller said.

Huhn's family could not be reached.

Neighbors said Huhn's mother talked to him last week, and he had plans to leave his undisclosed location within six weeks. She had hoped to see him during his next leave.

"This is just real, real sad," Schueller said.

Union City's Watson played on the football and wrestling teams at Union City. He had twin brothers, Brad and Kevin, who also attended the school.

Although he weighed only about 190 pounds, Watson wrestled in the heavyweight division and often went against opponents 30 to 40 pounds heavier, assistant coach Ed Sybesma said. Sometimes he beat them.

"He had to drink a lot of water so he could make weight," Sybesma said. "He was a team player. He sacrificed for the team and also for his country."

Sybesma, a Vietnam veteran, said he and Watson discussed their combat experiences when Watson returned from an earlier tour of duty in Iraq.

"The enemy we were fighting during the day looked like everybody else and at night they were the ones trying to kill you," Sybesma said. "It's the same thing over there (in Iraq)."

Minnesota Marine Killed



Marine Scott Modeen, 24, a 2000 graduate of Cooper High School in New Hope, Minn., was killed by a roadside bomb near Fallujah. (AP Photo/The Modeen family)

West View Soldier Killed

Dec 3, 2005 Ralph Iannotti, Reporting, (KDKA)

Another soldier from Western Pennsylvania has been killed in Iraq.

The Department of Defense has said that a roadside bomb claimed the life of a Pennsylvania National Guardsman from West View.

Sgt. First Class Brent Adams, 40, who joined the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1987, was killed Thursday when a roadside bomb detonated near his five-ton truck during combat operations in Ramadi - an insurgent-riddled area west of Baghdad.

CBS news reported that masked gunmen in Ramadi briefly controlled some city streets the day Adams was killed. The insurgents even released video, proving, they were overrunning the area.

Sgt. Adams, who grew up in Lancaster County and moved to the Pittsburgh area after graduating from IUP, is survived by his wife, Marilyn, and their four-year old son, Daniel.

Maryland Town Mourns Two Young Marines

Dec 03, 2005 MICHAEL J. FEENEY, Newsday

PARKTON, Md. -- They were the best of friends -- classmates and football teammates in high school, and roommates at Marine boot camp who went on to units at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Then they both went to Iraq, and died in combat six weeks apart.

Cpl. Joshua D. Snyder, 20, died Wednesday of wounds from small-arms fire in Fallujah, the Pentagon announced Thursday. Lance Cpl. Norman Anderson III, 21, died in October after a suicide bomb exploded in Karabilah.

They are among more than 2,100 U.S. service members who have died since the beginning of the war in 2003.

In Maryland, a red, white and blue wreath sat in front of their northern Baltimore County high school on Friday in Snyder's memory.

"This can't be happening again," said Steve Turnbaugh, football coach at Hereford High School. Snyder and Anderson played on the 2001 State Championship football team and always wanted to go into the Marines, he said. They graduated in 2002.

"I get close to these kids, especially when you coach them for four years," Turnbaugh said, referring to his former players as heroes. "They're like my own kids and there is no comfort in losing a child."

He remembered Snyder for always trying to help out, even though he didn't make the team his senior year. He assumed the role of a team coach and never missed a practice, said Turnbaugh.

His dedication to the team paid off and after players begged the coach, Snyder was granted playing time during the playoffs of their championship season, the coach said.

Snyder sat front and center in their 2001 team picture, which still hangs in the weight room of the high school.

"I see their picture every day. I don't even want to look up there anymore," said Turnbaugh. "It's just like having two brothers killed. It's unbelievable."

Anderson's football jersey was retired in a ceremony before a game shortly after his death. The school is planning a similar honor for Snyder. Cheryl Burkett, a teacher and Snyder's work study program adviser, remembers him for being a hard worker and very caring. "He took care of everybody," she said. "He was a solid gentleman."

She said he worked with special needs children and took on the "big brother" role with one young boy when he was a senior.

"We're a very tight-knit community," said principal John V. Bereska. "Their deaths have a big impact on everyone at the school."

Resistance Attacks Mosul Base: Two U.S. Soldiers Wounded

03 December 2005 AP

A U.S. base at Mosul's airport came under mortar or rocket fire Saturday, wounding two American soldiers, the U.S. military said. Several detonations shook the installation, Forward Operating Base Courage, at about 6:50 a.m. the command said.

Operation Occupation Humiliation: Yeah, It Happened In Ramadi This Week

Comment: T

[The occupation command has been desperately trying to lie its way out of a complete humiliation at Ramadi this week. "Ramadi? Nothing happened in Ramadi." "Oh yeah, some guy fired a mortar and ran away." Over and over.

[The lie won't fly. And what the lie reveals is how weak and defeated the Occupation is, militarily as well as politically. These are panic lies, the kind stupid commanders of defeated armies have babbled out down through the corridors of time. Remember Baghdad Bob? He's working for Central Command now, wearing a U.S. Brig. Generals' uniform that stinks of sweat, pissed pants, and panic.]

December 1, 2005 Ellen Knickmeyer and Fred Barbash, Washington Post Staff Writers

Tensions were high Thursday in the heavily insurgent western city of Ramadi, after officials and residents said about 250 armed fighters had held the streets for several hours after daylight.

The U.S. military adamantly denied the reports.

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch in Baghdad, the top U.S. spokesman here, said, "The idea that there's this mass uprising and the insurgents took control of the city is incorrect."

Khalid Qaraghoul, the media officer for the Governorate of Anbar complained about what he said was inadequate security on the part of U.S. and Iraqi forces.

"Armed men took over Ramadi for four hours today as the entire city fell in their hands, and there was not a single Marine, or any Iraqi forces inside the city for the duration of the four hour period."

He said the insurgents "set up roadblocks and arrested several residents who they accused of being spies."

Qaraghoul also said the men killed Mohammad Khalaf, the Director General of Transport for the city government. He said they forced him out of his car, tied him up and then executed him in a city street.

Mohammad Hamed, an Anbar tourism official, said "there were no American marines or government troops or policemen. The Americans found it sufficient to keep their planes flying overhead, whose roars we heard very clearly," he said.

"For more than four hours, the insurgents were in a show of strength reminiscent of the power displays of the Saddam regime."

The military has **a** fortified garrison in Ramadi.

Last week the military announced a major "disruption operation" in Ramadi involving approximately 550 Iraqi Army soldiers and U.S. Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team attached to the 2nd Marine Division. [That sure worked out brilliantly, didn't it?]

The IED Effect:
**“As Morale Collapses, So Does
Discipline”**
**“We Are Worse Than The SS In
The Way We Are Treating These
People”**

He quoted another officer in the battalion who had gone out on patrol many times as saying, "We are worse than the SS in the way we are treating these people," meaning Iraqi civilians. This is a classic result of "the war of the flea": as morale collapses, so does discipline, and poorly disciplined troops often treat local civilians badly.

December 2, 2005 William S. Lind, Lewrockwell.com [Excerpt]

What our opponents are doing is brilliantly simple.

By relying mostly on IEDs to attack us, they have created a situation where our troops have no one to shoot back at.

That, in turn, ramps up the troops' frustration level to the point where two things happen: our morale collapses and our troops take their frustration out on the local population.

Both results have strategic significance, and at least the potential of being strategically decisive, the first because it affects American home front morale and the second because it drives the local population to identify with the insurgents instead of the government we are trying to support.

The second operational effect, getting U.S. troops to take out their frustration on the local population, was illustrated in what an officer whose unit recently came back from Iraq said to me. "We were hit 3000 times and in only fifteen of those attacks did we have anyone to shoot back at," he told me.

He quoted another officer in the battalion who had gone out on patrol many times as saying, "We are worse than the SS in the way we are treating these people," meaning Iraqi civilians.

This is a classic result of "the war of the flea": as morale collapses, so does discipline, and poorly disciplined troops often treat local civilians badly.

IED: Up Close And Personal

December 02, 2005 By: Kyn Tolson, The Day of New London [Excerpt]

0500 on Feb. 9 [2005]

Before setting out at 0700 in a convoy to resupply troops at Hit, less than two hours away, the Marines checked out their Humvees and trucks, which had been loaded the night before. No work was needed, so they got their briefing - a sort of hybrid lecture that's part strategy, part cautionary tale, and part brusque farewell.

Their route would be a long drive on dirt that was more path than roadway before they reached pavement for a short sprint to their destination. The Marines knew, too, that Hit, not far from Fallujah, wasn't safe.

Along with resupplying the troops, the mission for the convoy of about 20 vehicles had another purpose: to train the new arrivals, who would be paired with Marines soon leaving.

[Sgt. Jared Adam] Luce and his partner were in the maintenance vehicle, a Humvee.

"Every convoy has a maintenance vehicle in case something goes down on the road, so you can try and fix it real quick, or tow it, or whatever. ... It's usually in the back, so if something goes bad, you can just shoot straight up instead of turning back to help."

Luce wasn't driving the regular maintenance Humvee that day, the one that Marines before him had reinforced by welding steel to the bottom. That one was in the shop for repairs.

"Mine that day," he says, "didn't have a damn thing on it."

The mission was well more than an hour under way, and they were out in the middle of nowhere, when a truck in the line broke down. Nothing was in sight. Later, some of the Marines would tell Luce that two Iraqis on a donkey were riding off in the distance.

Under procedure, when a breakdown occurs, all the vehicles behind it move over so that the maintenance man can drive up easily to assist.

That didn't happen.

"None of my guys were pulling over. They weren't the experienced guys. There should've been some drills done before, but there weren't."

The Marine with Luce decided to jump out to direct them.

"Then he takes off running," Luce says. "So I pulled forward. And about a second or two after I pulled forward, I got blown up."

The IED (military jargon for "improvised explosive device") went off under the driver's side of the hood. The left front wheel exploded, and the engine was torn apart, reduced to charred, crumpled tubes. In the cabin, the steering wheel and the console blasted out. Shreds of stuffing hung in the air where the driver's floor and foot pedals had been.

Luce figures that all the vehicles ahead of him drove over the same device.

"It just wasn't detonated until the men on the donkey saw the guy get out. It's done by remote control. ... One of the things they like to use over there is Motorola Talkabouts, 'cause a lot of the guys use those in their convoys. (The Iraqis) find one, or procure one somehow, and hook it up and set it to 'roam.' Then whenever you're in range and you click the button to talk to your next truck, you detonate it yourself."

Luce didn't detonate himself, but he was blown up. For reasons he can't explain, he wasn't wearing his seat belt that day, an omission he thinks saved his life.

He sailed out of the Humvee.

"I was awake the whole time. I was a little numb, but I wasn't in shock.

"It didn't blow my legs off. I actually stood up after it happened. I stood up kinda like to tell myself, 'I'm OK. I hope you're watching. I'm fine.'

"Then I fell over. And I found out later that my big bones were pretty much shattered, and the same with the bones in my ankle. On my right leg, my ankle was shattered and dislocated. And on the left one, multiple fractures poking through the skin, stuff like that.

"But I had my cammies on, so I didn't see any of that. I didn't even see any of the blood, and I guess I was bleeding pretty good cause it severed the arteries.

"As soon as I fell down, all I could think of was seeing 'Private Ryan' when you see the guy stand up and fall over because he has no leg. And I was thinking, 'Oh, crap.'"

Right away he decided to do a "systems check." He looked at his two legs again, and he counted the five fingers on each hand, still covered by glove liners. "I even double-checked, just to make sure I wasn't just seeing five and didn't have them."

Then he did math problems in his head, and he thought about his family. "That," he says, "kept my mind off everything else.

"They say there are no atheists in a fighting hole. Honestly, I wasn't praying when I got blown up. I was thinking."

Immediately, Luce's aide driver ran back to him and put tourniquets on his legs.

"He said later that he got out and saw the bomb and that was why he was running. And I thought he was running up to tell them to move over."

As it turned out, the convoy was close to Hit, and minutes before the explosion Luce had seen two helicopters flying toward that base.

"They were just touching down when it happened. So they just popped them back up, and they came and got me, flew me back to Al Asad, 'cause Al Asad has a surgical company.

Casualties Now Approximately 10% Of Total U.S. Frontline Combat Strength

12/2/2005 Tom Clonan, Security Analyst, Irish Times

Thus far, 2,113 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq. A total of almost 16,000 US troops have also been seriously injured - many of them amputees - and medically evacuated from Iraq. Taken in tandem, these figures would represent approximately 10 per cent of the US's total frontline combat strength.

TROOP NEWS

“The Cynical Use Of Military Personnel”

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
11.28.05

The incredulous tone of the letters and columns regarding the apparent “staged” nature of President Bush's teleconference with members of the 42nd Infantry Division [Oct. 31] surprises me.

Those of us who have watched this administration for any length of time are not surprised at the cynical use of military personnel.

So-called “town hall” meetings are populated with carefully selected participants who can be counted on to ask softball questions. News conferences are studded with planted pseudo-journalists who have been paid to ask friendly questions that are easy to answer. Photo opportunities consist of staged events (i.e. “Mission Accomplished”), that bear no resemblance to real events.

It is a mystery why so many military people support George Bush. The administration spends their lives on a personal vendetta, sends them to war with inadequate equipment and ridicules the Army Chief of Staff (Gen. Eric Shinseki), when he tells him that the plan isn't adequate.

Lt. Col. Fred Brown (ret.)
Dallas, Ore.

A Classic:

LT. GENERAL DEMPSEY HAS TROUBLE WITH HIS TIME HORIZONS

From: Don Bacon: smedleybutlersociety@msn.com
To: GI Special
Sent: December 03, 2005
Subject: DEMPSEY HAS TROUBLE WITH HIS TIME HORIZONS

Extract from a News Briefing with Lt. Gen. Martin Dempsey, commander, Multinational Security Transition Command in Iraq (MNSTC-I) Friday, December 2, 2005. DefenseLink.mil

Q General, Tom Bowman with the Baltimore Sun.

General Abizaid said in the spring that the Iraqi forces could take the lead by the end of 2005, and then he later amended it to say that maybe the spring or summer of 2006 they could take the lead.

And now, this week with the National Strategy for Victory in Iraq that was released, it talks here about in the short term, you'll be standing up security forces, and then in the medium term, you'll be, quote, "in the lead, defeating terrorists."

How do you define the medium term? How many years off would that be?

GEN. DEMPSEY: Well, I'm not really exactly familiar with how we translate calendar years into short and midterm. I can tell you what my part of it is, and that is to build the force that then goes into the field and begins to perform, but there's a performance aspect as well. It's not just sticking it out there. It's got to actually be able to perform. And so there's a much more holistic answer to that question.

Q Sir, this is the National Strategy for Victory in Iraq that the president released this week. **Have you seen it? It says medium term, Iraqi forces are in the lead. I'm just asking you to define that.**

GEN. DEMPSEY: Yeah, sure. I did see it. I got it yesterday when it was released, and I have not yet made sure that I completely understand the time horizons. But I'm sure that the definitions in there are consistent with the definitions we've been using over here. What you're asking me for is dates, and I'm not prepared to give you those.

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



The coffin containing the body of U.S. soldier Antonio Mendez at his funeral in Rincon, Puerto Rico, Dec. 2, 2005. Mendez, age 22, was killed in Kirkuk, Iraq, on Nov. 11. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**Hampton Anti-War Students
Win Victory In Struggle For Free
Speech:
Students Exonerated! ...But Fight Not
Over:
“On December 2, Hampton University
Looked Like I’ve Never Seen It Look
Before”**

03 December 2005 By John Robinson, Campusantiwar.net

Hampton University students faced disciplinary hearings on Dec 2, 2005 at 9:00 am in the Student Center cyber lounge.

As I arrived I immediately noticed bands of protesters already picketing right outside the University. By the time the six other students and I met with the parents and lawyers in front of the room that the hearing was to be held, there were already over 20 student supporters standing right outside the door. As we made last minute preparations to our cases, students continued to pour into the student center.

At about 9:20 the parents, character witnesses, students, and administrators began to enter the room.

After everyone was seated, the Dean of Men and Dean of Women outlined the rules of the hearing for everyone in attendance.

They told everyone that the only question-asking would be done by the administration. Students did have the ability to question the shabby evidence presented against them and instead had to rely on the word of the campus detective relating to what was actually on the video footage.

The administrators then decided to sequester the seven students and question them individually. They allowed only the pre-selected family, lawyers, and character witnesses to come in with the students.

Even though the notice sent to students suggested they would have an opportunity to present a case, the hearing amounted to not much more than a formal interrogation.

Shortly after the hearing had commenced it became abundantly clear that Hampton University was no longer in control.

As was mentioned before, the Administration's case was extremely weak.

The administrators seemed nervous as they listened to the chief lieutenant clumsily describe the one piece of footage that he had an opportunity to view and that he elected not to present.

But things only got worse from there for the Administration as the lawyers exposed the unfairness of the Administrative Hearing process itself.

Also the parents were in strongly in support of their children and nearly every one lashed out at the administration at some point. The parents made good points about the procedural injustices inherent in Hampton's administrative hearings.

As discontent among the parents continued to mount, more and more students stood in front of the door wearing paraphernalia that blatantly revealed that they were in support of the student activists, and more people grabbed pickets and duck tape and joined the free speech demonstration.

The administrators seemed flustered and nervous as they had to continually defend the legitimacy of their Kangaroo Court.

It was so obvious that Hampton was a lot more accustomed to handling things in ways that were unapologetically authoritarian and not subject to many of the rules we take for granted.

They were not used to the “checks and balances” that the people themselves imposed on Hampton. This caused the proceedings to degenerate to a series of dramatic power trips.

The students watching the hearing through the glass witnessed the Dean of Students, who was supposed to have no part in the hearing, angrily march from his seat in the back to the front of the room and threaten to throw out a professor who spoke as a character witness for the students.

The administrative panel also threw one of the student’s fathers out of the hearing, and threatened to throw out another student’s mother and one of the lawyers.

The administrator were incredibly rude to students and parents alike, instinctively telling them to “shut up” and threatening to dismiss them.

Meanwhile, outside the hearing, the police carried out the authoritarian practices of the school on the student supporters. There were police EVERYWHERE and they confiscated the posters and film of students with reckless abandon.

A student DJ who support the activists attempted to play music in the student center, which happens everyday, and he was promptly stopped by a university official fearing the music would further embolden the students.

At the beginning of the hearing we were told that we would not receive verdicts today and we should expect them in the next 2-3 days.

However after the strong show of support by the students and community, the university decided to have the verdict ready mere hours after the hearing had finished. The students were not expelled.

On December 2, Hampton University looked like I’ve never seen it look before.

The students, it seemed, realized that this was not a fight for the Hampton seven but a fight for the student body.

More importantly they realized that they themselves could fight to make Hampton and the world a better place.

Students, who only days ago wouldn’t sign a petition because they feared harsh repercussion, now boldly stood in the defense of the activists against campus police.

Teachers who were previously silenced by the privacy obligations of the school now spoke to their students in class and urged them to become involved. Black students from other schools became more involved in the antiwar struggle at their own schools.

The students at Hampton for the first time saw someone stand up against the university and they saw the university do all it could to back down.

At the end of the hearing, the Dean of Men could not restrain himself from questioning me about the article "Corporate Plantation".

Before I had a chance to answer the Dean of Students interjected that it was not appropriate.

I have no doubt that if the school was not being so closely watched, that line of questioning would have went much further. But the student movement showed its strength and resilience.

The students at Hampton greatly appreciate the many people who joined with them in this struggle against this repressive administration. We showed them something they had not saw in a long time.

However the school intends to downplay the event so the controversy will go away. The atmosphere will probably become worse after that as they will do all they can to prevent activists from doing anything especially now that they can identify several.

That means that even though we were victorious in this battle, the fight goes on.

The actions of the administration has made Hampton's campus fertile ground for social activism. We must capitalize on that and demand that our group be recognized and demand a more democratic atmosphere at Hampton.

Black students have infinite potential but the program of Hampton MUST be counteracted. In recognizing the rising repression at other schools against students and professors we do consider this battle in the context of the larger struggle against empire and war.

This fight ultimately got many black students involved in the student movement, and so long as we are able to organize on the ground there will be many more. Let us continue our fight and make the change we know is possible.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Fallujah:

“Almost Everyone Here Has The Potential To Be An Insurgent”

Dec. 2 Jonathan Finer, Washington Post Staff Writer

A year ago last month, U.S. and Iraqi troops leveled much of Fallujah, which had become Iraq's main insurgent stronghold, in the largest offensive waged since the 2003 invasion. They established a strict cordon around the city, with four main entry points complete with metal detectors and bomb-sniffing dogs.

But while large-scale attacks have been few in recent months, insurgents have re-established a presence in the city, soldiers interviewed there this week said.

Asked how many insurgents were present in Fallujah, a U.S. official in the city, said, "It's hard to say, but there's sympathy for the insurgency. Almost everyone here has the potential to be an insurgent."

A Picture Worth 10,000 Words



A U.S. Marine stares at Iraqi men, who stare back, in Karabilah, near the Syrian border, Dec. 3, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

“You Can See Through It All To The Actual Person Behind The Weapons And Body Armor”

On the other hand, you never forget that it's a foreign occupation and will meet with resistance like all foreign occupations.

November 30, 2005 Riverbend, Baghdad burning [Excerpt]

I intend to spend the rest of the night reading about Bush's 'strategy' for Iraq. I haven't seen it yet, but I expect it'll be a repetition of the nonsense he's been spewing for two and a half years now. Don't Americans get tired of hearing the same thing?

As it is, people fear the Americans will be here for the next twenty years- unless they are bombed and attacked out of the country.

Although many Iraqis support armed resistance in theory, I think that the average Iraqi simply wants to see them go back home in one piece- we feel sorry for them and especially sorry for their families at times.

There are moments when you forget the personal affronts- the raids, the checkpoints, the fear of bombing, the detentions, etc. and you can see through it all to the actual person behind the weapons and body armor...

On the other hand, you never forget that it's a foreign occupation and will meet with resistance like all foreign occupations.

Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and Rice can all swear that American troops will not pull out of the country no matter how many casualties they sustain, but history has proven otherwise...

Assorted Resistance Action

03 December 2005 AP & By EDWARD WONG, The New York Times & (Xinhuanet)

Insurgents ambushed an Iraqi army patrol north of Baghdad on Saturday, killing 19 soldiers in a well-planned attack,

The Iraqi soldiers were traveling in a five-vehicle patrol near Baquba, 60 km (40 miles) from Baghdad, when they were hit by a roadside bomb.

Following the bomb blast, the Iraqi convoy came under intense small arms fire.

The attack took place near Adhaim, about 60 miles from Baghdad, Iraqi officials said.

Hours before President Bush gave his Wednesday speech, the Najaf provincial council threatened to break off all ties with the Americans over accusations that soldiers had stabbed a young man to death during a house raid last Sunday.

In a furious statement issued Wednesday, the provincial council accused the Americans of "a typical crime committed during the Saddam regime - the killing of

a young man." The council said he had been stabbed to death by American soldiers in a raid Sunday.

A roadside bomb attacked a police patrol in south of Baghdad on Saturday, injuring three policemen seriously, a source from the Interior Ministry told Xinhua.

"The explosion occurred at around 7:50 p.m. (1650 GMT). One police car was destroyed and several houses were damaged by the blast," the source said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Yes

Fall 2005, By John Zutz, *The Veteran*, Vietnam Veterans Against The War [Excerpt]

The Bring Them Home Now Tour arrived in Milwaukee ahead of schedule, but the Milwaukee chapter of VVAW had lunch prepared and set up, and greeted the riders as they arrived. After eating and giving interviews, the riders were the focus of a public rally.

I assured the crowd of about three hundred that killing and dying in a hot, wet climate was amazingly similar to killing and dying in a hot, dry climate.

John Zutz is a VVAW national coordinator and a member of the Milwaukee chapter.

Political Incest: "The Past Is So Much Closer Than You Think"

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: December 02, 2005

The last thing I felt before I left Vietnam, was Dick Nixon's dick withdrawing from my ass.

If you think this is vulgar, you should have read the graffiti on the walls of the transit barracks when I was processing out of Vietnam, three days before I returned to the United States.

American soldiers called Richard M. Nixon every vile thing they could think of.

The same thing is going to be true with George Bush and dick Cheney.

As the years go by, Iraq veterans will feel the same hatred as Vietnam veterans did for these Xerox copy war criminals. When your belief system is violated, you feel the harpoon of Political Incest.

Those who survive, are those who bear witness. The rest will drift out to sea.

And, I have seen that happen to countless Vietnam veterans.

I got well, when I felt my anger.

The past is so much closer than you think.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71**



Photo from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

Back To The Future:

12.1.05 Salon.com

Nixon in 1969: "The precipitate withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam would be a disaster not only for South Vietnam but for the United States and for the cause of peace."

Bush yesterday: "Setting an artificial deadline to withdraw would vindicate the terrorists' tactics of beheadings and suicide bombings and mass murder -- and invite new attacks on America."

Nixon: "An announcement of a fixed timetable for our withdrawal would completely remove any incentive for the enemy to negotiate an agreement. They would simply wait until our forces had withdrawn and then move in."

Bush: "Setting an artificial deadline to withdraw would send a signal to our enemies -- that if they wait long enough, America will cut and run and abandon its friends."

Nixon: "If necessary ... we will withdraw all our forces from Vietnam on a schedule in accordance with our program, as the South Vietnamese become strong enough to defend their own freedom."

Bush: "And as the Iraqi security forces stand up, coalition forces can stand down -- and when our mission of defeating the terrorists in Iraq is complete, our troops will return home to a proud nation."

Nixon delivered his Vietnamization speech in November 1969, but the last U.S. ground troops didn't leave Vietnam until March 1973. More than 8,000 American soldiers died in the meantime.

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.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**Bush Tells National Security Council
To Focus On What's Really
Important:**

U.S. Troops' "Well-Being"? Get Real!

11.22.05 By Christopher Cooper, Wall St. Journal

Ulan Bator, Mongolia

Mr. Bush did face one delicate diplomatic mission here. U.S. leaders on world tours arm themselves with a list of demands when they visit foreign countries.

In preparing for Mongolia, the president needed to figure out how to tactfully refuse a gift horse.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld got a horse—a black-maned steed he named “Montana” —when he visited this visually stunning nation of desert steppes in October. Such gift horses aren’t actually taken home; instead, they are kept around but not ridden, in anticipation of the next visit.

But White House aides say Mr. Bush was worried about the obligations of ownership. Would taxpayers be on the hook for upkeep? Was there any way to guarantee the horse’s well-being down the road?

The question occupied not one but several meetings at the National Security Council in the days leading up to Mr. Bush’s trip, one participant said.

Embedded TIME Reporter Says Bush Lied About Iraqi Security Forces In Speech Yesterday: Republican Senator Doesn’t Disagree

December 1, 2005 Posted by Judd,Thinkprogress.org

Yesterday, President Bush claimed that Iraqi security forces “primarily led” the assault on the city of Tal Afar. Bush highlighted it as an “especially clear” sign of the progress Iraqi security forces were making in Iraq.

“The progress of the Iraqi forces is especially clear when the recent anti-terrorist operations in Tal Afar are compared with last year’s assault in Fallujah. In Fallujah, the assault was led by nine coalition battalions made up primarily of United States Marines and Army — with six Iraqi battalions supporting them...”

This year in Tal Afar, it was a very different story. The assault was primarily led by Iraqi security forces; 11 Iraqi battalions, backed by five coalition battalions providing support.

TIME Magazine reporter Michael Ware, who is embedded with the U.S. troops in Iraq who participated in the Tal Afar battle, appeared on Anderson Cooper yesterday. He said Bush's description was completely untrue:

Transcript:

COOPER: You know this is not one of the shows where we take sides. I really try to just look at facts on the ground, and the President in his speech talked about the battle of Tal Afar. And in his speech today, he said that it was led primarily by Iraqi security forces, eleven Iraqi battalions, backed by five coalition battalions providing support. He used this as compared to the battle of Fallujah as an example of how much better the Iraqis are doing.

Earlier, I talked to Time Magazine's Michael Ware, the Baghdad bureau chief who was embedded during the entire battle. I want to play you what he said about the Iraqi units he saw.

WARE: I was in that battle from the very beginning to the very end. I was with Iraqi units right there on the front line as they were battling with al Qaeda. They were not leading. They were being led by the U.S. green beret special forces with them. Green berets who were following an American plan of attack who were advancing with these Iraqi units as and when they were told to do so by the American battle planners. The Iraqis led nothing.

COOPER: Do you think the president was correct in saying that this was an Iraqi victory, that the Iraqis were leading the way?

Sen. John Warner (R-VA): Well, I'll let the commanders sort that out but I - first I respect those journalists that embed themselves and I accept as a credible description what you've just put forward. But you didn't hear him say they cut and run like they did in Fallujah. You didn't hear him say that the Iraqis dropped the arms. He said they were fighting. Now it may well have been that the battle plan was drawn up by the coalition forces, probably the U.S. leading.

MORE:

“Curling Up In A Ball”

03 December 2005 By Maureen Dowd, The New York Times [Excerpt]

[Time's Baghdad bureau chief, Michael Ware] also told Mr. Cooper: "I have had a very senior officer here in Baghdad say to me that there's never going to be a point where these guys will be able to stand up against the insurgency on their own."

Mr. Ware recalled that in a battle two weeks ago, he saw an Iraqi security officer put down his weapon and curl up into a ball when he was under attack. "I have seen that on - on many, many occasions," he said.

Curling up in a ball. Good National Strategy for Victory.

Samara: Another Silly Imperial Fantasy

02 December 2005 By Paul Krugman, The New York Times [Excerpt]

The National Security Council document released this week under the grandiose title "National Strategy for Victory in Iraq" is neither an analytical report nor a policy statement.

It's simply the same old talking points - "victory in Iraq is a vital U.S. interest"; "failure is not an option" - repackaged in the style of a slide presentation for a business meeting.

What about the security situation? During much of 2004, the document tells us: "Fallujah, Najaf, and Samara were under enemy control. Today, these cities are under Iraqi government control."

Meanwhile, this is the third time that coalition forces have driven the insurgents out of Samara. On the two previous occasions, the insurgents came back after the Americans left.

And there, too, it's stretching things to say that the city is under Iraqi government control: according to The Associated Press, only 100 of the city's 700 policemen show up for work on most days.

BUSH CALLS 'PLAN FOR VICTORY' SLOGAN A SUCCESS: Vows To Create Additional Slogans To Defeat Insurgents

December 1, 2005 The Borowitz Report

One day after making a speech on Iraq at the United States Naval Academy in front of a giant placard reading "Plan For Victory," President George W. Bush pronounced the "Plan For Victory" slogan an unqualified success.

"Much time, thought and effort went into creating the 'Plan For Victory' slogan," Mr. Bush said today at a White House press conference. "I think we can all agree that the hard work that went into that slogan has really paid off."

The president said that not only were the words "Plan For Victory" catchy and memorable, but the choice of yellow letters against a blue background was perfect: "The yellow against the blue really made the letters stand out in a victory-like way."

Mr. Bush told reporters that he believed that "time and patience" were the ultimate keys to success in Iraq, adding, "It took time and patience for us to come up with a really effective slogan like 'Plan For Victory.'"

But even as he praised his administration's latest slogan, Mr. Bush said he would not rest on his laurels, vowing to create additional slogans to defeat the insurgents in Iraq.

"The insurgents may have many weapons at their disposal, but they are not as good as we are at coming up with slogans," Mr. Bush said. "So far the only one they've come up with is 'Jihad' - not catchy at all, if you ask me."

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<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)

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