

GI SPECIAL 3D8:

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOP HOME:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



Keaven Diaz, the nephew of U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Ramon Acevedo Aponte, with the casket containing the body of his uncle, in Penuelas, Puerto Rico, Nov. 7, 2005. Acevedo Aponte, age 51, was killed in Rustamiyah. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

A Liar Without Honor: Poll Results Condemn Bush; “73 Percent Also Say There Have Been An Unacceptable Level Of Casualties In Iraq”

The survey found that 40 percent now view him as honest and trustworthy -- a 13 percentage point drop in the past 18 months. Nearly 6 in 10 -- 58 percent -- said they have doubts about Bush's honesty, the first time in his presidency that more than half the country has questioned his personal integrity.

November 4, 2005 By Richard Morin and Dan Balz, Washington Post Staff Writers

For the first time in his presidency a majority of Americans question the integrity of President Bush, and growing doubts about his leadership have left him with record negative ratings on the economy, Iraq and even the war on terrorism, a new Washington Post-ABC News poll shows.

On almost every key measure of presidential character and performance, the survey found that Bush has never been less popular with the American people. Currently 39 percent approve of the job he is doing as president, while 60 percent disapprove of his performance in office -- the highest level of disapproval ever recorded for Bush in Post-ABC polls.

The survey found that 40 percent now view him as honest and trustworthy -- a 13 percentage point drop in the past 18 months. Nearly 6 in 10 -- 58 percent -- said they have doubts about Bush's honesty, the first time in his presidency that more than half the country has questioned his personal integrity.

Beyond the leak case, Americans give the administration low scores on ethics, according to the survey, with 67 percent rating the administration negatively on handling ethical matters, while just 32 percent give the administration positive marks. Four in 10 -- 43 percent -- say the level of ethics and honesty in the federal government has fallen during Bush's presidency, while 17 percent say it has risen.

Just 35 percent of those surveyed rated the economy as either excellent or good, with 65 percent describing it as not so good or poor.

Among independents, Bush's approval has plummeted since the beginning of the year. In the latest poll, 33 percent of independents approved of his performance, while 66 percent disapproved. In January, independents were evenly divided, with 49 percent approving and an equal percentage disapproving.

The intensity of Bush's support has changed since his reelection a year ago, with opponents deepening their hostility toward the administration. In the latest survey, 47 percent said they strongly disapprove of the way he was performing in office, compared with 35 percent who expressed strong disapproval in January. At the same time, the percentage who say they strongly approve of his performance has fallen from 33 percent last January to 20 percent today.

About 3 in 4 -- 73 percent -- say there have been an unacceptable level of casualties in Iraq.

The survey suggests a rapidly widening gulf between Bush and the American people. Two in 3 say Bush does not understand the problems of people like them, a 10 percentage point increase since January.

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

FOUR TASK FORCE BAGHDAD SOLDIERS KILLED BY CAR BOMB

November 7, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-11-15C

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Four Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were killed when a suicide car bomber attacked their checkpoint Nov. 7 along a road south of Baghdad.

II MEF MARINE KILLED BY SMALL- ARMS FIRE IN HUSAYBAH

November 7, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-11-13C & Reuters

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed in action conducting combat operations against the enemy Nov. 6.

While conducting clearing operations in Husaybah during Operation Steel Curtain, he was killed by enemy small-arms fire.

A New York Times reporter travelling with the Marines said that a patrol had been searching a house that appeared to be empty when they were met with a hail of gunfire which killed one Marine and drove the others outside.

The insurgent gunman was killed by other Marines as he tried to flee from the roof, the reporter said.

SOLDIER KILLED BY AD DAWR IED; THREE MORE WOUNDED

November 7, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 05-11-14C

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Soldier attached to Task Force Band of Brothers was killed by an improvised explosive device explosion late Nov. 6 while on patrol near ad Dawr.

Two other Soldiers and an Iraqi translator were wounded in the attack and transported to a nearby military medical facility.

3rd ID Soldiers Dies Of Oct. 17 Wounds

November 7, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 1160-05

Spc. Darren D. Howe, 21, of Beatrice, Neb., died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, on Nov. 3, of injuries sustained in Samarra, Iraq, on Oct. 17, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Howe was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga.

Cedar Springs Man Killed

Nov. 07, 2005 Associated Press

CEDAR SPRINGS, Mich. - A man who joined the Michigan Army National Guard largely because of the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has been killed in the war in Iraq, his family said.

Spc. Timothy Brown, 23, of Cedar Springs, died Friday when a roadside bomb detonated while he checked for explosives near the Humvee in which he and four other soldiers were riding, relatives said.

Brown, who attended Cedar Springs High School, enlisted in the Guard in 2003, his mother, Cindy Brown, told The Grand Rapids Press for a story published Monday. He was activated in January of this year and sent to Iraq in June as a member of Company B, 125th Infantry.

U.S. Patrol Car Bombed In Mosul: Casualties Not Announced

Nov 7 (Reuters)

MOSUL - A car bomber attacked a U.S. patrol in Mosul on Monday, police and witnesses said. There were no details on casualties.

Three Attacks Target Japanese Troops

11.7.05 By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer

Three attacks in southern Iraq apparently targeted Japanese troops, apparently injuring a policeman and a taxi driver, the Kyodo News agency reported.

Marine Wounded Near Syrian Border



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kimberly Kemp, left, of San Antonio, Texas, and Maj. Craig Stanaland of Ocala, Florida wheel a U.S. Marine wounded during an assault near the Syrian border, into the Air Force hospital in Balad, Nov. 7, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

The Staff Sgt. Gets It Right

November 07, 2005 By Gordon Trowbridge, Army Times staff writer

HUSAYBAH, Iraq — U.S. forces nearly completed their operation to clear this Syrian border city on Monday, encountering little resistance.

Marines said they expected more insurgents and fewer civilians in the city, and wondered if a tougher fight loomed Tuesday in the final few blocks on Husaybah's eastern edge.

“They’re not stupid,” said Staff Sgt. Dennis Ranahan, of Boston, a platoon sergeant in the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. “They’re running. They don’t want to stand and fight us.” [That’s exactly what guerrilla warfare is about, and

why they win. It's their country. And they'll keep it up until the occupation ends, one way or another.]

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Nov. 7, 2005: US Soldiers of the 1/10th Mountain Divisions 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment unfold barbed wire in Abu Ghraib, Nov. 2, 2005..(AP Photo/US Forces, Pfc. Jason Jordan)

Drone Shot Down & Filmed

07 November 2005 Aljazeera

Al-Ishrin brigades, the armed wing of a group calling itself the Islamic resistance in Iraq, have displayed video footage on a website in which al-Zalazil brigade, an affiliate of al-Ishrin brigades, depicts an unmanned US military aircraft being shot down in Diyala province, south of Baghdad.

The group said US forces had been searching for the downed aircraft but were unable to locate it since they are in possession of the aircraft and later showed more footage of the wreckage.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“One Attack A Week On The American Base Of Daya Choopan”

He asserted to us that he launches at least one attack a week on the American base of Daya Choopan with his 150 men.

According to him, 15 districts of the country are under "the Taliban Islamic law," while American soldiers can't move in those regions except in convoys supported by aircraft.

03 November 2005 By Sara Daniel and Sami Yousafzay, Le Nouvel Observateur

In a little sitting room in the mullah's house, we meet Bismillah, a handsome man of 38 with a frank handshake, who has never been a Taliban. A car salesman, he has just left his village in Zabol province to move to Moqar.

He describes a lawless zone where all the central governments' representatives in the village have to retreat back to the provincial capital by nightfall. No more schools. No more gas. Even the indispensable mobylettes (motorized bicycles) have been forbidden by the Americans because they are the Taliban's preferred means of transport.

Result: the inhabitants are leaving en masse to take refuge in Pakistan or towards the north. "In Zabol province," Bismillah summarizes, "you have a choice: to be arrested by the government because you have a beard or to be killed by the Taliban because you look like a spy ..."

And then there are the American bombing raids. In Bismillah's village, a bomb killed ten people, including three children. The person they were targeting, Mullah Wazir, had moved months ago to Quetta, in Pakistan.

Forty-year-old Rahman Akhondzada is one of the commanders of the Taliban insurgency in Zabol province. He is very difficult to meet, but we were able to interview him thanks to a satellite telephone.

He asserted to us that he launches at least one attack a week on the American base of Daya Choopan with his 150 men.

According to him, 15 districts of the country are under "the Taliban Islamic law," while American soldiers can't move in those regions except in convoys supported by aircraft.

TROOP NEWS

Fresh Meat For Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse: 92,000 More Going To Iraq

Nov. 7, 2005 By Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld today announced the next major units to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Today's announcement affects about 92,000 servicemembers -- more than 65,000 from the active component and 26,000 from the Guard and Reserve -- who will begin their scheduled rotation in mid-2006, according to Army Lt. Col. Barry Venable, a Defense Department spokesman.

Major units to deploy include:

Division Headquarters and 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii;

13th Corps Support Command, Fort Hood, Texas;
1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, Minnesota Army National Guard;
2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany;
3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.;
3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; and
2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

War Eats Up \$12.8 Billion Of Marine Gear

November 14, 2005 Marine Corps Times

For the first time, senior Marine officials admit that if the war in Iraq ended tomorrow and Marine units shipped home, it would cost \$12.8 billion to re-equip them with vehicles and gear lost in combat and through wear and tear.

For every year that Marines operate an up-armored Humvee in Iraq, for example, the vehicle ages the equivalent of nine years.

Heavy Casualties Force California Guard's 1st Battalion To Abandon Highways

November 7, 2005 Los Angeles Times

So many soldiers from the California National Guard's 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, have been killed by roadside bombs, that troops have begun flying to their missions in helicopters.

The battalion commander, Col. William Wood, was killed by a roadside bomb Oct. 27 as he responded to another explosion that had mortally wounded another soldier.

Since mid-September, the Night Stalkers have lost 11 soldiers and more than 100 have been wounded. The 105-member Delta Company lost four men in eight days.

Pentagon Disrespects Family Of MIA Soldier

November 04, 2005 Associated Press

The family of the only soldier the Army lists as missing-captured in Iraq will get a face-to-face meeting with military officials on the status of their son, days after the Ohio family complained about a lack of information from the government.

The parents of Army Reserve Sgt. Keith "Matt" Maupin of Batavia, Ohio, are being flown to Washington for a Pentagon briefing Friday. Maupin has been missing since April 9, 2004, when his fuel truck convoy was ambushed by insurgents west of Baghdad after leaving camp.

Parents Carolyn and Keith Maupin complained earlier this week when they learned about a new search for their son through the news media — not the Pentagon.

Officers Sue Air Force Over Religious Tyranny

November 3, 2005 New York Times

Four Air Force officers have joined a lawsuit that claims senior officers and cadets at the Air Force Academy illegally imposed Christianity on others at the school.

War Profiteers Cheated Workers Out Of Overtime

November 4, 2005 Houston Chronicle

Haliburton and KBR violated their contracts with the Army when they failed to pay workers in Iraq and Kuwait overtime, according to a lawsuit filed in a Houston federal court.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

11.7.05 By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer & Independent Online & Reuters

A roadside bomb killed six policemen in the capital's southern Dora neighborhood, an insurgent stronghold, said Mohanad Jawad, an official at Yarmouk Hospital.

THIBBAN - At least two Iraqi soldiers were killed and 13 injured when a car bomber targeted a group of Iraqi soldiers guarding oil pipelines in the town of Thibban north of Baghdad, hospital doctor Ibrahim al-Ubaidi said.

Two mortar rounds exploded on Monday in Baghdad's highly fortified Green Zone, where Iraq's parliament and the United States Embassy are based, police said.

The sound of the explosions could be heard in the area at about 10.05am and 10.16am. Police 1st Lieutenant Bilal Ali Majed said the blasts were caused by two mortars and that no casualties were immediately reported.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

**Occupation And Resistance In
Maysan Province:
“There Are Ever Expanding Areas
That The Occupation Simply
Cannot Control”**

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes: I am especially interested in the Marsh Arabs, famed for their bitter resistance to Saddam. After the invasion I read one report of strong resistance in their area - not mentioning who by. The following is the first real effort at voicing their reaction to being liberated from, their enemy, Saddam. These are a fascinating people who never "give up their freedom" - to anyone.]

When the British imposed their authority and displaced the insurgent government, the residents were bitter. As UPI's Hess put it, "In the local eyes they had just traded one occupation for another."

Nov 4, 2005 By Michael Schwartz, Asia Times Online Ltd. [Excerpts]

Take, for example, Maysan province, a small Shi'ite area in southeastern Iraq abutting Iran. Maysan is not in the Sunni triangle, so it is not in the eye of the Sunni resistance hurricane. It is not occupied by American troops, but the British Staffordshire Regiment, renowned for its non-aggressive approach to occupying Iraq.

The region's only claim to newsworthiness has been its status as the historical home of the Marsh Arabs, infamously dispersed by Saddam Hussein when he drained the marshes that cover a substantial portion of the province.

In 2003, there was a brief flurry of Maysan coverage when, just after the invasion, the marshes were partially re-flooded and some of the Marsh Arabs returned to their ancestral home.

Maysan is worth our attention for another reason: for the past two-plus years it has been the site of a low-intensity, low-visibility war that may be a better measure of the fate of the occupation than higher profile battles in cities like Fallujah and Tal Afar.

Maysan province has a rebellious history. Saddam was never able to bring it to heel and this was a key motivation for draining the marshes and displacing the Marsh Arabs. But even this draconian solution didn't pacify Maysan. For years, the Saddam regime maintained an occupying force of 20,000 troops there, partly because of the province's proximity to Iran and partly to suppress local guerrillas, who remained active right up to the American invasion.

When the American attack became imminent and Saddam pulled his troops out of the area to defend Baghdad, the local guerrillas immediately took control of the capital, Amarah, and installed their own government. The British - in charge of southern Iraq for the American-led Coalition Provisional Authority - arrived five days later, and local residents greeted them as invaders with no business in town.

According to Captain Andy McLannahan, the British commander, the local attitude was, "What are you doing here?" As far as the locals were concerned, "it was they who ousted Hussein's forces, not the US invasion".

When the British imposed their authority and displaced the insurgent government, the residents were bitter. As UPI's Hess put it, "In the local eyes they had just traded one occupation for another."

Since then, the British have had no better success than Saddam in subduing the province.

The resistance there has evolved through several stages, each a response to changing occupation strategies and their own capabilities.

At first, insurgents fought sporadic guerrilla battles with the British. This so strained the capacity of the 1,000 strong occupation force that the British actually withdrew from Majar al Kabir, the town with the most militant and aggressive resistance cells. During this period, the province became a center of strength for the Mahdi Army, the military wing of the Sadrist movement that would eventually fight major battles with the Americans in Najaf and Sadr City, Baghdad's enormous Shi'ite slum.

In the spring of 2004, the poorly armed, poorly trained Sadrists felt strong enough to challenge the British directly, and a 100-day battle commenced in the provincial capital of Amarah. (There was little coverage of this, in part because the almost simultaneous and far larger battle in Najaf drew so much attention.)

The British claimed complete victory - 800 guerrillas killed without the loss of a single British soldier - but they also discontinued virtually all patrols in the city, leaving local governance to the supporters of the resistance.

This withdrawal also marked an end to various ambitious reconstruction projects that had been promised and scheduled by the occupiers. In January 2005, the Sadrists won the provincial elections.

Finally, in April, the British ordered the Staffordshire Regiment to pacify Amarah and retake full control of the province. They utilized a strategy similar to the one the Americans were applying in the Sunni areas of the country: armed patrols invaded rebellious neighborhoods and broke into the homes of suspected resistance fighters (and their suspected supporters), arresting large numbers and killing anyone who resisted.

Construction began on 13 impregnable police stations in an attempt to convert the police into a viable weapon against the resistance. According to the US Command in Iraq, these stations were to be the most imposing structures in town, equipped with "guard towers, security walls, generator installation, exterior lighting, bullet-proof glass, bars on exterior windows, steel exterior doors, and an antenna". These, in turn, would "improve the morale of the police so they will do a better job", and so, supposedly, deal with a pattern found in rebellious areas across Iraq - police unwilling or unable to fight the guerrillas.

At this point, the guerrillas abandoned their failed effort to confront the British directly and settled into the pattern that characterizes the war everywhere in the country: improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by roadsides and hit-and-run attacks

targeting the patrols of the occupying power. By the middle of summer, the new strategy had begun to inflict consistent casualties on the British, and Maysan province officially became a hot spot of insurgency.

The ongoing battle in Maysan catches something of the nature of the guerrilla war in other under-reported parts of Iraq.

UPI's Hess pointed to the hallmark of guerrilla warfare when reporting, "Despite the violence, the Iraqis here consider Maysan to be safe and secure because - unlike in the Sunni triangle - local civilians and police are not the targets of the insurgents."

In other words, the local Shi'ite resistance is mainly in the business of expelling the occupation.

They target British soldiers, and mostly try to avoid civilian casualties. Because the police have not attacked them, they usually do not target the police. They are for the most part (in the classic guerrilla mode) defenders of the local order, and there would be little violence if the British did not enter the towns and cities where the resistance is strong.

In these circumstances, the local population feels safe (when the British are not around) because they do not expect attacks from the resistance.

The British, like all historic occupation armies, have a great deal of trouble dealing with (or even understanding) this strategy.

One intelligence officer told Hess: "Anything that smacks of the insurgency from the north (the police) jump on quite quickly," but the British seem bewildered by the local police's "live and let live" attitude toward the local resistance, an attitude captured by British commander McLannahan:

"The local (Iraqi) army brigade patrols the rural areas of Maysan, interdicting smugglers and insurgents. Police forces patrol inside the cities, and are less likely - because of tribal ties and local loyalties - to crack down on militiamen. However, they reliably turn up weapons caches. When you ask them if they caught the people, they usually have "just got away".

Hess sums up the British position thusly:

"The British estimate that, like much of Iraq, most of the locals only want to get on with the lives. It is a small minority that is up to no good.

"But the large majority allow the small number to carry on," McLannahan acknowledged.

As in any low-intensity guerrilla war, the "large majority" allow the guerrillas to continue to operate. The police and National Guard do their part by failing to apprehend the local guerrillas, even when ordered to do so by their British superiors.

It is clear that the resistance in Maysan has now dug in for a protracted war of attrition. Their 2004 offensive, designed to expel the British entirely, failed while producing many casualties. But the new IED-based hit-and-run tactics can undoubtedly be sustained for as long as the British remain, just as the earlier campaign against Saddam continued for years.

In the meantime, the occupation guarantees support for the resistance, not only by arresting and killing suspected activists whose family and friends are then drawn into the battle, but also by stoking the continuing crisis that prevents residents from maintaining a viable local economy.

During the brief five-day period when local residents ruled the province, before the British asserted their control, they "broke the earthen levees and opened the floodgates" that had kept the marshes dry. This action, designed to restore their historic source of sustenance, was not successful in restoring the local economy.

Previous diversions of rivers north of Maysan (in Baghdad and elsewhere) meant that there was insufficient water to refill the marsh area. Later, constantly increasing pollution, thanks to destroyed sewage systems in these same upstream areas, contaminated the re-flooded parts of the marshes, making them unviable for cultivation.

This misfortune made clear, even to the most parochial locals, that the fate of Maysan province rests on larger national reconstruction programs now largely in abeyance. Virtually all of them blame the occupation for its failure to reconstruct the country and for the constantly escalating crises that result from that failure - the pollution of the marshes, the chronic electrical outages, the lack of medicine, and the absence of other infrastructural necessities that even the Saddam regime had delivered semi-reliably.

As local resident Rahan Nahie told the Washington Post's Doug Struck in early 2005, "All the babies are sick, and the environment all around is bad. There are no fish here. We have no jobs. We need help."

This discontent will continue to fuel the rebellion as long as the British, like the Americans, respond to protests, both peaceful and violent, with military violence.

One British official expressed this imperial attitude perfectly when he told Struck, "The province is clearly in need of a strong authority."

The comment reflects a British decision to continue to root out the resistance by military means, which in turn guarantees both ongoing misery for the local population and a growing guerrilla war.

Even where the war is largely invisible to us, there are resistance movements in ever expanding areas that the occupation simply cannot control.

Uninterrupted economic decline is an enduring pattern; brutal repression of dissent is another, as are the absence of a responsive government and an ever more fervent local desire to expel the occupation.

The high-profile battles, the suicide car-bomb offensives, and the constitutional debates will have little impact on this inexorable drumbeat of occupation and resistance.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

"The profound hypocrisy and inherent barbarism of bourgeois civilization lies unveiled before our eyes, turning from its home, where it assumes respectable forms, to the colonies, where it goes naked." Karl Marx

Naked In The Streets

November 3, 2005 By Oren Rawls, LA Times Commentary [Excerpt]

A YEAR AGO, a guy from my hometown drank himself silly and then ran buck-naked out of his house, screaming that he was going to kill himself. He had just gotten his orders to return to Iraq, where he had already done a tour.

I can't say I knew the guy, even though we're about the same age and both grew up in Stratford, a medium-sized factory town on the edge of Connecticut's Gold Coast. And I certainly can't say I knew what it's like being the guy. He enlisted; I didn't.

Every once in a while, though, I wonder what might have been, had circumstances been just a little different. Every once in a while — like last week, when the 2,000th soldier was killed in Iraq.

What if, for instance, my parents hadn't gone into debt to provide me with a private-school education and the benefits it affords? What if, instead, I had taken the path followed by many in my hometown and pursued my American dream through the military?

And what if I was writing these words not from the comfort of my office but from a forward operating base somewhere in the Sunni Triangle?

Idiocy About Israel; Liberal Racism About Iraq

Many people want to make a preposterous case that the Republican neocons are in the pay of Israel and that the US is somehow subordinate to Israel. This is not only idiotic, it is often anti-Semitic world Jewish conspiracy stuff.

November 7, 2005 An Interview with Stan Goff, By M. JUNAID ALAM [Excerpts]

Stan Goff is a former US Special Forces Master Sergeant with three decades of military experience, now heavily involved in anti-war work with Military Families Speak Out and the Bring Them Home Now campaign.

Many people want to make a preposterous case that the Republican neocons are in the pay of Israel and that the US is somehow subordinate to Israel.

This is not only idiotic, it is often anti-Semitic world Jewish conspiracy stuff.

The problem is that people in the US are spectacularly ignorant about Palestine and the state of Israel. The more dominant belief is that Israel is an island of white civilization in a sea of Arab deviance, of course, and an alarming number of Republican partisans have convinced themselves that the Israeli state is the fulfillment of biblical prophecy in the end times.

The political reality is that the Republicans have seized on Zionism so aggressively to undermine the Democratic Party, whose Zionism is almost legendary.

Alam: Liberals who express disillusionment and anger with the war--like Juan Cole - nevertheless object to immediate US military withdrawal because they argue it would result in total anarchy and chaos. They also say the US has certain obligations to Iraqis in light of its policies the past two years. Are these objections valid, or are they cover for a more visceral concern about the US losing "credibility" if it leaves?

Goff: They are an expression of white supremacy. I don't think there is any way to sugarcoat this.

The racism of reactionaries has been isolated to a large degree. We can start a fight over the Minutemen or the Daughters of the Confederacy and pretty much win the public debate.

Liberal racism is a far more destructive force in this society, largely because it is still unacknowledged. The argument to stay the course from liberals is based directly and absolutely on a latter-day version of the "white man's burden to civilize the darker races."

The political cover is not to protect US credibility.

The leadership of the Democratic Party wants to stay in Iraq for the same reason the Republicans do. This is, from the point of view of the US state, an absolutely necessary re-disposition of the post-Cold War American military. The argument between D's and R's is about how to accomplish it.

The reason we saw next to zero official Democratic Party participation in September 24th was that the Democratic Party leadership disagrees with us.

They want those permanent bases in Iraq every bit as much as Richard Perle and Paul Wolfowitz do.

There is simply no other way to explain why the most visible leaders of that party continue to argue for expanding the war with more troops and garnering more international support for it, when the polls show this to be an increasingly unpopular position like free trade agreements, another issue where the public opposes, and both parties agree.

This is a pretty good indicator that transnational capital operating through the US state regards these positions as non-negotiable.

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

PISSING IN THE WIND: THEY AINT BUYING WHAT PSYOPS IS SELLING



11.7.05: U.S. marines in action. (AFP/USMC-HO/Cpl. Neill A. Sevelius)

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)

Iraqi Politicians Condemn US Offensive: “The Killing Of Innocent People And The Destruction Of Towns And Cities”

07 November 2005 Aljazeera

Iraqi politicians have condemned the latest US offensive on villages and towns close to the Syrian border, calling it a killing operation.

The leader of the Iraqi Front for National Dialogue, Salih al-Mutlaq, on Sunday denounced the massive US military offensive - code-named Operation Steel Curtain - being conducted in Husaiba, Karabla and al-Qaim - in western Iraq.

Al-Mutlaq, who is also a member of the committee that drafted the new constitution, accused the Americans and their Iraqi allies of mounting "a destructive and killing operation of secure cities and villages" on the "pretext that they hide and secure terrorists".

In Baghdad, Muhsin Abd al-Hamid, the head of the largest Sunni Arab political party, condemned "all military operations directed against civilian targets" because they "lead to the killing of innocent people and the destruction of towns and cities".

Scores of Iraqi families fled besieged towns on Sunday, waving white flags and hauling their belongings to escape a second day of the US offensive.

Residents of the area said by satellite phone that sounds of explosions diminished somewhat on Sunday, although bursts of automatic weapons fire could be heard throughout the day.

The residents said US forces used loudspeakers to instruct residents to leave on foot since vehicles would be fired upon.

"I left everything behind - my car, my house," said Ahmad Mukhlif, 35, a teacher who fled Husaiba early on Sunday with his wife and two children while carrying a white bed sheet tied to a stick.

"I don't care if my house is bombed or looted, as long as I have my kids and wife safe with me."

US forces said about 450 people had taken refuge in a vacant housing area in Husaiba under the control of Iraqi forces.

Others were believed to have fled to relatives in nearby towns and villages in Anbar province.

Falih Abd al-Karim, an Iraqi journalist, told Aljazeera that US and Iraqi forces were positioned in al-Sikak neighbourhood and north and south of 12 Rabia al-Awal neighbourhood in central Husaybah.

This came after US warplanes on Sunday evening targeted al-Jamahir, al-Risala and other neighbourhoods in the town, destroying houses, and killing and injuring dozens of people, he said.

The bodies remained under the debris of the houses because US forces do not allow burials or transfer of the injured to hospitals, Abd al-Karim added.

The US shelling has demolished government buildings, including al-Jamahir primary school, al-Qaim preparatory school for boys, the educational supervision building, al-Qaim post office and communication centre, al-Qaim education directorate and two mosques in the city, he said.

Snipers have taken positions on tall buildings, forcing residents to stay inside, Abd al-Karim said.

Al-Qaim residents have no food, medicine, fuel, water or electricity, he added.

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

Worlds' Top Oil Producers Refuse Iraq Investment: Resistance Too Strong

11.07.2005 (AFX)

Oil production in Iraq has been substantially reduced by more than 20 years of war and over a decade of UN sanctions.

Some of the world's biggest oil producers, including ExxonMobil Corp, BP PLC and Royal Dutch Shell PLC, have put off plans to invest in Iraq even after the ousting of Saddam Hussein by a US-led invasion in 2003.

They still look at Iraq as a high-risk investment site, particularly since the country's oil sector is being targeted by militants opposed to the US-led occupation.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

DC Robbing Hoods Steal From The Poor To Give To The Rich

04 November 2005 By Cathleen Falsani, The Chicago Sun-Times [Excerpt]

[T]his week, as Republican leaders try to force a monstrous \$50 billion budget cut designed allegedly to offset the mounting costs (currently in excess of \$62 billion) of hurricane-related aid through Congress, it is clear that its moral compass also has been lost.

The proposed budget cuts, part of the so-called "budget reconciliation," would have devastating effects on the poorest, most vulnerable Americans, while allowing tax relief for the rich.

The massive budget reductions would include billions of dollars from pension protection and student loan programs, Medicaid and child support enforcement, as well as millions from the food stamp program, Supplemental Security Income (read: senior citizens and the disabled) and foster care.

Nice.

Maybe Republican leaders should consider proposing an open season on the homeless or the resurrection of debtors' prisons while they're at it?

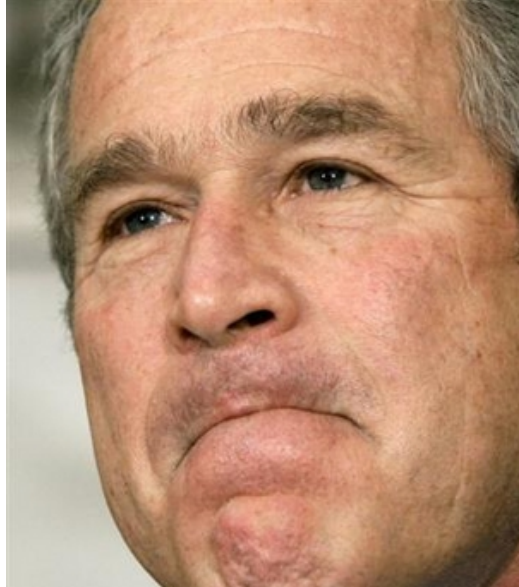
The immorality (by any religious tradition's measure) of the proposed \$50 billion budget reconciliation package is brazen.

If enacted, it would prove only to increase the suffering of the already-struggling poor, including tens of thousands who lost everything along the Gulf Coast.

Maybe immoral isn't the appropriate word.

Downright evil is a better description.

“Downright Evil Is A Better Description”



Oct. 17, 2005. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Idiot Republicans Ask Muslim Businessman For Money After Harassing Him At Airport; “You Want Me To Go To This, After You Treat Me This Way?”

05 November 2005 Aljazeera

The head of civil rights for the US Department of Homeland Security is urging Muslim air travellers to register with the federal government before flying to reduce the chances they might be stopped at an airport.

Abdin Aly, an accountant, filled out and mailed in the form after being detained for two hours at New York's John F Kennedy International Airport.

He had briefly left an airport in Germany to have dinner with a relative during a stopover from a flight home from Egypt.

He said the authorities did not say whether his name appeared on a watch list.

"To do an inspection, there's nothing wrong with it," he said.

"But to hold me and my wife for two hours and deny me the right to make a phone call or even use the bathroom is just wrong," he said.

"It's an insult. In 35 years here, I have never violated any law."

Ironically, not long after the airport incident this summer, Aly said he was mailed an invitation to a fundraiser in Washington from the Republican National Committee, who had identified him as a successful businessman.

"You want me to go to this, after you treat me this way?" he asked.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

***Rebellion In France:* "What Is Surprising Is Not That The Cars Are Burning But That There Are So Few Uprisings"**

For Laurent Levy, an anti-racist campaigner, the explosion is no surprise. "When large sections of the population are denied any kind of respect, the right to work, the right to decent accommodation, what is surprising is not that the cars are burning but that there are so few uprisings," he argues.

07 November 2005 By Naima Bouteldja, The Guardian UK

The riots now sweeping France are the product of years of racism, poverty and police brutality.

In late 1991, after violent riots between youths and police scarred the suburbs of Lyon, Alain Touraine, the French sociologist, predicted: "It will only be a few years before we face the kind of massive urban explosion the Americans have experienced."

The 11 nights of consecutive violence following the deaths of two young Muslim men of African descent in a Paris suburb show that Touraine's dark vision of a ghettoised, post-colonial France is now upon us.

Clichy-sous-Bois, the impoverished and segregated north-eastern suburb of Paris where the violent reaction began, was a ticking bomb for the kind of dramatic social upheaval we are currently witnessing.

Half its inhabitants are under 20, unemployment is above 40% and identity checks and police harassment are a daily experience.

In this sense, the riots are merely a fresh wave of the violence that has become common in suburban France over the past two decades.

Led mainly by young French citizens born into first and second generation immigrant communities from France's former colonies in north Africa, these cycles of violence are almost always sparked by the deaths of young black men at the hands of the police, and then inflamed by a contemptuous government response.

Four days after the deaths in Clichy-sous-Bois, just as community leaders were beginning to calm the situation, the security forces reignited the fire by emptying teargas canisters inside a mosque. The official reason for the police action: a badly parked car in front of it. The government refuses to offer any apology to the Muslim community.

But the spread of civil unrest to other poor suburbs across France is unprecedented.

For Laurent Levy, an anti-racist campaigner, the explosion is no surprise. "When large sections of the population are denied any kind of respect, the right to work, the right to decent accommodation, what is surprising is not that the cars are burning but that there are so few uprisings," he argues.

Police violence and racism are major factors. In April, an Amnesty International report criticised the "generalised impunity" with which the French police operated when it came to violent treatment of young men from African backgrounds during identity checks.

But the reason for the extent and intensity of the current riots is the provocative behaviour of the interior minister, Nicolas Sarkozy. He called rioters "vermin", blamed "agents provocateurs" for manipulating "scum" and said the suburbs needed "to be cleaned out with Karsher" (a brand of industrial cleaner used to clean the mud off tractors). Sarkozy's grandstanding on law and order is a deliberate strategy designed to flatter the French far right electorate in the context of his rivalry with the prime minister, Dominique de Villepin, for the 2007 presidency.

How can France get out of this political race to the bottom? It would obviously help for ministers to stop talking about the suburbs as dens of "scum" and for Sarkozy to be removed: the falsehoods he spread about the events surrounding the two deaths and his deployment of a massively disproportionate police presence in the first days of the riots have again shown his unfitness for office.

A simple gesture of regret could go a long way towards defusing the tensions for now.

The morning after the gassing of the mosque, a young Muslim woman summed up a widespread feeling: "We just want them to stop lying, to admit they've done it and to apologise."

It might not seem much, but in today's France it would require a deep political transformation and the recognition of these eternal "immigrants" as full and equal citizens of the republic.

MORE:

“The First Time Police Had Been Injured By Weapons’ Fire”

07 November 2005 By Angela Doland, The Associated Press

Rioting by French youths spread to 300 towns overnight.

As urban unrest spread to neighboring Belgium and possibly Germany, the French government faced growing criticism for its inability to stop the violence, despite massive police deployment and continued calls for calm.

Apparent copycat attacks spread outside France for the first time, with five cars torched outside Brussels' main train station, police in the Belgian capital said.

Attacks overnight Sunday to Monday were reported in 274 towns, and police made 395 arrests, national police chief Michel Gaudin said.

"This spread, with a sort of shock wave spreading across the country, shows up in the number of towns affected," Gaudin said, noting that the violence appeared to be sliding away from its flash point in the Parisian suburbs and worsening elsewhere.

It was the first time police had been injured by weapons' fire and there were signs that rioters were deliberately seeking out clashes with police, officials said.

Among the injured police, 10 were hurt by youths firing fine-grain birdshot in a late-night clash in the southern Paris suburb of Grigny, national police spokesman Patrick Hamon said. Two were hospitalized, but the injuries were not considered life-threatening. One was wounded in the neck, the other in the legs.

MORE:

“These Aren't Riots” “This Is A Rebellion In Real Time”

November 6, 2005 by Matt Reichel, Dissident Voice.org [Excerpts] Matt Reichel is an American expatriate currently working and studying in Paris.

The mainstream press has been telling Europeans that "riots" have broken out in the Parisian Suburbs (Banlieu) this week.

In calling them "riots", the popular imagination likens them to fires and other sorts of largely uncontrollable disasters. It's as if the French are merely being faced with an outbreak of civil unrest, and that someone from the ranks of the government will most assuredly figure out how to weather the storm within the coming days.

These aren't "riots".

This is social rebellion, directed at decades of French imperial rule, and ultra-capitalist and racist policymaking at home.

After the "decolonization" process finished in Africa (oddly leaving the former colonies entirely dependent on the Banque de France for their monetary policymaking and at the whim of French military decision-making), the colonized were supposed to be offered life in France as a sort of reparation for the destruction that went along with the imperial era. This, predictably, has turned out to be nothing more than a bone that the French have thrown at their dependents to try to keep them quiet.

The idea is this: give them cheap, shitty housing away from the beautiful Metropole of Paris, give them minimum wage paying work, and hope that they shut up.

Obviously, "they" haven't shut up. The largely immigrant population of the northern Banlieu has grown tired of being shut out.

What's more, this is nothing new. Over the last decade or so, urban revolt has been a regular, if not common occurrence. Fires, car bombings, random acts of violence, and vandalism are all part of life in Paris' most neglected district.

The mainstream press, be it "left" or "Right", has done their best to falsely turn this story into another "Clash of Civilizations" bit. Without saying as much, they tend to interview people with obviously Arabic names on the scene, and then babble on about the history of Algerian and Tunisian immigration to the area.

All one needs to do is read what the interviewees are saying to realize that this has nothing to do with any overarching West-East dilemma.

They aren't talking about the death of the West, and their revulsion at the Judeo-Christian liberal democratic norms. They are talking about their revulsion at socioeconomic exclusion. This doesn't have anything to do with civilization: this has to do with Capitalism running buck wild over the human rights of thousands of members of French society.

Just listen to the voices of the revolt. Zaid, 20, quoted in the November 4th Independent of London, says: "It's hard to just sit here and watch the rich people driving past in their swanky vehicles. They have everything and we have absolutely nothing."

In the November 5th version of the Independent, Kamel, 16, says: "Ever since Sarko came into the government, life has been merde. He treats us like dogs -- well, we'll show him how dogs can react!"

While there is a heavy population of North African Arabs in the area, they aren't the whole story. The other half of the north Banlieu population is made up of Blacks, immigrants from other parts of the world, and the occasional poor white French families. This is a widespread spectrum of the population that is feeling excluded.

What began as a seemingly contained bout of social disorder in response to the electrocution of two youths being pursued by police last week has manifested itself into nationwide revolt.

The problem areas have spread to Toulouse, Marseille, Strasbourg, Nantes, and other areas of the country that fit the ultra-excluded demographic of the Northern Banlieu.

The most frequent form of revolt has been car torchings, with the biggest job being an entire Renault dealership in Aulnay-Sous-Bois.

Schools, department stores, large chains and government buildings have also been targeted.

The mainstream press has been dutifully overemphasizing the youth aspect to the rebels, so as to delegitimize the events.

Any new violence is being referred to as "copy cat" riots, as if those responsible are not thinking about anything but imitating those who have come before. This is a completely irrelevant point insofar as the "copy cat" aspect doesn't significantly change the overarching picture: angry, disaffected, and largely young segments of the population with nothing better to do than declare war on France.

The war is built upon the marked contrasts in French society.

The Paris city center is one of the richest in the world, with the West side being lined with gold from the Champs Elysées down through the Eiffel Tower district to the ultra posh 16th Arrondissement (district).

As Paris rests comfortably in wealth, built on family dynasty and tourism, the suburbs toil for every last meal. If they are lucky enough to find work (sometimes unemployment runs as high as 50% in the suburbs), then they often work twelve hours a day, seven days a week, just to maintain a decent living.

They keep France open by managing corner shops and laborious industrial night shifts, and receive nothing but hate in return. Their parents and grandparents managed to survive the often bloody onslaught of French imperialism in Africa, and now they are made to survive the immoral onslaught of rugged Capitalism.

France has always captured the imagination of the rebellious. Many credit the French Revolution with being the first example of a popular social revolution. It was followed in Paris with social rebellion in 1848, worker upheaval in 1871, and student revolt in 1968.

In 2005, Paris is burning at the hands of the modern day proletarian population. Just don't call them riots! These aren't forest fires. This is a rebellion in real time.

Received:

Include URLs

From: C
To: GI Special
Sent: November 09, 2005
Subject: URLs

Can you include the URL references with articles please?

REPLY: On at least five different occasions so far, AOL and associated companies have refused to transmit an issue of GI Special because of the inclusion of a hot URL that AOL found objectionable. One of the more memorable occasions was when Cindy Sheehan's Gold Star Families For Peace URL was so considered.

When this happens, it's necessary to go through the whole issue and find the one that caused the transmission failure, in order to cut it. Additionally, there have been occasions when that didn't solve the problem, and about 100 people using AOL then have to be sent GI Special in batches of 3 at a time to avoid the block.

This takes hours. That's why URLs are so rarely used.

So, until winning the lottery or finding a suitcase full of money lying around happens, the limits on time imposed by working for a living make those extra hours impossible to find. Regrets, T

Received:

Veterans Under Attack: How You Can Help Defend Them

November 05, 2005 From: Tom Baxter, USAV 1967-69, Via Vietnam Veterans Against The War Net

Recall that VA is re-opening over 70,000 claims from veterans suffering from PTSD with the sole intention of reducing their disability compensation. These claims have already been approved, going through VA's rigorous adjudication process.

The Senate's version of the bill prevents the review from moving forward until VA properly justifies it. The House bill does not have this provision.

It has been reported that the House conferees support the review and are trying to kill the Senate provision.

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To send a prepared email message, please visit:

http://capwiz.com/vfw/mail/oneclick_compose/?alertid=8079626

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