

GI SPECIAL 3D9:



[Graphic via Jeff Englehart]

“From The Very Top To The Lowest Level Soldier, Everyone's Being Lied To”

“So I just think that, from the very top, the big problem with this war is that from the very top to the lowest level soldier, everyone's being lied to.” Iraq Veteran Jeff Englehart

[Part 1] is an interview with Jeff Englehart, formerly of the 1st ID, who served in the Baquaba area, and was sent to Falluja before the attack. Democracy Now presented the audio portion of a film *Fallujah: The Hidden Massacre* by Sigfrido

Ranucci and Maurizio Torrealta, broadcast on RAI network, and this is the excerpt with Englehart's comments.]

[Part 2 is from today's Democracy Now! program, with comments by Jeff Englehart.]

Part 1:

November 8th, 2005 Democracy Now!

JEFF ENGLEHART: I was personally involved with escorting a commander to Fallujah for Operation Phantom Fury. We were told going into Fallujah, into the combat area, that every single person that was walking, talking, breathing was an enemy combatant. As such, every single person that was walking down the street or in a house was a target.

REPORTER: Is it true that you had orders to shoot even children of ten years old?

JEFF ENGLEHART: This is actually very interesting. When we first got to Iraq, the army had a set standard for male combat ages. And I believe when we first got there, it was like 18 years old was the commonly perceived age of adulthood. So a male who was 18 years old to 65 was technically capable of being an insurgent.

By the time Fallujah rolled around it was any male with an AK-47 or gun or whatever was a military target. And I think that is true to a degree. I mean, if – and it happened.

There was many times where children as young as ten were fighting.

REPORTER: What will you tell your child about the battle of Fallujah?

JEFF ENGLEHART: It seemed like just a massive killing of Arabs. It looked like just a massive killing.

REPORTER: Were any chemical weapons used in Fallujah?

JEFF ENGLEHART: From the U.S. military, yeah, absolutely. White phosphorus. Possibly napalm may or may not have been used; I do not know. I do know that white phosphorus was used, which is definitely, without a shadow of a doubt, a chemical weapon.

REPORTER: Is he sure of it?

JEFF ENGLEHART: Yes. It happened.

REPORTER: How can he be certain?

JEFF ENGLEHART: Well, it comes across radio as a general transmission. When it happens like that, you hear it on the radio through -- we have speakers in our trucks -- speakers and then the transmission goes to the speakers, so it's audible. And as they'd say, "In five (inaudible), we're going drop some Whiskey Pete." "Roger. Commence

bombing.” I mean, it just comes across the radio, and like, when you hear “Whiskey Pete,” that’s the military slang.

The gases from the warhead of the white phosphorus will disperse in a cloud. And when it makes contact with skin, then it’s absolutely irreversible damage, burning of flesh to the bone. It doesn’t necessarily burn clothes, but it will burn the skin underneath clothes. And this is why protective masks do not help, because it will burn right through the mask, the rubber of the mask. It will manage to get inside your face. If you breathe it, it will blister your throat and your lungs until you suffocate, and then it will burn you from the inside. It basically reacts to skin, oxygen and water. The only way to stop the burning is with wet mud. But at that point, it’s just impossible to stop.

REPORTER: Have you seen the effects of these weapons?

JEFF ENGLEHART: Yes. Burned. Burned bodies. I mean, it burned children, and it burned women. White phosphorus kills indiscriminately. It’s a cloud that will within, in most cases, 150 meters of impact will disperse, and it will burn every human being or animal.

REPORTER: Some footage has shown violations inside mosques, black crosses painted on the walls and on the Koran. Do you know anything about this?

JEFF ENGLEHART: I don’t doubt that American soldiers who are frustrated after being involved in combat for a year would have any problems with doing any kind of vandalism. I mean, it’s very common. Indiscriminate vandalism was found – I mean, there was carvings in the walls at Babylon, an ancient structure, a historical monument.

It was common for soldiers to carve, you know, “Hello, mom, I’m from Texas,” on these walls. I just think there’s a certain lack of respect within the American military ranks, especially when dealing with soldiers who are frustrated. I personally did not witness any mosque vandalism. Our brigade was good about keeping that very controlled. But I did hear stories. Places such as Samarra, Baghdad, Mosul, mosques being attacked, mosques being vandalized, the Koran being damaged. I think it’s very common.

REPORTER: Is it true that you waited for the results of elections, confirmation of victory for Bush, before bombing Fallujah?

JEFF ENGLEHART: I’m glad you brought this question up.

That was definitely the case. Even in the ranks, in the military ranks, we knew it was going on.

They told us that we were going to wait after the election, the American election, before going into Fallujah.

And we had already set up the whole operation, like it was ready to go. And we were waiting for two or three days for the election to be over with.

And then when the election was so close between Kerry and Bush, it was always pissing off a lot of the high command, because they wanted to hurry up and get in there and get it going.

And they didn't want what happened in 2000 with Gore and Bush, the long drawn-out process that lasted almost a week to find out who won.

When Kerry conceded, though, it was like within a matter of a day, it was going, it was happening. That was definitely the case. We waited until after the election. We were told directly from the Pentagon to wait until after the election before going into Fallujah, and that's exactly what we did.

Part 2:

11.8.05 Democracy Now [Excerpt] **[Also participating: Lieutenant Colonel Steve Boylan, spokesperson for the U.S. military in Iraq.]**

AMY GOODMAN: We speak with a former U.S. soldier who witnessed orders being given to drop white phosphorous bombs over Fallujah

Jeff Englehart, former army Specialist in Iraq. He maintains a weblog called Fight to Survive

AMY GOODMAN: Jeff Englehart, you are the Specialist -- former U.S. Specialist in the Army, a member now speaking out against the war. You are interviewed in this documentary explaining how white phosphorus was used in Fallujah. Can you tell us more?

JEFF ENGLEHART: Oh, yeah. I mean, I definitely heard it being called for. And I even talked to reconnaissance scouts after the siege, and they said they had actually called for it.

The Pentagon spokesperson says that they use this for concealment, or some sources say they use it for illumination. But, I mean, I think that's ridiculous, because we would use -- just based on my training as a reconnaissance scout myself, we would use illumination separately, as it's on exclusive ground.

Since my training, we were taught that white phosphorus is used for troops out in the open or to destroy equipment and that it burns and that the only way to prevent the burning is to douse it with wet mud.

To me, it's definitely a chemical weapon in the fact that it burns, and it burns indiscriminately.

In fact, the use of white phosphorus violates the Geneva protocol for the prohibition of use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and bacterial methods of warfare.

So, I mean, even if the Geneva Protocol says it's illegal, I don't see how we're able to use it and then say that it's used for our own cover or illumination, when it actually could hurt our own troops.

So I just think that, from the very top, the big problem with this war is that from the very top to the lowest level soldier, everyone's being lied to.

And then the news gets gentrified by the mass media to make it sound like, 'Oh, well, white phosphorus is a good weapon that we can use to help spot targets,' when it's actually designed to burn its victims.

LT. COL. STEVE BOYLAN: I know of no cases where people were deliberately targeted by the use of white phosphorus. Again, I did not say white phosphorus was used for illumination. White phosphorus is used for obsuration, which white phosphorus produces a heavy thick smoke to shield us or them from view so that they cannot see what we are doing. It is used to destroy equipment, to destroy buildings. That is what white phosphorus shells are used for.

AMY GOODMAN: Jeff Englehart, you were a soldier in Fallujah. Your response?

JEFF ENGLEHART: Well, based off where I was at, I wasn't actually involved in direct combat. I was in a tactical attack center. Basically I was danger close, which means 200 meters from a lot of the explosions that were happening, and when we would hear the call for Willy Pete or Whiskey Pete, white phosphorus, huge explosions would hit targets.

I just can't conceive how he could say that a white cloud would conceal our troop movement. It's obviously a toxic gas that, when it touches skin, it will burn, it will cause third-degree burns to the bone. So I just don't understand where he's coming up with this assertion.

It's hypocrisy, if you ask me.

LT. COL. STEVE BOYLAN: There were journalists all over, as I watched many of the networks that I was able to see. I saw live footage covering many different aspects of the battlefield from the very front to the rear. And at night you could see anything like that from a great distance. So I question the validity of many of the things that I've heard.

AMY GOODMAN: Jeff Englehart, you are a former U.S. soldier. You were there at the battle. What is your response to the lack of coverage, since you contend that white phosphorus was used as a chemical weapon?

JEFF ENGLEHART: Well, I guess it's really my word against his.

I know for a fact I heard it being called for on the radio.

As far as media control, though, I know for a fact that if a journalist released a story that our task force wasn't happy with, that journalist just wasn't invited back.

And you had to look at it from the point of being a freelance journalist in Iraq where you're not getting protection. Of course, you're going to come out with a story that's more accurate. But when we had reporters from CNN, mostly CNN or the Army Times, they were protected, they were concealed in armored Humvees, protected by soldiers.

And it just seemed that they always told the Army's side of the story in return for that protection.

So, I mean, there's definitely a media control going on in Iraq. There's just no doubt about it.

And for him to say that they don't censor any stories coming out, I don't doubt that they don't censor them. I just think that if they don't like a story, they just don't invite the reporter back.

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

California Sgt. Killed Near Taji



Sgt. 1st Class James F. Hayes, 48, of Barstow, Calif. who was killed Friday, Nov. 4, 2005, near Taji when his Humvee hit a roadside bomb while on patrol, the Army said. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Local Marine Dies

Nov 8, 2005 (CBS4)

The family of a marine from Adams County said an explosion in Iraq killed him on Monday.

Relatives of Jeromy Tamburello, 19, talked to CBS4 by phone Tuesday morning.

They said he suffered burns over half of his body when a roadside bomb exploded near the supply truck he was driving. He was almost out of his truck when the explosion happened.

Tamburello was a 2004 graduate of Ranum High School.

Two Nebraska Soldiers Killed

11/08/05 AP

Two soldiers from Nebraska have been killed in Iraq since Friday, one of them a potential friendly-fire incident.

Army Capt. Joel Cahill, 34, was serving his third term in Iraq when he was killed by a roadside bomb on Sunday, his sister Erin Christensen, of Gretna, said Monday night.

Army Staff Sgt. Jason Fegler, 24, was killed Friday while serving with the 101st Airborne out of Fort Campbell, Ky., said his mother and stepfather, Rita and Eugene Snyder, of rural Banner County.

The Department of Defense said it is investigating Fegler's death as a potential friendly-fire incident, according to a news release on its Web site. Fegler died in combat in Baghdad, the release said.

Marine From Sumter Injured

November 7, 2005 WorldNow

Family members of a Sumter Marine tell News 10 that Jamie Shirley was injured in Iraq on Saturday night.

His wife tells us Jamie was on patrol Saturday night when a fire fight started, he was hit below his knee cap and now he can't feel his leg.

Jamie is being flown to a military hospital in Germany. He may be back in the United States at the end of the week.

“Several” Marines Wounded: Command Won’t Release Number

08 November 2005 By Sabrina Tavernise and Kirk Semple, The New York Times

Several marines were wounded in fighting on Monday - officials did not release the exact number.

One Of The “Several”



U.S. Marine Gunnery Sgt. William Bodette, 37, recovers from bullet wounds received during fighting in Husaybah at the Air Force hospital in Balad Nov. 8, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

Three Marines Wounded

November 08, 2005 By Gordon Trowbridge, Army Times staff writer

HUSAYBAH, Iraq — Two thousand Marine infantrymen completed a four-day sweep through the city Tuesday and continued their advance into a suburban strip leading east to the riverside town of Karabilah.

There were few significant engagements between U.S. and insurgent forces Tuesday.

An improvised bomb caused minor injuries to three members of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, as they marched down a dirt street in what the Marines have dubbed the “H&K Triangle,” a wedge of residential neighborhoods between densely urban Husaybah and more rural Karabilah in western Iraq.

Fayetteville Marine Wounded In Anbar



Australian Army Warrant Officer Michael Slattery of Sydney examines U.S. Marine Lt. Mike Geiger, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, after his vehicle hit a mine in Anbar province, at the U.S. Air Force hospital in Balad, Nov. 7, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

Humvee Destroyed In Garma: Casualties Not Announced

Nov. 8 (Xinhuanet)

A car bomber drove his explosive-laden car into a US military patrol late last night in the Garma town, east of Fallujah, Rahman said.

The attack destroyed a US Humvee, causing casualties among the soldiers aboard, he said.

The powerful blast prompted the US soldiers to open fire haphazardly, wounding two civilians and causing damage in several nearby houses, he added.

**IEDs:
“We Should Erase The Word
Improvised”**

November 8, 2005 (Defense Daily,

Detecting and disarming improvised explosive devices continues to be the biggest challenge facing Marines in Iraq, according to Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Michael Hagee. **"We should erase the word improvised, some of the devices we are faced with now are not improvised. There are some very sophisticated devices."**

BAD PLACED TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Nov. 8, 2005: Lt. Matthew C. Pierson, center, and Sgt. Michael G. Lyborg, foreground, talk about the upcoming movement of troops during Operation Steel in Husaybah. (AP Photo/U.S. Marine Corps, Cpl. Neill A. Sevelius, 2d Marine Division Combat Camera)

TROOP NEWS

DON'T LET MY BIG BROTHER DIE, MR BLAIR

[Thanks to Rose Gentle, Scotland, for sending this in. Her son was killed in Iraq and she leads a movement to bring all the troops home now. She writes: i just hope i can..... rose gentle.]

[Introduction to the story from Joshua Brown, Scotland]

Craig Gauld, age 18, is in the Highlanders and about to be sent to Iraq. His family lives in Ellon, just north of Aberdeen.

Craig's 10-year old sister Lisa and mother Carol attended the Military Families Against the War meeting last week in Aberdeen, and got in touch with Rose Gentle afterwards. Lisa has already written to Tony Blair.

08 November 2005, By FIONA MCWHIRTER, Aberdeen Express

Lisa Gauld loves her big brother. Ever since she was born he has been there for her. But now he's set to be sent to Iraq, she's worried sick he's going to be killed.

So much so she has written to Prime Minister Tony Blair asking him not to send her brother to die.

When Lisa was born, Craig was eight years old.

Craig has always looked out for his little sister.

But now Craig, 18, serving as a private in The Highlanders infantry in Germany, is set to be called up to go to Iraq.

And scared by hearing about British troops killed in Iraq, Lisa decided she had to act.

She has written to Tony Blair asking him to "take our troops home".

She wrote: "Too many soldiers have been killed in Iraq so you probably know I don't want my brother to get killed.

"Please take our troops home."

Lisa, from Tipperty, Ellon, said: "My brother's only 18 and he's going to Iraq any day. I don't want him to go because I'm scared in case he'll die.

"I've seen most of it on the television and my mum's been in touch with Rose Gentle and her son was only 19 when he died and my brother's only 18. She was saying that she's going to stick up for us and she didn't want any mother to go through the same thing that she did."

Lisa, 10, who attends Tipperty School, hopes her letter to Mr Blair will help bring British troops home.

She said: "I hope that he'll write back and maybe take the troops home and stop the war.

"I don't think he was right to go to war in the first place.

"Too many soldiers have been killed."

Lisa's dad Douglas, a chief mechanic who works offshore, has not seen Craig for six months and is worried he won't be able to meet up with him before he goes to Iraq.

Douglas, 44, said: "Craig is waiting for his passport and after he gets it he's going away.

"He was told he'd get 10 days leave but some people have been told they're leaving the night before they're shipped away and can only make a phone call home.

"They're training him for going at the moment.

"They're doing some lessons in the language so they will understand people over there and they're getting a day's training in throwing live grenades."

Douglas also believes British troops have no place in Iraq.

He said: "My views on it for sure are that British troops shouldn't be there.

"It's also courting more unrest in the UK - the London bombings were probably a result of the British troops being in Iraq."

And the dad-of-three is clearly proud that his wee girl was so concerned she wrote to Downing Street.

He said: "She just did it off her own back and said 'Can I send this to Tony Blair?' and we said yes.

"We were quite touched by it.

"It's all in her own words and she wasn't coaxed into doing it."

Lisa's mum Carol, 45, was also moved by her daughter's efforts.

Carol, an X-ray nurse at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, said: "This letter is entirely her own words and brought tears to my eyes.

"She's at an age that they do understand things, they know people are being killed."

Following Rose Gentle's visit to Aberdeen, Carol contacted the campaigner to add her voice to the cause.

Rose's son Gordon was killed in Iraq in June last year, since then she has fought to bring the troops home.

She said: "It's brilliant that Lisa has written this letter.

"You only get a five-minute phone call from the soldiers, so younger brothers and sisters will come in and say, 'Did my brother phone?'

"It's the whole family that's affected."

A Downing Street spokesman confirmed the Prime Minister had received Lisa's letter.

The spokesman said Mr Blair would reply to Lisa personally.

But for the youngster, a letter is nothing if Craig is not returned to her.

She said: "There are probably hundreds of other brothers and sisters feeling like this.

"Hopefully when Tony Blair reads the letter I can get my brother back."

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



The casket of Army Pfc. David Martin in Oklahoma City Nov. 8, 2005, as family members follow. Martin, 21, and three other soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division were killed by a roadside bomb while on patrol Oct. 31 south of Baghdad. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

Mutiny In The Anti-Aircraft Defence: 14 Soldiers Escaped From Outpost

[Via Adam Keller & MAX WATTS. Comments by Adam Keller.]

The following is translated from the Hebrew newspaper Ma'ariv, November 8

The soldiers went, however, beyond complaints. During the weekend, fourteen of them decided to escape home in order to express their protest that the problems were not satisfactorily dealt with. "Several soldiers have parents who are unemployed or sick, and the officers did not care a fig about it - so they ran away" told a fellow soldier who had not himself run away.

By Amir Buchbut, NRG Ma'ariv

During the weekend, 14 AA (Anti-Aircraft) soldiers, serving in the Southern Hebron Hills have escaped from their unit and went Absent Without Leave. The soldiers claim that their motive was repeated sanitary problems in the battalion, of which they had complained again and again, and economic problems to which they got no satisfaction.

The unit concerned is a Stinger Missiles battalion posted to the South Hebron Hills with the mission of preventing the infiltration of Palestinians into the Negev (i.e. they were separated from their missiles and given the task of an ordinary infantry battalion - in fact, a semi-police job which the regular infantry themselves heartily dislike. This might also have something to do with the discontent, even if not explicitly mentioned as a reason. A.K.]

Shortly after the battalion arrived in this region many soldiers started complaining of a lack of food at the guard post and of sanitary problems and an infestation of fleas. The soldiers say that they voiced their complaints several times to the officers in command, but these did nothing to improve the situation. Other soldiers told that they had complained of economic problems but their complaints got no treatment.

The soldiers went, however, beyond complaints. During the weekend, fourteen of them decided to escape home in order to express their protest that the problems were not satisfactorily dealt with. "Several soldiers have parents who are unemployed or sick, and the officers did not care a fig about it - so they ran away" told a fellow soldier who had not himself run away.

An officers of the AA battery referred to the escape and said: "This is a grave case. I don't remember ever before having a mutiny in the AA".

It was disclosed that in the past 24 hours officers talked on the phone with some of the escaping soldiers and with their parents, with the result that five of the escapees decided to go back to base, where they will undergo disciplinary proceedings.

(This probably means they will get a month imprisonment apiece in "instant trials" lasting about five minutes, but will not be court-martialled. A.K.)

The Army Spokeswoman's bureau reacted: "The IDF regards with severity any case of Absence Without Leave, including this case, It should be noted that many of the soldiers concerned already had a record of going AWOL also before reaching this unit. Several of them had already returned to their place of service. The issue will continue to be handles on the personal level by the Battalion's commanding staff, as well as on higher echelons.

Protest Works: Soldiers Will Get Their Re-Enlistment Bonus After Pentagon Refused To Pay

November 08, 2005 By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

Army National Guard dual-status technicians promised re-enlistment bonuses while deployed but then denied payments will be getting their \$15,000 payments after all.

The Defense Department is rushing through a change in bonus policy to allow technicians and other Guard members who are on full-time active duty to be eligible for re-enlistment bonuses while in a war zone, just like other troops. The result is that their bonuses would be tax-free.

The change, announced Nov. 7 by Rep. Norman D. Dicks, D-Wash., could affect up to 1,500 people.

Dicks said in a prepared statement that many Washington State National Guard members who had served in Iraq or Afghanistan had been offered \$15,000 bonuses while deployed for six-year re-enlistments.

With little explanation, the bonus offers were withdrawn once the soldiers returned to the United States. Dicks and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who learned about the problem from news reports, began pressing the Pentagon to correct the situation.

David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, signed a memorandum on Thursday ordering bonuses to be paid. This will include retroactive payments to anyone who had received an offer while in a war zone.

Anti-War Demonstration Cheered On By Spectators

07 November 2005 By Nick Turse, TomDispatch.com [Excerpt]

On November 2, 2005, I found myself in a familiar situation - at a protest.

This time, it was the New York version of the World Can't Wait nationwide protest on the first anniversary of George W. Bush's reelection.

In some ways the scene was typical. Heavy police presence for the rally. Lots of police vans. The ubiquitous metal barricades. And that vestigial gift of the August 2004 Republican National Convention in the Big Apple: the NYPD scooter brigade - complete with flexi-cuffs informally used to weaponize the scooters by lashing billy clubs to them.

Then they took to the streets.

Carrying a creative mélange of signs, clad in "Resist Or Die!" t-shirts, and wearing green stickers bearing the words of their signature chant - "Drive out the Bush Regime, The World Can't Wait!" - they commenced a two-mile march through Manhattan to Times Square. They yelled or sang familiar call-and-response chants. "Whose streets? Our streets!" "What do we want? Peace! When do we want it? Now!"

They implored passersby to join the march - and I even saw an elderly man do so. Many drivers in cars smiled or honked horns in support, while office workers in windows above flashed peace signs, cheered, or gave thumbs-up.

Pentagon Issues New Directive On Torture

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in. He writes: IF "WE DO NOT TORTURE" AS BUSH SAYS, WHY THE NEED FOR NEW RULES AND AN EXEMPTION FOR THE C.I.A. ?]

11.8.05 By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press Writer

Thrown on the defensive by prisoner abuse scandals in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, the Pentagon has issued a broad new directive mandating that detainees be treated humanely and has banned the use of dogs to intimidate or harass suspects.

The directive, provided by the Defense Department, pulls together for the first time all of its existing policies and memos covering the interrogation of detainees taken in the war against terrorism. It comes as Congress is considering a ban on the inhumane treatment of U.S. prisoners.

“No One Has Seriously Questioned Whether Massey Was Telling The Truth” “He Wasn’t”

[The same problem came up from time to time during the Vietnam War. On one occasion, a senior member of the Vietnam Veterans Against The War leadership was publicly exposed as having falsified his experiences. It was not the end of Vietnam Veterans Against The War, since they publicly acknowledged the problem and moved on to greater strength. Severe experiences in combat, among other things, can lead to confabulation. PTSD takes many forms. T]

11/05/2005 By Ron Harris, POST-DISPATCH WASHINGTON BUREAU

For more than a year, former Marine Staff Sgt. Jimmy Massey has been telling anybody who will listen about the atrocities that he and other Marines committed in Iraq.

In scores of newspaper, magazine and broadcast stories, at a Canadian immigration hearing and in numerous speeches across the country, Massey has told how he and other Marines recklessly, sometimes intentionally, killed dozens of innocent Iraqi civilians.

Among his claims:

Marines fired on and killed peaceful Iraqi protesters.

Americans shot a 4-year-old Iraqi girl in the head.

A tractor-trailer was filled with the bodies of civilian men, women and children killed by American artillery.

Massey's claims have gained him celebrity. Last month, Massey's book, "Kill, Kill, Kill," was released in France. His allegations have been reported in nationwide publications such as Vanity Fair and USA Today, as well as numerous broadcast reports. Earlier this year, he joined the anti-war bus tour of Cindy Sheehan, and he's spoken at Cornell and Syracuse universities, among others.

News organizations worldwide published or broadcast Massey's claims without any corroboration and in most cases without investigation.

Outside of the Marines, almost no one has seriously questioned whether Massey, a 12-year veteran who was honorably discharged, was telling the truth.

He wasn't.

Each of his claims is either demonstrably false or exaggerated - according to his fellow Marines, Massey's own admissions, and the five journalists who were embedded with

Massey's unit, including a reporter and photographer from the Post-Dispatch and reporters from The Associated Press and The Wall Street Journal.

Massey, 34, of Waynesville, N.C., was with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines based out of Twentynine Palms, Calif. The unit went to the Middle East in January 2003 and participated in the U.S. invasion of Iraq in March of that year.

Massey was discharged in December 2003, shortly after returning from Iraq due to depression and post-traumatic stress syndrome.

He began turning up in the press and on broadcasts last spring with stories about military atrocities. Massey's primary thrust has been that Marines from his battalion - some of whom, he told a Minneapolis audience, were "psychopathic killers" - recklessly shot and killed Iraqi civilians, sometimes, he said, upon orders from their commanders. During a hearing in Canada, Massey said, "We deliberately gunned down people who were civilians."

The Marine Corps investigated Massey's claims and said they were "unsubstantiated."

From the beginning, Massey misled reporters.

In early interviews, he told how he had lost his job at a furniture store because of his anti-war activities. But when asked about the incident in an interview Oct. 19 with the Post-Dispatch, Massey said he had quit his job but never had felt pressure to leave.

"I left on good terms," he said.

He also backtracked from allegations he made in a May 2004 radio interview and elsewhere that he had seen a tractor-trailer filled with the bodies of Iraqi civilians when Marines entered an Iraqi military prison outside Baghdad. He said the Iraqis had been killed by American artillery.

He told listeners that the scene was so bad "that the plasma from the body and skin was decomposing and literally oozing out of the crevices of the tractor-trailer bed."

He repeated the story in the Post-Dispatch interview. But when told that the newspaper's photographs and eyewitness reports had identified the trailer contents as all men, mostly in uniform, Massey admitted that he had never seen the bodies.

Instead, he said, he received his information from "intelligence reports." When asked if those reports were official documents, he answered, "No, that's what the other Marines told me."

The details of Massey's stories changed repeatedly.

For example, he almost always told his audiences and interviewers of an event he said he'd never forget: Marines in his unit shooting four civilian Iraqis in red Kia automobile.

In some accounts, Massey said Marines fired at the vehicle after it failed to stop at a checkpoint. In another version, he said the Marines stormed the car.

Sometimes he said three of the men were killed immediately while the fourth was wounded and covered in blood; sometimes he said the fourth man was "miraculously unscathed."

Sometimes he said the Marines left the three men on the side of the road to die without medical treatment while the fourth man exclaimed: "Why did you shoot my brother?" In other versions, he said the man made the statement as medical personnel were attempting to treat the three other men, or as the survivor sat near the car, or to Massey personally.

There is no evidence that any of the versions occurred.

In another story that Massey often tells, he and other Marines in his platoon fired upon a group of innocent demonstrators shortly after they arrived in Baghdad. Massey said that the demonstrators were protesting the Marines' presence, holding signs in English and Arabic.

The Marines heard a shot, Massey said, and in panic began firing into the demonstrators.

In some versions, the demonstrators were near a checkpoint. In other versions, they were outside a prison on a road about 200 meters away, or anywhere from 5 to 15 miles from Baghdad International Airport.

Massey told a version of the story before an immigration hearing in December in support of an American soldier trying to flee to Canada. Then, Massey said he and the Marines killed four of the demonstrators. In other interviews, he said the Marines shot at 10 demonstrators and killed all of them but one, whom he let crawl away.

In interviews with more than a dozen Marines and journalists who were in the military complex that morning, none can recall such an incident.

They say that during the first week to two weeks inside Baghdad, they never saw any protesters.

Ron Haviv, an independent photographer embedded with the unit, said he never saw any protesters or demonstrators, with or without signs.

"Basically, the only people who were on the streets in the first week were there to loot," said Haviv, who has covered conflicts across the globe, including the first Gulf War, Haiti, Yugoslavia and Russia.

Lt. Kevin Shea, the commander of Massey's platoon, recalls that on the morning after they arrived, about 20 Iraqis from a nearby community did approach the Marines to ask what was happening. Shea said that he had explained what the Marines were doing and that the Iraqis had gone back to their homes.

The Marine Corps readily admits that some of its men shot civilians, but not intentionally, they said. The Post-Dispatch reported on the second day of the war that Marines in one battalion had mistakenly shot and killed members of a British-based television network while shooting at Iraqi attackers.

When Marines moved into Baghdad a month later, the Post-Dispatch reported two separate automobile-related incidents in which Marines from Massey's battalion inadvertently shot and wounded 12 civilians. All of the passengers survived after treatment by medical personnel.

In a fourth incident, Maj. Dan Schmitt said, Marines shot "what we believe to be a non-combatant" because when the Marines raised their arms in a signal to stop, the vehicle continued moving quickly at them.

An Iraqi doctor who helped treat the wounded passengers told them that they needed to use another hand signal because the one they were using indicated solidarity, not stop.

But none of the five journalists who covered the battalion said they saw reckless or indiscriminate shooting of civilians by Marines, as Massey has claimed. Nor did any of the Marines or Navy corpsmen who served with Massey and were interviewed for this story.

One of the checkpoint shootings is apparently the basis for one of most poignant recollections claimed by Massey in numerous speeches and interviews: The shooting of a 4-year-old girl in the head.

While touring with Sheehan in Montgomery, Ala., he told of seeing the girl's body. "You can't take it back," he said, according to the local newspaper.

But in the interview with the Post-Dispatch, Massey admitted that he never had seen the girl.

"Lima Company was involved in a shooting at a checkpoint," he said. "My platoon was ordered to another area before the victims were removed from the car. The other Marines told me that a 4-year-old girl had killed."

No 4-year-old died in the incident or was even wounded, according to witnesses including a Post-Dispatch photographer at the scene who filed photos of the incident that were published in the newspaper.

Two women and two girls were in the car that the Marines shot when it failed to stop at a checkpoint and continued to approach the Marines at high speed, said Maj. George Schreffler, then the commanding officer of Lima Company. Schreffler was there at the time.

Petty Officer Justin Purviance, who treated them, said the two women were wounded but survived. The girls were unharmed, he said.

In other speeches, Massey has said he personally shot a 6-year-old child. In some versions, the child was a boy; at other times, a girl.

"How is a 6-year-old child with a bullet in his head a terrorist, because that is the youngest I killed," Massey told a Cornell University audience in March. In a speech in April in Springfield, Vt., he said: "That's war: a 6-year-old girl with a bullet hole in her head at an American checkpoint."

In a speech in Syracuse in March, the Post Standard newspaper quoted him as saying, "The reason the Marines teach you discipline . . . is so that you can confront the enemy and kill him. . . . Or so you can put a bullet into a 6-year-old, which is what I did. "

In the interview with the Post-Dispatch, Massey said he never personally had shot a child.

"I meant that's what my unit did," he said.

He could not provide details.

Nor could he name any Marine who could corroborate any of his stories.

"Admitting guilt is a hard thing to do," he said.

Army Hit By Declining Number Of Black Recruits

11/4/2005 By Dave Moniz, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Long a mainstay of the military, black Americans have made up a shrinking share of enlisted troops since 2000, Pentagon statistics show.

The number of black enlisted troops has declined significantly in three military branches from 2000 through 2004 — by 15% in the Army, 23% in the Marines and 11% in the Air Force. The Navy's number fell only slightly. The overall size of all four branches has stayed roughly the same.

A major reason for the trend is a sharp drop in blacks joining the military, according to a Pentagon analysis conducted in response to questions from USA TODAY. During the four-year period, African-American recruits in all four services fell nearly a third, from 38,034 in 2000 to 26,170 in 2004.

Other factors include a rise in black college attendance and the fact that the war in Iraq is more unpopular among blacks than among whites, according to public opinion polls.

The Army has been hit hardest by the declining number of black recruits. The Army repeatedly missed its recruiting goals this year. The service expects more problems in 2006.

The percentage of Hispanics in the Army who aren't officers grew from 9% in 2000 to 11% in 2004.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



Burnt shell of a police car which was attacked near the town of Daquq, 25 miles south of Kirkuk, November 8, 2005. (Slahaldeen Rasheed/Reuters)

11.8.05 Reuters & By Sabrina Tavernise and Kirk Semple, The New York Times & Aljazeera & By Bassem Mroue, Associated Press

An Iraqi police officer, holding the rank of brigadier, has been killed and four of his guards injured in an explosion hitting their patrol in Abu al-Khusaib area.

DALI ABBAS - Four Iraqi soldiers were killed and a fifth critically wounded when a bomb blew up near their patrol car in the small town of Dali Abbas, northeast of Baghdad, police said.

KIRKUK - A roadside bomb blew up next to a police patrol, killing two policemen and wounding three others near the town of Daquq, 40 km (25 miles) south of Kirkuk, Lieutenant-Colonel Ali al-Sheikh said.

BAQUBA - Insurgents killed one policeman and injured five when they attacked a patrol car in Baquba, north of Baghdad, police said. There was no immediate information on insurgent casualties.

A senior member of the Iraqi police in Basra, Colonel Mahmud Qassim, was killed on Tuesday when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy south of the city, police said.

Another police officer died in the attack.

In southern Baghdad, a homemade bomb tore into an Iraqi police patrol, killing two officers.

Four Iraqi soldiers, including a major, were killed by a roadside bomb in Khalis, 35 miles north of Baghdad.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

"In Vietnam we didn't have the lessons of Vietnam to guide us," says David Halberstam, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of that war. "In Iraq we did have those lessons. The tragedy is that we didn't pay attention to them." Quoted by Anna Quindlen, November 7, 2005, Buffalo News

“They Are Victims Of American Imperial Power, And We Are Potential Victims”

November 5, 2005 By LARRY ROHTER and ELISABETH BUMILLER, New York Times [Excerpt]

...protesters carried banners calling Mr. Bush a "fascist," "child-killer" or "genocidal beast," some with the "s" in his named replaced by a dollar sign or a swastika.

One marcher, Rafael Abu-Adal, a 52-year-old teacher from Buenos Aires, carried an Iraqi flag.

His objective, he said, was not only to express solidarity with the Iraqi people, but also to draw a parallel to Latin America's situation.

"They are victims of American imperial power, and we are potential victims," he said. "Bush has destroyed their country with bombs, and unless we stop him, he will destroy ours through F.T.A.A."

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

OOPS

November 9, 2005 Jane's Defence Weekly

The United States is moving to train Iraqi police and soldiers to deal with the roadside bombs that are the favored weapon of insurgents in Iraq, while also beginning the process of handing over its advanced technology for disrupting those bombs.

However, the Iraqi police and armed forces are believed to be heavily infiltrated by members of the insurgency, and U.S. officials are concerned that handing over the counter-IED technology - the details of which are highly classified - would, in effect, be giving secrets to the enemy.

"Some of it, of course, will be used against us," said one U.S. military official, speaking at a conference in Washington, "but we have to accept some risk if we are going to make any progress."

WELCOME TO LIBERATED IRAQ: BUT WHERE'S THAT EXIT?



US soldier in Baghdad Nov. 8, 2005. (AP Photo/ Gregorio Borgia)

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Sweet Victory: Bush & Cheney's' Church Says Get Out Of Iraq

[Thanks to Alycia A. Barr for sending this in. She writes: Interesting no one has run with this since (1) the resolution was passed Oct. 17, 2005 and (2) both bush & cheney are members. In Peace and Humanity]

10/31/2005 Co-written by Sam Graham-Felsen, The Nation

It's one thing when former high-ranking members of your own Administration come out against your war. It's another thing when two-thirds of the country calls the invasion and occupation a mistake.

It's really something when your own church issues a statement urging you to pull out the troops now.

Last week, the United Methodist Church Board of Church and Society--the social action committee of the church that both President Bush and Vice President Cheney belong to--resoundingly passed a resolution calling for withdrawal with only two 'no' votes and one abstention.

"As people of faith, we raise our voice in protest against the tragedy of the unjust war in Iraq," the statement read. "Thousands of lives have been lost and hundreds of billions of dollars wasted in a war the United States initiated and should never have fought.... We grieve for all those whose lives have been lost or destroyed in this needless and avoidable tragedy. Military families have suffered undue hardship from prolonged troop rotations in Iraq and loss of loved ones. It is time to bring them home."

"It is my hope and prayer that our statement against the war in Iraq will be heard loud and clear by our fellow United Methodists, President Bush and Vice President Cheney," said Jim Winkler, General Secretary of the UMC's Board of Church and Society.

"Conservative and liberal board members worked together to craft a strong statement calling for the troops to come home and for those responsible for leading us into this disastrous war to be held accountable."

With its bold stands against the Administration, the UMC is fulfilling the words of Martin Luther King Jr., who called for the church to be "not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion" but "a thermostat that transformed the mores of society."

Bush has asserted that he entered Iraq on a direct order from God. Now, he has a direct order from his own church to leave. Is he listening?

Comedy Central: The US Calls Venezuela A Rogue Nation

[Thanks to Don Bacon, The Smedley Butler Society, who sent this in and wrote the headline.]

November 1, 2005 William M. Arkin, The Washington Post

The Pentagon has begun contingency planning for potential military conflict with Venezuela as part of a broad post-Iraq evaluation of strategic threats to the United States.

The first group includes North Korea and Iran, both justified for their involvement in the development of weapons of mass destruction. China is listed as a "growing peer competitor" and threat of tomorrow.

Syria and Venezuela are listed as "rogue nations."

CLASS WAR REPORTS

France: “The Rebellion Is Spreading Spontaneously - Driven Especially By Racist Police”

06 November 2005 By Doug Ireland, direland.com

As the rebellion has spread beyond the Paris suburbs as far south as Marseilles and Nice and as far north as Lille, Sarkozy has been thundering that the spreading violence is centrally "organized."

But on the telephone this morning from Paris, the dean of French investigative reporters - Claude Angeli, editor of Le Canard Enchaîné - told me, "That's not true - this isn't being organized by the Islamist fundamentalists, as Sarkozy is implying to scare people. Sure,

kids in neighborhoods are using their cellphones and text messages to warn each other where the cops are coming so they can move and pick other targets for their arson.

“But the rebellion is spreading because the youth have a sense of solidarity that comes from watching television - they imitate what they're seeing, and they sense themselves targeted by Sarkozy's inflammatory rhetoric.

“The rebellion is spreading spontaneously - driven especially by racist police conduct that is the daily lot of these youths.

“It's incredible the level of police racism - they're arrested or controlled and have their papers checked because they have dark skins, and the police are verbally brutal, calling them 'bougnoles' (a racist insult, something like the American "towel-heads", only worse) and telling them, 'Lower your eyes! Lower your eyes!' as if they had no right to look a policeman in the face. It's utterly dehumanizing. No wonder these kids feel so divorced from authority.”

A team report in today's French daily, Liberation (where I was once a columnist), interviews ghetto youths, and asks them to explain the reasons for their anger. And, the paper reports, "All, or almost all, cite 'Sarko'....a 22-year old student says, 'Sarkozy owes us his excuses for what he said. When I see what's happened, I come back to the same image: Sarkozy when he went to Argenteuil, raising his head and thundering, Madame, we're going to clean all that up. Result? Sarko sent every body over the top, he showed a total disrespect toward everybody" in the ghetto."

A 13-year-old tells the Liberation reporters: "It's us who are going to put Sarkozy through the Karcher...Will I be out making trouble tonight?' He smiles and says, 'that's classified information.'" Another 28-year-old youth: "Who's setting the fires? They're kids between 14 and 22, we don't really know who they are because they put on masks, don't talk, and don't brag about it the next day ... but instead of fucking everything up where they live, it would be better if they held a demo, or went and fucked up the people and the stores in Paris.

“We've got minister, Sarko, who says 'You're all the same.' Me, I say non, we all say non - but in reply we still get, 'You're all the same.' That response from the government creates something in common between all of us, a kind of solidarity. These kids want to get attention, to let people know they exist. So, they same to themselves, 'If we get nasty and create panic, they won't forget us, they'll know we're in a neighborhood where we need help.”

Yesterday, when Sarkozy - who is Minister of Religion as well as Interior Minister - wanted to make an appearance at the Catholic Bishops' conference in Paris, they refused to let him speak - and instead, the Bishops issued a ringing statement denouncing "those who would call for repression and instill fear" instead of responding to the economic, social, and racial causes of the riots. This was an unusually sharp rebuke directed squarely at Sarkozy.

Under the headline "Budget Cuts Exasperate Suburban Mayors," Le Monde reports today on how Chirac and his conservatives have compounded 30 years of neglect of the ghettos by slashing even deeper into social programs: 20% annual cuts in subsidies for neighborhood groups that work with youths since 2003, cuts in youth job-training

programs and tax credits for hiring ghetto youth, cuts in education and programs to teach kids how to read and write, cuts in neighborhood police who get to know ghetto kids and work with them (when Sarkozy went to Toulouse, he told the neighborhood police: "Your job is not to be playing soccer with these kids, your job is to arrest them!")

China Bosses Sent Down Mines In New Safety Drill

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes: Below is a remarkable idea that should bear fruit quickly. A trade unionist should appreciate it.]

07 Nov 2005 (Reuters)

China, where fatal coal mine accidents are an almost daily event, has ordered pit managers to accompany miners underground on every shift in a new bid to improve safety, state media said on Monday.

Their job would be to discover any potential dangers before they lead to an accident, the Beijing News said a day after a gas explosion killed 15 workers in the northern province of Shanxi.

More than 2,700 Chinese miners lost their lives in the first half of this year in the world's deadliest coal mining industry as many pits rushed to feed the world's seventh-largest economy with little regard to safety.

Coal accounts for about three-quarters of China's energy. The industry has become so profitable as the economy booms that many government officials have bought stakes in coal mines.

"It must be guaranteed that at least one member of the management is on the spot on every shift and they should come and go with workers together," the Beijing News said, quoting a circular by the national work safety watchdog.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

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

<http://qi-special.iraq-news.de>, <http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>,

www.williambowles.info/qispecial,

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

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