

GI SPECIAL 4A21:



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**“Attacks Creep Ever Closer To The Heavily Fortified Green Zone”
Infiltration And Probing Actions Underway “In Preparation For Large Scale Assault”**

“Attacks In And Around Baghdad Are Becoming More Complex And Sophisticated”

“The coordination and sophistication of attacks has dramatically increased,” said Col. Ed Cardon, a brigade commander in the 3rd Infantry Division. “They’ve obviously had training, some military background and military training in the way they conduct operations. We hadn’t seen that before,” he said.

January 30, 2006 By Greg Grant, Special to the Army Times [Excerpts]

As car bomb attacks and suicide bombers creep ever closer to the heavily fortified Green Zone in downtown Baghdad, Iraqi insurgents are testing the security of the country’s seat of power in preparation for a large-scale assault, military sources said.

Unable to blast their way through the zone’s heavily defended entrances, insurgents have enlisted Iraqi prostitutes and children to gather intelligence within, these same sources say.

The sources said the insurgents have been recruiting an unusual group of intelligence agents: prostitutes who live and work inside the Green Zone’s neighborhoods.

The recruiting of prostitutes has been going on since at least last spring, the sources said.

They are also given digital cameras and instructed to photograph military checkpoints, the U.S. Embassy and the houses of Iraqi government officials.

The sources said the women pass the photos and information to insurgent sympathizers working as Iraqi police, who are able to move through military checkpoints without being searched. Once outside the Green Zone, these policemen pass the materials to insurgent cells.

Children are also used to gather information. Many families live inside the zone, and their children are a common sight that attracts little attention.

But, military sources say, some of the children are sending information to insurgents: counting vehicles, taking note of units in the area, recording patrol schedules and detailing the security around important targets.

These infiltrations are combined with attacks that seem designed to probe U.S. responses and seek vulnerabilities, the sources said.

Sporadic indirect fire continues to fall inside the Green Zone, and the number of insurgent attacks in nearby neighborhoods has surged in recent months.

While the incidence of insurgent attacks across Iraq is running steady at around 50 per day, attacks in and around Baghdad are becoming more complex and sophisticated.

While single roadside bombs continue to be the insurgents' weapons of choice, such improvised explosive devices are increasingly used to initiate an attack, drawing U.S. forces into a "kill zone" emplaced with more IEDs and troops bearing small arms and rocket-propelled grenades. Insurgents often have cars waiting for a quick exit.

"The coordination and sophistication of attacks has dramatically increased," said Col. Ed Cardon, a brigade commander in the 3rd Infantry Division.

Cardon, whose brigade is responsible for protecting the Green Zone, said he has begun to see better-trained fighters among the insurgent ranks.

"They've obviously had training, some military background and military training in the way they conduct operations. We hadn't seen that before," he said.

MORE:

Resistance Deploying SA-7 Missiles And 14.5mm Anti-Aircraft Cannons

Still, small-arms fire remains the primary threat faced by low-flying helicopters. It has forced U.S. pilots to operate near American soldiers on the ground who can root out enemy fighters aiming to shoot down the aircraft.

January 30, 2006 By Greg Grant, Special to the Army Times [Excerpts]

According to U.S. military sources, intelligence reports began emerging last year of an insurgent group operating in the North Babil area, south of Baghdad, that was armed with more than a dozen SA-7 missiles.

The sources said insurgents have focused renewed attention on attacking U.S. helicopters because they believe the aircraft were key to breaking up large-scale, coordinated insurgent attacks, including the April attack against the Abu Ghraib prison compound and the June attack on an Iraqi police commando compound in southern Baghdad.

Iraqi insurgents view American attack helicopters as a long-term threat they will continue to face after the bulk of U.S. ground forces are withdrawn, and are searching for ways to defeat them.

Abu Ayman, a former Iraqi Intelligence Services officer, is considered “the most high-value target of the Baghdad area,” said Army Capt. Ben Crombe, an intelligence officer with the 3rd Infantry Division. Abu Ayman’s Sunni insurgent group, made up of former Republican Guard and Iraqi intelligence officers, has emerged as one of the most dangerous threats in Iraq.

The discovery of SA-7s concerns military sources, who thought shoulder-fired missiles had all but disappeared as a threat in central Iraq. They thought the threat had dissipated because surface-to-air missiles such as the SA-7 are precision instruments whose components degrade without maintenance or replacement parts.

A U.S. Air Force C-130 was hit by a shoulder-fired missile in November 2003, and at least two other fixed-wing aircraft were struck by missiles after taking off from Baghdad. The downing of a British Royal Air Force C-130 north of Baghdad in late January 2004 had raised renewed concerns about the threat posed by surface-to-air missiles. The British government has withheld details about the attack, but according to military sources, the lumbering aircraft was brought down by a wire-guided Russian-made Sagger anti-tank missile.

The SA-7 is perhaps the world’s most common shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missile. Introduced in the late 1960s, it was successfully employed against American helicopters in Vietnam and against Israeli aircraft in 1973.

The intelligence sources said insurgents have also mounted Russian-made 14.5mm anti-aircraft cannons in the back of pickup trucks as anti-helicopter guns.

Still, small-arms fire remains the primary threat faced by low-flying helicopters. It has forced U.S. pilots to operate near American soldiers on the ground who can root out enemy fighters aiming to shoot down the aircraft.

Since May 2003, enemy fire has brought down 26 of the 46 American helicopters lost in Iraq, according to the Washington-based Brookings Institution. The rest were lost to accidents.

MORE:

N.C. Family Says Son Died Copter Crash: “He Was Shot At Every Time He Went Up”

Jan. 15, 2006 Associated Press

LEICESTER, N.C. - Every time a helicopter went down in Iraq, the parents of Army chopper pilot Mitch Carver remembered him describing the danger of the job he carried out through two tours of duty.

"He told us when he went home that he was shot at every time he went up, and was hit once," said Judy Carver, the 31-year-old chief warrant officer's mother.

Judy and Kyle Carver said Army representatives visited their Leicester home to tell them late Friday that their son was killed that day when his OH-58 Kiowa Warrior reconnaissance helicopter crashed near Mosul.

MORE:

Hanging On In Ramadi

January 28, 2006 By Louise Roug and Richard Boudreaux, Los Angeles Times

[I]nsurgent violence rages unabated in Ramadi, as in much of Iraq.

During a recent 10-day stretch, insurgents staged 113 attacks on U.S. troops here. Mortars rain down almost daily on their base. Marine snipers sit atop the governor's office, dueling with masked men in black who shoot through broken windows of abandoned buildings across the street.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

MND-B Soldier Killed By Roadside Bomb

January 28, 2006 MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE-IRAQ Release A060128c

BAGHDAD, Iraq: A Multi-National Division Baghdad Soldier was killed when his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in central Baghdad Jan 28.

Roadside Bomb Kills Another Baghdad U.S. Soldier

January 29, 2006 MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE-IRAQ Release A060129a

BAGHDAD, Iraq: A Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed Jan. 28 while on a combat patrol at approximately 7:30 p.m. when his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in Baghdad.

Marine Killed In Falluja Non-Hostile Vehicle Accident

January 28, 2006 MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE-IRAQ Release A060128b

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), was killed in a non-hostile vehicle accident in Fallujah, Jan. 27.

‘Non-Hostile’ Death Under Investigation

January 18, 2006 By Ray Rivera, Washington Post Staff Writer

A Marine from Crownsville serving his second tour in Iraq died Saturday from an apparent "non-hostile gunshot wound," the Defense Department said in a statement yesterday.

Cpl. Justin J. Watts, 20, was found dead at Forward Operating Base Haditha Dam in Haditha, the military said.

His family declined interview requests yesterday but in a statement said Watts was a loving son and husband and died "serving his country proudly."

"We are extremely proud of Justin, and we will miss him dearly," said his father, James A. Watts, choking up as he read the statement over the telephone.

Justin Watts grew up playing a variety of sports, including ice hockey, swimming, lacrosse and BMX bicycle racing, the family said.

He graduated from Old Mill Senior High School in Millersville in 2003, the family said. He joined the Marines that September.

In May 2004, he married his high school sweetheart, Nicole Seaton, in a backyard ceremony at his family's Crownsville home.

He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, Calif., but his unit had been attached to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

He completed his first tour in January 2005, said the family, which did not say when he returned to Iraq. Haditha is in Anbar province 125 miles northwest of Baghdad on the Euphrates River.

Family Remembers Soldier



Dudkiewicz

January 18, 2006 By Mark-Alexander Pieper, Pacific Daily News

Army Pfc. Kasper Allen Camacho Dudkiewicz did everything to the fullest.

As a high-school athlete, his coaches say he was a self-starter and a team player; as a soldier he was training to become a member of the army's elite special forces; and as a son he strived to top everything his father did.

On Sunday, Dudkiewicz became the first son of Guam this year to lose his life serving his country in Iraq, and the 12th son of Micronesia to die since the war began in 2003.

His father, Kasper Dudkiewicz, said he heard his son died while riding in a military Humvee that was struck by a civilian vehicle. The Humvee flipped and 22-year-old Dudkiewicz, who was the gunner, was killed.

The elder Dudkiewicz said the military has yet to confirm the circumstances of his son's death. He said he got the information from one of his other sons, who spoke with Pfc. Dudkiewicz's wife, Katie, who's an active-duty Army soldier stationed in Fort Lewis, Wash.

The father said the news of his son's death has been hard for him, but his 22 years in the military, from which he retired as a Guam Army National Guard sergeant, have helped him cope with the reality of the situation.

"Being in the military, you expect things to happen, especially if you go to war," he said. "You expect injuries, death. You can't guarantee anything."

While he has worn a brave face since the news of his son's death, his wife, Connie Dudkiewicz, Pfc. Dudkiewicz's stepmother, said the grieving father has had to keep himself busy to keep the tears from streaming down, as they did when he first heard the news.

So he's been mowing the huge lawn of the family's Chalan Pago home, feeding the pigs, setting up canopies and working with the Department of Public Works to set up for when his boy's body returns to Guam later this week. The boy's mother, Maria Camacho, and some of his 10 siblings are expected to be on island for the services.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT A CROOKED POLITICIAN WHO LIVES IN THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS YOU THERE, SO HE WILL LOOK GOOD.

That is not a good enough reason.



U.S. Marines with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) on the Euphrates River as they prepare to search a house near Hit January 24, 2006. REUTERS/Bob Strong

Silly U.S. Officer Says Tal Afar Citizens Helping Occupation Keep Resistance Out: After The Press Conference, Resistance Mortar Attack Wounds Mayor

1/29/2006 AFP

The mayor of Tal Afar was wounded yesterday when rebels attacked his office, security officials said.

Najim Abdullah, the mayor of Tal Afar, was wounded when rebels fired mortars at his office, a police officer from Tal Afar said. "Insurgents fired four mortars which landed on the office of the mayor and wounded him," the officer said.

The attack came after a US commander declared Friday a "fragile victory" in the town, four months after a US-led military operation was carried out to break the hold of terror network Al-Qaeda and other insurgents in the city.

Colonel H R McMaster said ethnic strife between Turkmen Shi'ite and Sunni communities was ending in the city, and residents were cooperating with authorities to keep insurgents from slipping back.

In a press conference last week, US military spokesman Major General Lynch distributed to reporters a letter from Abdullah thanking the US military for clearing the town of insurgents.

TROOP NEWS

PAGE 73 PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS:

"ELLIOT, A SOLDIER'S FUGUE"

**WRITTEN BY QUIARA ALEGRÍA HUDES
DIRECTED BY DAVIS McCALLUM**

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US Army Forces 50,000 Soldiers Into War After Their Enlistment Term Has Expired

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

"When you sign up for the military, you're saying, 'I'll give you, say, six years and then after six years I get my life back.' And they're saying, 'No, really, we can extend you indefinitely.'"

29 Jan 2006 By Will Dunham (Reuters)

The U.S. Army has forced about 50,000 soldiers to continue serving after their voluntary stints ended under a policy called "stop-loss," but while some dispute its fairness, court challenges have fallen flat.

Under the policy, soldiers who normally would leave when their commitments expire must remain in the Army, starting 90 days before their unit is scheduled to depart, through the end of their deployment and up to another 90 days after returning to their home base.

With yearlong tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, some soldiers can be forced to stay in the Army an extra 18 months.

A few soldiers have gone to court to challenge stop-loss.

One such case fizzled last week, when U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth in Washington dismissed a suit filed in 2004 by two Army National Guard soldiers. The suit claimed the Army fraudulently induced soldiers to enlist without specifying that their service might be involuntarily extended.

Jules Lobel, a University of Pittsburgh law professor who represented the National Guard soldiers, said a successful challenge to stop-loss was still possible.

"I think the whole stop-loss program is a misrepresentation to people of how long they're going to actually serve. I think it's caused tremendous morale problems, tremendous psychological damage to people," Lobel said.

"When you sign up for the military, you're saying, 'I'll give you, say, six years and then after six years I get my life back.' And they're saying, 'No, really, we can extend you indefinitely.'"

ENOUGH: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Jan. 18, 2006: Estelita Maravillosa, mother of U.S. Army Sgt. Myla Maravillosa, holds a picture of her daughter besides her coffin in her hometown Ibanga, in the province of Bohol in central Philippines. Maravillosa died in an attack on Christmas eve in Iraq. (AP Photo/Pat Roque)

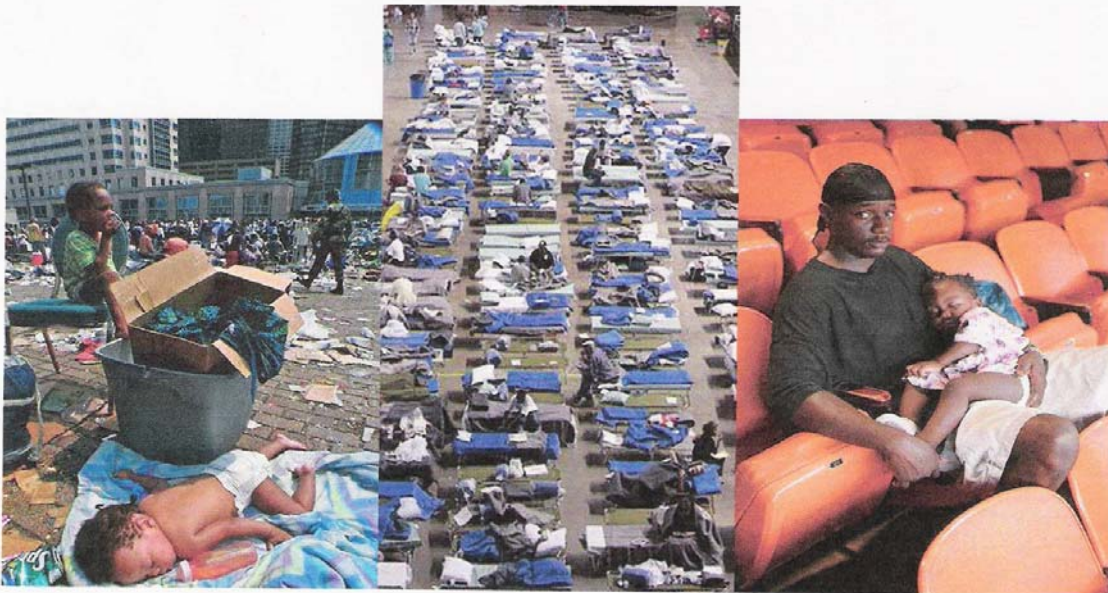
**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

Every bomb dropped in Iraq explodes over New Orleans...

**VETERANS MARCH TO NEW ORLEANS:
For Peace in Iraq**



and Justice on the Gulf Coast



**Tuesday, March 14 – Sunday, March 19, 2006
MARCH FROM MOBILE TO NEW ORLEANS**

March 19, 2006 is the 3rd anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.
Veterans For Peace is Marching to Bring the Troops Home NOW!
We are seeking JUSTICE for the victims of FEMA and Katrina
Through Ending the war in Iraq, and Meeting Human Needs at Home!

For more information go to <http://www.veteransmarch.org> or
contact Paul Robinson, Veterans for Peace, Mobile, AL, 251-604-1837

[Sign up for this action at: <http://www.vetgulfmarch.org/index.php>]

**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 RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

1/29/2006 AFP & PAUL GARWOOD, Associated Press Writer & Reuters

A massive car bombing killed four Iraqi soldiers and wounded six more in Uja, about 75 miles north of Baghdad, army Capt. Ahmed al-Azawi said.

A policeman was killed and another wounded in a roadside bomb attack in the restive town of Fallujah.

BAQUBA: An official with the Iraqi military intelligence was killed and four were wounded when guerrillas opened fire on a checkpoint in eastern Baquba, police said.

In a separate attack, two policemen and five civilians were wounded when gunmen fired mortar rounds then start shooting at a police patrol in the city centre, police added.

A roadside bomb in Baghdad's volatile southern Dora neighborhood killed one policeman and wounded another, police said. A car bomb blast killed a policeman in Baghdad's western Amariyah district, while two policemen were killed while leaving work following the end of their shift in the same area.

Drive-by guerrillas killed two more policemen as they left the Khadra police station, also in western Baghdad, after finishing work, police said.

A police captain was killed in Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad, while an ambush in Baquba, north of Baghdad, killed one policeman and wounded another, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“I Hope The Filipinos Wipe Such Soldiers From The Face Of The Earth”

January 23, 2006 WILLIAM LOREN KATZ [Excerpt]

Harry Belafonte did more than speak truth to a President who lied to justify an invasion that has taken the lives of more than 2,000 Americans and tens of thousands of Iraqis. He became part of a proud African American tradition Frederick Douglass started in 1848.

Frederick Douglass excoriated President Polk's administration for "grasping ambition, atrocious aggression, and wholesale murder of an unoffending people" in "a disgraceful, cruel, and iniquitous war," and demanded "the instant recall of U.S. forces from Mexico."

President Polk lied to justify a U.S. invasion that seized land stretching from Texas to California for new slave states.

"I would not care if tomorrow, I should hear of the death of every man who engaged in that bloody war," said Douglass.

(Congressman Abraham Lincoln also reviled Polk for ordering an invasion of an innocent neighbor based on a lie.)

During the Spanish American War of 1898, another conflict based on a lie, anti-lynching crusader War Ida B. Wells urged her people to oppose all overseas actions until Black citizens at home were safe from lynching.

Lewis Douglass, Civil War hero and the son of Frederick Douglass, said the McKinley administration's invasion of the Philippines would bring "race hate and cruelty, barbarous lynchings and gross injustice to dark people."

A.M.E. Bishop Henry M. Turner not only denounced the occupation but was appalled that 6,000 Black soldiers were sent "to subjugate a people of their own color. I can scarcely keep from saying that I hope the Filipinos wipe such soldiers from the face of the earth."

Black U.S. troops were divided.

One soldier charged his country was conducting "a gigantic scheme of robbery and oppression," and another admitted, "These people are right and we are wrong, terribly wrong."

Twenty U.S. soldiers, including 12 African Americans, defected to Filipino General Emilio Aguinaldo and his freedom-fighting army.

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



U.S. Marines with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) search an Iraqi citizens' house near Hit January 25, 2006. REUTERS/Bob Strong

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqis over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, trash their personal possessions, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign" and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any changes being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your own home town, right?]

The Great Iraqi Collaborator Troop Training Fiasco Rolls On: “They Go Into A House And Arrest Somebody And Steal Everything They Can Get Their Hands On”

Brown described an incident in which intelligence indicated foreign fighters were holed up in a house south of Baghdad. He planned a night mission with an Iraqi special police unit. But when his soldiers hit the target, they found the insurgents had fled.

“To do this combined operation, I had to turn in my plans to the Ministry of Interior. They gave away the plan,” Brown said.

January 30, 2006 By Greg Grant, Special to the Army Times [Excerpts]

Progress has been made in training, controlling corruption and alleviating other problems in the new Iraqi army and police, but Americans in Iraq say they're still not ready.

“They go into a house and arrest somebody and steal everything they can get their hands on,” said Lt. Col. David Funk, a battalion commander in the 3rd Infantry Division, describing Iraqi police in action. “The Iraqi people don't trust their own security forces. They'll call us before they call their own people.”

He and other officers recounted turning suspected insurgents over to the Iraqi police, only to see them released for bribes.

“We captured some of these guys who were killing my soldiers; we put them in Abu Ghraib. Now I'm told they're out and back kidnapping and killing again,” said Lt. Col. Ross Brown, a squadron commander in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

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“To do this combined operation, I had to turn in my plans to the Ministry of Interior. They gave away the plan,” Brown said.

Lt. Col. Shawn Weed, an intelligence officer with the 3rd Infantry Division, said U.S. military officials have found “at every level — company, battalion, brigade, division — players who are all dirty, making money on the side.”

“It makes it hard to deal with them in a realistic way,” Weed said.

“We don’t know who to trust, or how close we want to work with them on an operation. We could do a lot better if we were completely onboard and had a working relationship with the Iraqi security forces, but there’s obviously some level of tension between us and them. They don’t want to show us everything they have and we don’t want to show them everything we have.”

Many officers are troubled by the sectarian divisions within the Iraqi government and the concentration of power in the hands of Iraq’s Shiite Arabs, who control both security ministries.

Weed said that soon after the arrival in Baghdad of an Iraqi Ministry of Interior commando unit, called the Wolf Brigade and manned by Shiite militia members, the unit’s commander told Weed he had 350 names of suspected insurgents to arrest.

“I said, ‘You’ve been here for three days, how can you have 350 targets?’ He’d been given a list of names of guys to go hunt down that were all Sunni.”

Many insurgents attack the American military because they believe the U.S. helped put the Sunnis’ centuries-old rivals into power, Weed said.

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)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

White House Promises Not To Discriminate In Continued Domestic Spying

Speaking of the war/not war, Bush said he was particularly pleased with the results of intercepting U.S. troops' Christmas messages sent home from Iraq.

"Any grunt who used the words 'no body armor' got assigned immediately to unescorted convoy duty," he explained. "We'll deal with these whiney bastards in the way they deserve."

1.28.06 by Michael Less, Enduringvision.com [Excerpt]

In a gracious gesture toward opponents of his domestic spying program, President Bush promised today to be an equal opportunity snoop toward everyone.

"We are going to make sure that rich Democratic supporters are spied upon just as much as poor, black agitators," Bush announced. "No one will be getting any free rides here."

"Hell, I've even eavesdropped on my daughters," he added. "Those little vixens are a handful."

Bush did issue a partial apology, however, for intercepting Sammy Alito's communications with Clarence Thomas about most promising porn sites to visit on Supreme Court computers.

"Those guys should be allowed to do that stuff in private," Bush admitted. "I just wish they wouldn't swap pictures comparing each other's thingamadoodles."

Bush also warned his adversaries to lay off the criticism.

"If Ted Kennedy keeps this stuff up, he'll be awfully surprised to see what shows up in Bob Novak's column," he snarled. "We're going to keep the results of our spying absolutely confidential, except in the case of anti-American agitators like Kennedy, who will wish they'd never been born."

Skillfully touching on another hot-button issue, Bush added, "In fact, the very existence of Ted Kennedy is the only reason I can think of to support the right to an abortion."

Vice President Dick Cheney chimed in as to the need to continue domestic spying.

"We are in a war," he stated. "Except we are not in a war when it comes to treating military prisoners in accord with international law. We are in a war when we say we are in a war, and not in a war when we say we are not in a war, and we are always right, because we are in a war we are not in."

Speaking of the war/not war, Bush said he was particularly pleased with the results of intercepting U.S. troops' Christmas messages sent home from Iraq.

"Any grunt who used the words 'no body armor' got assigned immediately to unescorted convoy duty," he explained. "We'll deal with these whiney bastards in the way they deserve."

Got That Right

1.29.06 by way of Tom Condit & Air America

This year, both Groundhog Day and the State of the Union Address fall on the same day.

It is an ironic juxtaposition: one involves a meaningless ritual in which we look to a creature of little intelligence for prognostication; and the other involves a groundhog.

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Katrina: The Catastrophe Is Not Over

January 28, 2006 By Jennifer Moses, Washington Post [Excerpt]

BATON ROUGE, La.

While the rest of the country wakes up in the morning to read about the latest round of Washington scandals, the misery in Louisiana continues unabated.

Except for a few older, historical neighborhoods on "high ground," New Orleans is uninhabitable, and Cameron Parish, in the southwest corner of the state, basically no longer exists, having been wiped out by Hurricane Rita.

Meanwhile, though Congress passed a \$29 billion aid package for the Gulf Coast region, it's being split between Mississippi and Louisiana, perhaps because, even though

Mississippi has fewer than one-fifth the number of affected households Louisiana does, its governor, Haley Barbour, an ex-Republican National Committee chairman, is a pal of the president.

But with all the problems Louisiana is facing, including a new round of budget-slashing, no one seems to be talking about the looming human crisis: Where will the tens of thousands of evacuees living in hotels go when the Federal Emergency Management Agency stops paying the bills in February?

Received:

“Even A Three-Year-Old, Needs To Be Killed”

From: JM
To: GI Special
Sent: January 28, 2006
Subject: "Even a three year old needs to be killed"

This is a terrific piece of writing. My congratulations to the author. May this message receive wide publicity and help counteract biased media reporting that supports the brutal, Israeli, occupation of Palestine. I, for one, will circulate it to all my contacts.

In solidarity
J

MORE Received ON PALESTINE:

“Israel's Continuing Occupation And Abuse Of Palestine”

From: Alycia A. Barr
To: GI Special
Sent: January 29, 2006

Just wanted to drop you a line to tell you how terrific it is to see you press on and include the horrors of Israel's continuing occupation and abuse of Palestine in so many GI Specials. THANK YOU. It's an issue near and dear to my heart and should be front page headlines in every newspaper across the country.

In Peace and Humanity,
Alycia A. Barr

Received:

“It's The Same Old Materialistic Jones If You Ask Me”

From: JF
To: GI Special
Sent: January 28, 2006
Subject: Majority Say War Most Important Issue

“If you’ve had enough of elitist snobs whining about how Americans don’t care about the war, and there have been a lot of them peddling that lie lately, shove this up their ass.

“You know, the ones who write those long silly self-referential articles for pseudo-left consumption about how dumb and reactionary most Americans are? About how working class people care about nothing but TV shows and eating at McDonalds and pay no attention to the war? Those snobs: the chatterers; the useless pieces of shit who infest the internet, who bemoan this and lament that as they boast of how enlightened they themselves are. The same ones who bowed down to kiss Kerry’s ass at the last election. The ones who won’t lift a finger to organize anything against the Empire that requires actual human contact with anti-war troops. Them. Fuck ‘em.

“If you prefer class analysis, the great truth about this chattering class, otherwise known as the petite bourgeoisie, is that they hate and fear the ruling class above them, and are terrified of the working class below them, including our troops, who generally regard them with well deserved contempt as a great concentration of useless, empty, pretentious bullshitters. T”

Forgive me for quoting yourself to yourself at such length, but your dose of reality has made my day.

I don't prefer class analysis. But you have hit the nail on the head in my view.

I'd just substitute a term like "fantasists" for these folks in the middle, scared by everything the world outside their cocoon presents them with, dreaming in their heart of hearts of winning the lottery, of becoming as rich as Croesus or Bill Gates, of achieving "financial independence" from the rest of the human race and retiring to... well, it's their fears they're running from, they're saving the determination of their actual utopian destination 'til after they've, miraculously, achieved wealth beyond imagining and have enjoyed the automatic, concomitant intellectual enlightenment and moral apotheosis.

It's the same old materialistic jones if you ask me. It's just like booze or heroin or rolling the dice until you've lost it all.

You die underneath it any case.

The problem is that boozers and junkies and losers take down themselves and their immediate families while the damage we all do in this mode continues to make ripples well beyond.

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