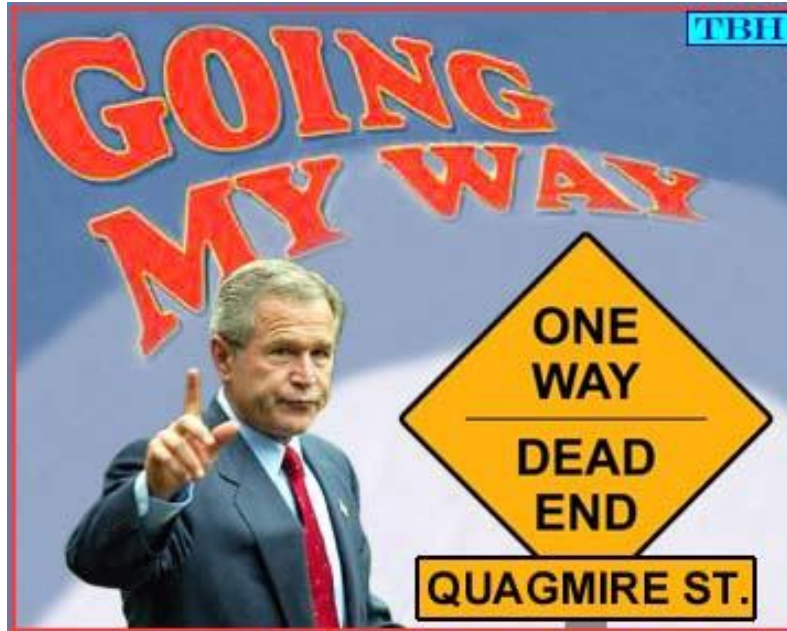


GI SPECIAL 4A6:



**“The Country Is Out Of
Control And We Can’t
Stop It”**

**Sgt. Says “Anybody Who Tries
To Sell A Good News Story
About The War Is Blowing It Out
His Ass”**

**Pentagon Propaganda Program
Orders Troops To Lie About Iraq**

[Thanks to David Honish and Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace, and PB, who sent this in.]

“The country is out of control and we can’t stop it. Anybody who tries to sell a good news story about the war is blowing it out his ass. We don’t win and eventually we will leave the country in a worse shape than it was when we invaded.”

Dec 29, 2005 By DOUG THOMPSON, Publisher, Capitol Hill Blue

Good soldiers follow orders and hundreds of American military men and women returned to the United States on holiday leave this month with orders to sell the Iraq war to a skeptical public.

The program, coordinated through a Pentagon operation dubbed “Operation Homefront,” ordered military personnel to give interviews to their hometown newspapers, television stations and other media outlets and praise the American war effort in Iraq.

Initial reports back to the Pentagon deem the operation a success with dozens of front page stories in daily and weekly newspapers around the country along with upbeat reports on local television stations.

“We've learned as a military how to do this better,” Captain David Diaz, a military reservist, told his hometown paper, The Roanoke (VA) Times. “My worry is that we have the right military strategy and political strategies now but the patience of the American public is wearing thin.”

When pressed by the paper on whether or not his commanding officers told him to talk to the press, Diaz admitted he was “encouraged” to do so. So reporter Duncan Adams asked:

“Did Diaz return to the U.S. on emergency leave with an agenda: to offer a positive spin that could help counter growing concerns among Americans about the U.S. exit strategy? How do we know that's not his strategy, especially after he discloses that superior officers encouraged him to talk about his experiences in Iraq?”

Replied Diaz:

“You don't. I can tell you that the direction we've gotten from on high is that there is a concern about public opinion out there and they want to set the record straight.”

Diaz, an intelligence officer, knows how to avoid a direct answer. Other military personnel, however, tell Capitol Hill Blue privately that the pressure to “sell the war” back home is enormous.

“I’ve been promised an early release if I do a good job promoting the war,” says one reservist who asked not to be identified.

In interviews with a number of reservists home for the holidays, a pattern emerges on the Pentagon's propaganda effort. Soldiers are encouraged to contact their local news media outlets to offer interviews about the war.

A detailed set of talking points encourages them to:

Admit initial doubts about the war but claim conversion to a belief in the American mission;

Praise military leadership in Iraq and throw in a few words of support for the Bush administration;

Claim the mission to turn security of the country over to the Iraqis is working;

Reiterate that America must not abandon its mission and must stay until the "job is finished."

Talk about how "things are better" now in Iraq.

"My worry is that we have the right military strategy and political strategies now but the patience of the American public is wearing thin," Diaz told The Roanoke Times.

"It's way better now (in Iraq). People are friendlier. They seem more relaxed, and they say, 'Thank you, mister,'" Sgt. Christopher Desierto told his hometown paper, The Maui News.

But soldiers who are home and don't have to return to Iraq tell a different story.

"I've just been focused on trying to get the rest of these guys home," says Sgt. Major Floyd Dubose of Jackson, MS, who returned home after 11 months in Iraq with the Mississippi Army National Guard's 155th Combat Brigade.

And the Army is cracking down on soldiers who go on the record opposing the war.

Specialist Leonard Clark, a National Guardsman, was demoted to private and fined \$1,640 for posting anti-war statements on an Internet blog. Clark wrote entries describing the company's commander as a "glory seeker" and the battalion sergeant major an "inhuman monster". His last entry before the blog was shut down told how his fellow soldiers were becoming increasingly opposed to the US operation in Iraq.

"The message is clear," says one reservist who is home for the holidays but has to return and asked not to be identified. "If you want to get out of this man's Army with an honorable (discharge) and full benefits you better not tell the truth about what is happening in-country."

But Sgt. Johnathan Wilson, a reservist, got his honorable discharge after he returned home earlier this month and he's not afraid to talk on the record.

"Iraq is a classic FUBAR," he says.

“The country is out of control and we can’t stop it. Anybody who tries to sell a good news story about the war is blowing it out his ass. We don’t win and eventually we will leave the country in a worse shape than it was when we invaded.”

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

Salisbury Firefighter Dies From Iraq Injuries



Michael J. McMullen

Jan 12, 2006 AP

Salisbury, MD A firefighter has died after being wounded Christmas Eve in Iraq while serving with the Maryland Army National Guard, a spokesman for the Salisbury Fire Department said Thursday.

Michael J. McMullen, 25, was wounded when an improvise explosive device went off near his unit, the Baltimore-based 243rd Engineering Company.

McMullen, a sergeant who was deployed to Iraq in late May, had worked as a paramedic for the Salisbury Fire Department. He joined the department in December 2001 as a volunteer and became a paramedic two years later.

Another British Mercenary Killed

01/12/06 this is lancashire

Darren Birch, from Bury, suffered severe head injuries and died in Baghdad Central Hospital after the armoured vehicle he was travelling in collided with a water tanker, days before he was to return home.

The 30-year-old former Derby High pupil had been working as a close-protection officer in Iraq for the past 12 months after leaving the Household Cavalry, of Knightsbridge, London, three years ago.

Darren Birch, from Bury, suffered severe head injuries and died in Baghdad Central Hospital after the armoured vehicle he was travelling in collided with a water tanker, days before he was to return home. He had planned to be married later this year.

The 30-year-old former Derby High pupil had been working as a close-protection officer in Iraq for the past 12 months after leaving the Household Cavalry, of Knightsbridge, London, three years ago.

Darren was travelling in the last vehicle of a convoy on the morning of Wednesday, December 28 when it was hit by a water tanker travelling in the opposite direction.

The bullet-proof Nissan, in which he was a passenger, lost control and it is believed up to four other men, including the driver, were injured.

“I Was Thankful It Was His Left Arm Because He’s Right-Handed”

January 11, 2006 Hurricane Valley Journal:

Rachel Gubler Vanderslice of La Verkin and her family has experienced more than their fair share of accidents, pain, and bereavement. Through it all, they have maintained a positive outlook on life.

Recently, her brother, Dan Gubler of the National Guard's 2nd Battalion 222nd Field Artillery sustained the first major injury of the Triple Deuce since their deployment to Iraq on November 16.

The biggest question Rachel is asked is how have they survived the trauma. Many people express their concern, saying, “Your family has gone through so much” or “You are the unluckiest person I know.”

“I don’t think of it that way,” said Rachel. “That’s the biggest response we’ve gotten since this has happened to Dan. I don’t think Dan’s head has gone that way. I don’t go that way, meaning my first response isn’t like, ‘Oh why me?’ I don’t know if it’s the way we were brought up, but I don’t think that way. I was more thankful than I was upset. I was thankful it was his left arm because he’s right-handed. I was thankful he’s still alive.”

Rachel gave an update on Dan's condition.

She said that the doctors performed surgery on Dan's eyes. He can see colors and outlines now. However, another surgery will need to be done.

Doctors had closed his arm up to get ready for prosthesis, but now the bone is growing, which is very unusual. This means that Dan will have to have another arm surgery.

Phantom pain with his missing arm is also a big problem and an annoyance to him now. His wife, Robalyn, has been with him since he arrived at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C. His children were able to be with him during the holidays until January 10.

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. Marine Cpl. Jonathan Taylor of Staunton, Va., looks over a wall during a patrol in Karabilah, Dec. 6, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

TROOP NEWS

“Stop-Loss” Policy Kept Slain Vet From Retiring: “He Put In For His Retirement Last Year” “This Was His Fifth Tour”

Jan. 09, 2006 Associated Press, TALLADEGA, Ala.

A 20-year Army veteran who was killed last week in Iraq may have been denied retirement, despite having seven children and his wife on duty in Iraq, because of a restrictive wartime policy known as "stop-loss," an Army official said Monday.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Stephen J. White was one of five soldiers killed Thursday in An Najaf by an improvised explosive device that detonated near his military vehicle.

Stanley White said his brother tried to retire last year, but the Army denied his request.

"He'd been in the Army for 20 years, he put in for his retirement last year, and it was denied. Why? This was his fifth tour," White told The Daily Home of Talladega.

White was assigned to a unit based in Fort Hood, Texas.

Fort Hood spokesman Sgt. Damian Steptore said the Fourth Infantry Division, which includes White's battalion, has been under stop-loss policy since June 1, 2004. White's unit deployed to Iraq in December.

White's wife, Vicky, was accompanying his body home from Iraq, with a stop in her native North Carolina, Stanley White said. The soldier's seven children include two with Vicky White. Details on funeral arrangements were not available Monday.

White was assigned to the Third Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, Second Brigade Combat Team of the Fourth Infantry Division based in Fort Hood.

Decembers Military Deaths

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

1.12.06 Dailywarnews.blogspot.com

U.S.--68
Coalition--0

Marines--15
Army--53
Total--68

Officer--3
Warrant--2
Enlisted--63

Male--65
Female--3

Marines by rank:

E1--0--private
E2--0--private first class
E3--8--lance corporal
E4--4--corporal
E5--1--sergeant
E6--2--staff sergeant
E7--0--gunnery sergeant
E8--0--master/first sergeant

01--0--2nd lieutenant
02--0--1st lieutenant
03--0--captain
04--0--major
05--0--Lieutenant Colonel
06--0--colonel

Army by rank:

E1--0--private
E2--2--private second class
E3--2--private first class
E4--18--corporal/specialist
E5--14--sergeant
E6--7--staff sergeant
E7--4--sergeant first class
E8--1--master/first sergeant

W1--2--warrant officer

01--0--2nd lieutenant
02--3--1st lieutenant
03--0--captain
04--0--major
05--0--Lieutenant Colonel
06--0--colonel

Deaths by Division:

1st Marine Expeditionary Force--12
2nd Marine Expeditionary Force--3
1st Armored Div.--4
3rd Infantry Div.--8
4th Infantry Div.--5
10th Mountain Div--1
101st Airborne Div--10
3rd Armored Cav. Reg.--2
11th Armored Cav. Reg.--1
III Corps Artillery--1
89th MP. Brigade--1
Special Opps. Command--1
5th engineer Battalion--1
4th psy-opps group--1
5th Special Forces--1
Army National Guard--12
Army Reserve--3

Deaths by Location:

Baghdad--23

Fallujah--13
Ramadi--5
Tikrit--5
Hospital--4
Tallil Air Base--3
Bayji--3
Taji--3
Balad--2
Yusufiyah--2
Balad--2
Habbaniyah--1
Balad--1
Iskandariyah--1
Mahmudiyah--1
Kirkuk--1

Death by Cause:

Hostile--57
Non-hostile--11

IED attack--42

small arms fire--8
car bomb--3
vehicle accident--3
mortar attack--2
helicopter crash--2

illness--2
ordnance accident--1
RPG attack--1
weapon discharge--1
accidental fall--1
unspecified injury--1
mine--1

US Torture General Refuses To Testify: Fearing Him Will Incriminate Himself, The Coward Miller Leaves Two Soldiers He Commanded Defenseless

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

12 Jan 2006 By Will Dunham Reuters & By Josh White, The Washington Post

WASHINGTON, Jan 12(Reuters)

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller, a key player in the treatment of detainees in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, has invoked his right not to incriminate himself in the cases of two soldiers charged with abusing Abu Ghraib prisoners with dogs, officials said on Thursday.

In addition, Army Col. Thomas Pappas, former top military intelligence officer at the prison on the outskirts of Baghdad, was granted immunity from prosecution and directed to testify in the upcoming courts-martial of the Army dog handlers.

Miller headed the prison camp at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, helped shape detention practices at Abu Ghraib and later oversaw all detention operations in Iraq.

With defense lawyers preparing to question Miller, the general invoked his right under Article 31 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice barring compulsory self-incrimination.

Sgt. Santos Cardona and Sgt. Michael Smith are accused of using military dogs to harass, threaten and assault prisoners at Abu Ghraib from November 2003 to January 2004.

Harvey Volzer, an attorney for one of the dog handlers, has been seeking to question Miller to determine whether Miller ordered the use of military working dogs to frighten detainees during interrogations at Abu Ghraib.

Volzer has argued that the dog handlers were following orders when the animals were used against detainees.

"I think the command is hiding something, and I think what they're hiding is material that is exculpatory that says the interrogation techniques were approved by powers above General Miller," Volzer said.

Eugene Fidell, president of the National Institute of Military Justice, said he could not recall another general or admiral invoking Article 31 rights.

The Pentagon in summer 2003 sent Miller, at Guantanamo at the time, to Iraq to improve detention operations there.

Janis Karpinski, a former one-star Army Reserve general in charge of the prison who was later demoted to colonel, has accused Miller of introducing abusive techniques at Abu Ghraib.

TORTURER COWARD PIECE OF SHIT UNFIT FOR COMMAND



Miller has asserted his right not to incriminate himself in the courts-martial of two soldiers accused of mistreating detainees there. (Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

Dept. Of Agriculture Assholes Determined To Cheat Reserve Troops Out Of Their Pay

January 12, 2006 By Gordon Trowbridge, Army Times staff writer [Excerpt]

A federal agency is fighting a ruling that could give thousands of dollars to military reservists who worked in federal civilian jobs during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The Department of Agriculture has asked the Merit Systems Protection Board to review an administrative law judge's decision granting compensation to a food safety worker who also serves as an Army reservist.

The worker and thousands of others were improperly charged military leave on days when they were in uniform but not required to work in their civilian posts.

The case revolves around a policy followed for years by most federal agencies. Federal workers in a military reserve component are entitled to 15 days a year of military leave for drills, training and other military duties that does not count against their normal leave time. But agencies were docking workers for leave even for days they were not scheduled to work in their civilian jobs, usually weekends, forcing many to use personal or vacation days to cover their military duties.

Congress barred the practice in 2000, and previous rulings have held that workers improperly charged leave are due compensation. But the federal government, citing a 60-year-old law, has refused to pay claims more than six years old, effectively limiting claims to the 1994-2000 period.

In November, an administrative law judge ruled in favor of Tully's client, John Collins, who had challenged the ban on pre-1994 claims. The Department of Agriculture's decision to appeal that ruling likely means several more months of review.

Pentagon Assholes Join In: Determined To Cheat 9/11 Reserve Troops Out Of Their Pay

Jan 11, 2006 JAY LINDSAY, Newsday

BOSTON: A group of National Guard soldiers who were ordered to protect possible targets after the Sept. 11 attacks sued the federal government

Wednesday, seeking tens of millions of dollars in expenses they say were never reimbursed.

The soldiers, from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, say they traveled hundreds of miles to security postings and used their own money to pay for food and lodging with the expectation that they would be reimbursed.

But the soldiers say in their complaint that their requests for compensation were repeatedly denied and they eventually were told, "If you don't like the arrangement, we'll make sure you get taken off this mission."

In the lawsuit, the plaintiffs argue that federal law provides military personnel with a travel and transportation allowance while away from home on active duty.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court by four soldiers but seeks to include hundreds of other guardsmen as a class action.

It names the U.S. Department of Defense and the Massachusetts National Guard and seeks \$73 million in unpaid expenses.

The plaintiffs are Steven Littlefield of Plymouth, Wayne Gutierrez of New Bedford, Louis Tortorella of Brookline, N.H.; and Joseph Murphy of Derry, N.H. All but Tortorella are still in the National Guard. The areas they patrolled included Boston's primary water supply.

Army Recruiting Predators Demand Wounded Vietnam Veteran To Take Down His Sign: They Don't Like It

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

December 27, 2005 By MONICA DAVEY, .New York Times

DULUTH, Minn., Dec. 21 - As those thinking of becoming soldiers arrive on the slushy doorstep of the Army recruiting station here, they cannot miss the message posted in bold black letters on the storefront right next door.

"Remember the Fallen Heroes," the sign reads, and then it ticks off numbers: the number of American troops killed in Iraq, the number wounded, the number of days gone by since this war began.

The sign, put up by a former soldier, has stirred intense, though always polite, debate in this city along the edge of Lake Superior in northeastern Minnesota.

In a way, many of the nation's vast and complicated arguments about war are playing out on a single block here, around a simple piece of wood.

The seven military recruiters here, six of whom have themselves served in Iraq, want the sign taken away. "It's disheartening," Staff Sgt. Gary J. Capan, the station's commander, said. "Everyone knows that people are dying in Iraq, but to walk past this on the way to work every day is too much."

But Scott Cameron, a local man who was wounded in the Vietnam War, says his sign should remain.

Mr. Cameron volunteers for a candidate for governor of Minnesota whose campaign opened a storefront office next door to the recruiting station, and he has permission to post the message he describes as "not antiwar, but pro-veteran."

"We're still taking casualties from Vietnam, years later," Mr. Cameron said recently. "Is the same thing going to happen again?"

Despite the location, he insists that his purpose is not to prevent new recruits from signing up for the Army, but to honor those who made sacrifices. Still, Mr. Cameron also says, "Before they join the military, people better know what they're getting into."

Early this month, State Senator Steve Kelley, a candidate for governor of Minnesota from the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party (the Democratic party in Minnesota, whose name is a vestige of its liberal heritage), held a grand opening for his new campaign office along Superior Street, a main thoroughfare in downtown Duluth. When Mr. Cameron, a Kelley volunteer, asked whether he could put his sign up in the window of the office, alongside the collage of campaign posters, Mr. Kelley agreed.

Mr. Cameron, who was shot in Vietnam in 1969 and says he has since undergone 46 operations to repair the damage, said he felt compelled to post his message to remind people of the soldiers now lost.

Decades ago, he said, he did not speak his mind about Vietnam because he feared he might harm support for the troops. He is not, he said, "going to be silent again."

Although Mr. Cameron, 55, acknowledged that he opposed the war in Iraq, he insisted that his sign was not about that at all. Its intent, he said, is simple and apolitical: to remember the troops, to care for veterans, to recognize what is being lost each day.

"This is for the veterans," he said. "And the way I understand it, this is what we're over there fighting for in the first place: for my right to put a sign right there."

A few days after the opening, the office drew a visit from next door. Sergeant Capan, 31, said his recruiters were upset and wanted the sign removed. One woman who had just returned from duty in Iraq, he said, found the sign especially disconcerting and impersonal. "It was upsetting to veterans who don't look at their friends and colleagues killed as numbers on a list," he said.

In truth, neither side agrees on what precisely the sign is saying. Each sees its message through its own prism.

Sergeant Capan said he wondered why, if Mr. Cameron was truly trying to send a "pro-veterans" message, he had not instead posted a sign listing how many soldiers had returned home from Iraq safely and placed it somewhere else: an Interstate highway, say, or the Capitol. And Mr. Cameron said he suspected that Sergeant Capan's true fear was not so much the well-being of his recruiters as how the sign might deter potential recruits.

Sergeant Capan dismissed that notion. "Overall recruiting is going well, and this sign has not detracted," he said, adding, "Everybody who's joining the Army knows that there are deaths at war."

Since news of the sign was reported in local newspapers, response has been mixed. A woman from Missouri had two pizzas delivered to reward Sergeant Capan's recruiters, while a veteran wrote to say that the sergeant needed "psychological screening" for even suggesting the removal of a disabled veteran's tribute to "his fallen brothers and sisters."

Mr. Cameron, meanwhile, says he has been asked to make copies of his sign (which he had made for \$100 at a local sign company) and is thinking of marketing them.

For now, the neighbors on Superior Street have agreed to disagree. An offering of cookies by Mr. Cameron was not accepted, Sergeant Capan said, but Sergeant Capan insisted that relations on the street remained polite nonetheless.

"We're going to move on," he said. "We're soldiers." **[No doubt the Sgt. would be more comfortable in Iraq, where the occupation forces simply rip up signs they don't like, and toss people into concentration camps.]**

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

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



[Photo: Children Of Iraq]

[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, 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 home town, right?]

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

**Idiots In Occupation Command
Fuck Up Again:
More Recruiting For The
Resistance**

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

January 12, 2006 by Brian Conley and Isam Rashid, Inter Press Service

BAGHDAD: The Association of Muslim Scholars, a Sunni organisation that was created in the aftermath of the Iraq invasion, was again targeted by the United States military last Sunday. The raid on its mosque served only to alienate Sunnis further.

The Association of Muslim Scholars, now considered the highest Sunni authority in Iraq, has been working to support those who have lost their families, or the unemployed. It is also a strong critic of the United States occupation.

Its stand has provoked several raids by the U.S. army and continuing conflict with the Shia dominated interim government.

This most recent raid appears to have been related to the kidnapping of American journalist Jill Carroll. No one has yet claimed responsibility for her abduction.

The Association of Muslim Scholars has been accused of links with resistance groups in the past, but there is no known connection between the organisation and such groups, or with the abduction of Jill Carroll.

The U.S. forces apparently acted on a tip off from **one** Iraqi. **[OK. So does that mean a tip off from one Iraqi that Rumsfeld is a terrorist spy will get "acted on"? Or was this another brain dead General just looking for an excuse to exercise unparalleled command stupidity?]**

The U.S. forces raided the Umm Al Qura Mosque in the early morning, just two days before Eid al Adha, which concludes the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. The Association offices are based at this mosque.

"At 3:30am the U.S. troops and the Iraqi army raided the mosque," Akram Ahmed, a guard at the mosque told IPS. "Some of the U.S. troops came down from helicopters. They arrested seven guards and Sheikh Yunis Al Ugaidi." The Sheikh is a Sunni religious leader.

U.S. troops were evidently looking for Jill Carroll. "They were looking for secret places in the mosque, and they asked about the American journalist," Ahmed said. "But they didn't find anything about that."

It is difficult to understand why the United States would single out the Association of Muslim Scholars as an initial target in the investigation of Jill Carroll's abduction. The organisation has condemned the taking of hostages in Iraq.

Through the raid, the offices of the Association at the mosque were ransacked. Witnesses said they found graffiti by way of stylized crosses drawn with thick markers.

"The United States troops drew the cross markings inside the mosque, they destroyed everything in the mosque, and took the computers, and the guns which belonged to the guards," Ahmed said.

Several other guards at the mosque corroborated what Akram Ahmed said, but said they wished to remain anonymous.

The Association said in a statement after the attack that the United States was responsible for desecrating the mosque and stealing files with information on their members.

Sunnis have been outraged by the raid. Hundreds gathered at the gardens of the mosque in a demonstration Tuesday. "The attack on the Umm Al Qura mosque is an attack on Muslims and Islam", said one banner.

“Damaging Optimism” “Discourages Junior Commanders From Reporting Unwelcome News Up The Chain Of Command”

[Thanks to D, who sent this in.]

The US army, he says, is imbued with an unparalleled sense of patriotism, duty, passion and talent. "Yet it seemed weighed down by bureaucracy, a stiflingly hierarchical outlook, a predisposition to offensive operations and a sense that duty required all issues to be confronted head-on."

January 12, 2006 by Richard Norton-Taylor and Jamie Wilson, Guardian

A senior British officer has criticised the US army for its conduct in Iraq, accusing it of institutional racism, moral righteousness, misplaced optimism, and of being ill-suited to engage in counter-insurgency operations.

The blistering critique, by Brigadier Nigel Aylwin-Foster, who was the second most senior officer responsible for training Iraqi security forces, reflects criticism and frustration voiced by British commanders of American military tactics.

The US army, he says, is imbued with an unparalleled sense of patriotism, duty, passion and talent. "Yet it seemed weighed down by bureaucracy, a stiflingly hierarchical outlook, a predisposition to offensive operations and a sense that duty required all issues to be confronted head-on."

Brig Aylwin-Foster says the American army's laudable "can-do" approach paradoxically led to another trait, namely "damaging optimism".

Such an ethos, he says, "is unhelpful if it discourages junior commanders from reporting unwelcome news up the chain of command".

But his central theme is that US military commanders have failed to train and educate their soldiers in the art of counter-insurgency operations and the need to cultivate the "hearts and minds" of the local population.

While US officers in Iraq criticised their allies for being too reluctant to use force, their strategy was "to kill or capture all terrorists and insurgents: they saw military destruction of the enemy as a strategic goal in its own right". In short, the brigadier says, "the US army has developed over time a singular focus on conventional warfare, of a particularly swift and violent kind".

Such an unsophisticated approach, ingrained in American military doctrine, is counter-productive, exacerbating the task the US faced by alienating significant sections of the population, argues Brig Aylwin-Foster.

What he calls a sense of "moral righteousness" contributed to the US response to the killing of four American contractors in Falluja in the spring of 2004. As a "come-on" tactic by insurgents, designed to provoke a disproportionate response, it succeeded, says the brigadier, as US commanders were "set on the total destruction of the enemy".

He notes that the firing on one night of more than 40 155mm artillery rounds on a small part of the city was considered by the local US commander as a "minor application of combat power."

The brigadier was deputy commander of the office of security transition for training and organising Iraq's armed forces in 2004. Last year he took up the post of deputy commander of the Eufor, the European peacekeeping force in Bosnia. He could not be contacted last night.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

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

OCCUPATION HAITI

Amazing News:

Brazilian Troops “Are Seen As Foreign Occupiers Or Proxies Of The United States”

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

12 Jan 2006 By Andrew Hay (Reuters)

From army barracks to government ministries and Congress, Brazilians are beginning to look for a way out of a messy U.N. peacekeeping [translation: occupation] mission in Haiti.

"We cannot see a real international effort in Haiti and the U.N. structure is confused," said one high-ranking army officer in Brasilia, who served under Bacellar and asked not to be named. "It's becoming more and more difficult for me to understand why we are deploying troops abroad when we have so many problems with violence and drug traffickers at home."

Brazil jumped at the chance to lead the U.N. force 18 months ago to show it was a regional power worthy of a seat on a revamped U.N. Security Council.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva conditioned leadership of the force on international aid to rebuild Haiti after an armed revolt [translation: the Bush Regime] toppled Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide in February 2004.

Brazilian officers who hoped to mediate solutions with Haitians as fellow Latin Americans face pressure from other U.N. member forces to go into combat against armed gangs.

Peacekeepers [translation: occupation troops] say they are seen as foreign occupiers or proxies of the United States, which helped engineer Aristide's flight.

"It's a complete disaster, you've got troops not able to do anything for the people of Haiti and they're costing Brazil millions of dollars," said Luiz Carlos Hauly, a congressman for the opposition Social Democrats and former president of the lower house foreign relations commission.

"Out of Haiti" read the lead editorial in Brazil's daily Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper on Thursday, which called for the country's 1,200 troops to leave after the election.

"Brazil has to solve its own very basic problems before launching missions to help govern the world," it said.

MORE:

Commander Of Brazilian Occupation Troops Blows His Brains Out



Brazilian Army Gen. Urano Teixeira da Mata Bacellar

January 7, 2006 Associated Press

The Brazilian commander of UN peacekeepers [translation: occupation troops] in Haiti was found dead on the balcony of his hotel room Saturday after shooting himself in the head, authorities said, in a blow to the 9,000-strong force and efforts to restore democracy [translation: prop up the U.S. organized occupation] in Haiti.

UN officials and Haitian police swarmed the upscale Hotel Montana where Lt.-Gen. Urano Teixeira da Matta Bacellar was slumped on a tile floor against the balcony, blood staining his white T-shirt.

A senior UN official confirmed to that Lt.-Gen. Bacellar suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his head.

Outwardly calm and reflective, Lt.-Gen. Bacellar was charged with restoring order **[translation: serving the U.S. Empire]** in this Caribbean country in the wake of the February 2004 bloody rebellion **[translation: Bush regime overthrow of the Haitian government by force and violence]** that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Found wearing boxer shorts and sandals, Lt.-Gen. Bacellar apparently killed himself as the multinational force is under increased pressure to curb violence **[translation: resistance to the occupation]** in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country.

Election officials recently postponed the Jan. 8 election, blaming security problems and delays in distributing voting materials. It was the fourth such postponement of the vote. No new date has been set.

Seven peacekeepers [translation: occupation troops] have been killed in action since the force deployed, according to the UN. The most recent victim, a Jordanian captain, was shot on Dec. 24 outside Cite Soleil.

[The reporter who wrote this was formerly employed by the government of Russian-occupied East Germany, explaining why Germans loved the Russian occupation.]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

BEHOLD THE UNCLEAN ONES



Satan and his companion, the third class Demon Bezuzu, Jan. 5, 2006 at the White House. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

*"The marines that I have had wounded over the past five months have been attacked by a faceless enemy. But the enemy has got a face. He's called Satan."
US Marine Colonel Gareth Brandl.*

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