

GI SPECIAL 4E27:

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOP HOME;
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



Sgt. Major Chris Rodriguez pays his final respects to Sgt. Jose Gomez May 10, 2006, in New York. Gomez died in Baghdad April 28, 2006 when a roadside bomb detonated near his Humvee. The soldier was assigned to the 10th Cavalry, 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

**Support For Iraq War
Hits New Low:
“For The First Time, Fewer Than 4-
In-10 Americans Believe The War
Was Worth Fighting”**

76 per cent of respondents think there have been an unacceptable number of U.S. military casualties in Iraq.

May 19, 2006 (Angus Reid Global Scan)

More adults in the United States are disappointed with their government's decision to go to war in Iraq, according to a poll by TNS released by the Washington Post and ABC News. 62 per cent of respondents think the conflict was not worth fighting, up five points since March.

For the first time since the conflict began, fewer than four-in-ten Americans believe the war with Iraq was worth fighting.

The coalition effort against Saddam Hussein's regime was launched in March 2003. At least 2,454 American soldiers have died during the military operation, and more than 17,900 troops have been wounded in action.

76 per cent of respondents think there have been an unacceptable number of U.S. military casualties in Iraq.

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

Athens Native Killed By Explosive

May. 20, 2006 Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. - Family members of an Athens native killed in Iraq say they're proud of the soldier's service.

Staff Sgt. Marion Flint Jr., 29, was one of two soldiers killed Monday in Iraq by an explosive, according to the Department of Defense.

Flint and Pfc. Grant A. Dampier, 25, of Merrill, Wis., died when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle during combat patrol operations in Baghdad, the Pentagon said in a news release.

Both soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Fort Carson, Colo.

"We're all very proud of his service," said Anita Fleming, sister of Flint's mother, Matlene Christine Flint. "We think that what he did was a real, real honor to us. We really appreciate it."

Flint moved to Baltimore as an adult and was most recently stationed in Garner, N.C., where he lived with his wife, LaShaviea Danielle Flint and their two children, Dyamond, 11 and Malik, 3.

He graduated from Clarke Central High School in Athens, where he played football and basketball.

He was scheduled to complete his tour in Iraq in November.

"He was real serious about what he was doing in Iraq," said another aunt, Pat Ford.

Family members are waiting for Flint's body to be returned to Athens. No funeral arrangements had been set.

Spc. Brandon Teeters Dies In Germany

5/16/2006 By: News 8 Austin Staff

Fort Hood has released the name of a soldier who died from injuries received in Iraq.

Spc. Brandon Teeters, 21, of Lafayette, La., died May 12 in Ludwigshafen, Germany, from injuries sustained April 20 in Baghdad after an explosive device detonated near his Bradley fighting vehicle during combat operations.

Teeters entered the Army in June 2004 and was assigned to the 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. In October 2004 as a Cavalry scout. He was deployed to Iraq in December 2005.

Teeters' decorations and awards include; Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

The Noose Tightens

26 May 2006 By Larry Johnson, Truthout Perspective [Excerpt]

The United States' ability to stay the course in Iraq is threatened by a fragile re-supply line, which runs from Kuwait north to Baghdad. This road runs through the heart of Shia-controlled territory. Everything we need to keep our Army fed and fueled comes up that road.

In The War With Iraq, All That High Tech Gear Don't Mean Shit: The Iraqis Troops Have Their Own Capability: “They're More Effectively Networked Than We Are”

It's at this point, just beyond the edge of the American network, where the guerrillas are best connected. Using disposable cellphones, anonymous e-mail addresses at public Internet cafés, and “lessons learned” Web sites that rival Cavnet, disparate guerrilla groups coordinate attacks, share tactics, hire bomb makers, and draw in fresh recruits.

5.26.2006 Noah Shachtman, with reporting in Iraq by David Axe, Popular Science
[Excerpts]

The mission changes for Charlie Company seconds after the soldiers roll off the base. The dreary night patrol around Balad, a shambling Shi'ite town in north-central Iraq, has just been canceled.

It's time instead to hightail it west, to the Sunni neighborhood of Ad Duluiyah. “Alpha Company is taking direct fire,” a voice crackles over the radio in First Lt. Brian Feldmayer's Humvee. “I need you to expedite.”

Feldmayer, a 24-year-old Virginian with the smooth cheeks of a teenager, tries to straighten out a smile of excitement and nervous anticipation. He stares into the glowing touchscreen at his left elbow. The Army calls this system Blue Force Tracker, or BFT. It's a militarized version of an automotive navigation aid, enhanced to track—and communicate with—other coalition vehicles.

Firmly tapping the screen with his gloved fingers, Feldmayer calls up the grid coordinate just radioed to him and marks it with white crosshairs.

Zooming out, he studies the roads leading there. He plots a course, then radios the rest of his patrol—two tanks, three more Humvees and an Iraqi Army Nissan truck—with orders to haul ass.

It doesn't take long for Feldmayer to regret it.

Nobody on the patrol knows the roads, and he's wary of getting lost.

Ordinarily, on his terminal, he should be able to track Charlie's other BFT-equipped vehicles and follow the route they're taking. But the satellite signal that feeds BFT is weak tonight.

And the lieutenant doesn't exactly trust the system's maps: It can take the Army's cartographers up to a year to update them; in Iraq, a lot can change by then.

Feldmayer curses loudly. He calls his command post for help, but he hears only static.

This wasn't how the 75-man Charlie Company was supposed to operate.

It's part of the Army's first "digital division," the Ft. Carson, Colorado; based Fourth Infantry Division (4ID), outfitted with the military's latest gear: new tanks, firearms and armored vehicles, but also flying reconnaissance drones, advanced sensors, electronic jammers and battlefield data networks. All of which should make the 4ID a model for the Pentagon's vision for the future of combat—"network-centric warfare."

With the right technologies, soldiers should be able to communicate better and have a clearer picture of the battlefield. Their movements become lightning-quick and lethally effective. Think of it as combat on Internet time.

But now, more than three years into sectarian conflict and a violent insurgency that has cost nearly 2,400 American lives, an investigation of the current state of network-centric warfare reveals that frontline troops have a critical need for networked gear, gear that hasn't come yet.

"There is a connectivity gap," states a recent Army War College report. "Information is not reaching the lowest levels."

This is a dangerous problem, because the insurgents are stitching together their own communications network. Using cellphones and e-mail accounts, these guerrillas rely on a loose web of connections rather than a top-down command structure.

And they don't fight in large groups that can be easily tracked by high-tech command posts. They have to be hunted down in dark neighborhoods, amid thousands of civilians, and taken out one by one.

Even in the supposedly wired 4ID, it can take years for frontline soldiers to benefit from the technologies that high-ranking officers quickly take for granted.

The finicky, incompatible equipment that's given to the infantrymen and tank drivers in Charlie Company, the guys who are spending this cold, wet February night on the front, is primitive in comparison with the gear at the sprawling military base outside of Balad, where battalion-level commanders oversee the 300 troops in Charlie and three other companies. There, things are beginning to work like the network-centric theorists predicted, with drone video feeds and sensor data and situation reports flying in constantly.

But to the guys in Charlie Company, this technological wizardry and the Pentagon's futuristic hypotheses seem awfully far away.

There is a simple, but significant, reason why: Bringing frontline infantrymen into the network isn't as easy as wiring up a headquarters. Battlefield gear has to be wireless, durable, secure, and completely effortless to use in the chaos of combat.

The network is slowly expanding to meet the grunts. But the Department of Defense's lumbering process for buying new equipment still virtually ensures that ground-level soldiers won't be linked-in until early next decade.

"The fog, friction and uncertainty of war are still there, same as always," says retired Marine Col. T.X. Hammes, considered one of the leading authorities on counterinsurgency.

"This net-centricity helps some, but it only goes as far as the battalion. After that, these guys are on their own."

Feldmayer radios the tank at the rear of his patrol and orders it to the front of the convoy. It's the latest M1A2 Abrams, one of the most advanced tanks in the world, equipped with new night-vision sensors, thicker armor and BFT's older (and, counterintuitively) more feature-packed cousin: Force XXI Battle Command Brigade-and-Below, or FBCB2.

First built in the early 1990s for Cold War-style conflicts, where armies are tightly bunched together, FBCB2 relies on a classified radio band to communicate. BFT, designed later for more-dispersed, unconventional warfare, uses more-open satellite transmissions; troops can share information at greater distances, but they can't get the kind of secrecy that FBCB2 provides.

The Army is working on a bridge between the two systems so that they will be able to share some basic information, but for now they are mostly incompatible.

Feldmayer won't be able to see where the tank is leading them, and he won't be able to use FBCB2's Instant Messenger-like tool to quickly relay commands. He won't have access to any of the communications links that increase what the Pentagon calls "situational awareness" and that ultimately power network-centric warfare. If the navigation systems were working, every vehicle could split up or speed ahead if an attack came, without getting lost.

But today they will all have to follow the tank's taillights in a neat line, just as it was done in 1944.

Charlie Company takes off, racing toward the fight at Ad Duluiyah. Careening around traffic circles, blowing past checkpoints, the company is primed for combat: weapons loaded, 120-millimeter cannon shells rammed into breaches. Radio-frequency jammers form a protective bubble around the convoy, keeping remote-controlled roadside bombs from detonating. "They better have that shit wrapped up by the time we get there," Feldmayer shouts, "or we're going to blow some shit up!"

Then, suddenly, the lead tank lurches to a halt. Through roiling clouds of dust, illuminated by the tank's headlights, Feldmayer sees a pile of concrete and earth. The lead tank's fancy navigation system has just led them into a roadblock, too tall for the vehicles to climb. A dozen soldiers curse in unison.

By the time Charlie gets to Ad Duluiyah, 45 minutes later, the shooting is over. A dozen Humvees and Bradley fighting vehicles line a muddy road leading to a rickety pontoon bridge that's nearly swamped by a surging stream.

And all those soldiers' chatter is creating cacophony over the Single Channel Ground and Air Radio System, or Sincgars, the radio system connecting the Army's fleet of helicopters and ground vehicles. It's the buzzing, chirping sound of information overload.

An officer from Alpha Company walks over to explain what's going on. Alpha was following up on leads about a stolen Iraqi police truck when the soldiers spotted a suspiciously large gathering of cars in front of a single house. When Alpha got close, Iraqis spilled out, sprinting for their cars and shooting off tracer rounds. Alpha didn't have enough men to pursue.

Now the idea is to start searching houses, one at a time, for insurgents.

Charlie Company is assigned the northwest side of the stream.

Feldmayer tells his tank commanders to use their infrared sights to watch over the foot patrols. Taking a last glance at his BFT, eyeballing the digital representation of the dark, foreboding neighborhood he's about to penetrate, Feldmayer mutters, "Don't need this anymore," and switches the system off.

Picking his way through the crumbling houses of Ad Duluiyah, Feldmayer is tied to the American grid by only the thinnest of threads. There's no way for him to get on any collaborative Web site from here. Most of his men are out of reach, scattered throughout the town. Many don't have radios; traditional Army fighting doesn't call for individual soldiers to be separated from their squad very often.

Feldmayer follows the Iraqi soldiers he's been teamed with across a dark, muddy, pothole-riddled yard. A locked gate bars the way to a group of houses. One of Feldmayer's U.S. soldiers blasts it open with a shotgun, and the men spill into the yard in front of a large dwelling. Soldiers crowd the front door, pounding with closed fists and yelling in Arabic. Women and children dart around corners and disappear into rooms. Tired men scurry outside, obviously spooked.

Feldmayer doesn't like the aggression. "Just take it easy," he tells the Iraqi troops through the patrol's interpreter, to the civilians' palpable relief.

One of the men gathered in the yard gestures to the lieutenant. Feldmayer grabs the interpreter and shakes the Iraqi man's hand. "Salaam," Feldmayer says. The three put their heads together, muttering in English and Arabic.

Suddenly Feldmayer cuts off the conversation and urges the man and the interpreter around a corner. "He says he knows who the bad guys are around here," Feldmayer says.

The interpreter takes notes as the informant rattles off names and addresses.

If the Pentagon's vision of networked forces were realized here, he would be typing into a handheld computer, wirelessly connected to a network. The names would immediately be cross-checked with databases of known guerrillas and disseminated to local commanders.

But for now, the patrol's interpreter writes down the Ad Duluiyah suspects on paper, using a pencil.

It's at this point, just beyond the edge of the American network, where the guerrillas are best connected. Using disposable cellphones, anonymous e-mail addresses at public Internet cafés, and "lessons learned" Web sites that rival Cavnet, disparate guerrilla groups coordinate attacks, share tactics, hire bomb makers, and draw in fresh recruits.

It's an ad hoc, constantly changing web of connections, so it's hard for U.S. spooks to know where to listen in next.

It also lets the insurgents keep a loose command structure, without much hierarchy—just like the network-centric theorists call for.

Even if their communications are compromised, only a small cell is exposed, not the entire insurgency.

"They're more effectively networked than we are," says Hammes, the guerrilla-war expert. "They have a worldwide, secure communications network. And all it cost them was two dinars."

To compensate, some American soldiers are buying their own gear: \$50 Motorola walkie-talkies, so they can talk to their squad mates; \$160 Garmin GPS receivers to make up for FBCB2's gaps.

It's quicker than waiting for the wheels of the Pentagon bureaucracy to turn.

Pencil and paper just won't do.

After hours of barreling down highways, blasting open locked gates, and pressing terrified Iraqis for information, Charlie and Alpha companies trickle home from Ad Duluiyah.

Feldmayer's Humvee is the last to leave, towing the sniper section's broken-down truck. Feldmayer stares into the cold dark of the early morning.

His shoulders sag. In his pocket, he carries the insurgent list he coaxed out of the Iraqi informant. His sergeant gripes about missed firefights. But Feldmayer just nods, his arm draped on the blank screen of the BFT.

REAL BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division at the scene of a car bomb which detonated outside a police station in Sadr City, Baghdad, May 23, 2006. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Assorted Resistance Action

5.26.06 Reuters & AP

Two policemen were killed in a clash in southwestern Afghanistan on Friday, a provincial official said.

The clash erupted after guerrillas ambushed a convoy of police in Ghazni province, southwest of the capital Kabul.

"The clash lasted for several hours," said Abdul Wakil Kamiyab, a senior police official.

Meanwhile, fighting broke out Friday between militants and Afghan security forces in Ghazni province, Gov. Sher Alam said. He didn't know the numbers of fighters involved or any casualty numbers.

TROOP NEWS

Sympathy Flows At Soldier's Funeral In Queens: "Twenty-Five Hundred Of These Around The Country," He Said; "Can You Imagine?"



Maria Gomez tried to find comfort on an Army sergeant first class' shoulder Wednesday in a church in Corona, Queens, during the funeral for her son. Sgt. Jose Gomez, 23, was killed on April 20 by a roadside bomb in Iraq. Behind her was Sergeant Gomez's stepfather, Felix Jimenez, and Marie Canario, the soldier's fiancée.

May 11, 2006 By MICHELLE O'DONNELL, The New York Times

At Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church in Corona, Queens, Mary, the mother of God, weeps at the feet of her son in the mural over the altar. Yesterday, Maria, the mother of Sgt. Jose Gomez of the United States Army, wept from her seat in the first pew.

"You, more than anyone, understand the pain of the mother of Christ," the Rev. Thomas Healy said in Spanish to Maria Gomez, whose slender shoulders slumped into the Army

officer seated to her right as her husband, Felix Jimenez, wrapped an arm around her. "We are all with you in your pain."

But she was really alone and she seemed to know it, weeping and staring blankly at her son's coffin in the center aisle. She had brought him to the United States from the Dominican Republic when he was 3. Twenty years later, on April 20, he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq, during a second tour of duty there.

His death came 31 months after his fiancée, Analaura Esparza-Gutierrez, 21, an Army private from Houston, was also killed by a roadside bombing in Tikrit, Iraq. Three springs ago, Sergeant Gomez had proposed to her. Now both were gone.

Yesterday, church and state rose up, each in its ritualistic glory, to honor the brief life and sudden death of Sergeant Gomez. Father Healy tenderly anointed his coffin with incense, and gave the young man his final blessings. The ladies of Corona — some in veils — filled the pews. Army officers flanked the right side of the church, and a two-star general presented Mrs. Gomez with the purple heart and bronze star that President Bush had authorized her son to receive.

Yet it all seemed to do little to lessen the grief of Mrs. Gomez, who appeared to grow smaller as those by her side supported her.

The loss of Sergeant Gomez hit her especially hard because he had always strived to take care of his mother. He was saving to buy her a house. He had called home on April 19, the day before he died, to have flowers sent to her for Mother's Day.

And he had invented a tale that he was working and studying in Texas to hide the fact that he had been ordered to serve a second tour in Iraq, where the danger had been driven home by Private Esparza-Gutierrez's death.

Father Healy told Sergeant Gomez's family to persevere. His new fiancée, Marie Canario, dabbed her eyes with a sodden tissue.

"Remember Jesus' words," Father Healy said in Spanish and English. "There is no greater love than to give your life for your friends."

Maj. Gen. Bill Grisoli spoke. He called Sergeant Gomez a hero. He read a letter from an officer who wrote how, on April 20, after another Army vehicle was damaged by a roadside bomb in Baghdad, Sergeant Gomez and Staff Sgt. Bryant A. Herlem, 37, had moved their vehicle forward.

"It was in the act of protecting their friends that the second blast occurred," General Grisoli said.

Mrs. Gomez bore it all quietly. All Jose had wanted, she said in an interview last week, was to study mathematics and become an accountant. Raised in Corona, amid a warren of brick and clapboard delis, barbershops and bodegas, Jose quickly learned one uncompromising sum: his family's bank accounts could never support his schooling.

“We’re poor,” Mrs. Gomez had said. She works packaging air fresheners in a factory, and her husband, Mr. Jimenez, is a truck driver. “And if you go in the Army to get your degree, well that used to work out.”

For most of the funeral, Mrs. Gomez kept her head bowed.

The funeral ended, and Sergeant Gomez’s final trip through Queens began. His hearse slipped past the El Nuevo Amanecer restaurant, the Valdez Deli, the mural of the unfurled American flag painted on the side of a building.

Then it was into East Elmhurst, where children played at recess on a rooftop along Astoria Boulevard, and a small jet wobbled its descent to La Guardia Airport. At St. Michael’s Cemetery along the Grand Central Parkway, a leader led mourners down the wrong path. They scurried around the cemetery until they found Sergeant Gomez’s coffin.

It lay on a small hill covered with green burlap. Mrs. Gomez and Ms. Canario sat weeping as a man in an orange shirt led a prayer. Mr. Jimenez wiped his face. The twin wails of mother and fiancée rose above the din of traffic in an inconsolable dirge.

Mrs. Gomez was supported to the side of the coffin.

“Mi Jose! Mi Jose! Mi hijo!” she wailed. “O Dios!”

She sobbed, and added, moaning in Spanish, “Why did it have to be my son?”

At the church, Father Healy said he was concerned about Mrs. Gomez. He stood near the altar, below a statue of the Virgin of Sorrow.

“Twenty-five hundred of these around the country,” he said. “Can you imagine?”



The coffin containing Sgt. Jose Gomez was carried from a funeral home in Corona, Queens, Wednesday, across the street from Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church. Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times

Italy To Withdraw 1,100 Troops From Iraq

May 26, 2006 Associated Press

ROME: Italy will pull 1,100 of its troops from Iraq in June, the new government said Friday, giving its first specific numbers about the planned withdrawal.

"In June we will reduce our troops from 2,700 to 1,600," Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema said during an evening television show.

His announcement came hours after he met with Prime Minister Romano Prodi to map Italy's exit strategy from the U.S.-led coalition.

Most Italian troops in Iraq are in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah.

The "Ridiculously Stupid" Major In The RIANG

4.16.06 Parade.com

Coming Home:

By Ace on 4/20/2006 12:08:53

As the husband of a wife who was involved in combat missions, many of these thoughts [about PTSD] are correct.

But I wondered why the Govt can't keep them on the payroll after the deployment has ended. I think it would help them adjust to a "normal" lifestyle. A normal 8 hour work day and a normal 40 hour work week. Just for a few months.

So I asked a Major in the RIANG and I was told. "It is not in the budget".

How ridiculously stupid is that comment?

Suddenly there is no money available?

Does anyone else think this would be a good idea for them to remain on active duty?

No offense to those full time active duty brothers out there.

Nine More Arrested For Fighting Stryker Deployment

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

May 25, 2006 Fox News

OLYMPIA, Washington: Nine more people were arrested in protests against the delivery of Iraq-bound military vehicles to the Port of Olympia, bringing the total arrested to 16 in three days, police said.

Demonstrators blocked a street to prevent a convoy from reaching the port Wednesday. In contrast to the quiet arrests of six people Tuesday and one Monday, scuffling, shouting and screaming arose as some protesters were carried to a van.

The first of about 20 convoys began arriving Monday from Fort Lewis, between Tacoma and Olympia, with vehicles from the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

The unit, the Army's first Stryker Brigade Combat Team, has about 4,000 soldiers and is being sent to Iraq next month, said Joseph W. Hitt, a Fort Lewis spokesman.

Good News And Bad News: The Good News: Soldiers Are “Lazy, Undisciplined And Disrespectful”: The Bad News: “Soldiers Who Re-Enlist Get Treated Worse Than Privates”

Letters To The Editor
May 29, 2006
Army Times

I am sick and tired of the quality of soldiers the Army has decided to recruit.

I have been in the Army for four years as an infantryman. When I went to basic and Advanced Individual Training, it was 100 percent different than it is now.

I spent 14 months in Iraq and was disappointed by the quality of soldiers in the rear. They were lazy, undisciplined and disrespectful.

I decided to give them a chance but as usual Training and Doctrine Command decided to lower the standards and let everyone in.

Soldiers now get incentive pay when they go to certain units just because they deploy. It's a slap in the face.

I left the infantry because the quantity mattered more than the quality of the soldiers.

I am at Fort Lee, Va., reclassing to 92W.

I have seen things I never dreamed could happen. Before class starts, AIT soldiers run to the vending machines and get sodas, candy, ice cream etc.

The privates talk back, have no discipline, don't even know drill and ceremonies.

They think the Army is a joke.

I have seen my share of combat and am concerned about TRADOC lowering the standards.

How come soldiers who re-enlist get treated worse than privates?

We live in substandard housing, while privates live in two-man rooms with cable, private bathrooms, etc. I guess TRADOC officials think we don't deserve to be treated better because we re-enlisted. Hope they pay attention at how low retention is going to be from now on.

How about treating us like the loyal war vets we are instead of like fish who were hooked and reeled in.

It's time to bring back standards.

What's the next move for TRADOC? Private vehicles and hazardous duty pay in basic?

[For what's the next move, check out the new documentary film about soldiers in Vietnam: Sir! No Sir!]

Spc. Rogelio H. Chevez
Fort Lee, Va.

NY City Cop Thugs Torment Veterans: Mayors' Bullshit "Office Of Veterans Affairs" Won't Do Anything About It

May 26, 2006 By Joseph A. Bello, Nyc.indymedia.org [Excerpt]

The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs supports and coordinates the annual NYC Veterans Day Parade every November.

During the 2005 parade there were two separate incidents of discrimination. The American Veterans for Equal Rights contingent, with three World War II veterans over the age of 90, were pulled out of the line of march, shouted at and insulted.

This incident was in direct violation of New York City non-discrimination laws signed by the Mayor. This incident was witnessed by City Council Member Alan Gerson, a member of the AVER contingent, whose intervention was required to allow the group to proceed.

In a separate incident at the same parade, the Veterans for Peace (VFP) contingent (www.veteransforpeaceny.org) was threatened with arrest and moved out of their assigned position to the end of the parade.

This incident was an apparent attempt to censor their views and in direct violation of the Constitution of the United States, New York State and New York City protections and laws.

Later, both groups were falsely accused of a non-existent disruption, despite the fact that the groups have nothing to do with each other.

The Director of MOVA received complaints but took no action to address these violations.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Muqtada Al-Sadr Demands U.S. Troops Get Out Of Iraq

26 May 2006 FOCUS News Agency

Baghdad. Muqtada al-Sadr called on the Iraqi Parliament to take immediate measures for the withdrawal of the US troops from the country, Iraq's news agency INA reported.

He addressed the US President George Bush urging him to respect the just demands of the Iraqi government and people about the withdrawal of the troops from the country.

Muqtada al-Sadr explained that after the end of political disagreement and the formation of a new government, Iraq doesn't need international help any more.

Assorted Resistance Action

05/26/06 AP & (Reuters) & (KUNA) & Aljazeera

A roadside bomb hit a police patrol at 8:30 a.m. in the northern city of Kirkuk, killing one policeman and wounding four others, police Brig. Khatab Omar said.

Employees abducted from the local Diyala Television station in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, watched militants execute two policemen held with them before being released, one of the hostages said.

An Iraqi soldier and a civilian were injured on Friday due to an attack from unidentified men in Nahyat Al-Riyadh, southwestern Kirkuk.

Iraqi police source told KUNA that the two men were fired at from insurgents driving a golden Opel Omega with hidden number plates. The victims were transferred to the hospital for treatment.

The same source added that a missile fell on the area of Yayaji, near Kirkuk, but no damages were reported.

Unidentified men threw a bomb grenade on a multi-national force's patrol in Al-Huwaija district. No damages were reported.

A bomb exploded near a police patrol near a warehouse in downtown Kirkuk. No casualties were reported.

Also in Kirkuk on Friday, armed men shot dead a police officer and his friend as they were having tea outside his house, police and hospital sources said. Another friend was wounded in the drive-by shooting.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Collaborators Wanted: Help Keep The War Going: Support The Impeachment So The Democrats Can Take Congress And Win The Imperial War

Giving the Democrats freedom to exploit Bush's unpopularity to insure that the next face is not Republican is what Stephen Colbert might call, "rearranging the deck chairs on the Hindenburg."

Those who chose the Anybody-but-Bush path in 2004 appear lined up and ready to once again embrace the Democrats, e.g. the left wing of America's one corporate party.

May 15, 2006 By MICKEY Z., CounterPunch [Excerpts]

There's talk of impeachment making the rounds these days ... and it's not just partisan hyperbole.

As Dave Lindorff and Barbara Olshansky explain in their new book, "The Case for Impeachment," the legal argument for removing George W. Bush from office is clear, present, and urgent.

However, for those seeking peace and justice, there are two reasons why impeachment should only be judged as a means to an end:

1. Impeachment is too good for him. Sure, the planet would breathe a sigh of relief should Dubya get the boot, but why let him off the hook so easily? "The call for impeachment trivializes the crimes," declares journalist Rosemarie Jackowski. "Where is the demand for war crimes trials?"

Good question.

Holding President Bush accountable for his actions is crucial to the health of the state but to stop at impeachment is to maintain the American tradition of Oval Office wrist slapping. After all, Nixon was brought down for his role in the Watergate cover-up-not for, say, his role in bombing Cambodia or overthrowing a democratically elected leader

in Chile. Then, of course, there was the case of Bill Clinton, which brings us to reason #2.

2. Impeachment plays into the hands of the Democrats. “If a Democratic majority is elected to the House in November 2006,” write Lindorff and Olshansky, “we are confident a bill of impeachment will be introduced early in the next Congress.” This, the authors say, is the road to choose if we want to “take back our country, our government, and our rights.”

I wonder, when exactly did we “own” our country, our government, and our rights and why would anyone expect the Democrats (especially those who supported Bush's crimes) to make that happen?

Bill Clinton may have faced impeachment for lying about his adulterous liaisons, but his actions, both global and domestic, over the course of eight years could easily fill a book or two.

What does it mean to “take back our country” if the next president will exploit the position of following Bush to write his (or her) own book of impeachment?

Those who chose the Anybody-but-Bush path in 2004 appear lined up and ready to once again embrace the Democrats, e.g. the left wing of America's one corporate party.

If so, the cycle continues unabated.

The myriad problems we face today are not of George W. Bush's making alone. He is but the current face on a system that needs a complete overhaul.

Giving the Democrats freedom to exploit Bush's unpopularity to insure that the next face is not Republican is what Stephen Colbert might call, “rearranging the deck chairs on the Hindenburg.”

[By now it's common knowledge that Vietnam was stopped in the streets and by the rebellion in the armed forces against that Imperial war. Every minute you spend sucking up to Democrat imperial politicians and campaigning for their pro-Iraq War party merely kills more U.S. troops and more Iraqis.

[If that's what you're doing, guess which side you're on. Not ours. The enemies'. Guess what that makes you. Are you familiar with the word “collaborator”? Duh. T]

MORE:

**United To Fuck Peace And Justice
Defies World Anti-War Movement:**

Sucking Up To War-Loving Democrat Party Takes Priority, As Usual

For example, the national coalition United for Peace and Justice refused to abide by an international call for antiwar demonstrations on the third anniversary of the invasion in March, and instead focused on an April 29 mobilization in New York City for a broad range of liberal causes, with a clear emphasis on electoral politics over antiwar organizing.

At the very time that antiwar sentiment became the majority opinion in the U.S., the biggest national antiwar coalition was toning down the message of the movement to match what its supposed “allies” in the Democratic Party are saying.

May 26, 2006 Editorial, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

Bush’s collapse in popularity is primarily the result of the disastrous occupation of Iraq. But the Democratic Party establishment is determined to present itself as more competent in defending national security than the Republicans, offering proposals to salvage U.S. domination of the Middle East, not end it.

The most “extreme” proposal tolerated by Democratic leaders--one that some in the peace movement have misleadingly labeled “antiwar”--is that of Rep. John Murtha (D-Pa.), who is well known for representing the views of a section of Pentagon officialdom.

Murtha is no peacenik.

His main concern, like his Pentagon backers, is that the Iraq war has damaged U.S. military power--so he wants U.S. troops “redeployed” to other Middle East bases, while U.S. air power is unleashed on Iraq.

UNFORTUNATELY, MANY progressives believe that the future of the struggles they care about is bound up with a Democratic Party victory in November.

Leading voices in the antiwar movement are explicit about it.

For example, the national coalition United for Peace and Justice refused to abide by an international call for antiwar demonstrations on the third anniversary of the invasion in March, and instead focused on an April 29 mobilization in New York City for a broad range of liberal causes, with a clear emphasis on electoral politics over antiwar organizing.

At the very time that antiwar sentiment became the majority opinion in the U.S., the biggest national antiwar coalition was toning down the message of the movement to match what its supposed “allies” in the Democratic Party are saying.

The right wing of the Republican Party has gone off the rails.

In pushing through the viciously anti-immigrant Sensenbrenner bill last December, they sparked off the largest mass social movement in the last quarter decade. Bush's war on Iraq is damaging the wider American imperialist project of safeguarding and promoting U.S. power abroad.

In these circumstances, the Democrats can be relied on to be the "responsible" imperialist party, and to deliver the guest-worker program that is Corporate America's chief priority in the immigration debate.

That is why no movement that hopes to win real change can tie itself or tailor its activities to the Democrats.

They will only be betrayed by a party that answers to a different master.

"The Nazis Called Us Terrorists"

5-19-06 By Peter Phillips [Excerpt] by way of Tom Condit; tomcondit@igc.org

Three years ago I met a Dutch journalist, Willem Oltman, at the International Campaign Against US Aggression on Iraq in Cairo, Egypt.

Oltman described his teen years during World War II in the Dutch resistance movement. "The Nazis called us terrorists," he exclaimed. "Now as the US invades and occupies other countries you do the same thing," he added.

Bush Approves Iran's Nuclear Program

From: Anonymous One
To: GI Special
Sent: May 26, 2006
Subject: Bush approves Iran's nuclear program.

(Headline)

Bush: Nuclear Power Safe, Inexpensive And Environmentally Friendly

POTTSTOWN, Pennsylvania AFP President George W. Bush on Wednesday (May 24 2006) touted nuclear power as a safe, inexpensive and environmentally-friendly way to meet America's growing energy needs.

"Nuclear power is abundant and affordable," the US president said during his brief stop at a nuclear power station here.

"It is a really important way to meet our goals, which is to have abundant, affordable, clean and safe sources of energy," the US president said at the Limerick Generating Station. "Once you get the plant up and running, the operating costs of these plants are significantly lower than other forms of electricity plants, which means the energy is affordable," Bush said.

The US president lamented that a new nuclear power plant hasn't been built "in a long period of time" in America, and said that the time is ripe to change that.

(Article ends here)

Comment:

please excuse me while I laugh

Wow, NO WONDER the Iranians want nuclear technology so bad!

It's safe, abundant, affordable and clean, at least according to Bush anyway!

And judging by how much he likes nuclear power plants, I guess that means he totally approves of what Iran is doing too!

I mean, if it really is safe and clean and whatever, then what the hell's there to be afraid of anyway, eh?

Muslim Bruneian

So Much For Silly Fantasies

Comment: T

The new Iranian government oil bourse has now started trading oil in Euros.

Despite endless hysterical blathering for the past three months about how this would cause the collapse of the U.S. dollar, and be a reason to attack Iran *now*, nothing at all happened to the dollar, or to Iran.

Well, "nothing at all happened" isn't quite accurate. The dollar staged a major rally against gold and other precious metals, meaning the value of the dollar rose. Oil and natural gas prices fell.

Oops.

But that never stopped fools who have no understanding of reality.

The next silly fantasy on offer is that (gasp) the dollar will collapse because Russia is going to start trading oil in Euros and Rubles.

Being completely ignorant of anything to do with political economy, or reality, the fools have no grip on the fact that compared to the trillion dollars a day interbank world currency market, the total proceeds from world oil sales is about as significant as a speck on a gnats' ass.

Requesting A Three Day Pass

May 26, 2006 Joe Balshone, Firebase-Humor

An Israeli soldier who just enlisted asked the Commanding Officer for a 3-day pass.

The CO says "Are you crazy? You just join the Israeli army, and you already want a 3-day pass? You must do something spectacular for that recognition!"

So the soldier comes back a day later in an Arab tank!

The CO was so impressed, he asked "How did you do it?"

"Well, I jumped in a tank, and went toward the border with the Arabs. I approached the border, and saw an Arab tank. I put my white flag up, the Arab tank put his white flag up.

I said to the Arab soldier, "Do you want to get a three-day pass? So we exchanged tanks!"

OCCUPATION REPORT

Fools In Command: Occupation Idiots Go Recruiting For Resistance Again

27 May 2006 Aljazeera

The speaker of Iraq's national assembly condemned what he said was the arrest of the brother of a member of parliament by US and Iraqi forces in a raid on her house on Friday.

Mahmoud al-Mashhadani said in a statement that US and Iraqi forces arrested the brother of Sunni Arab parliamentarian Taysir Awwad at her home.

"I condemn the arrest which violates the immunity of the house because she is a member of parliament," he said.

The US military had no immediate comment.

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

Hundreds Of Mercenaries Threaten To Quit And Go Home After Pay Cut

May 27, 2006 By Liz Chong and Richard Beeston, Times Newspapers Ltd.

HUNDREDS of British security guards in Iraq are being urged to resign en masse next month over a pay dispute that could cripple operations at diplomatic missions and put the safety of officials at risk.

The unprecedented industrial action by staff at Control Risks raises questions about the use of private security companies for tasks such as guarding embassies and convoys and acting as bodyguards for diplomats and aid workers in conflict zones. Since the US-led invasion of Iraq, dozens of private security companies have made hundreds of millions of pounds from dangerous jobs. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office spent £110 million on private security in the first 2½ years after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

But with less money being spent on reconstruction and more security firms competing for the work, the contracts have become more competitive.

Control Risks, whose 450 employees in Iraq provide close protection for British diplomats and aid workers, had its contract renewed by the Foreign Office, but only after it reduced charges by cutting salaries to some frontline staff by 19 to 37 per cent.

Under the new terms a senior team leader, previously paid £340 a day, will earn £275. A second-in-command will see his daily pay fall by more than a third, to £172.

The move prompted a furious response by Control Risks staff, who are recruited mainly from the British military and police. An e-mail obtained by The Times said that there was overwhelming support for mass resignations from June 24.

It said: "We can now count on 68 per cent support from CRG operators in Baghdad alone. This figure may well rise as the news spreads and people on leave check their e-mails. We firmly believe that a figure in excess of 75 per cent resignations is wholly achievable. As support grows in Basra and Kirkuk we hope that similar figures can be called upon. This being the case, then we believe this is enough to make CRG's position untenable regarding the FCO contract."

It added: "Remember that the term 'CRG' in Baghdad no longer means 'Control Risks Group', but is more commonly referred to as 'Cheap Rate Guys', which we find as a slur on our reputation."

The dispute is a blow to Control Risks, which promotes itself as a respectable company in a business that attracts a motley collection of players, including mercenaries and conmen.

Southern Iraq Oil Export Loading Area Burning

May 26 (KUNA)

A fire broke out in an oil supply pipeline at a docking station for oil tankers north of the Arabian Gulf Friday, an oil source said.

The source, asking anonymity, told KUNA the fire resulted from an oil leak in one of the pipelines pumping oil to load oil tankers.

Fire fighters are still fighting blazes in Khour Al-Emmaya inlet, as well as the oil leakage.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

The Bush Traitors Create A New Felony: Annoying The President

[And don't forget the Imperial Democrats in Congress voted for this also. But why not? It smashes "disruption" against their upcoming Presidents too.]

24 May 2006 By Jim Hightower, Hightower Lowdown [Excerpt]

[T]he newly extended Patriot Act creates a new class of federal felon: the disruptor.

This chilling provision, tucked into the bill in January without a hearing or debate, authorizes the Secret Service "to charge suspects with breaching security or disruptive behavior at National Special Security Events."

What is NSSE? An event where the president or other protected official "will be temporarily visiting," such as a public speech, a political rally, an inauguration ball, the Olympics, the Super Bowl or any other event designated by the Secret Service as being of "national significance."

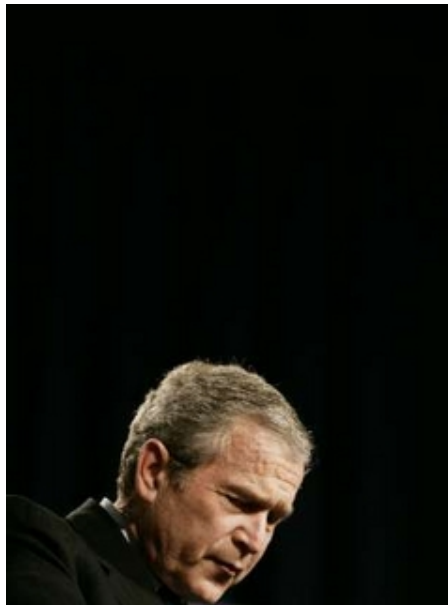
We've seen that simply wearing an anti-Bush T-shirt or having a pro-Democrat bumper sticker is enough to get you branded a disruptor, bounced from a Bush event and thrown in jail.

But this provision broadens the reach of Bush's exclusion zones, sanctions the lockdown on free speech and assembly rights, and turns what was a trespassing misdemeanor into a felony.

Also, you can be considered a disruptor even if the VIP has not arrived at the NSSE or has already left.

Under this provision, not only is the public official protected from "disruptors," but also the NSSE itself becomes the protectee, criminalizing free speech at public events.

**LIAR
TRAITOR
SOLDIER-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND**



Bush March 20, 2006. Three years to the day after they invaded Iraq. REUTERS/Jim Young

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)



[Thanks to David Honish, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to

thomasfbarton@earthlink.net. Name, I.D., address withheld unless publication requested. Replies confidential.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

The following have posted issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

http://robinlea.com/GI_Special/; <http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://qi-special.iraq-news.de>;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/;

<http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>; <http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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