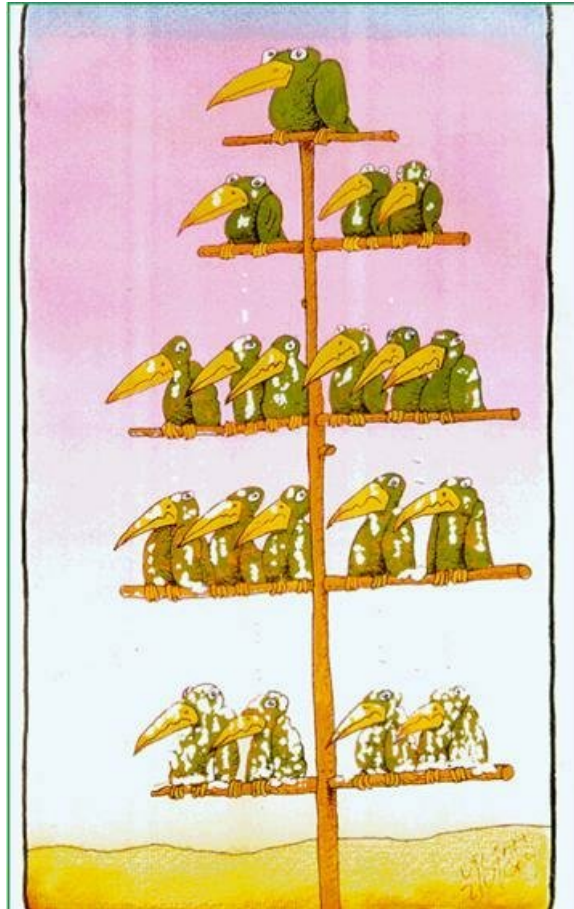


GI SPECIAL 4E8:

THE CHAIN OF COMMAND



[Thanks to Katie Gorell Yung, who sent this in.]

**Take A Trip With Us In A
Time Machine:
See How The Iraq War Was Lost
40 Years Ago**

Lansdale's efforts had had no impact. His intangible considerations were not susceptible to measurement in numbers, making them incomprehensible to a statistician such as McNamara.

And yet, as Lansdale realized, the attitudes that civilians and soldiers had toward each other were more important than military power in determining the outcome of this shadowy conflict.

From: *Death of a Generation; How the Assassinations of Diem and JFK Prolonged the Vietnam War*, by HOWARD JONES; OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2003

De-Americanizing The Secret War: [Excerpt]

The outward show of military force seemingly guaranteed victory in the traditional military sense, but more than superior firepower was necessary, as [General Edward] Lansdale reminded McNamara.

On a piece of graph paper, the defense secretary had compiled a lengthy column of computer entries that focused on manpower, casualty, and weapons statistics. Lansdale gazed at the list and remarked, "You're going to fool yourself if you get all of these figures added up because they won't tell you how we're doing in this war."

McNamara looked puzzled. "Your list is incomplete. Lansdale explained. "You've left out the most important factor of all."

McNamara glanced down at the penciled notations and finally asked "What is it?"

"Well," Lansdale responded, "it's the human factor. You can put it down as the X factor."

McNamara still seemed perplexed but scribbled it onto the paper.

"What does it consist of?"

"What the people out on the battlefield really feel; which side they want to see win and which side they're for at the moment. That's the only way you're going to ever have this war decided."

Seemingly interested, McNamara replied, "Tell me how to put it in."

Unfortunately, Lansdale declared, "I don't think any Americans out there at the moment can report this to you."

McNamara had failed to grasp the meaning of Lansdale's message and prepared to erase the item from his list.

"No, leave it there," Lansdale said, intending to try again to make his point.

A week later Lansdale handed McNamara a long list of questions that MACV [U.S. command in Vietnam] should ask U.S. military personnel intimately familiar with Vietnam.

How did the ARVN [Army of the Republic of Vietnam; the collaborator armed force] treat civilians on a daily basis?

Did the villagers particularly the children, welcome the troops with smiles or resentment.

Did the Vietcong seek reprisals for the ARVN's forceful extraction of information from villagers? What was the number of civilian casualties in military operations? How effective were civilian actions after the ARVN had secured an area from the Vietcong?

How did the ARVN treat Vietcong prisoners?

Did ARVN capabilities compare well with the Vietcong?

In the note's margin, McNamara praised the questions as the "kind info I need & am not receiving."

But his interest was more apparent than real.

"Thank you," he curtly remarked to Lansdale and showed him the door. "I've got something else to do now.

Lansdale's efforts had had no impact.

His intangible considerations were not susceptible to measurement in numbers, making them incomprehensible to a statistician such as McNamara.

And yet, as Lansdale realized, the attitudes that civilians and soldiers had toward each other were more important than military power in determining the outcome of this shadowy conflict.

[It was said of the Bourbon line of French kings: "They had learned nothing and forgotten nothing." Their incompetent, corrupt tyranny ended when the French people rose in revolution and chopped the head off the last one. T]

<p>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.</p>
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IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**REALLY BAD IDEA:
NO MISSION;
HOPELESS WAR:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Army Capt. Joe Claburn looks over a wall for suspected insurgents April 21, 2006 in Ramadi. U.S. soldiers patrolling in Ramadi say that enemy contact is so regular, they can make accurate estimates of how long it will take to be shot at after the start of their patrols. Estimates range from 45 minutes for Claburn's Charlie company to just 8 minutes for some Marines in Western Ramadi. (AP Photo/Todd Pitman)

**MARINE DIES DUE TO ENEMY ACTION
IN AL ANBAR**

5/7/2006 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS
RELEASE Number: 06-05-07CP

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: A Marine assigned to 1st Marine Logistics Group died from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in al Anbar province May 7.

Rochester Soldier Killed in Iraq:

“He Was Really Tired And He Just Wanted To Come Home”

5/7/2006 Kyle Clark, 13wham

For eight years, Tito Torres, Jr. served in the Army Reserves as a citizen soldier.

For the past year, the Bishop Kearney and MCC graduate has been an everyday soldier, stationed outside Baghdad, Iraq.

Torres died Friday, the result of a streetside bomb blast.

Just 29-years-old, Torres loved Latin music and his family above everything else in life.

He was his father's namesake and only son.

Torres' sister Melissa remembers the last phone call she shared with her big brother.

"He said it wasn't anything pretty. It was scary everyday and it was hard work and he was really tired and he just wanted to come home," Melissa Torres said.

He was due home next week. His family was all set to gather in his honor.

Now they're gathering in his memory.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Bizarre At The Bazaar: Military Computer Files Still For Sale; How To Torment Prisoners

April 25, 2006 By Paul Watson, L.A. Times Staff Writer

BAGRAM, Afghanistan: Just days after U.S. troops were ordered to plug a security breach at their base here, the black market trade in computer memory drives containing military documents was thriving again Monday.

Documents on flash drives for sale at a bazaar across from the American military base over the weekend contained U.S. officers' names and cellphone numbers and instructions on using pain to control prisoners who put up resistance. A study guide on one of the drives describes tactics for interrogating and controlling detainees by pinching or striking nerve and pressure points on their face, neck, arms and legs.

Some of the memory drives for sale earlier this month listed the names, addresses and photographs of Afghan spies providing information to U.S. Special Forces.

Some of the drives contained sensitive documents that had been deleted but could be retrieved with software available on the Internet.

Files on some of the drives for sale at the bazaar Sunday had been deleted too. It was not known if any of those drives contained classified information.

Lt. Mike Cody, a spokesman for the U.S. military here, did not respond Monday to a request for comment on the renewed sales of flash drives.

Several more U.S. military drives were on sale at other shops in the bazaar Monday. One shopkeeper said he had been selling pilfered American military flash drives for four years, mostly to young Afghan computer users looking for cheap equipment, but also to some foreigners.

"I may have sold thousands of these flashes since I have come and opened this shop," the shopkeeper said. He asked not to be named because he feared retribution.

A drive for sale Sunday contained numerous U.S. military documents, such as one that listed at least 21 names and cellphone numbers of officers, including the colonel in charge, of a communications unit identified as "CJ6."

On another drive, in a folder titled "Police Study Guides," a document described methods of controlling suspects, such as techniques that "utilize reasonable tactics that do not increase the risk of injury beyond an acceptable level."

Called Pressure Point Control Tactics, they are ones that appear to be taught at many U.S. police academies. It is unclear from the documents on the drive whether they are approved for use by the U.S. military at its main Afghan base in Bagram, which includes a detention center for Al Qaeda and other terror suspects flown in from around the world for interrogation.

The control tactics' five principles include "pain compliance — the use of stimulus pain to control resistance behavior; mental stunning techniques — stimulation of overwhelming sensory input that is sudden, intense and unexpected" and "motor dysfunction — a controlled striking technique which overstimulates motor nerves, resulting in a temporary impairment," the document says.

Shopkeepers say the soldiers who visited the bazaar April 14 seemed especially interested in laptops, so black marketeers are keeping their eyes peeled for what they think is sensitive information that will make them rich.

"An American gave me his phone number and said, 'If you find a computer which is from the base, just give me a call,' " said one.

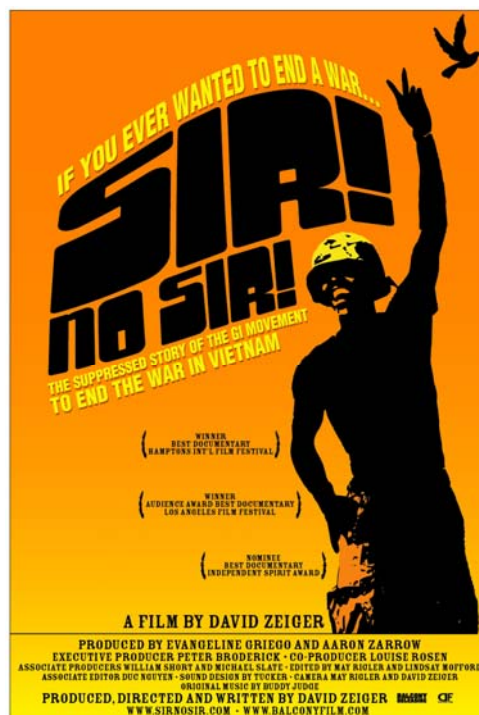
Even if security is tightened again, smugglers will find another way to get flash drives off the base, the shopkeeper predicted.

"If the Americans look under our hats, we will hide things in our shoes, and if they look in our shoes, we will hide them under our hats," he said.

"We are poor people, we have to make money."

TROOP NEWS

“GIs Were At The Forefront Of The Anti-War Movement” “Rebellion Can Take Root In Even The Most Unlikely Circumstances”



April 29, 2006 By John Tarleton, The Independent

One of the Vietnam War's most enduring legacies is the widespread belief that protesters betrayed and later mistreated the soldiers who fought in that conflict.

The reality, that GIs were at the forefront of the anti-war movement by 1970 and were disobeying their commanders en masse, is strikingly different as David Zeiger's eye-opening new documentary Sir! No Sir! makes clear.

Combining Vietnam-era footage and present-day interviews with former GI resisters now in their 50s and 60s, Sir! No Sir! brings back to life a multi-racial, predominantly working-class movement that erupted spontaneously, rocked the U.S. political and military establishment and then disappeared within a few short years.

The movie takes its audience into the barracks and the stockades, the court-martial hearings, the press conferences, protests, underground GI papers and GI coffeehouses, the battlefield carnage and the veterans hospitals and, most importantly, the consciences of the soldiers who decided they would no longer kill for their government.

For many soldiers, the war simply becomes a battle to save their own humanity. One of the most moving moments in the film is the footage of singer Rita Martinson performing "Soldier, We Love You" – a tender salute to GIs who rebel against their commanders – in front of thousands of rapt service members at a show in the Philippines.

One shortcoming of the movie, however, is that it implies that everyone who was opposed to the military brass became an idealistic activist. Crime and substance abuse were other responses to being stuck in Vietnam.

While most of the people interviewed for the film are little known, one familiar face pops up. Jane Fonda is seen performing to wild applause in front of thousands of GIs at F.T.A. ("Fuck the Army") shows held in towns near military bases in 1971-72.

Far from being the traitorous vixen of rightwing demonology, "Hanoi Jane" appears as a passionate advocate for the vast majority of GIs who wanted the war to end.

This and many other scenes in the movie raise a perplexing question: why did this movement disappear so completely from the popular memory to be replaced by the endlessly repeated myth of a "noble cause" betrayed by Hollywood starlets and elitist student protesters?

Sir! No Sir! deals with this only in passing. The implications are enormous as it would have been more difficult to launch the Reagan-era military buildup much less the Iraq War if this country hadn't insisted on learning all the wrong lessons from the Vietnam War.

The film also provokes another important question: Could the military's chain of command break down again, this time in Iraq?

Today's professional, all-volunteer force is better-paid, better-trained and more cohesive than the conscript force that disintegrated 35 years ago.

Nonetheless, Zeiger's film is a timely reminder that rebellion can take root in even the most unlikely circumstances.

Sir! No Sir!:
Extended Until May 9 At The IFC Center
322 Sixth Avenue At West Third Street,
New York City

Advance tickets on sale NOW through the IFC box office

Recording: 212-924-7771

Live box office: 212-924-5246

Online at www.ifccenter.com

Check out the trailer at www.sirnosir.com

Please contact max@riseup.net or celia@riseup.net for posters, postcards and flyers to help promote this event!

MORE:

**Sir! No Sir! Is Playing NOW In
Selected Theaters Nationwide!!!**

The long awaited theatrical release of Sir! No Sir! is underway! The film is playing NOW in New York, Denver, Fort Lauderdale, Madison, and the Los Angeles area (Santa Monica, Pasadena and Irvine) and is set to open in dozens of cities in the coming weeks.

From Fairbanks, Alaska to Boise, Idaho, communities across the USA are getting a chance to see this powerful new documentary film, which reveals the suppressed history of the GI movement to end the war in Vietnam.

The inspiring efforts by active duty military and returning vets to work for peace is a potent piece of history with incredible relevance for the present and the future!

Find a screening in your area at <http://www.sirnosir.com/>

The film rolls out across the nation over the coming weeks, so stay tuned to our website, and sign up on our homepage at <http://www.sirnosir.com/> for updates on the theatrical screenings and our DVD release, planned for late summer.

Sir! No Sir opened to **SOLD OUT** shows in New York, and got great reviews, including this front page story in the Arts Section of the NY Times and **TWO THUMBS UP!**® from Ebert & Roeper.

And check out our website to find other reviews of the film at www.sirnosir.com/home_filmpress_current.html

Spread the word!

Peace,
Celia Alario for the Sir! No Sir! team
celia@riseup.net

MORE:

Sir! No Sir! Opens May 12th In Atlanta!!!

Sir! No Sir! opens in Atlanta for at least a week **FRIDAY MAY 12th!**

This powerful new documentary film reveals the suppressed history of the GI movement to end the war in Vietnam. The inspiring efforts by active duty military and returning vets to work for peace is a potent piece of history with incredible relevance for the present and the future!

See it in Atlanta starting May 12th:

**LANDMARK MIDTOWN ART THEATRE
931 MONROE DRIVE, ATLANTA, GA
(678) 495-1424 www.landmarktheatres.com**

Check local listings or the theater website for showtimes and advance ticket sales!

And join Jane Fonda and Director David Zeiger IN PERSON on opening night (Friday May 12th) for Q&A sessions following the evening shows.

They will be joined by Vietnam era vets and Iraq war vets from Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War!!!

Silliest Bullshit Of 2006, So Far

May 01, 2006 By Gordon Lubold, Army Times staff writer [Excerpt]

The people who run the organization charged with defeating improvised explosive devices in Iraq and Afghanistan say they are doing everything possible to eradicate the threat and protect service members.

They just can't tell you how.

That still doesn't make the task easier, said Army Brig. Gen. Daniel Allyn, deputy director for the organization, in a rare interview April 20.

"We will defeat this threat; we are making significant progress," he said in his Arlington, Va., office near the Pentagon.

The Cancer Spreads

May 01, 2006 Army Times

Military spending is consuming more tax dollars while job training, environment, housing and veterans' programs are taking up less, according to the nonpartisan research group National Priorities Project.

Since 2000, the share of income tax revenue going to the military has increased by 20 percent while it has dropped by 21 percent for job training, 19 percent for the environment, 7 percent for federal housing and 2 percent for veterans' benefits.

"62% Of Canadians Opposed Sending More Troops To Afghanistan"

27-Apr-2006 By Sid Shniad, Vancouver Free Press [Excerpt]

It is not unusual for invader-occupiers to describe their efforts as humanitarian initiatives. Britain, which waged three bloody wars to colonize Afghanistan, insisted throughout that it was supporting the country's legitimate leaders against foreign interference.

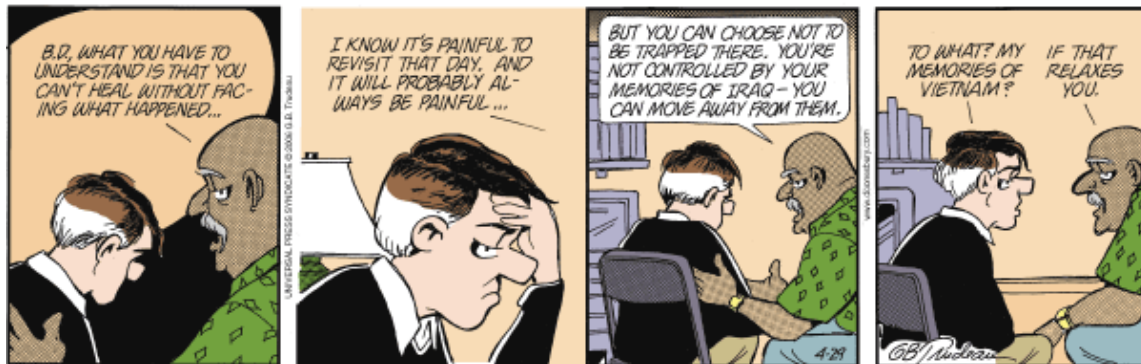
Sixty years after the British left, the Soviets tried their hand at subduing Afghanistan. Years later, Nelofer Pazira, an Afghan author now living in Canada, travelled to Russia to interview Soviet officers who had fought in her country. These officers denied they had been part of an occupation. They firmly believed that theirs had been an effort to provide the country aid and stability.

In yet another intervention designed purely to help the people of Afghanistan, the Canadian military mission there is being expanded. Ottawa has spent more than \$2 billion on the mission to date. More than 7,000 Canadian military personnel have served

there during the past four years. In that time, Afghanistan has become a major focus of Canadian military and foreign policy.

Despite the Harper government's sales job, Canadians appear skeptical about the merits of expanding the military venture.

In February, a Globe and Mail/CTV poll found that 62 percent of Canadians opposed sending more troops to Afghanistan. A different poll, published in March by the Winnipeg Free Press, found that 83 percent of Canadians opposed expanding our military deployment there.



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

Americans Disapprove Of Mr. Bush's War Policies By Roughly 2 To 1; "60% Of Americans Find Oil Companies Responsible For Rising Gas Prices"

In the wake of record oil-industry profits, some 60% of Americans find oil companies responsible for rising gas prices, far outpacing the proportion who blame oil-producing nations, President Bush or Congress.

4.27.06 By JOHN HARWOOD, The Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

RISING GAS PRICES have intensified discontent with Washington land handed Congress a frightening midterm election backdrop: a deeply pessimistic electorate, despite a robust economy.

Moreover, the fruits of the economy's recent strength aren't evenly shared: Workers at the bottom and the middle are benefiting less than those at the top.

Richard Curtin, who oversees the University of Michigan's consumer-confidence surveys, says the gap between views of the economy among those who make

more than \$50,000 and those who make less is wider than it has ever been in the university's polling.

Especially for those with moderate incomes, says Mr. Hart, the Journal/NBC pollster, gas prices "are the real numbers that people are living with."

The poll also explains why oil companies suddenly find themselves in the cross hairs of political debates over potential price-gouging and even windfall-profits taxes.

In the wake of record oil-industry profits, some 60% of Americans find oil companies responsible for rising gas prices, far outpacing the proportion who blame oil-producing nations, President Bush or Congress.

Yet the toll on Mr. Bush is reflected in his 36% approval rating, the lowest he has ever received in the Journal/NBC survey, and the 35% positive mark on handling the economy.

Amid continued violence in Iraq and a looming confrontation with Iran over its nuclear ambitions, Americans disapprove of Mr. Bush's handling of foreign policy by roughly 2 to 1.

Approval of the job Congress is doing has plummeted to 22%, from 33% just last month.

That's worse than the marks a Democratic-controlled Congress received at a similar point in 1994, the year Newt Gingrich led Republicans back to power in Capitol Hill.

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.

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)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Fighter Takes A Knee



5.7.06: An Iraqi insurgent assumes firing position in Ramadi. (AFP/Azher Ahmad)

Assorted Resistance Action



5.7.06: The printing plant of the state run al-Sabah newspaper following a car bomb attack on the site, in Baghdad. The newspaper favors the U.S. occupation regime. (AFP/Ahmad al-Rubaye)

May 7 AFP & By TAREK EL-TABLAWY, Associated Press Writer

A car bombing was reported in the Adhamiyah neighborhood against an Iraqi army patrol. Ten people were killed 15 wounded, most of them Iraqi soldiers, police Lt. Col. Falah al-Mohammedawi said.

Fierce clashes broke out early Sunday between guerrillas and police in the southwestern Baghdad neighborhood of Saydiyah. The hour-long fighting left three policemen wounded.

A roadside bomb hit a police patrol in eastern Mosul, killing three policemen and wounding another, said police Maj. Gen. Wathiq Mohammed Abdul-Qadir.

A car bomb elsewhere in the capital missed a police patrol but exploded near the offices of the state-run al-Sabah newspaper, killing a civilian, police Lt. Ahmed Mohammed Ali said.

A police sergeant was shot to death in a drive-by shooting as he was leaving home in the mainly Shiite eastern Baghdad neighborhood of Kamaliya.

A car bomb killed two policemen and an Iraqi soldier about 30 miles north of Baqouba.

Two Iraqi soldiers and three insurgents were killed in a firefight near Youssifiyah, 12 miles south of Baghdad.

Authorities in Baghdad said the bodies of six policemen, were found in and around the capital

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**“I Witnessed The Vets Defying
An Order Of The US Supreme
Court”**

**“Nixon Just Could Not Order
The Arrests Of A Thousand
Vets”**

[35th Anniversary Of Dewey Canyon III, April 22, 2006]

From: Mike Hastie [Vietnam Veteran]
To: GI Special
Sent: April 26, 2006
Subject: Brian-Dewey Canyon III

I thought you might be interested in this letter from Brian Willson. He sent it to our VFP group when we had a ceremony to mark the 35th anniversary of Dewey Canyon III.

At the end of the ceremony, we burned the U.S. Patriot Act.

Mike

35th anniversary of Dewey Canyon III, April 22, 2006

I was discharged from 4 years in the Air Force in August 1970. With my new wife, I immediately returned to Washington, D.C. to complete law school (interrupted by a draft notice in 1966, leading me to enlist in the AF) while working for the Public Defender Service.

With my wife's income as a lawyer we purchased a home in quaint Georgetown (of all places).

No one could have known that I was experiencing internal "awareness shock" from my 151 days in Vietnam where I witnessed atrocities from systematic daylight bombings of inhabited villages, and was privy to intelligence information about massive numbers of murders by both South Vietnamese and U.S. military, as well as systematic village crop destruction with Agent Blue.

I had been ordered back to the U.S. after expressing my opposition to the bombings, which was "not cool."

Dewey Canyon I military operations were concluding in Laos the week I arrived in VN in March 1969.

The weight of what I had learned and experienced was literally beyond my comprehension and I could not talk about it, even though personally I had only been in danger from mortaring.

I felt like I possessed a huge secret that I could not share with anyone, including my very anti-war wife. People would not understand, I believed, even if I could begin to describe (which I could not at the time) the policy of atrocity of atrocities that I had witnessed.

Then, like a miracle, I heard or read in the news about Vietnam Veterans Against the War arrival in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, April 18, 1971.

My God, anti-war vets actually coming to where I live!

Their action was called Dewey Canyon III (DCIII), "a limited incursion into the country of Congress" (I still possess one of the large posters advertising DCIII), named after US military code names for the first and second invasions of Laos in 1969, and 1971, respectively, the latter concluding only two weeks prior to DCIII.

After work on Monday, April 19, I walked the 3 or 4 blocks from my office to the Dewey Canyon III encampment and found a thousand or more scraggly, long-haired vets in camouflage, meeting in various caucuses by geographical region, and in plenary.

I was ecstatic!

I just couldn't believe it!

It was too good to be true!

I spent my after work and school hours that week, not in my comfortable home in Georgetown, but on the mall with the vets.

Though I had long hair and a beard myself, I was conscious not to reveal much about myself, and did not want the vets to know that I had been an Air Force officer in Vietnam, that I lived in a comfortable home, had a good job, and that only by serendipity had I even learned that VVAW was planning this week of political events in Washington.

Strangely, I did not believe then that I was an authentic veteran. But these vets were expressing exactly what I felt, and I was experiencing validation for my own radical paradigm shifts that originated in epiphanies in Vietnam.

On Wednesday evening, April 21, I witnessed the vets defying an order of the US Supreme Court that upheld a lower court decision denying our rights to be encamped on the mall, then watched Nixon politically paralyzed from ordering our arrests.

Ramsey Clark had argued the case for the vets. It was an incredible moment in history when moral authority overruled the highest law of the land. Nixon just could not order the arrests of a thousand vets, who remained on the mall for the remainder of the week.

Then, the next day, Thursday, I stood in the back of U.S. Senator Fulbright's Foreign Relations Committee hearing room crying as I listened to John Kerry's powerful, now famous anti-war speech.

Then to cap it off, on Friday, April 23, a day I will never, ever forget, I witnessed nearly a thousand veterans throwing their medals over a chicken wire fence erected by the US park Police protecting the west steps of the US Capitol building

from being struck by what the veterans were effectively saying were medals of dishonor, drenched in the blood of the innocent.

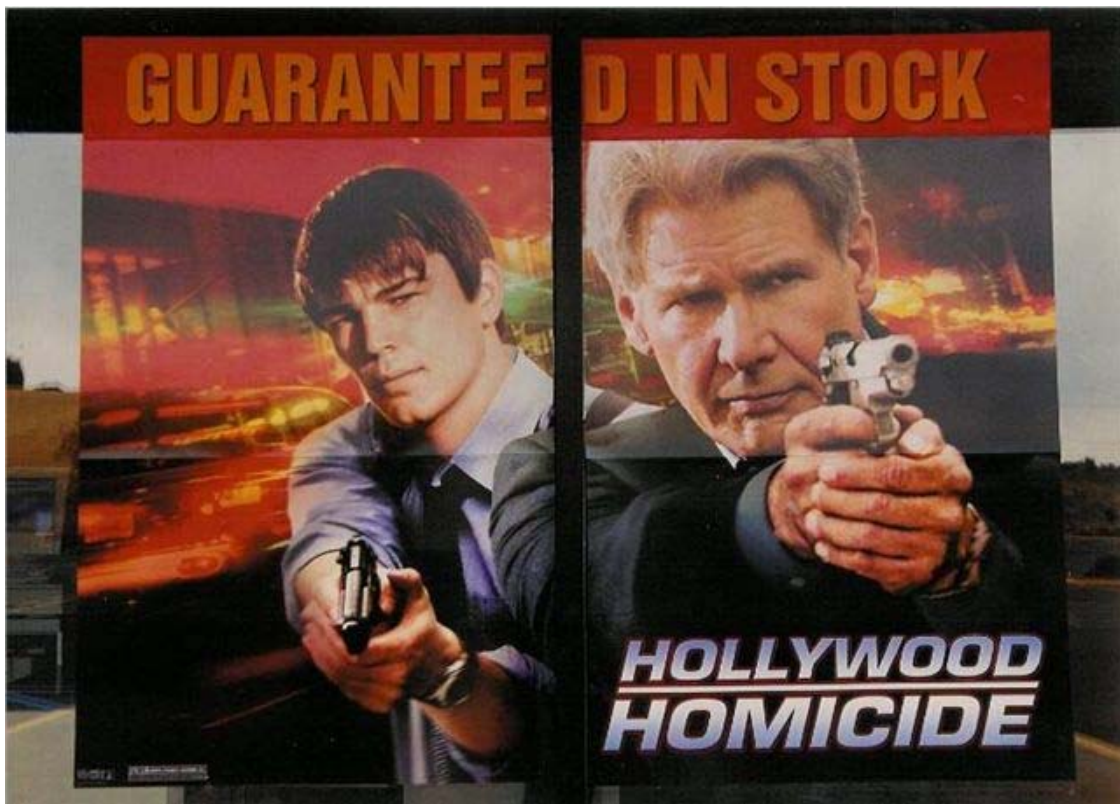
(I had received no medals to throw).

I was crying from feelings of validation and awe as I watched this incredible history happening before my very eyes.

That week remains an emotional high for me to this day, 35 years later, and will remain with me forever.

S. Brian Willson
USAF, 1966-1970;
VN 1969, head of a USAF combat security unit
Separated as Captain, "honorably"

What The American People Know About War, You Could Stick In A Thimble



From: Mike Hastie

To: GI Special

Sent: May 07, 2006 9:21 PM

Subject: What The American People Know About War, You Could Stick In A Thimble

The elite in this country have the conscience of a Charles Manson, only they have aircraft carriers. That's the mentality we are dealing with. Mobster behavior is Mobster behavior.

The Freedom Fighters in Iraq have an answer to U.S. terrorism in THEIR country, it's called an AK-47, and an Improvised Explosive Device.

Nothing has really changed since Vietnam.

My greatest revelation from Vietnam, was the realization that I was the enemy in Southeast Asia.

Thirty-five years later, that insight has not changed one bit.

Now, the people who are dying in countries as a result of American occupation, are connected to me. That is what happens when you become a Global Citizen.

I don't deserve a medal for being non-violent. Can you imagine what OUR behavior would be like if we lost our entire family to a U.S. Air Strike.

As much as I would like to pride myself in the intellectual insight I may have about what is happening in Iraq, seeing one of my children gutted by a U.S. weapon might just change my strategy toward life.

Turn the rifle just a little to the right, and I might have a whole new insight into human behavior, and my reaction to it.

I wonder what it is like to bury your entire family on a sunny day.

If this happened to me, I might just sell everything I own, and find an outlet for my anger.

What the American people know about war, you could stick in a thimble.

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
May 7, 2006**

Photo from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

Self-Defense 101:

“Milk, It Does A Body Good”

From: David Honish, Veterans For Peace
To: Thomas Barton
Sent: Sunday, May 07, 2006 2:47 PM
Subject: Milk, It Does a Body Good

Some confused individuals may still be suffering from the delusion that the USA is a democracy. It is not, it is a Constitutional Republic. Nothing illustrates this better than the current war in Iraq. The majority of US voters feel that they were lied to about nonexistent WMD's by the Bush administration to justify this illegal war.

The majority of voters, and active duty military personnel, WANT THE USA OUT OF IRAQ NOW! And yet, a bunch of mostly elderly white men, of both the democratic and republican parties, continue to vote funds to keep the war going.

This is clearly not a democracy, but rather decision making by the elite who have their campaigns financed by corporate contributions.

As we have seen, what is good for Halliburton is very bad for the Pfc that wants to survive to his 21st birthday, or for the Colonel who is concerned about his degraded readiness and ability to defend the nation.

As the majority who wish to end this war continues to increase, those who control the government may become increasingly desperate to maintain control and impose the corporate will upon the people.

Street politix in opposition to the government may become less of festive events for the independent thinkers, and more of muscle flexing by an authoritarian government.

We may expect to see increasingly harsh oppression of our First Amendment Rights by those who are supposed to be enforcing this law.

Which brings me to my point.

As anyone who has used capsaicin cream for arthritis pain can tell you, washing with soap and water only makes the hot pepper chemical burn worse.

Conversely, if one is eating some Mexican food that has more hot peppers in it than they can tolerate, a little cheese or sour cream on your taco will mitigate the chemical burn.

Any dairy product chemically neutralizes the capsaicin in hot peppers.

So if the local cops are enforcing government policy instead of The Constitution by using pepper spray, you want to wash your face and other exposed areas with milk.

If conflict is anticipated at your next street politix event, it would be a good idea to take one of those half pint cartons of milk along with you, just in case.

Even if the cops behave themselves, you can always drink it.

Overheard/Comment

From: Alan Stolzer
To: GI Special
Sent: Thursday, May 04, 2006
Subject: Overheard/Comment

Two postal workers overheard discussing a third 5.3.06 at the New York City post office on 42nd St between 8th and 9th.

#1 He did what!

#2 That's what he said.

#1 He can't be going back there!

#2 They sent him a letter.

#1 What letter?

#2 If he re-enlists they're gonna send him to a place with a beach somewhere.

#1 What beach?

#2 He'd be crazy.

#1 Let me tell you something. Them bastards are hard up.

#2 He's 43 years old. I know it!

#1 They're desperate!

#2 Some beach. As soon as he signs it's back to Iraq.

#1 We're at war.

#2 That's what I'm trying to tell him.

#1 Lemme tell you, if he goes back he deserves it cause that's what stupid is.

#2 War's no walk in the park.

#1 Them people are desperate.

“We Are Greeted Each Day By The Reality That Someone Wants Me Dead Today”

“Pretty in Pink” (the Marines’ choice) makes me reflect on the silly movies that brought happiness to my wife when we were dating. It makes me think of the movies I endured to make her happy and how I’d do it all over again if I had the chance.

Letters To The Editor
May 01, 2006
Army Times

I am writing in response to “DVDon’ts” in the April 3 Army Times. The article assaulted the video preferences of soldiers, Marines and sailors who reside at certain ZIP codes.

I would submit to you that a video rental does not reflect what a person is but rather what a person is not.

For example, if I were a writer who sat at a desk and experienced life only through others, I would try to forget that by renting a video that represents what I would like to be, such as “Full Metal Jacket” or “The Green Berets.”

When we deploy to areas of the world where the opposition wants a violent end for us, we don’t want to relax at home by seeing a video of another’s violent end. We would prefer something that makes us laugh or feel nostalgic. We want to remember family members the way they were before we left them. We want to see life, not death; happiness, not sadness; fantasy, not reality.

We are greeted each day by the reality that someone wants me dead today. Someone else’s idea of a good day will be for my wife to become a widow, my children to lose their father, my bunk to be empty. I don’t need to be reminded of that.

“Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron” (the soldiers’ choice) reminds me of the joys of childhood. It reminds me of the things that make my children laugh. It even shows me the satisfaction of triumph over adversity.

“Pretty in Pink” (the Marines’ choice) makes me reflect on the silly movies that brought happiness to my wife when we were dating. It makes me think of the movies I endured to make her happy and how I’d do it all over again if I had the chance.

None of them remind me that my buddies’ blood now stains my battle-dress uniform.

They don't make me reflect on my day and how I wish the bunk next to me was occupied, even though I complained this morning of the snoring that came from it.

They don't remind me that there is a good possibility that someone else will have to raise my kids, provide for my widow and feed my dog.

What does your article do for me?

It does the same thing as "Bridget Jones's Diary" does for the sailors in Norfolk. It makes me laugh and helps me find joy, where joy can't readily be seen.

Thanks for the satirical writing.

Thanks for helping me forget the ugliness of the world and allowing me to see the silliness of my brothers in arms.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Richard Jason Jones
Fort Rucker, Ala.

...And You Thought Your Job Was Shitty?

May 07, 2006 From: Joe Balshone, Firebase-Humor

A C-141 cargo plane was preparing for departure from Thule Air Base in Greenland, and they were waiting for the truck to arrive to pump out the aircraft's sewage holding tank.

The Aircraft Commander was in a hurry, the truck was late in arriving, and the Airman performing the job was extremely slow in getting the tank pumped out.

When the commander berated the Airman for his slowness and promised punishment, the Airman responded, "Sir, I have no stripes, it is 20 below zero, I'm stationed in Thule, and I am pumping sewage out of airplanes. Just what are you going to do to punish me?"

Clarification

[NOTE WELL: The quote below is part of a comment that appeared in GI Special Forward Observations section last week.

[Responding to a request to clarify: this comment did not mean that IVAW speakers were not allowed on a speaker's platform while other speakers were.

[The fact is that there were no speakers platform at all for Iraq Veterans or anybody else at the April 29 UFPJ rally. Just a march and a "Peace Fair." But then any of the 250,000 people there already knows that.

[And her point about a continuing failure to bring Iraq vets front and center on rally speakers' platforms has been and is 100% on target. T]

"The Voices Of Veterans, Especially Those Of IVAW, Was NOT Heard From Any Formal Speaker Platform On The 29th"

From: Alycia A. Barr

To: GI Special

Sent: May 02, 2006 8:43 AM

Subject: WHAT????

Just for the record, the voices of veterans, especially those of IVAW, was NOT heard from any formal speaker platform on the 29th...ya know, just to let the American people know how those who have been there view this illegal, and immoral war.

But, what the hell, how important could that be?

In Peace and Humanity,
Alycia A. Barr

OCCUPATION REPORT

DEATH SQUADS 'R U.S.

05/04/06 By John Pilger, Information Clearing House [Excerpt]

The ministry of the interior in Baghdad, which is run by the CIA, directs the principal death squads. Their members are not exclusively Shia, as the myth goes. The most brutal are the Sunni-led Special Police Commandos, headed by former senior officers in Saddam's Ba'ath Party.

This unit was formed and trained by CIA "counter-insurgency" experts, including veterans of the CIA's terror operations in central America in the 1980s, notably El Salvador.

According to the investigative writer Max Fuller (National Review Online), the key CIA manager of the interior ministry death squads "cut his teeth in Vietnam before moving on to direct the US military mission in El Salvador". Professor Grandin names another central America veteran whose job now is to "train a ruthless counter-insurgent force

made up of ex-Ba'athist thugs". Another, says Fuller, is well-known for his "production of death lists".

A secret militia run by the Americans is the Facilities Protection Service, which has been responsible for bombings. "The British and US Special Forces," concludes Fuller, "in conjunction with the intelligence services at the Iraqi defence ministry, are fabricating insurgent bombings of Shias."

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**Combine Knuckle-Dragging Idiots,
Badges And Police State Tactics:
What Do You Get?
“Glazed Hams Are Safe In Dekalb
County”**

05/03/06 By David E. Kaplan, U.S. News & World Report

In the Atlanta suburbs of DeKalb County, local officials wasted no time after the 9/11 attacks. The second-most-populous county in Georgia, the area is home to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the FBI's regional headquarters, and other potential terrorist targets.

Within weeks of the attacks, officials there boasted that they had set up the nation's first local department of homeland security. Dozens of other communities followed, and, like them, DeKalb County put in for--and got--a series of generous federal counterterrorism grants. The county received nearly \$12 million from Washington, using it to set up, among other things, a police intelligence unit.

The outfit stumbled in 2002, when two of its agents were assigned to follow around the county executive. Their job: to determine whether he was being tailed--not by al Qaeda but by a district attorney investigator looking into alleged misspending.

A year later, one of its plainclothes agents was seen photographing a handful of vegan activists handing out antimeat leaflets in front of a HoneyBaked Ham store.

Police arrested two of the vegans and demanded that they turn over notes, on which they'd written the license-plate number of an undercover car, according to the American Civil Liberties Union, which is now suing the county.

An Atlanta Journal-Constitution editorial neatly summed up the incident: "So now we know: Glazed hams are safe in DeKalb County."

Glazed hams aren't the only items that America's local cops are protecting from dubious threats.

U.S. News has identified nearly a dozen cases in which city and county police, in the name of homeland security, have surveilled or harassed animal-rights and antiwar protesters, union activists, and even library patrons surfing the Web.

No Flowers Today: Rice Welcomed To Greece With Petrol Bombs



Protesters tried to break through a police cordon to get at Rice.

[Thanks to A, who sent this in. He writes: The Europeans have taken protesting to a whole new level.]

25 April 2006 Aljazeera

Condoleezza Rice, the US secretary of state, has won no public pledge of support from Greece for punitive sanctions against Tehran, amid protests by thousands on the streets of Athens against her visit.

Rice met Costas Karamanlis, the Greek prime minister, and Dora Bakoyanni, her Greek counterpart, on Tuesday as part of a five-day trip to Europe that includes Turkey and Bulgaria.

As anti-American riots raged near her ministry, Bakoyannis said Iran had to provide "sufficient assurances" that it would not pursue a military nuclear programme.

Riot squads fired tear gas at masked youths hurling petrol bombs and rocks after they tried to break through a police cordon to reach the building where Rice was meeting with Bakoyannis.

The youths set fire to a delivery van and smashed store fronts in one of Athens' premier shopping areas as they were chased by police away from central Syntagma Square.

"This is an anti-war rally," said protester Panayiotis Hiundis, 26, a schoolteacher.

"We are not protesting just against Rice, but the imperialist, war-mongering US government."

A Noble Sacrifice

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

Apr. 23, 2006 San Jose Mercury News:

Two Candidates To Hang With Bush

Your headline "2 San Jose State University students to hang with Bush" (Page 1B, April 20) struck me immediately.

That's a noble sacrifice if they are willing to make it, but couldn't we hang Cheney and Rove with him instead?

Robert Dennis
San Jose

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Capitalism At Work:

“Adjusted For Inflation, The Average Working Person In The US Earns Less Than 30 Years Ago”

04/25/06 By Stephen Lendman, Information Clearing House [Excerpt]

Over the past generation working people have seen an unprecedented fall in their standard of living.

In the past (except for periods of economic downturn), workers saw their wages and benefits grow each year and their living standards improve.

Today it's just the opposite. Adjusted for inflation, the average working person in the US earns less than 30 years ago, and even with modest annual increases is not keeping up with inflation.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

The following have posted issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/qispecial/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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