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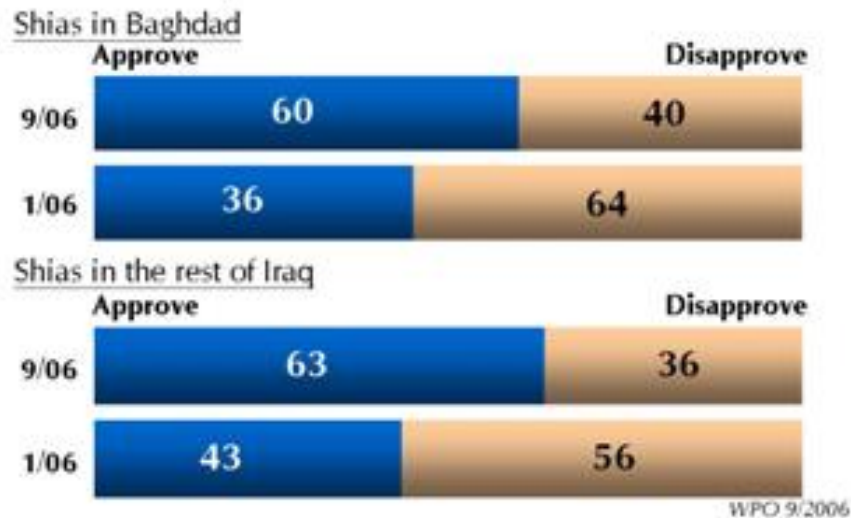


Majority Of Shia Say Kill U.S. Troops Now

[A majority of Sunni have been for killing U.S. troops for months. Now the Shia have swung over to the same action plan. That would seem to be a subtle indication that it's time to get the fuck out. The majority has spoken.]

Attacks on US-Led Forces

Do you approve or disapprove of the following: Attacks on US-led forces in Iraq



November 22nd, 2006 Worldpublicopinion.org [Excerpts]

All Shias polled in Baghdad (100%) believe that the U.S. military presence is “provoking more conflict than it is preventing.” Outside of Baghdad, this view is slightly less common: 74 percent of Shias in the rest of the country say the presence of U.S. troops provokes conflict while 25 percent say the troops are a stabilizing force.

At the same time, the number of Shias who approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces has jumped 24 points.

In January, about a third of Shias (36%) polled in Baghdad expressed approval of such assaults. By September, the proportion of Shias in Baghdad saying they approved of striking American-led forces had risen to 60 percent. In the rest of the country, Shia support for attacking foreign troops rose 20 points, from 43 percent to 63 percent.

Shibley Telhami, a Middle East expert at the University of Maryland called the increase in support for attacks on U.S.-led forces disturbing, adding that he has found similar trends in polls he has conducted in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates.

“What’s most troubling is that the United States is not only seen in a negative light but as an enemy,” Telhami said. “When asked to name the two countries that pose the greatest threat, the vast majority, about 80 percent, name the United States and Israel.”

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

“No, It’s Not Worth It,” 1st Sgt. Says: ‘People Are Up In Arms’ Major Says [As Falluja Rises Again]

November 24, 2006 By Scott Peterson, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor
[Excerpts]

FALLUJAH, IRAQ: From Observation Post Blazer, marines view Fallujah through a thick sheet of bullet-proof glass, already tested with numerous impacts.

Or they stare through night-vision goggles or a thermal imaging scope that can pick up the heat of a dog hundreds of yards away.

The marines still patrol key roads.

But with just 300 marines, the US military footprint is smaller in this Sunni stronghold of more than 300,000 than it has been in two years.

"A lot of us feel like we have our hands tied behind our back," says Cpl. Peter Mattice, of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment. "In Fallujah, (insurgents) know our (rules of engagement) - they know when to stop, just before we engage."

During this transition, frustration runs deep in this fortified bunker, and at a handful of posts that now dot Fallujah. They are designed to watch the main roads where marines travel, to prevent the laying of roadside bombs.

"They say we are here to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people, but I just don't see that happening," says Corporal Mattice, of Gladwin, Mich. OP Blazer is perched on the northern edge of the city, looking due south down a main street known to the marines as Ethan, site of numerous roadside bombs.

That fear has been fueled by a spike in insurgent attacks since summer, against both Iraqis and US troops.

The 1/24 Marines, a reserve unit headquartered in Detroit and recently arrived, suffered nine dead and more than 40 seriously wounded in their first month in Iraq. Another marine died Sunday from a roadside bomb.

The 300 marines here are attacked five to eight times each day.

That presence is a significant drop from the 3,000 marines posted here in March 2005, and the 10,000 that took part in the late 2004 invasion.

Another metric: Officers say the number of direct fire incidents against US forces has shot up 650 percent in the past year. Three marines had been hit by snipers in one 48-hour span earlier this week.

"It is no secret," Col. Lawrence Nicholson told the Fallujah City Council during their regular Tuesday meeting. "My mission is to do less, every single day, as Iraqi forces do more."

Senior officers now refer to Fallujah as a "gated community" - putting a deft gloss on the fact that Fallujah has for two years had only six entry points, and entering Iraqi residents still require US-issued biometric cards with retinal scans and fingerprints on file.

But among those Iraqi residents are 150 newcomers a week, fleeing the sectarian violence in Baghdad to a known "Sunni safe haven," in the words of one officer. Others say hundreds of highly trained insurgents, Iraqis from outside Fallujah, have also recently moved in to step up attacks.

"Fallujah has an iconic value to the Marine Corps," says Colonel Nicholson, commander of the Regimental Combat Team 5, which covers Fallujah and a populated swath of Anbar Province, in an interview. "Fallujah falling would be like Iwo Jima falling to the Japanese again after World War II - it would be intolerable." **[No. More like Yorktown falling to Americans resisting Imperial occupation. Which no doubt King George found "intolerable" too. But what a Col. finds "intolerable" has nothing to do with reality on the ground. Never has, never will.]**

Preventing that from happening is a top priority for the Bravo and Charlie companies of the 1/24 that are now in Fallujah. But local Iraqis know the territory better than US forces ever will.

"The insurgents are creative and have advantages," says Maj. Jeffrey O'Neill, the Bravo Company commander from Novi, Mich. "If the Chinese invaded your [American] neighborhood, you would know where to hide, which dumpster behind the 7-11 to stash things. If we don't catch them red-handed, they will probably be on the street again."

"Each precinct in Chicago or Detroit, makes 100 to 150 arrests per night per 300,000 people," says Major Kolomjec, a lawyer who notes that Fallujah's population is similar.

"Here you take 12 to 40 people per day, and people are up in arms.

[Oh Shit, look what just popped out of his mouth. "People are up in arms." Not foreign fighters, not some "terrorists," not "militia" members, not Al Qaeda: "people" are up in arms! Well, there goes the neighborhood.]

"You can't expect stability, when you are not even doing the same level of policing as Detroit."

Another source of frustration: Pursuit in mosques is forbidden without the presence of Iraqi Army units. Marines say some of Fallujah's 76 mosques are used to hide weaponry. Some broadcast messages such as, "God help us defeat the Americans."

"Many would ask: What other war would we allow the enemy to broadcast calls for our defeat, for the sake of cultural sensitivity?" says O'Neill.

But even as insurgents step up the violence, marines make themselves harder-to-hit targets.

"No, it's not worth it," says 1st Sgt Andrew Tomelleri, of Kansas City, when news came of the death and injuries from another roadside bomb.

The three-time Iraq veteran had been at the exact location a day earlier. Such patrols are seen as "magnets" for IEDs.

"But it would be (worth it), if we could fight them muzzle to muzzle, man to man," says Sergeant Tomelleri. "They know they can't beat us that way." **[Exactly what King George's soldiers said when the Minutemen hid behind trees and stone walls at Lexington and Concord. But they were fighting to win, not engage in silly movie dramatics.]**

Soldier Killed, Three Others Wounded By Salah Ad Din IED

Nov. 22, 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20061122-08

TIKRIT, Iraq: A Task Force Lightning Soldier assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, was killed and three others were wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle while they were conducting operations in Salah ad Din Province Tuesday.

The three Soldiers wounded in the blast were transported to Coalition Forces' medical treatment facilities.

Task Force Lightning Soldier Killed

Nov. 22, 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20061122-01

A Task Force Lightning Soldier assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, died of a non-battle injury in Salah ad Din Province Tuesday.

Soldier Was On 3rd Tour In Iraq; Martinez Was Killed Saturday



Misael Martinez

Nov 16, 2006 Lisa Hoppenjans, Staff Writer; The News & Observer

CHAPEL HILL: Today, Juan Antonio and Rosal'a Martinez are preparing to bury their son, who was killed in Iraq.

In two months, another son will leave for his first tour of duty there.

Army Staff Sgt. Misael Martinez, 24, was on his third tour Saturday when a bomb exploded near his vehicle in Ramadi and killed him.

He last called his parents Oct. 31.

"He said he probably wouldn't be able to call for a couple days, or maybe more," Rosal'a Martinez said.

Martinez was a combat engineer assigned to the 1st Battalion, 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division in Giessen, Germany. He joined the Army in 2000, soon after graduating from Orange High School.

"He said he needed someone to discipline him. He said he wanted to do something for people," Rosal'a Martinez said. "I think he did it because he's a hero."

But Juan Antonio Martinez, weary after sleepless nights, said Wednesday that the Army should not have demanded so much of his son.

"[He] went there already, twice," he said.

Misael Martinez, the second of four children, was born in Dallas. His family moved to Orange County 19 years ago.

He grew up fishing in University Lake and playing pickup basketball games with friends. His father said he was always a "big joker" but also humble and respectful. Rosal'a Martinez said her son had hoped to attend college with help from the Army and had planned out a timeline for starting work on his degree.

"You know the rest," she said.

Franklin Co. Soldier Dies In Iraq

November 16, 2006 Amelia Hines, WNEG

Private First Class Daniel Joseph Allman, II was due to come home for Thanksgiving. But only a week before his trip, his hummer ran over a roadside bomb in Iraq.

"They were in my yard and I asked how bad he was hurt, cause they didn't have on white gloves like my son told me; if he got killed they would have on white gloves. And they told me then that he had been killed," Allman's mother tells News Channel 32.

Only 20 years old, Daniel leaves behind his 2 year old daughter Haleigh.

"Now she's got to grow up without her daddy."

He also leaves behind his younger brother, Michael, and his step dad and his mom...who says she remembers when he first told her in April he was leaving Germany to go to Iraq.

"When he called and told me that he was being sent to Iraq, I was scared and he was scared too," Amanda remembers.

But he told her if anything happened he would go down fighting.

"There was one thing Danny taught me...you'll never get no where in your life running scared," his younger brother, Michael says.

Daniel's mom says that he didn't need to put on this uniform to become a man. She says that from a very young age, he took care of responsibilities and gave his little brother advice.

"He kept telling Michael, you've got responsibilities and you've got to take care of them.

Just like he did for his daughter and his country.

"Just pray for us and be proud of our troops for what they're doing because my son scarified his life not only for us but for everybody," Amanda wanted to add.

And until his body arrives, she will hang on to anything that shows her Daniel is near.

Daniel's mom found a yellow balloon in a field today.

She says it's a sign that's he's with her. She was told her son's body has to go to Dover, Delaware before it can come home to her.

The earliest his body would be back in Franklin County would be next Wednesday.

His burial has not yet been scheduled.

Expectant Father Is Killed During First Tour In Iraq

November 18 2006 BY COLLIN NASH STAFF WRITER; Cara Tabachnick contributed to this story. Southern Connecticut Newspapers

With his wife of just over a year expecting their first child in three months, Spc. Justin R. Garcia had bubbled with excitement and expectation at the thought of being a parent.

But Garcia, of Elmhurst, Queens, who started his first tour of duty in Iraq in late June, was killed Tuesday when a roadside bomb detonated near his Humvee during combat operations in Baghdad, the U.S. Department of Defense announced Friday.

"He wanted all those crazy things, a home, a family, all those things we take for granted," said his older sister, who asked not to be named. "He couldn't wait to be home with his baby."

Garcia, 26, a mortar man, enlisted in the Army in July 2004. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis in Washington state, at the end of November 2004.

"He wanted to go into the service because he had compassion and he wanted to serve his country," Garcia's grandfather, Sam Lim, said Friday, fighting back tears outside the modest, two-story frame house in Elmhurst where his grandson grew up. "He loved being a soldier."

Garcia spent his childhood in Florida, where he lost both of his parents when he was 12, said his grandfather, who declined to elaborate.

Growing up in Elmhurst with his grandfather, Garcia attended St. Agnes Boys High School on the Upper West Side.

While earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Rockland County, he met his wife-to-be, Michelle, Lim said.

Ever the "protective" one, as his sister described him, Garcia aspired to become a state trooper.

"He's my little brother, but I always felt he was protecting me," she said. "I always felt safe when he was around."

He was a pillar, but he was also a regular guy, a rabid New York Knicks and Mets fan and ever the cutup, his sister said.

"He was a ham," his grandfather said.

Notes From A Lost War #1:

“The Insurgents Live Here. They Know Almost All The Best Places That Have Been Used”

“Before We Even Get Here, They Know Where We Are Going To Go.”

November 22, 2006 By C. J. CHIVERS, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

KARMA, Iraq, Nov. 16: The sniper team left friendly lines hours ahead of the sun. They were a group of marines walking through the chill, hoping to be in hiding before the mullahs' predawn call to prayer would urge this city awake.

They reached an abandoned building. Two marines stepped inside, swept the ground floor and signaled to the others to follow them to the flat roof, where they crawled to spots along its walls in which they had previously chiseled out small viewing holes.

Out came their gear: a map, spotting scopes, binoculars, two-way radios and stools. The snipers took their places, peering through the holes, watching an Iraqi neighborhood from which insurgents often fire. They were hoping an insurgent would try to fire on this day. The waiting began.

If the recent pattern was any indication, the waiting could last a long time. This was this sniper team's 30th mission in Anbar Province since early August. They had yet to fire a shot.

More than three years after the insurgency erupted across much of Iraq, sniping — one of the methods that the military thought would be essential in its counterinsurgency operations — is proving less successful in many areas of Iraq than had been hoped, Marine officers, trainers and snipers say.

The gap between the expectations and the results has many causes, but is in part a reflection of the insurgency's duration.

With the war in its fourth year, many of the best sniping positions are already well known to the insurgents, and veteran insurgents have become more savvy and harder to kill.

“A lot of Marine battalions have rotated through these same areas for six or seven months at a time,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher D. Jones, the platoon sergeant of the Scout Sniper Platoon in the Second Battalion, Eighth Marines.

“But the insurgents live here. They know almost all the best places that have been used. Before we even get here, they know where we are going to go.”

Moreover, the insurgents have developed safeguards, using shepherds and children to look for snipers in buildings and heavily overgrown areas, and networks of informants to spread the word when a sniper team has taken up a new position.

“These days we’re lucky if we can go 12 hours without getting compromised,” he said.

With almost no Iraqi police officers available in Anbar Province to check loiterers and suspicious cars, the snipers said, the insurgents have moved freely, making it difficult to tell from afar which people are dangerous, even when they have been violating the law.

Some of their difficulties were evident on the roof on a recent day, when the battalion’s Fourth Sniper Team sat, watching through holes in the wall.

Karma is a scene of frequent violence, and below them was a favored insurgent area. Once during the day they thought they had been spotted, and three marines swept the building below to make sure they were safe. They were.

They returned to peering through the holes. Other holes could be seen in buildings nearby; previous sniper positions, and a sign that insurgents probably knew the area is often watched.

“I’ve got a shady-looking guy,” Lance Cpl. Nathan D. Leach, the assistant team leader, said as he observed a suspicious man. “He’s got his hand behind him. Looks like he’s got something under his shirt.”

Lance Cpl. Keeghan O’Brien, the radio operator, interjected, “You see where that guy went?”

Cpl. Jason A. Dufault, the team leader, responded, “No, he walked behind a building and disappeared.” A few hours later, several shots were heard from the neighborhood, and rifle-launched grenades sailed through the air.

They landed behind the snipers, near a platoon-sized Marine position, exploding with a series of thunderous cracks.

The snipers peered around, seeking a shot. Another sniper team was also in the area, watching over the Marine position, too. No one saw a thing.

The insurgents were within a few hundred yards, but had found a seam. Several hours later, in the blackness again, the team picked up and moved, still waiting for a target after more than three months in Iraq.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers from 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team at a checkpoint in Baghdad, October 26, 2006. (Namir Noor-Eldeen/Reuters)

TROOP NEWS

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



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

Iraq Vets Condemn The War:

“I’m Merely A Voice For Those Who Cannot Speak, Those Who Are In The Military Who Cannot”

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, who sent this in.]

November 12, 2006 By Ofelia Casillas, Chicago Tribune staff reporter. Tribune staff reporter Charles Sheehan contributed. [Excerpts]

As Mayor Richard M. Daley hosted a Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony and memorial at Soldier Field, a Vietnam veterans group rallied only blocks away to speak out against the war in Iraq.

Talk at the gathering, at Wacker Drive and Wabash Avenue near the Chicago River, focused on taking a stand against the war in Iraq and highlighted the struggles of young soldiers trying to adjust to civilian life after their discharge.

Speakers stood at a podium, near banners that read "Honor the warrior, not the war" and "Troops Out," and addressed the audience, made up of many formerly in the military.

"Thank God for election results," said Adam Navarro-Lowery, 28, a DePaul University student. "Voters do not support the war." Navarro-Lowery, who was in the military for three years, said it was important for him to speak out on Veterans Day to lend support to veterans.

"I'm merely a voice for those who cannot speak, those who are in the military who cannot," he said.

Eric Ahlberg, 25, a student at the University of Illinois at Chicago who was in the military for four years, was at the rally to represent the veterans who are against war.

"Veterans are not alone," he said. "I wanted to get my voice out there on Veterans Day."

His wife, Katie, 22, a receptionist, was at his side to show support for her husband and other veterans.

Kyle Snyder, 23, an Iraq war veteran who remains AWOL after returning to the United States from Canada and is trying to get a military discharge, closed the ceremony. "I followed my conscience," he told the audience. "And I'm being persecuted for it."

Snyder said afterward that he was thankful for veterans "of conscience."

"It makes me feel that I'm not the only person who feels this way," he said.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special 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 email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

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

Iraq Veterans Against The War Call On Ft. Benning

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

21 Nov 2006 Iraq Vets Against The War @ Ft Benning, GA, School Of The Americas demonstrations at Ft. Benning.



From left: Jesus Bocanegra, Kyle Snyder, Toby Hartzbarger, "IVAW Deployed" co-founder, and Delaware Valley Vet For America Sgt of Arms, Steve Mortillo, Darrell Anderson & Mike Blake, all of whom are OIF Vets. Mike Hear & VFP @ School of Americas 11/06



Photo: VFP @ School of Americas 11/06



CHARGES DROPPED IN CRAZY T-SHIRT ARREST AT CHICAGO VA: V.A. TOP COP CONFISCATES OFFICER FIFE'S LONE BULLET FOR ARRESTING VETERAN FOR PEACE

November 22, 2006 Veterans For Peace Post

Good news on the crazy "T-shirt arrest" at the V.A. hospital back in June. The federal prosecutor decided he had better things to do and dropped the disorderly conduct charge!

You'll recall I was wearing a shirt with the seditious message, "Veterans For Peace," when Officer Adkins, aka Barney Fife, arrested me for protesting.

About a month ago, I received a court summons in the mail, directing me to U.S. District Court in Chicago on November 13 – ironically the day Veterans' Day was celebrated in many places. I wanted to inform you and the other 600+ people who were good enough to respond to my electronic rant about getting arrested, but since I had already made plans to be in California for a couple of book promotion stops, I didn't know if November 13 would bring an extension or an arrest warrant, so I waited until getting something more definite to report.

As it turns out, Scott Mendeloff, an attorney with the Chicago firm of Sidley, Austin was able to appeal to the prosecutor's sense of reason and the prosecutor agreed the V.A. cop's case wasn't worth pursuing in court. I'd like to thank the Illinois ACLU for asking Mr. Mendeloff to take the case, and thank Scott for convincing the feds they could find bigger fish to fry.

I'd also like to thank each of you for taking time to write in response to the piece I wrote the day after the arrest that appeared initially on Counterpunch.org and subsequently many other sites. In particular, thank you very much to the dozen or so people who took the extra step of writing to the V.A. Inspector General on my behalf. Your letters were eloquent and greatly appreciated.

Since we first communicated back in June, I've sent one or two messages I thought might be of interest to you. I maintain a list that I send occasional pieces to, and will be glad to put you on it if you'd like. I send items I write (a couple a month) plus news and commentary items on the war and current events gathered from uncommon sources (a couple a week, more or less). Let me know if you'd like to be on my "Inquiring Minds" list. No one else ever uses the list and you can hop off any time you'd like.

Thank you again for your interest and support.

Be well. Raise hell!

Mike Ferner

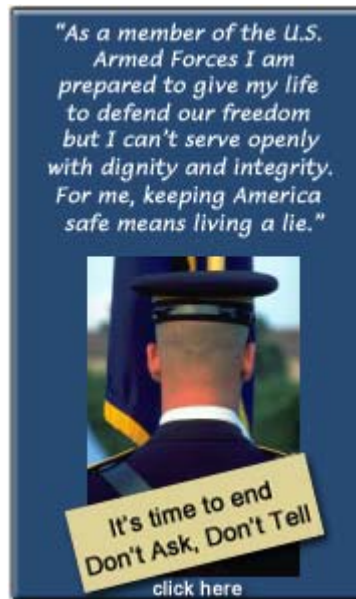
PS: If you've not been to my web site recently, do check it out: www.mikeferner.org. When you're there, consider asking your library to order a copy of "Inside the Red Zone: A Veteran For Peace Reports from Iraq."

School System Kicks Out ROTC Bigots

November 27, 2006 Army Times

High schools in San Francisco will no longer have Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs because of the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The Board of Education voted 4-2 on Nov. 14 to phase out JROTC over the next two years. The resolution says the military's ban on openly gay soldiers violates the school district's equal rights policy for gays.



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Car Bomb Attack Breaches Green Zone Security

11.21.06 By SAMEER N. YACOUB, Associated Press Writer November 22, 2006 The Associated Press

The United Nations said Wednesday that 3,709 Iraqi civilians were killed in October, the highest monthly toll since the March 2003 U.S. invasion and another sign of the severity of Iraq's sectarian bloodbath.

The report on civilian casualties, handed out at a U.N. news conference in Baghdad, said the influence of militias was growing and torture continued to be rampant, despite the Iraqi government's vow to address human rights abuses.

Access to the U.N. news conference in the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad was blocked for many because the main entrance was closed as U.S. forces were checking for unexploded ordinance in the area, a U.S. military official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

The news conference also was being held one day after a car bomb attack inside the Green Zone apparently attempted to kill Iraq's controversial speaker of parliament.

The small bomb exploded Tuesday afternoon at the back of an armored car in the motorcade of the Sunni speaker, Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, as it was driving into a parking lot near the Green Zone's convention center, where al-Mashhadani and other Iraqi legislators were meeting, a parliamentary aide said.

The slightly wounded American security guard driver got out of the vehicle and found other explosive devices planted beneath it, the aide said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

The driver called U.S. soldiers who brought bomb sniffing dogs to the scene that detected explosives in another vehicle in the area belonging to al-Mashhadani's motorcade, said Lt. Col. Christopher Garver, a U.S. military spokesman.

Bomb specialists detonated that car, which set off a series of blasts that caused a fire but injured no one and caused no major damage to nearby structures, Garver said. The blaze was put out by the Green Zone's fire department.

Assorted Resistance Action

November 22, 2006 The Associated Press & Reuters & Daily Times

HILLA: A bomb attack on Wednesday killed seven members of an Iraqi specialised security force, the Facility Protection Service, as they were receiving their salaries south of Baghdad, and wounded another, police said.

The bomb was concealed in a plastic bag inside a government building in the town of Iskandiriyah, north of Hilla, where the security guards had arrived to receive their salaries, a spokesman for Hilla police said.

Unknown assailants shot dead a bodyguard of the parliament speaker and wounded another on Wednesday, a day after a small bomb exploded in one of the speaker's cars, his press office said.

The attack occurred in Baghdad as the two men were heading to work, according to a statement by Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, the speaker. The bodyguards were attacked by a group of insurgents in several cars, the statement said.

Two roadside bombs exploded in quick succession, wounding two policemen when they went to retrieve the bodies of three people in Haifa street in central Baghdad, police said.

A car bomb near an Iraqi army check point and an attack by guerrillas killed a traffic police officer and two soldiers and wounded three, in a village near the town of Muqdadiya, 100 km (60 miles) northeast of Baghdad.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded three policemen in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

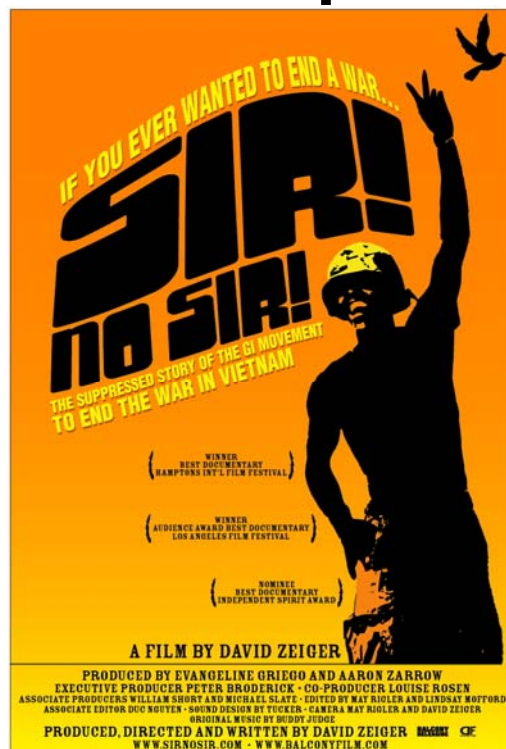
Guerrillas attacked a police patrol and killed three policemen Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad and killed a policeman in Falluja, 50 km (35 miles) west of Baghdad.

Police found the body of police Major Basim Hasan al-Hasnawi with gunshot wounds to the head in central Kerbala, 110 km (68 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

When The Troops Stopped A War For Empire



Sir! No Sir!:
At A Theatre Near You!
To find it: <http://www.sirnosir.com/>

**The Sir! No Sir! DVD is on sale now, exclusively at
www.sirnosir.com.**

Also available will be a Soundtrack CD (which includes the entire song from the FTA Show, "Soldier We Love You"), theatrical posters, tee shirts, and the DVD of "A Night of Ferocious Joy," a film about the first hip-hop antiwar concert against the "War on Terror."

No, Congress Never Cut Off Money For The Vietnam War: A Silly, Stupid Lie By Pathetic Propagandists Put Out There To Run Away From Taking Action That Can End This One

It helps people who oppose the Iraq occupation, but don't want to engage in the often messy struggles it will take to end it. They want to believe in an orderly world where wars can be stopped by calling your local congressman.

November 17, 2006 By Danny Katch, New York City, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

“THE VIETNAM War ended when Congress cut its funding.”

I first heard this claim about a year ago and must have heard it about a dozen times since in antiwar circles. I imagine that each time somebody says it, a few more activists pick it up.

It's an urban legend in the making.

Before it becomes as established as some of the right-wing Vietnam myths (“antiwar protesters spit on returning soldiers,” etc.), let's review a quick timeline to set the record straight:

1965: Lyndon Johnson begins the invasion of South Vietnam.

1968: The Tet Offensive convinces most analysts that the war is unwinnable; Students for a Democratic Society claims 100,000 members.

1969: Nixon begins to withdraw ground troops while escalating the air war.

1970: The U.S. invades Cambodia, antiwar protests reach their peak; a majority of the U.S. population turns firmly against the war.

1971: The New York Times publishes the Pentagon Papers; Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) hold the "Winter Soldier" hearings in Detroit and a series of dramatic protests in the capital.

1973: Nixon signs the Paris Peace Accords on January 27.

The only serious congressional challenge to the war during this time was a 1971 bill extending the draft, which contained an amendment calling for withdrawal within nine months. However, once the bill was approved and the draft was safely extended, the crucial words "nine months" were changed to "earliest practical date."

Thus, here's a scorecard for Congress and the Vietnam War:

Length of war: eight years.

Vietnamese deaths: 2 million (estimated).

U.S. deaths: 65,000.

Military dollars cut by Congress: Zero.

After Nixon signed the peace treaty, Congress, to its credit, finally took some decisive measures. Funding was finally cut in May 1973 for the lunatic bombing of Cambodia, and a few months later came the War Power Act, which requires the president to seek congressional approval for war within 90 days of deploying troops.

It seems to me, however, that this flurry of legislation only exposes how little Congress did during the actual war.

Not that this should be surprising.

Contrary to all of our junior high school lessons about the Constitution, there are no checks and balances during wartime.

If you're hoping a new Democratic majority will break that tradition, don't waste your breath.

An article in the New York Times before the election reported that many congressional Democrats claim that they do not have the power to end the Iraq war.

"The people understand that we're not the Commander-in-Chief" was how New York Sen. Chuck Schumer explained it, neatly dodging the question of why he has voted for that Commander-in-Chief's wars at every opportunity.

History dispels the myth that Congress ended the Vietnam War, but it doesn't explain why this myth is spreading at this particular moment.

In Spitting Image, an excellent book about the myth of soldier, students, and saliva, Jerry Lemke argues that this right wing fable arose to help pro-war veterans who wanted to believe that they lost because they were betrayed by the people they were fighting for.

I think that this new Vietnam myth serves a similar purpose for liberals.

It helps people who oppose the Iraq occupation, but don't want to engage in the often messy struggles it will take to end it. They want to believe in an orderly world where wars can be stopped by calling your local congressman.

Unfortunately, history has shown that wars only end when one side loses. In 1968, it became apparent that North Vietnam wasn't going to lose.

Millions of students and soldiers joined the movement for a U.S. withdrawal.

Their struggle wasn't easy.

The actual story of how the Vietnam War was ended involves not Congress, but courageous Vietnamese fighters living and dying; millions of students standing up to campus administrators, police and the National Guard; and GIs resisting the war through drugs, open defiance and sometimes even killing their officers.

Congress has never wanted to lose a war; it has the same overall goals of U.S. dominance as any president.

Our movement needs to study the real lessons of Vietnam and revive those grassroots strategies that can provide support and inspiration to soldiers, American and Iraqi, who are already fighting to force the U.S. out of another disastrous war.

<p>In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom.... Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life. Bill Ehrhart, Marine, Vietnam:</p>
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Fuck All Of Them

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: November 21, 2006

When I had to move by Lansing, Michigan leaving my home town Kalamazoo, I found out that GM Lansing refused to hire Vietnam combat vets when they came home.

The story is that the combat vets were very un-controllable and caused all kinds of problems at Oldsmobile in Lansing.

Upon hearing it for the first time, it really made me angry.

But after I thought about it for awhile, it made me proud of them.

I know I was almost fired a few times in Kalamazoo and I was consider a radical.

I'm kind of proud of that too.

Fuck All Of Them.

[Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan.]

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

A Diseased Enemy Tries A False Flag Attack: Anybody Know Jennifer?

This email came in to GI Special. Twice in two days.

There is no Jennifer associated with the Military Project. Jennifer is trying to pass on her infection to the unsuspecting, using the name of the Military Project to do so.

If anybody knows Jennifer, please reply with the individuals' address, if possible. Obviously, this person is in need of treatment. Perhaps it can be offered.

Meanwhile, be aware if you get any mail from Jennifer, employ protection.

T
Member, The Military Project
Compiler, GI Special
contact@militaryproject.org

----- Original Message -----

From: jennifer_sh@militaryproject.org

To: contact@militaryproject.org

Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2006 1:10 PM
Subject: My Best Photo

This message has been processed by Symantec's AntiVirus Technology.

Photo/Photo.bmp was infected with the malicious virus Downloader and has been deleted because the file cannot be cleaned.

For more information on antivirus tips and technology, visit <http://ses.symantec.com/>

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. Troops Ill-Prepared To Train Iraqis; “The Training He Received Before Leaving The U.S. ‘Was A Phenomenal Waste Of Time ... Nearly Irrelevant To The Current Situation’”

Nov. 21, 2006 (CBS)

Of the 140,000 American troops in Iraq, 5,000 of them are training and advising Iraqi forces. But according to the trainers themselves, the army did not prepare them to accomplish their mission, reports CBS News national security correspondent David Martin.

Training is what counter insurgency warfare is all about — training local forces to take over the fighting — and the linchpin of the American exit strategy.

But in reports recording their experiences in Iraq, advisors like Colonel Nicholas Demas said the training he received before leaving the U.S. "was a phenomenal waste of time ... nearly irrelevant to the current situation" in Iraq.

Lt. Col. Paul Ciesinski said counterinsurgency was our most important mission in Iraq but "there was zero training provided on it."

Because of complaints like that, the army opened a new school at Fort Riley, Kan., to train the trainers. So far 500 have graduated with another 550 there now — a fraction of what's needed.

And it's not just the army. Col. Joseph Disalvo said when he asked State Department officers to teach Iraqis the basics of city management, "they brought nothing to the fight. They were vastly inexperienced."

Army officers say they can double the number going through the school at Fort Riley, but admit they'll still be playing catch up. And commanders in Iraq are calling for even more trainers.

[How odd the resistance soldiers fighting the occupation need no such "training." Now why do you suppose that is? If in doubt, asked Patrick Henry or Tom Paine, or maybe Swamp Fox Marion, or Light Horse Lee. T]

Rats Desert The Stinking Shit: Collaborator Ministers Go Hiding

November 21, 2006 Azzaman

Many Iraqi ministers are staying away from work, fearing attacks from militias or insurgents.

Violence has exacerbated in Baghdad with street battles reported daily in several parts of the city.

Despite the presence of tens of thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops, residents say there is no street in Baghdad where one can feel safe.

"We live in a city which has gone wild," one resident, refusing to be named, said.

More than 100 people are being killed every day while the government and its U.S. masters are powerless in the face of the spiral of sectarian violence.

Some ministers are reported to have delegated their duties to lower ranking officials, preferring to spend their time traveling outside Iraq.

Others simply stay at home, fearing for their lives.

A director-general in one of the ministries said the minister has been away for more than a month and "no one in the ministry knows about his whereabouts."

The so-called strategic ministries along with the prime minister's and the president's offices are situated inside the heavily protected Green Zone.

Key Iraqi officials even sleep there.

But others with houses in Baghdad need to travel to the Green Zone where their offices are situated.

Catholic Missionaries Forced Out Of Mosul: Didn't Give Enough Money To Resistance

11/22/06 Catholic News

The Caritas agency in the Iraqi city of Mosul has been closed over threats to its staff and demands for contributions to the resistance against US occupation forces.

Citing a social worker who was forced to flee the city, Asia News reports that the recent difficulties of Caritas Mosul began in September this year when phone threats and demands began.

"First the caller recited a verse from the Koran and then asked us to give the group money to support resistance to the American occupation of Iraq," the woman told Asia News.

"We tried to explain to him that as Caritas, we do not have funds for our activities except donations from believers who help us to support only those who are most in need," she said.

"They told us that what we were saying was untrue and that the Church could give money, because the Church is rich." [Amen to that.]

Following a series of phone calls, the unidentified group issued an ultimatum for the delivery of "as high a sum of money as possible".

The group refused an eventual offer by Caritas to provide 1,000,000 Iraqi dinars for projects.

"Naturally this was not enough and they asked us to increase the sum but after the umpteenth refusal on our part, they were convinced and accepted the offer. We had no choice, but since then the centre had to close as it was impossible to continue in such conditions."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Silly Idiots At Work: DoD Reported Vets For Peace, Code Pink Etc. For “Potential Terrorist Activity”

11/22 By Casey L., nyc.indymedia.org

The ACLU has obtained documents that the Department of Defense collected as part of its Threat and Local Observation Notice (TALON) program. They include a report from a Special Agent of the Federal Protective Service of the Department of Homeland Security based on an email received apparently via a listserv outlining plans for a March 19, 2005, protests against New York City military recruitment centers.

There is no indication in these documents of any surveillance other than signing up for a listserv, reading web pages, and searching specific terms on the Internet. But the domestic spy passed the information to the Department of Defense on February 24, 2005, with the note, “this information is being provided only to alert commanders and staff to potential terrorist activity or apprise them of other force protection issues.” Joint Terrorism Task Forces in New York and Atlanta received briefings on the planned protest.

The specific organizations mentioned in the agent's report were those that sponsored the protest, including Brooklyn Parents for Peace, Catholic Worker, Code Pink, International Action Center, Kairos Community, New York City Veterans for Peace, No Police State Coalition, Not in Our Name, Park Slope Greens, Progressive Programmers League, Socialist Party of NYC, United for Peace and Justice, Veterans for Peace, Voices in the Wilderness, War Resisters League, World War III Arts in Action, Ya Ya Network.

This incident is part of a documented program of spying on peaceful political organizations by DOD and various local and federal agencies. According to a press release, the ACLU is calling on Congress to investigate the widespread surveillance of political and religious groups by the Defense Department, the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security.

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)

CLASS WAR REPORTS

General Strike Rocks Bangladesh

[Thanks to J, who sent this in.]

Thousands of slogan-chanting protesters choked the streets and highways leading into the capital, Dhaka - cutting the city of 10 million people off from the rest of the country. Similar disruptions have been reported in more than 60 other cities and towns, ATN Bangla TV station reported.

11.23.06 AP

Dhaka: Violent clashes between rival political activists left several people injured in the Bangladeshi capital yesterday during a crippling nationwide strike over electoral reforms, witnesses said.

The clashes came as a nationwide strike to force election reforms paralysed traffic and business in Bangladesh for the third straight day yesterday, after violent clashes left two demonstrators dead and dozens injured on Tuesday.

The violence occurred despite an interim government's pledge that it was nearing a solution to the impasse over election commissioners installed by the former prime minister. A 14-party alliance says the commissioners are biased and want them ousted.

Thousands of slogan-chanting protesters choked the streets and highways leading into the capital, Dhaka - cutting the city of 10 million people off from the rest of the country. Similar disruptions have been reported in more than 60 other cities and towns, ATN Bangla TV station reported.

Two supporters of the breakaway Liberal Democratic Party were badly beaten and died later in a state-run hospital in Chittagong, said a doctor there, Ajoy Deb.

The Liberal Democratic Party is not part of the 14-party alliance led by Shaikh Hasina, but has extended support for the strikes. The attack in Chittagong left 25 people hurt, including four policemen, as rival activists fought with rocks and sticks.

In Bogra, north of Dhaka, police used tear gas and rubber bullets to break up a fight between rival supporters that injured about 25 people, the domestic United News of Bangladesh news agency said.

Schools and stores remained shut yesterday, and demonstrators continued to barricade rail stations, disrupting train services, and blocked cars and public buses.

The 14-party alliance, led by Hasina's Awami League party, resumed an indefinite nationwide strike on Monday after the interim government failed to meet a Sunday deadline.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

The following have posted issues; there may be others:

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

<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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