

GI SPECIAL 4K5:

**NO MORE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



Sgt. Jesse E. Leach of the Marines assisted Lance Cpl. Juan Valdez-Castillo, who was shot by a sniper in the town of Karma. He survived. (Joao Silva for The New York Times)

Resistance Deploys Sniper Teams: No Effective Countermeasures For U.S. Troops Possible; Casualties Mounting

[The development reported below is inevitable when a foreign Imperial occupation force is hated by the local population, and a majority of the local population favor killing the occupation troops. They will assist and conceal the patriotic citizens who take up arms to fight the foreign invader.]

[The U.S. government itself has reported this fall that those conditions now characterize the views of the majority of the population in Iraq. There is no military answer.

[The lesson is as old as greedy Empires. Any honorable, self-respecting people will fight Imperial occupation, and are right to do so. If you have any doubts about that, read what Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, and Tom Paine had to say about it in 1776.

[The war is lost, and every death is a death in vain, in an evil Imperial war brought on by an evil Imperial government in Washington DC. T]

Declared Bill Ehrhart, a Marine in Vietnam:

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.

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

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

**“An Unseen Enemy Plucks
Members From Their Ranks”
“They Hit Us When We Are Vulnerable,
And Then They Are Gone”
“‘I’ll Carry The Radio Next Time,’ Said
Lance Cpl. Peter Sprague. ‘I Don’t Have
Any Kids’”**

The marines also express their belief that the sniper teams have a network of spotters, and that each time the marines leave their outpost, spotters hidden among the Iraqi population call the snipers and tell them where the marines are and what they are doing. The snipers then arrive.

November 4, 2006 By C. J. CHIVERS, The New York Times [Excerpts]

KARMA, Iraq, Nov. 3

The bullet passed through Lance Cpl. Juan Valdez-Castillo as his Marine patrol moved down a muddy urban lane. It was a single shot. The lance corporal fell against a wall, tried to stand and fell again.

His squad leader, Sgt. Jesse E. Leach, faced where the shot had come from, raised his rifle and grenade launcher and quickly stepped between the sniper and the bloodied marine. He walked backward, scanning, ready to fire.

Shielding the marine with his own thick body, he grabbed the corporal by a strap and dragged him across a muddy road to a line of tall reeds, where they were concealed. He put down his weapon, shouted orders and cut open the lance corporal's uniform, exposing a bubbling wound.



Sgt. Jesse E. Leach assisting Lance Cpl. Juan Valdez-Castillo (New York Times Photo)

Lance Corporal Valdez-Castillo, shot through the right arm and torso, was saved. But the patrol was temporarily stuck. The marines were engaged in the task of calling for a casualty evacuation while staring down their barrels at dozens of windows that faced them, as if waiting for a ghost's next move.

This sequence on Tuesday here in Anbar Province captured in a matter of seconds an expanding threat in the war in Iraq. In recent months, military officers and enlisted marines say, the insurgents have been using snipers more frequently and with greater effect, disrupting the military's operations and fueling a climate of frustration and quiet rage.

Across Iraq, the threat has become serious enough that in late October the military held an internal conference about it, sharing the experiences of combat troops and discussing tactics to counter it. There has been no ready fix.

The battalion commander of Sergeant Leach's unit — the Second Battalion, Eighth Marines — recalled eight sniper hits on his marines in three months and said there had been other possible incidents as well. Two of the battalion's five fatalities have come from snipers, he said, and one marine is in a coma. Another marine gravely wounded by a sniper has suffered a stroke.

A sniper team was captured in the area a few weeks ago, he said, but more have taken its place.

“The enemy has the ability to regenerate, and after we put a dent in his activity, we see sniper activity again,” said the commander, Lt. Col. Kenneth M. DeTreu.

Marines in two infantry companies recounted more cases, telling of lone shots that zipped in as if from nowhere, striking turrets and walls within inches of marines. They typically occur when the marines are not engaged in combat.

It is as if, they say, they are being watched. [There’s no fucking “as if” about it. Think April 18, 1775, Lexington and Concord.]

By many measures, the Iraqi snipers have showed unexceptional marksmanship, usually shooting from within 300 yards, far less than ranges preferred by the elite snipers in Western military units.

But as the insurgent sniper teams have become more active, the marines here say, they have displayed greater skill, selecting their targets and their firing positions with care. They have also developed cunning methods of mobility and concealment, including firing from shooting platforms and hidden ports within cars.

They often use variants of the long-barreled Dragunov rifle, which shoots higher-powered ammunition than the much more common Kalashnikov assault rifles. Their marksmanship has improved to the point of being good enough.

The insurgents are recruiting snipers and centralizing their instruction, the captain said, meaning that the phenomenon is likely to grow.

“They have training camps; they go around and advertise,” he said. “We heard from some of our sources that the insurgents were going around with loudspeakers, saying that if you want to be a sniper we will pay you three times whatever your salary is now.” **[Not as good as the enlistment bonus offered U.S. civilians, but it would appear they’re using the same approach.]**

The marines also express their belief that the sniper teams have a network of spotters, and that each time the marines leave their outpost, spotters hidden among the Iraqi population call the snipers and tell them where the marines are and what they are doing. The snipers then arrive.

For the infantry, Iraq’s improved snipers have created confounding new dangers, as an unseen enemy plucks members from their ranks.

Most of the time, the marines said, the snipers aim for their heads, necks and armpits, displaying knowledge of gaps in their protective gear. They typically shoot once and disappear. And they often fire on the opposite side of obstacles like canals, which limits a unit’s ability to capture the sniper or respond with fire.

“That’s the biggest thing that tears marines apart,” said Cpl. Curtis S. Cota-Robles of Company G, who was standing beside a marine who was shot through the collarbone in late September. “They hit us when we are vulnerable, and then they are gone.”

As part of their counterinsurgency operations, the marines working in Anbar are under orders to show restraint, a policy rooted in hopes of winning the trust of the civilian population.

Iraqi snipers seem to know these rules and use them for their own protection. They often fire from among civilians, the marines say, having observed that unless the marines have a clear target, they will not shoot. In two sniper shootings witnessed by two journalists for The New York Times, on Oct. 30 and 31, the snipers fired from among civilians. The marines did not fire back.

In conditions where killing the snipers has proved difficult, the marines have tried to find ways to limit their effectiveness. Signs inside Marine positions display an often-spoken rule: “Make yourself hard to kill.”

Many marines, on operations, do an understated dance they call “cutting squares.” It is not really a square at all.

They zig and zag as they walk, and when they stop they shift weight from foot to foot, bobbing their heads. They change the rhythm often, so that when a sniper who might be watching them thinks they are about to zig, they have zagged.

Now and then they squat, shift weight to one leg and stand up beside the place where they had just been. Maj. Sean Riordan, the battalion executive officer, described his own unpredictable jigs as “my little salsa dance.”

As they move, the marines often peer down their own scopes, looking at windows, rooftops, lines of brush. Then they might step backward, or forward, or duck, as if saying: try to shoot that.

But as operations drag on, some marines begin to stop cutting squares. And sometimes even those that are moving are still shot. And there are special dangers.

Lance Cpl. Colin Smith, who was shot on Monday, was behind a machine gun in a vehicle turret, a position that placed him higher in the air than a walking marine. Turret gunners are protected by armor shields, but their heads are often exposed. He was struck in the skull. He survived but fell into a coma and was placed on life support.

Lance Corporal Valdez-Castillo, who was shot on Tuesday, was a radio operator, a preferred sniper’s target since radios and rifles first mixed on the battlefield many decades ago. A tactical radio can provide a link to mortars, artillery, air support and other infantry units.

Ten marines, several soldiers from the nascent Iraqi Army and two journalists were walking exposed in a column when the shot was fired and he went down; his antenna probably made him the sniper’s pick. Lance Corporal Valdez-Castillo has been flown to

a military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. He is in good condition and has spoken to his unit.

Seeing the risks, the commanders have been shifting tactics to reduce the marines' vulnerability while still trying to keep them out on the streets, interacting with Iraqis and searching for insurgents and arms caches.

Some units have limited their foot patrols by day, finding them to be too dangerous.

They still enter neighborhoods in armored vehicles and dismount, but often quickly step into buildings to interview [translation: interrogate] people inside.

They continue to patrol on foot at night, because the Iraqi snipers have not yet shown the sophistication to fire with precision in the dark, and the marines' night vision equipment and weapons sights give them the upper hand.

They also cover most of their vital organs with protective armor plates, which have saved several of them when the Iraqi snipers have fired.

[L]ance Cpl. Edward Knuth of Company G, was hit as his squad searched a watermelon market beside a main road. No one in his squad heard the shot, which he said was probably made from a vehicle parked on the highway. All they heard was the impact of the bullet on his plate.

"It was like a smacking sound," he said.

The force of the impact, like being struck with a baseball bat, knocked him to his knees. A marine swiftly dragged him to cover. Then his squad rushed the line of cars. They found nothing. The sniper had escaped.

"They're good," Lance Corporal Knuth said, showing a crumbling, coin-sized hole in his armor where the bullet stopped. "They take their time. They're patient. They only take one shot most of the time, and they are hard to find."

After Lance Corporal Valdez-Castillo was shot and evacuated, a sweat-soaked, bloodied Sergeant Leach led his team through the rest of his patrol. When the marines re-entered the wire, an angry debriefing began.

Move quickly through the open areas, the noncommissioned officers told the troops. Don't stand high on the berms. Camouflage the radios. Keep your eyes out and rifles ready.

Little was said about how to kill the sniper; the marines did not know where he was. They passed cigarettes and smoked them in the sun, and fumed.

"I'll carry the radio next time," said Lance Cpl. Peter Sprague. "I don't have any kids."

[Lt. Cpl. Peter Sprague has more courage, honor, and decency in his little toe than all the filthy traitors running the government in DC put together. And it's troops

like this, human being like this, that they are killing, so they can fatten their bank accounts.

[If that doesn't turn you white hot with rage, fuck you.

[The next time you hear some walking piece of shit talk about "phased withdrawal" or "staged withdrawal" or "speedy withdrawal" from Iraq, you think about Lt. Cpl. Peter Sprague, and you tell that cowardly, worthless piece of shit to go to Iraq personally and explain to Lt. Cpl. Peter Sprague why he should be there one more minute of one more day, and to stay right next to him until he comes home.

[Not another day, not another dime, not another life. Nothing less than immediate, unconditional withdrawal, and nothing but loathing and contempt for political shitbags who say anything less and the political shitbags who tell you to vote for any of them. T]

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Modesto Soldier Killed In Iraq; "He Had 11 Days Left. He Should Have Been Coming Home"



Staff Sgt. Gage

November 4, 2006 By KEN CARLSON, BEE STAFF WRITER

Army Staff Sgt. Joseph Gage, a native of Modesto, was killed Thursday in Iraq when a roadside bomb detonated near his vehicle, his family said Friday.

Army officials told the family he was in a Humvee leading a four-vehicle convoy in Baghdad. Gage, two other soldiers and an interpreter suffered fatal injuries in the blast. The driver survived.

Military officials notified his wife, Samantha, at Fort Campbell, Ky., and on Friday sent a chaplain to meet with his parents at their home in Hickman.

Gage, 28, attended Downey and Johansen high schools before joining the Army in 1997. He served with the 101st Airborne Division and was 11 days from completing his second tour with U.S. forces in Iraq.

Gage, his wife and their 6-year-old son, Michael, had planned to visit his parents next month. A trip to Las Vegas with friends also was planned.

"It sucks," said Randy Gage, his father. "He had 11 days left. He should have been coming home."

His stepmother, Tamara Gage, said their son was dedicated to the war against terrorism.

"He was a very good soldier, a good man, a good father and a good husband," she said.

It is expected to take two weeks to return his body to the United States. Funeral arrangements are pending. The parents said Gage previously expressed a wish for burial in a military cemetery if killed in action.

Gage also is survived by a sister, Juli Eadington; and grandparents, Lila and Dennis Gage of Southern California. His mother, Kathryn Gage, died in 1998.

Samantha Gage declined to speak with the media until next week. The couple met in Hawaii and their seventh wedding anniversary is Monday.

A message among other memorials on her husband's MySpace.com page reads:

"Hello everyone, my name is Samantha Gage. I am Joseph's wife. On Nov. 2, 2006, SSG Joseph Gage was killed in action in Baghdad, Iraq. ... Though all of our hearts are heavy with pain, the thing I want everyone to remember is his laughter. Whatever my mood was he could always make me laugh. So if you need to cry then cry, but please please laugh afterwards."

The message continued, "Also know that he loved his job and knew the risks that came with it."

According to his parents, Gage recently signed up for 12 more years in the Army. His first deployment to Iraq was in 2003, and he began a second tour about a year ago. He was slated for duty in Germany following his scheduled leave.

Joey Buhler, a friend since they were high school freshmen, recalled that Gage enjoyed playing drums in the high school band and that his friend worked hard to earn his GED before enlisting.

They kept in touch by telephone and online during his tours in Iraq. Their recent conversations usually were about raising their sons, instead of the war, Buhler said.

He said he consoled his friend when he lost his mother, and Gage later reciprocated.

"My grandmother passed away 1½ years ago when he was on leave," Buhler said. "He was my shoulder to cry on when I needed him."

The family said that Gage last spoke with Samantha on Wednesday night, Baghdad time. The family said they heard his assignment Thursday was to show new arrivals the territory in Baghdad.

During his leave in summer 2005, Gage assisted his parents, who were in the middle of building their home in Hickman. And he was eager to see the finished product.

"He wanted to come home and do something special before he left for Germany," Buhler said.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad

November 5 2006 AP

A U.S. soldier was killed at 1 p.m. Saturday his patrol was attacked by small-arms fire in western Baghdad.

Fayetteville Marine Injured In Iraq

November 3, 2006 By Dan Craft, The Morning News

FAYETTEVILLE: A roadside bomb injured not one, but two, local Marine reservists in Iraq on Oct. 23.

Lance Cpl. Chris Traxson of Rogers and Lance Cpl. Trey O'Connell of Fayetteville were both injured when the device exploded near their Humvee near Balad, north of Baghdad, said 1st Sgt. Eric Olson of the 24th Marine Regiment.

O'Connell was originally listed as a Searcy resident. Two other Marines in the vehicle were also injured.

O'Connell, 22, of Fayetteville, is a manager for the Dollar General on Garland Avenue in Fayetteville, said Tina Ryan, assistant manager at the store.

O'Connell's parents live in Searcy, Ryan said.

"It's so hard because Trey is such a nice guy. Always smiling, always in a good mood," Ryan said. "I can't believe he's hurt."

O'Connell was on his second tour in Iraq, having served several months there in 2004, Olson said. O'Connell and Traxson both deployed in early September, Olson said.

Both men are being treated at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

O'Connell is in stable condition, alert and walking around, while Traxson is stable and conscious, but not moving around much, Olson said.

"It's good to know he's walking. That really makes my day," Ryan said. "His family wasn't so optimistic when he first came home."

O'Connell graduated from high school in Nevada, Mo., and moved to Fayetteville about three years ago, working as a floating manager at several area Dollar General outlets before taking over the Garland Street store, Ryan said. Traxson, 26, is a Rogers police officer.

"They're both good Marines, and we wish them the best in their recovery," Olson said.

The two were treated at hospitals in Iraq and Germany before being transferred to Fort Sam Houston, Olson said.

They were scheduled to stay in Iraq until sometime next spring, although their exact return dates could not be released due to operational security requirements, Olson said.

Local Marine Injured In Iraq Explosion; 23-Year-Old Officer Listed As 'Critical'

November 3, 2006 By R. SHAWN LEWIS, Index-Journal managing editor

Bettye Kinard, of Greenwood, had a few words of loving precaution for her grandson, Marine 2nd Lt. Andrew Kinard, of Spartanburg, before he began his tour of duty in Iraq.

"The last thing I told him before he left was 'Don't step on any mines,' and he said, 'I won't, Grandma,'" she said Thursday.

Some time late Saturday or early Sunday, sadly, those words became an eerie premonition for Bettye and her husband, Dr. H.B. Kinard Jr., who were "devastated" Monday when they learned their grandson had been seriously injured.

Kinard, 23, was on patrol along with three other Marines in western Iraq when he either stepped on or was struck in the lower body with an improvised explosive device, or IED, family members told the Spartanburg Herald-Journal for stories earlier this week.

In the explosion, Kinard lost all of his right leg and most of his left.

Surgeons began assessing the internal and external damage to his body late in the night, and hope to save the remaining part of his left leg, the Rev. Don Wilton, senior pastor at First Baptist, told the Herald-Journal. The blast took it off above the knee.

Kinard, who is part of the 2nd Marine Division's 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., is at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

He was listed in "critical" condition Thursday afternoon in the hospital, said Ellen Crown, deputy public affairs officer for NNMC. Doctors at NNMC list patients as "good, fair, serious, critical and undetermined," she said, adding privacy laws prohibited her from releasing additional information about patients.

"He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time," Bettye Kinard said. "Three others were injured with him, but you can't get any information about them because the Marines won't give that out. You can get information if they're killed but not if they're injured."

The Marine's family — father Dr. Harry Kinard, his mother, two sisters and a brother — flew to Maryland Thursday morning to be with him, Bettye Kinard said.

"It's hard to talk about at this point," she said. "They have not seen their son yet, but they think it's going to be fine."

The family's flight was made possible through the generosity of a Spartanburg business, which gave the Kinards its corporate jet.

"Spartanburg people have been mighty kind to us," Bettye Kinard said. "And they're taking really good care of them (at the hospital)."

Andrew Kinard had "only been over in Iraq for six weeks," she said.

The Naval Academy graduate "chose the Marines when he graduated because he wanted action. He's that type of fellow." His grandmother said the family welcomes well-wishes at its Spartanburg residence. Send cards and other expressions to 2nd Lt. Andrew Kinard, 763 Plume St., Spartanburg, SC 29602.

The grandparents have been besieged by Greenwood-area residents seeking information about their Marine's status and offering condolences.

"He's a mighty handsome man to be left in this condition," she said.

4 Russian Occupation Workers Wounded In Attack On Power Plant

04.11.2006 MOSCOW, (Itar-Tass)

There is no threat to the lives of the four Russians who were injured in Iraq in a mortar round explosion, a Russian Foreign Ministry source said on Saturday.

The four Russian specialists working under contract in Iraq to repair the Najibiya thermal power plant near Basra in south Iraq were slightly injured when a mortar round hit the station area late on Friday.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



10.24.06: A US soldier at a snap checkpoint set up in Baghdad's Karada district.
(AFP/Ahmad Al-Rubaye)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Assorted Resistance Action

Nov 4 (KUNA)

Suspected Taliban attacked a truck convoy supplying food items to NATO forces killing two Pakistan drivers and injuring another in southeastern Afghanistan, officials said on Saturday.

A convoy of five trucks, all Pakistanis, came under small arms fire in Afghanistan's southeastern Paktia province. Two drivers were killed while a conductor was injured in the attack, police chief of the province Hanan Raufi told KUNA.

Raufi said the assailants fled to nearby mountains after the attack.

TROOP NEWS

Lying Rats In Command Break Their Word, So Iraq Combat Veteran War Resister Goes AWOL Again



Kyle Snyder, 23, right, a Colorado Springs, Colo., soldier who fled to Canada rather than return to Iraq Oct. 31, 2006, in Louisville, Ky., with his attorney James Fennerty. Snyder is on his way to Fort Knox to turn himself in to military authorities. (AP Photo/Brian Bohannon)

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

11.2.06 Chicago Tribune & 11.1.06 BRETT BARROUQUERE, Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, KY.

A soldier who fled to Canada rather than return to Iraq has disappeared again, just a day after surrendering to the military.

Pvt. Kyle Snyder, 23, Colorado Springs, Col., told the Associated Press that he was to return to Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., from Louisville on Tuesday but did not go because, he said, Ft. Knox officials told him he would be sent back to his unit, the 94th Engineer Battalion, which he said was not part of the surrender deal.

Pvt. Snyder returned to the United States on Saturday, after his lawyer said he had reached a deal to receive an other-than-honourable discharge.

Being sent back to his unit wasn't part of the deal, according to attorney James Fennerty.

“I came back in good faith,” Pvt. Snyder said Wednesday by phone. “I put my trust in them one more time. Why should I put my trust in them again when I can just go back to Canada?”

He did not disclose his location.

Pvt. Snyder, a former combat engineer, left the United States in April, 2005, while on leave to avoid a second tour in Iraq. He said he worked as a welder and at a children's health clinic in Canada.

Pvt. Snyder has said he was put on patrol when sent to Iraq in 2004, which he said he was not trained to do, and that he began to turn against the war when he saw an innocent Iraqi man killed by American gunfire.

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



Mourners pay their last respects to Marine Lance Corporal Eduardo Lopez, killed on October 19 in Iraq, at St. Paul cemetery in Montgomery, Illinois, October 30, 2006. REUTERS/Frank Polich

***“He Belongs Home With His
Family, His Children Deserve A
Father Not A Memory”***

**Stop the Backdoor Draft:
Bring All Our Troops Home Now!
Military Families Speak Out**

**Thursday, November 9th to Saturday, November 11th in
Washington, DC**

November 02, 2006 Via Veterans For Peace

Letter from MFSO

Dear Friends,

Military Families Speak Out, led by our Missouri Chapter, in conjunction with Iraq Veterans Against the War and Veterans For Peace, will be holding a 3-day activity in Washington, D.C. from November 9 – 11 called “Stop the Backdoor Draft – Honor the Fallen – Bring All Our Troops Home Now!”

We are asking for your help to support this very important Families’ and Veterans’ activity.

Here’s what you can do:

Sign the Petition to Stop The Backdoor Draft

In July, 3,500 soldiers in the 172nd Stryker Brigade were held in Iraq when they were supposed to be coming home from a year-long deployment.

In August, the Marines announced a call-back of their Individual Ready Reserve force – a force that is supposed to be used only in times of national emergency.

In September, 4,000 soldiers in the 1st Brigade of the 1st Armored Division were extended in Iraq.

In October, the Army announced it would be keeping 120,000 troops in Iraq until 2010 – and that there would be more extensive use of National Guard and Reserve forces to allow this to happen.

In addition, servicemen and women continue to be placed under stop-loss orders and held in the military after their years of service are up; and many troops are

experiencing multiple deployments. This “backdoor draft” is taking a huge toll on our troops and their families.

One member of Military Families Speak Out, Harry Meyer, from Chattanooga, Tennessee, described the “Backdoor Draft” this way:

“My son has been involuntarily extended on his first tour in Iraq, he has now been involuntarily extended on his second tour; he was actually supposed to get out of the Army last May but was involuntarily extended and has no idea whatsoever when he will be released.

“He belongs home with his family, his children deserve a father not a memory.”

On November 9th, Military and Gold Star Families, Iraq Veterans and Veterans of other wars will be delivering petitions supporting an end to the Backdoor Draft to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld at the Pentagon, and to Congress.

PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION: http://www.mfsomissouri.org/Honor_the_fallen.html

You can also print out copies for others to sign and mail them back to P.O. Box 300549, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 by November 5th.

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 requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

Iraq War Hawks Want Rumsfeld Out

[Before anybody starts dancing in the streets, be aware Gannett wants more troops sent to Iraq, and attacks Rumsfeld for not doing so. Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Clancy Sigal, Phil G and David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in. T]

November 4, 2006 Matthew B. Stannard, San Francisco Chronicle [Excerpts]

An influential chain of newspapers considered must-reading by military forces from California to Baghdad will call for the ouster of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in a scathing editorial to be published Monday.

An editorial scheduled to appear on Monday in Army Times, Air Force Times, Navy Times and Marine Corps Times, calls for the resignation of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

The papers are sold to American servicemen and women. They are published by the Military Times Media Group, which is a subsidiary of Gannett Co., Inc.

"Rumsfeld has lost credibility with the uniformed leadership, with the troops, with Congress and with the public at large. His strategy has failed, and his ability to lead is compromised. And although the blame for our failures in Iraq rests with the secretary, it will be the troops who bear its brunt," the editorial says, according to an advance copy released Friday.

"The time has come, Mr. President, to face the hard bruising truth: Donald Rumsfeld must go."

The editorial will run in the 250,000 copies of Army Times, Navy Times, Marine Corps Times and Air Force Times. The newspapers are published under the umbrella Military Times Media Group by Gannett Co. Inc., not by the U.S. military, and have been popular among American forces since World War II. **[Wrong. They are popular primarily with officers and very senior non-commissioned ranks.]**

"It is extremely widely read and influential for the professional military," said David Segal, director of the Center for Research on Military Organization at the University of Maryland.

The relationship goes two ways, said Segal. "I think it would be safe to say if the Army Times is saying that, it is something they are hearing from senior officers in the Army," he said.

"In a sense, (the papers are) adding their voices to a cry that's already being heard. They're not leading the charge -- they're reporting the charge," Segal said.

"It is certainly going to change the climate in the administration and increase the likelihood that if there is a period of quiet when the White House can do so, it will suggest to Rumsfeld that it's time for him to go."

Despicable Predators At It Again: Recruiter Scum Lie And Lie And Lie

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, Clancy Sigal and Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

November 2, 2006 By Jim Hoffer, New York- WABC

ABC News and New York affiliate WABC equipped students with hidden video cameras before they visited 10 Army recruitment offices in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Mt. Vernon recruiter: "We're like we're not at war, war ended a long time ago."

A recruiter tells our undercover student the war is over.

Mt. Vernon Recruiter: "The news never said war, they're not lying now they never said war."

It appears some Army recruiters are willing to say just about anything to reel-in a new soldier.

Student: "Will I be going to war?"

Recruiter: "I would say your chances would be slim to none ..."

Recruiter: "We almost welcome being shot at because it helps us identify where they are shooting from ..."

Some recruiters were up front about the dangers of enlisting.

Stamford recruiter: "Every job in the Army does include combat. Plain and simple."

But nearly half of the recruiters who talked to our undercover students compared everyday risks here at home to being in Iraq.

Elizabeth recruiter: "I like Subway sandwiches and salads. I watched the news yesterday, a guy got killed at Subway."

Patchogue recruiter: "You have a 10-times greater chance of dying out here on the roads than you do dying in Iraq."

Mt. Vernon recruiter: "I'd rather be hit by a car instead of getting hit by a bomb, what's the difference. Your not living, your dead. That sucker is gone it's a wrap."

And with the end of the war no where in sight, the general in charge suggesting more troops might be needed, some recruiters told our students if they enlisted there was little chance they'd go to war.

Student: "Aren't people still being shipped out?"

New Jersey recruiter: "Naw, they bringing people back."

Student: "Nobody is going out to Iraq anymore?"

Recruiter: "Naw, we bringing people back."

Yonkers recruiter: "As long as you don't choose a job in this area, you don't have to worry about going over there."

During the ABC News sessions, some recruiters told our students if they enlisted, there would be little chance they'd to go Iraq.

But Col. Robert Manning, who is in charge of U.S. Army recruiting for the entire Northeast, said that new recruits were likely to go to Iraq.

Yet ABC News found one recruiter who even claimed if you didn't like the Army, you could just quit.

"It's called a 'Failure to Adapt' discharge," the recruiter said. "It's an entry-level discharge so it won't affect anything on your record. It'll just be like it never happened."

Manning, however, disagrees with the ease the recruiter describes.

"I would believe it's not as easy as he would lead you to believe it is," he said.

Hoffer: "It's probably pretty tough isn't it?"

Colonel Manning: "It's tough."

Recruiter: "We've had more close calls on the Long Island Expressway than we did when we were over there."

Sue Niederer, whose son, Seth, joined the Army in 2002, said she was all too familiar with recruiters' lies.

"They need to do anything they possibly can to get recruits," Niederer said.

Seth was sent to Iraq and was killed by a roadside bomb.

Niederer said she was not surprised by what ABC News had found. She believes it's still a widespread problem. She said that recruiters told Seth he wouldn't be put into combat.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

11.3.06 Reuters & 2006/11/04 IRIB News & Reuters & Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Five presidential security guards were killed and two were wounded in an explosion in northern Iraq, police officials reported Saturday. The incident occurred Friday night in the town of Udhaim, on the Baghdad-Kirkuk highway.

Officials said that explosives had been planted in one of the cars of the high-profile guards, members of the Iraqi presidential security unit. The car blew up while it was driving along the Baghdad-Kirkuk highway near Al-Atheem.

Two guards for Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki were wounded when guerrillas opened fire on their car in Yusufiya, 15 km (9 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A source from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in the province of Sulaimaniyah told AFP that the attack took place Friday night near Adhaim Mountains, on the road between Baghdad and the oil city of Kirkuk.

Four police were killed and their car destroyed by a roadside bomb in Madaen, 45 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Iraqi police backed by U.S. Marines arrested three bodyguards working for the mayor of Falluja and five other people after they came under attack from a government building, the U.S. military said.

A roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol, wounding two policemen in central Kirkuk, police said.

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

Duh!

11.3.06 Christian Science Monitor

In some areas, such as the Shiite suburb of Sadr City, an increased U.S. presence during the past week has deepened anti-occupation sentiment and threatened renewed conflict.

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

Does This Look Like A Religious War?

[This merely confirms information the Pentagon released previously, buried under repeated waves of obsessive media bullshit about "religious war." 80% of the violence in Iraq is directed against occupation troops, and the Iraqi collaborator army and police that are for the occupation. What a surprise. Thanks to Elaine B., who sent this in. T]

November 03, 2006 Associated Press

AP statistics showed nearly twice as many Iraqi security forces died last month as U.S. forces: 194 versus 106.

The Interior Ministry said at least 119 Iraqi policemen were killed.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

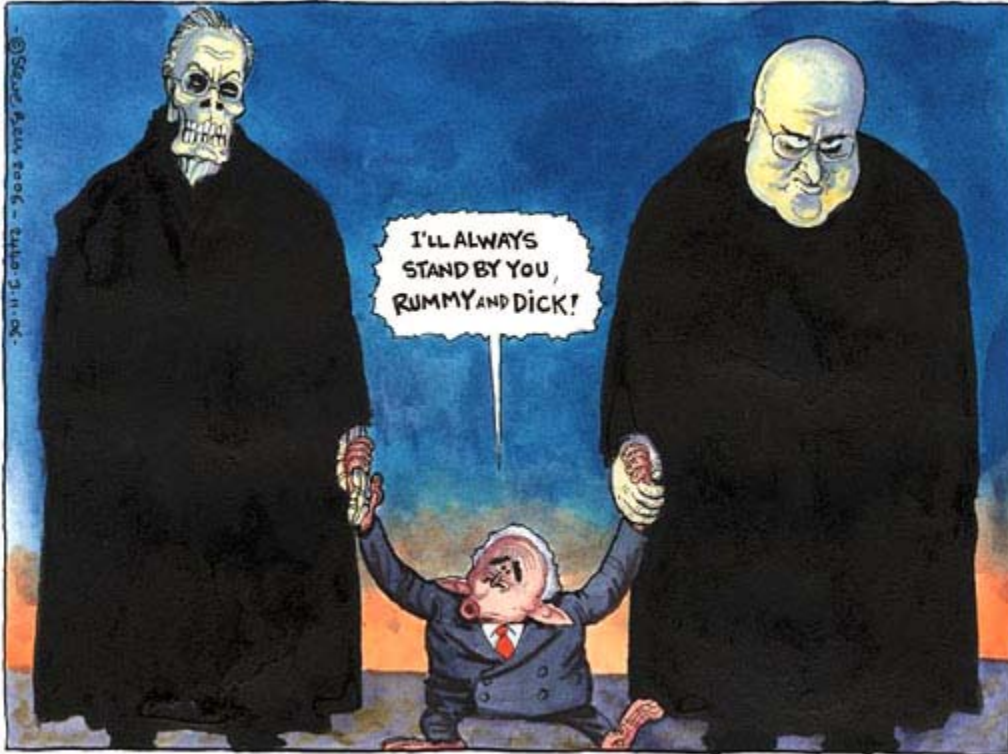
“Stay The Course”



Mike Hastie, October 26, 2006

Photo and caption 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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to Z, who sent this in.]

When Thieves Fall Out: For U.S. Politicians And Top Iraqi Stooge, Animosity Is Mutual

November 4, 2006 By JOHN F. BURNS, The New York Times [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD, Nov. 3

The cycle of discord and strained reconciliation that has broken into the open between Iraq's Shiite-led government and the Bush administration has revealed how wide the gulf has become between what the United States expects from the Baghdad government and what it is able or willing to deliver.

Just in the past 10 days, Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki has rejected the notion of an American "timeline" for action on urgent Iraqi political issues; ordered American commanders to lift checkpoints they had set up around the Shiite district of Sadr City to

hunt for a kidnapped American soldier and a fugitive Shiite death squad leader; blamed the Americans for the deteriorating security situation in Iraq; and demanded speeded-up Iraqi control of its own military.

The estrangement has developed despite the two governments' mutual dependency.

For the Americans [translation: for the Bush Regime], success for the government that won a four-year term in January's elections seems central to any hope for an orderly American disengagement from Iraq.

Without doubt, there has been an element of political grandstanding by Mr. Maliki that reflects his need to rally support among fractious Shiite political partners and the restive masses they represent.

Still, the differences between the new Shiite rulers and the Americans are real and growing.

When President Bush made a six-hour visit to Baghdad in June, he said he had looked Mr. Maliki "in the eye" to determine if America had a reliable partner, and reported that he was convinced the new prime minister met the test.

In the past week, Mr. Maliki has added a new, potentially incendiary grievance against the Americans.

In interviews that preceded a placatory teleconference call with President Bush last weekend, he said the poor security situation across Iraq was the Americans' fault, and demanded a more rapid transfer of command authority over the war.

With apparent unconcern for the war's growing unpopularity in the United States, he demanded more American money for the buildup of Iraq's own forces, and for reconstruction of the country's infrastructure, on top of the \$38 billion the Bush administration says it has already spent on civil and military aid to Iraq since the toppling of Mr. Hussein in 2003 and the nearly \$400 billion for America's own deployments.

Mr. Bush responded by dispatching his national security adviser, Stephen J. Hadley, on an urgent trip to Baghdad on Monday, and agreeing to work on ways of accelerating the transfer of authority, especially in regard to the Maliki government's ability to control the deployment of Iraqi troops.

What the Bush administration's public comments omitted was any reference to the deep frustration among American commanders at the continuing weakness of many Iraqi Army units, which have been plagued by high levels of indiscipline, absenteeism and desertion.

Some American officers say that as many as half of the listed 137,000 Iraqi soldiers are effectively undeployable.

In the stepped-up effort to clear the city of insurgents and death squads, begun in August and acknowledged by American commanders to be faltering, American troops have accounted for two-thirds of the 25,000 deployed, after Iraqi commanders delivered two of the six battalions they promised.

The result, American officers involved in the operation have noted, is that what little security there is in the city, and, ultimately, the survival of the Maliki government itself, relies far more on American than Iraqi troops.

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.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Mexicans Force Police To Retreat After 6 Hour Battle in Oaxaca; “Police Control In Other Areas Of The City Has Since Been Spotty”

11/04/2006 AP

Oaxaca: Protesters vowed to re-establish street blockades in embattled Oaxaca City after forcing Mexican federal police to retreat at a key intersection following more than six hours of clashes involving tear gas and gasoline bombs.

Thursday's battle left 20 protesters, 10 police and three news photographers injured, after youths wearing bandannas over their face lobbed rocks, large bottle rockets and gasoline bombs at police, who responded with tear gas, water cannons and the rocks pitched at them.

The clash occurred near the state university, where protesters demanding the ouster of the state's governor have set up headquarters and broadcast from a radio station after police retook the city's picturesque central plaza during a massive raid on Sunday.

Police control in other areas of the city has since been spotty.

Reverberations from the ongoing fight in Oaxaca City seized five months ago by a coalition of striking teachers and leftist protesters demanding the resignation of the Oaxaca state governor also reached the capital of Mexico City, where sympathisers temporarily blocked some downtown streets to demand police be withdrawn from Oaxaca.

In Oaxaca City, about 200 police wearing body armour and carrying riot shields advanced to the university gates and fought the protesters for more than six hours before retreating.

The retreat left protesters claiming victory and pledging to re-establish barricades that had been dismantled in previous days.

MORE:

Radio Universidad in Oaxaca Still Broadcasting, After Seven Hours of Pitched Battle, the Federal Police Forced to Retreat

November 2, 2006 By George Salzman, Commentary from Oaxaca, Narconews.com

Radio Universidad, 1400 am, remains a strong voice at 1:30 pm, but how much longer it will continue is unclear.

As the only station still broadcasting for the Popular Assembly movement of Oaxaca, it is a critically important link as well as a source of the most current information on the struggle. It was brazenly emphasized on the early Monday morning Televisa/Government version of "the news" that the last powerful transmitter aligned with the people's movement was to be a high priority target of the so-called Federal Preventive Police (PFP in its initials in Spanish).

This morning an army of troops dressed in PFP uniforms began the frontal assault on the University enclave, called Ciudad Universidad, where the station is located.

This "army" indeed looks like a mass of mostly grunts, young guys in their late teens and early twenties, most surely drafted by economic necessity into the military ranks.

The battle raged on University Avenue while I was there.

University Avenue is a north-south four-lane road a little over a half-mile long that runs from the Periferal highway junction at the north, the Cinco Senores intersection, to the Plaza del Valley junction at the south. University City occupies a roughly square block a little more than 1/4 mile on each side. This is the main campus of the Benito Juarez Autonomous University of Oaxaca (UABJO in its Spanish initials), located about 1.1 miles southeast of the Zócalo.

This area is supposedly "autonomous" in the strict sense that the university authorities have exclusive control over the area. Police, military, federal authorities, state officials, and so on are, in principle, not allowed to enter the grounds unless explicitly invited by the Rector of the university. It is located on the east side of University Avenue, about a block or two south of the intersection.

This morning we heard that the PFP was going to invade the university on the grounds that there were reported to be firearms there. That's a typical pretext the police use. It's easy enough to get some corrupt state official or PRI-affiliated thug (PRI is the Institutional Revolutionary Party, in its Spanish initials) to file a denunciation that firearms or other illegal possessions are in a particular location.

Radio Universidad was calling for citizens to come to protect the university, with a great sense of urgency. A friend dropped me off a few blocks from the Cinco Senores intersection, which was blocked on all sides by the PFP.

Some people on a raised platform with a loudspeaker were telling the troops that they were the same as the protesters and shouldn't have been sent to Oaxaca. The PFP lines stood inert, as trained. Several older women in the crowd, right at the front, not more than a foot or two from the plastic shields facing them, forcefully told the troops right in front of them that they are citizens, without arms, capable of running their own lives, and the PFP should leave Oaxaca.

By about 11:30 I started south.

After the first barricade, which was north of university property, students were passing pieces of split wood through the barred fence from the university grounds to others on the street side with shopping carts. They use the wood for fires at the barricades.

Suddenly an alert spread that an attack was imminent at the south end of University Avenue, and people streamed past me, leaving, I supposed, a smaller crowd at the north intersection. The shopping carts barreled by, along with people with cameras, many folks adjusting their bandannas getting ready for tear gas.

Apparently the PFP, who had been massed at the Plaza del Valle end of the road, began advancing in a solid front. Then fireworks began. From the distance I saw clouds of smoke and/or gas and the wobbly arched paths of the home-made rockets launched towards the police, which left a trace of white smoke as they streaked across the space between the protesters and the PFP forces.

When one of the projectiles hit the ground and burst into flame in front of the first line of troops a wave of adrenaline swept the protesters, many of whom ran forward and hurled rocks at the police.

I've written a lot about the teachers and APPO maintaining a militant but non-violent struggle, which I remain convinced is correct. But this was a different matter: this was people trying to protect their own turf from being invaded by lethally-armed forces, and there's no way the attempted defense could be described as non-violent.

Had the police been ordered to shoot, it could have been a massacre. All that can be said is that the imbalance of power was incomparably in favor of the police; had it been used, it would have been overwhelming.

Most of the defenders were younger men. But not all.

Their major weapon was a stream of rocks. I think that in addition to their homemade incendiary rockets they may also have had some molotov cocktails.

As the police shot tear gas canisters and began a slow step-by-step advance, I headed back a ways and entered the university athletic fields, located on the west side of the avenue behind a fence, and then came forward again, close to but separated from the exchange. Not, however, separated from the tear gas.

People were taking large rocks and smashing them against other rocks on the ground to break them up into sizes suitable for hurling a considerable distance. Their courage and determination not to yield to the PFP was incredible. I've never seen anything close to it before.

Things were still at a standoff at the north intersection, and I made my way out by the same roundabout route I'd used earlier.

Walking north along the periferal highway I saw many people both observing and putting up further barricades to block access to the intersection at Cinco Senores.

Ten or a dozen men shoved a big heavy car from where it was parked to blockade the Periferico at the corner of Rayon, and then they practically lifted a VW-Bug that had been parked behind the first car and carried it around the corner to block the entry of Rayon into the Periferico.

I thought about private property. There's lots of destroyed property, and weighing against it in their minds, I know, lots of destroyed lives, which is why these valiant people are facing up to the ruling power structure.

It's 8:40 pm and Radio Universidad is still alive.

I don't know what will happen later tonight or tomorrow. It appears that the PFP were driven back.

The Oaxaquenos really believe that "Los pueblos unidos, jamas sera vencidos" (The people united will never be defeated). I hope to hell they're right.

MORE:

A Phone Call From Oaxaca

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

Date: November 1, 2006
Subject: phone call from Oaxaca
Dave Stratman, newdemocracyworld.org

FROM LOIS MEYER AT UNIV OF N MEXICO

Colleagues, I just received a call from the Coalition of Indigenous Teachers (CMPIO) in Oaxaca.

Some updates:

1. The government has accomplished little, other than creating more havoc and anger, through its violent attacks. They have not "retaken" the center of the city. They are in the Zocalo (central plaza), but the popular movement has encampments only blocks away at Sto. Domingo Church and in the University, and sporadically controls various streets leading into the Zocalo.

I was told that the federal military police are actually "surrounded" by the movement.

2. The greatest defeat of the federal forces is that the people are no longer afraid of them. The movement is not going away.

3. The teachers as a movement are still supporting the APPO (popular government) and the strike. Yesterday when the APPO called for three marches, rank and file teachers turned out in mass.

It is the leadership of the Seccion XXII teachers union that is waffling. They called a meeting of the leadership at the same time as the marches, and only incorporated themselves when the marches were getting close to their destination.

The CMPIO does not necessarily believe that the leadership was "bought out"; they may simply be afraid. And their fear is warranted. But, according to the CMPIO, their actions now are embarrassing and shameful. The teachers are NOT behind them.

4. While most schools in the Isthmus are open, very few in the central valleys and none in Oaxaca City are open. Even private schools have been closed in the city. The city teachers will not easily return to classes.

5. Yesterday, I believe, three teacher political prisoners were freed by the government, supposedly to comply with the negotiated demand to return to classes. The three called for teachers to return to classes. The teachers movement rejected this call, even suggesting that it would be better if the three freed prisoners returned to jail!

Since then, the three have changed their tune. But the resolve of the teacher movement to continue the strike, at least in and around Oaxaca City, until the governor is booted, seems clear.

6. Most businesses in the center of the city have been closed. Gasoline supplies are starting to be depleted.

7. The hunger strikers continue in D.F. Three are in delicate condition and were admitted to hospitals. The others continue.

8. Apparently there is much agitation in the Congress to resolve the Oaxaca situation. The CMPIO feels it is now almost likely that the governor will be gotten rid of.

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)

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/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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