

GI SPECIAL 4L10:

**GUESS WHO DOESN'T NEED U.S. MILITARY
"ADVISORS" TO TELL HIM WHAT TO DO OR BILLIONS
PISSED AWAY ON HIS TRAINING:**

GUESS WHO DOESN'T HAVE TO WATCH HIS BACK

NOW, FOR THE BIG BUCKS, GUESS WHY:

***COULD IT BE THOSE FOLKS IN THE PHOTO WITH
HIM THINK HE'S ON THEIR SIDE?***

***THEY DON'T EXACTLY LOOK "TERRORIZED," DO
THEY?***



An insurgent armed with a heavy machinegun stands at a street in the centre of the Iraqi town of Ramadi December 8, 2006. REUTERS/Stringer (IRAQ)

“We’ve Been Here For 12 Months Now And There’s Been No Progress”

“‘I Don’t Want To Live My Life Like This,’ He Said”

December 6, 2006 By Will Weissert, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

[M]any of the soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment were skeptical they'll be going home anytime soon, despite a high-level U.S. panel's recommendation that most combat troops leave Iraq by early 2008.

"There's no way we're leaving in two years no matter what any recommendation says," Spc. Eisenhower Atuatasi, 26, of Westminster, Calif., said. He thought 2012 was more realistic.

Sgt. Christopher Wiacik, 28, of Lavonia, Mich., also was pessimistic.

"It's just a study group. It's not really going to affect the president. I don't see any major changes happening until presidential elections start," Wiacik said. "I think both sides will promise to get troops out and give timelines then, but not before."

The U.S. Army troops, based in the Sunni insurgent stronghold of Ramadi, are still reeling from learning two months ago that their tour was being extended until at least February.

"We've been here for 12 months now and there's been no progress," said Spc. Richard Johnson, 20, of Bridgeport, Conn., as he manned a machine gun on the rooftop of an outpost ringed by a shallow moat of sewage.

Nearby buildings have been leveled by rocket or tank fire, and others are riddled with bullet holes. The neighborhood only has electricity a few hours a day and most streets are barricaded with barbed wire and blast walls.

"It's like holding a child's hand. How long can you hold onto his hand before he does something on his own?" Johnson said. "How much longer do we have to get shot at or blown up?"

1st Lt. Gerard Dow said he agreed with the commission's assessment that the situation in Iraq was "grave and disappointing."

"In Iraq, we try to win the hearts and minds of population," said Dow, 32, of Chicago. "They want Americans out of here. They blame us for all their problems. They look at us as the terrorists and then they turn around and help the terrorists who are trying to kill us."

[London Times, December 6, 1776: "In America, we try to win the hearts and minds of population," said Wilson, 32, of London. "The want British out of here. They blame us for all their problems. They look at us as the terrorists and then they turn around and help the terrorists who are trying to kill us."

[Berlin, Der Stuermer, December 6, 1943: "In France, we try to win the hearts and minds of population," said Hauser, 32, of Berlin. "The want Germans out of here. They blame us for all their problems. They look at us as the terrorists and then they turn around and help the terrorists who are trying to kill us."

Dow said elders at a nearby mosque broadcast messages saying Americans are the cause of all the problems in Ramadi, the capital of restive Sunni-dominated Anbar province, 70 miles west of Baghdad.

The soldiers here also welcomed news that Robert Gates had been named to replace Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. Gates told a Senate committee Tuesday that "all options are on the table" about how to resolve the Iraq crisis.

"Yes, please! All of us want to change what we're doing because we're not doing very much," said Staff Sgt. Rony Theodore, 33, of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Wiacik also hoped for change.

"We're just sitting around not making any progress. It's annoying. You're not motivated to help anybody," he said, adding his contract was up in 2008 and he did not plan to re-enlist.

"I don't want to live my life like this," 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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Marine Killed In Al Anbar

Dec. 9, 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061209-10

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: One Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 died today from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

Two North Carolina Soldiers Killed In Iraq

12/09/06 Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. The Defense Department and family members say two North Carolina soldiers were killed earlier this week in Iraq.

The military says Specialist Nicholas Gibbs of Stokesdale died yesterday after being shot in Ar Ramadi.

And the parents of another soldier, Specialist Jason Huffman of Conover, say he died yesterday when a bomb went off while he was in his Humvee in Kirkuk.

Gibbs was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division in Giessen, Germany. The military says he was conducting observation and security operations at the time of his death.

Karen and Gary Huffman say their son was three weeks into his second tour in Iraq when he was killed.

His family says Huffman joined the Army in 2003 and served his first tour in Iraq in 2003 and 2004.

Ohio Soldier Killed By Explosive In Iraq

December 9, 2006 By Barbara Carmen and Matt Zapotosky, The Columbus Dispatch

Karen Pomante packed her son's Christmas gifts and made sure to mail them by last Sunday's deadline to reach Iraq.

Don't send much, her 22-year-old son had told her. Vincent Pomante III would have to pack it when he came home. His three-year hitch with the Army would be up Jan. 9.

Instead, Pomante, a standout wrestler for Westerville South High School, will come home to full honors.

The U.S. Army specialist and tank gunner was killed Wednesday by an improvised explosive device. His family is still waiting to find out exactly how and where he was killed.

His mother learned of her son's death Thursday, and family members, including the soldier's younger sister, Amy, and his father, Vincent Jr., are making funeral arrangements.

Karen Pomante said her son was proud of his Army service.

"9/11 had a huge effect for my son and his friends," she said.

Her son, known to friends and family as "V.J.," was happy most of the time, his mother said. "He really liked being outside. He liked to fish. He liked to play Frisbee golf. He sailed with his friends whenever he could be anywhere near water."

George Crooks, Pomante's wrestling coach at Westerville South, remembered the lanky kid who was "able to put anybody in the cradle."

Pomante, who was nearly 6 feet, 5 inches and wrestled at 189 pounds, had qualified for the district tournament in his senior year after a comeback victory against a wrestler from Hilliard Davidson.

"He jumped up in joy," Crooks said. "It was a good way for him to finish his four-year career."

Off the mat, Pomante was "always smiling" and was famous for bringing his sense of humor to the team. Four days before he had to shave his head for wrestling season, Pomante came to school sporting a mullet, Crooks said.

Now, the only reminders Crooks have of Pomante are an American flag patch and an Iraqi dinar that Pomante gave him during a visit home last year. Both are hanging in Crooks' classroom.

His mom had sent V.J. a small Christmas tree, some beef jerky, a new pillow and CDs of comedian Larry the Cable Guy.

"He thought he was going to be home by the end of February," she said.

Fallen Carlsdadt Marine Heading Home

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

December 5, 2006 By JOSEPH AX, STAFF WRITER, North Jersey Media Group Inc.

CARLSTADT -- The body of Marine Lance Cpl. Michael Schwarz, a 20-year-old Carlstadt native killed by a sniper's bullet in Iraq last week, will return to his hometown today with his family.

The family, accompanied by members of the police and fire departments and by borough officials, will pick up Michael Schwarz's body from a military base in Dover, Md., and bring him to the Kimak Funeral Home, 425 Broad St.

Police will likely cordon off several streets to facilitate the caravan of cars, but it was unclear as of Monday afternoon when and where the closings would occur.

A wake will take place from 4 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church, 457 Division Ave., and the funeral is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Friday at the church. Schwarz will be buried at George Washington Memorial Park in Paramus.

Schwarz, a 2004 graduate of Becton Regional High School, was killed on Nov. 27 in Iraq's Anbar Province, where he was attached to the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Friends last week recalled his passion for off-road driving, his outgoing personality and his lifelong ambition to join the Marines.

His father, Ken, is the former chief of the volunteer fire department, of which Michael was a member. Michael Schwarz is also survived by his mother, Pam, and his brother, Frank.

Paratrooper From Decatur Killed In Iraq



Donovan Watts sits on a "throne" built for him by fellow soldiers in the 82nd Airborne.

11/29/06 By BILL MONTGOMERY, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Donovan Watts was a "thrill-seeking type of guy" as a teenager, according to his sister, who said he chose a career after graduation from Decatur's Gordon High that provided

him with plenty of thrills. Watts, an Army paratrooper, also faced danger and found heavy responsibility as the senior enlisted advisor for his battalion commander in Iraq.

Command Sgt. Major Donovan Earl Watts, with 27 years in the Army, was killed Nov. 21 as he rode next to the driver in a Humvee on patrol when an improvised explosive device detonated on a road between Tikrit and Baghdad. At least four others were in the vehicle; Watts was the only fatality. He was 46 and is survived by his parents, his 8-year-old daughter, and three siblings.

Watts' sister, Bridget Watts of Decatur, described her brother as "an extremely extroverted, funny guy who loved people, loved life. He gave love and received it, to his family, his friends and his troops. He loved his guys, and they returned the feeling," she said. "Just the week before he died, they built him a throne — I've seen the photo — actually just a chair with the 82nd Airborne symbol for him."

Watts was born in Anniston, Ala., and enlisted in the Army after his high school graduation in 1979.

"He was a very self-motivated guy, and he knew what he wanted to do," Bridget Watts said. "He always liked excitement, and went to Airborne School at Fort Benning, and became sergeant major at the jump school there. He was also a Ranger." Watts saw combat in Desert Storm, the 1991 operation that expelled Saddam Hussein from Kuwait.

Watts deployed to Iraq last August, his sister said, and expected to return to the U.S. in January. "He was looking forward to retirement, spending time with his daughter, and getting her a dog," she said.

Eight-year-old Charlee lives with her mother, Charlotte Surgick, in Fayetteville, N.C., home of the Army's Fort Bragg.

Bridget Watts said her brother "always wanted me to pray for Charlee, and to keep in contact with her."

Watts said her brother would usually telephone weekly from Iraq, and often sent daily e-mails. She received a last message shortly before his death.

"He said he was OK, but that it was it getting rough — there was a lot of insurgent activity. That was all."

She said of her brother: "I'd want him remembered as a man who loved people, and he loved life."

Survivors besides his daughter and sister Bridget include his mother, Teresa Watts of Decatur; his father, Schuessler Watts, of Anniston, Ala.; another sister, Brandi Watts of Oxon Hill, Md., and a brother, Marlon Watts of Decatur.

Services are tentatively scheduled for Saturday at Donald Trimble Mortuary, with a military funeral and burial next week at Fort Bragg.

Austin Family Mourns The Loss Of Marine

November 28, 2006 KEYE-TV

An Austin family is mourning the loss of their son, brother, husband and father. 24-year-old Marine Corporal Michael Ledsome died Saturday fighting in Iraq.

Being a Marine was more than just a calling for Michael. It was also apparently a family tradition.

Michael joined the military with his brother. Together they were following in the footsteps of their father.

Saturday he was in a firefight near the Anbar Province when he was shot and killed.

His grandmother says he was recently out of the hospital, injured back in August when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy.

Michael Ledsome joined the Marines shortly after marrying Megan Smith in Austin. The couple has a two-year-old son.

"We have our crying spells you know," says Joann Ledsome, Michael's grandmother. "It still doesn't seem real it really doesn't. But you know they are fighting for a cause."

Joann says that when she sent Michael care packages he told her it was just like Christmas. His family members describe him as an athletic teenager who loved to golf.

Before joining the Marines he ran a pro shop at a golf course here in Austin.

***Good News For The Iraqi
Resistance!!***
**U.S. Occupation Commands'
Stupid Terror Tactic Recruits Even
More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops:**

Officers In Iraq Adopt Tactic Borrowed From Hitler's Mass Murderers: Collective Punishment Of A Whole Iraqi City

08 Dec 2006 Reuters

U.S. and Iraqi troops have sealed off the city of Haditha in Anbar province, in the heartland of the Sunni insurgency, and have warned residents to keep off the streets and stay indoors, officials and residents said on Friday.

The U.S. military said troops were manning checkpoints and building a sand berm to crack down on insurgents in Haditha and in neighbouring Barwana.

It said U.S. troops were protecting "the population and good citizens of Haditha".

But residents in Haditha, which is at the centre of a U.S. military investigation into the deaths of two dozen civilians in November 2005 by U.S. Marines, said electricity has been cut off *and that no food is being allowed into the city.*

Schools have been forced to close, they said.

While the U.S. military has acknowledged it shut down electrical power in the area during recovery efforts following the death of four U.S. troops last week when a Marine helicopter came down, it has blamed current power losses on "maintenance requirements" at a nearby dam.

"This is the sixth day Haditha is without electricity," one resident said on Friday.

MORE:

Collective Punishment:

No general penalty, pecuniary or otherwise, shall be inflicted upon the population on account of the acts of individuals for which they cannot be regarded as jointly and severally responsible.

Laws and Customs of War on Land (Hague IV); October 18, 1907, Article 50

No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited.

Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, Geneva, 12 August 1949, Part III : Status and treatment of protected persons, Section I : Provisions common to the territories of the parties to the conflict and to occupied territories, Article 33

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

**U.S. Occupation Commands'
Stupid Terror Tactic Recruits Even
More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops:
“Down With The Occupiers”
“Long Live The Resistance”
1000 Demonstrate Against Ishaqi
Massacre**



A policeman with residents marching against an overnight U.S. raid and airstrike in Ishaqi December 9, 2006. (Nuhad Hussin/Reuters)

12.9.06 By THOMAS WAGNER, Associated Press Writer

Iraq's influential Association of Muslim Scholars and the country's largest Sunni Arab political party, the Iraqi Islamic Party, on Saturday condemned a deadly U.S. military attack the previous day in al-Ishaqi village in volatile Salahuddin province.

The U.S. command said a ground raid and airstrike killed 20 insurgents, but local officials claimed at least 19 civilians died, including seven women and eight children.

About 1,000 residents of the predominantly Sunni village of al-Ishaqi held a funeral for the 19 dead Saturday, shouting "Down with the occupiers," "Long live the resistance," and "There is no God but Allah."

The Association of Muslim Scholars, a group of hard-line Sunnis that opposes the coalition, issued a statement alleging U.S. soldiers entered two Iraqi houses, shot 32 civilians to death, including women and children, and then blew up the buildings to make it look as if the victims died in a U.S. airstrike targeting insurgents.

The Iraqi Islamic Party, part of a Sunni bloc that controls 44 of parliament's 275 seats, made a similar claim, calling the attack "a new massacre by the American occupiers."



Residents hold up weapons as they protest against an overnight U.S. raid and airstrike in Ishaqi December 9, 2006. REUTERS/Nuhad Hussin (IRAQ)



Armed Iraqis condemn the U.S. Occupation during a funeral in the al-Ishaqi village Dec. 9, 2006. (AP Photo/Hameed Rasheed)

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

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

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO
COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS
EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS
TIME, EXCEPT THAT A TRAITOR WHO LIVES
IN THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS YOU THERE,
SO HE WILL LOOK GOOD
That is not a good enough reason.**



U.S. soldiers from 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment patrol a village north of Samarra, October 21. (US Army/Spc. Joshua R. Ford/Handout/Reuters)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“Bush Failed To Achieve Twin Objectives Of Fewer Restrictions And More Troops For Afghanistan”

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

Dec 2, 2006 By Jason Motlagh, Asia Times & Saeed Zabuli, Pajhwok Afghan News
[Excerpts]

US President George W Bush failed to achieve twin objectives of fewer restrictions and more troops for Afghanistan at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit in Riga this week, shifting focus back to Iraq, where he refuses to draw down military forces.

The implicit message to Taliban insurgents and their backers: time can erode an already faltering alliance in the long run.

NATO, in its first-ever mission outside Europe, now has about 32,000 troops in Afghanistan battling an unexpectedly robust Taliban across the southern and eastern back country.

To the dismay of the United States, Britain, Canada and the Netherlands - member states that have borne the brunt of the fighting - other countries have put caveats on how and where their troops can be operate as militants continue to make headway.

Officials responded that France, Germany, Italy and Spain would ease some deployment restrictions in case of security emergencies, but would not commit troops to fight in hot zones down south.

Poland is the only country that has pledged to send extra troops in the new year.

Bitterness is mounting among contributors such as Canada, which provides 2,500 troops and has had to shoulder a disproportionate amount of hostilities in recent months.

Germany, for its part, boasts some 2,700 troops in Afghanistan but they remain limited by their own government's mandate to safer northern areas around Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz and Faizabad.

Observers say this inconsistency could breed resentment among international forces that must cooperate to beat back the insurgency and fast-track reconstruction.

The feared symptom is that public opinion back home vital to sustaining military involvement will gradually sour in a prelude to withdrawal.

Suicide and roadside bombings targeting foreign troops and government officials have increased fourfold this year, up to 600 a month, with violence recorded in all but two of the country's 34 provinces. Officials say between 3,700 and 4,000 people have died in insurgent-related violence this year, including at least 186 coalition troops.

"After five years of constantly fighting foreign troops, the Taliban have become a strong military power of the same levels as the most powerful army," said Commander Obaidullah, who insisted that his fighters could carry on for another 20 years if necessary.

Standing gun battles between Taliban and NATO forces in Kandahar and Helmand provinces over the summer - the fiercest since the movement's government was toppled by a 2001 US-led invasion - lend some ballast to this claim.

But the Taliban leadership is still banking on asymmetrical tactics founded on historical precedent to oust NATO forces.

Two successful, low-intensity campaigns against the British in the 19th century and the Soviets in the 1980s have kept geographical advantages fresh in mind.

Mullah Dadullah, another top commander, told Al-Jazeera in a July 2005 interview: "Our tactics are now hit and run; we attack certain locations, kill the enemies of Allah there, and retreat to safe bases in the mountains to preserve our mujahideen."

The Hamid Karzai government in Kabul is propped up by 32,000 ISAF troops. The main troop contributors are U.S. (11,800) Britain (6,000), Germany (2,700) Canada, (2,500) Netherlands (2,000), Italy, (1,800) and France (975)

But NATO's first mission outside Europe has deeply divided the 26-member alliance. Major members like France, Italy, Spain and Germany, have refused to risk their troops in military operations involving the Taliban, which have killed some 100 foreign soldiers, including 36 Britons, this year.

Spanish troops based in relatively peaceful western Afghanistan have rarely left their compound. Now, Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has offered the use of Spanish helicopters in exceptional circumstances to help evacuate wounded NATO soldiers, but not for combat in the volatile south.

Chancellor Angela Merkel turned down a plea from NATO commanders to increase Germany's existing 2,900 strong force in Afghanistan. But she pledged to back up other NATO members in military emergencies.

French President Jacques Chirac agreed to send more aircraft and helicopters, and allow one army unit to move out of Kabul. While Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi said a decision to move his soldiers from western Afghanistan to the main battlegrounds in the south and east would be taken on a case-by-case basis.

NATO commanders, demanding greater flexibility and resources, welcomed the small relaxation on curbs.

Chief Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said 20,000 of the 32,000 troops in Afghanistan were more usable in combat and non-combat operations, but admitted that it still fell short of troop requirements.

Assorted Resistance Action

Dec 9 ASADABAD, Afghanistan (AFP)

Two Afghan interpreters were killed when a roadside bomb hit a vehicle in a NATO-led military convoy in the south-central province of Uruzgan, also on Friday, the alliance said.

The Afghans were on board a vehicle in the convoy, which was patrolling the Taliban-infested area, military spokesman Major Luke Knittig said.

"Basically an IED (improvised explosive device) struck against an international force with interpreters operating in Uruzgan. Two interpreters were killed," Knittig said.

There were no military casualties, he added.

TROOP NEWS



There are 7,367 employees of the U.S. Veterans Administration whose salaries exceed \$100,000 per year.

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

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Saddam Hussein's Nephew Escapes Prison

12.9.06 By THOMAS WAGNER, Associated Press Writer

A nephew of Saddam Hussein serving a life sentence for financing insurgents and possessing bombs escaped from prison Saturday in northern Iraq with the help of a police officer, authorities said.

Ayman Sabawi, son of Saddam's half brother Sabawi Ibrahim Hassan al-Tikriti, escaped from a prison 45 miles west of the northern city of Mosul in the afternoon with the help of a policeman, said a local police commander, Brig. Abdul Karim al-Jubouri.

Brig. Abdul-Karim Khalaf, an Interior Ministry spokesman, confirmed the escape but declined to discuss any details.

Sabawi, who was arrested in May 2005 by U.S. and Iraqi forces near Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, was convicted of illegally crossing the border from Syria and sentenced to 15 years in prison late last year by an Iraqi court. He was sentenced to life in prison in an earlier case for possession of illegal weapons and manufacture of bombs.

In July 2005, the United States froze Sabawi's assets along with those of five other Saddam nephews, accusing them of providing funds to Iraq's insurgency.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Blaming The Victims For Iraq's Nightmare: "The Long Dormant Antiwar Movement Must Take To The Streets"

December 8, 2006 By Sharon Smith, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

FOR MORE than a century, the U.S. claimed each time it invaded another sovereign nation that it was selflessly shouldering the responsibility of "civilizing" a backward population.

This process became widely known as "the white man's burden" after Rudyard Kipling's 1899 poem of the same name, which described the conquered populations as "sullen peoples, half-devil and half-child."

Kipling's poem celebrated the 1898 U.S. invasion of the Philippines, which killed well over half a million civilians in the following years. The U.S. government crushed the Filipino insurgency--and refused to grant independence to the Philippines until 1946.

In Iraq, the U.S. has managed to kill a similar number of Iraqis, but failed to crush the resistance.

The Washington establishment (minus the increasingly isolated and delusional Bush and Cheney) has finally concluded that the Iraq war is “unwinnable,” and the imperial endgame is beginning.

Commitments to “bipartisanship” and “compromise” are already echoing through the halls of Congress, as Democrats and Republicans unite to salvage what remains of U.S. imperialism’s longstanding aims in the Middle East.

Democrats and Republicans have joined together to take aim at the ungrateful Iraqi population, who apparently fail to appreciate the U.S.’s selfless efforts to impose “democracy” through military occupation. On this point, the two parties are indistinguishable.

As the Washington Post reported, “(A) November 15 meeting of the Senate Armed Services Committee turned into a festival of bipartisan Iraqi-bashing.”

“We should put the responsibility for Iraq’s future squarely where it belongs -- on the Iraqis,” argued Democratic Sen. Carl M. Levin, who will chair the committee in January. “We cannot save the Iraqis from themselves.”

“Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) followed by noting: “People in South Carolina come up to me in increasing numbers and suggest that no matter what we do in Iraq, the Iraqis are incapable of solving their own problems through the political process and will resort to violence, and we need to get the hell out of there.”

New House Speaker Nancy Pelosi chimed in, quoted in the Congressional Quarterly, “We need to send a message to Iraqis that our patience is not unlimited.” Likewise, presidential wannabe Sen. Barack Obama stated that there should be “[n]o more coddling” of Iraqis.

Within a few short weeks, the Washington “consensus” has rewritten the history of the U.S. invasion of Iraq -- as if Iraqis invited the U.S. to invade their sovereign nation in 2003 and now have failed to live up to their end of the bargain. The mass civilian bloodshed at the hands of the U.S. military is apparently irrelevant in this equation.

The war was based on a set of lies. So, too, is today’s talk that a “phased withdrawal” constitutes a genuine withdrawal, prefaced by the clumsy attempt to blame Iraqis for the state of their country.

The electorate expressed its opposition to the Iraq war on November 7. But electoral opposition is clearly not enough to convince the two war parties in power that U.S. troops must leave Iraq -- and should never have invaded in the first place. U.S. occupation has brought nothing but violence to the Iraqi people, and will do nothing to stem the bloodshed now.

The long dormant antiwar movement must take to the streets to remind this country’s ruling elite that they ultimately must answer to the people they govern.

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.

Found: Saddam's Weapon Of Mass Destruction



December 3, 2006 By Greg Palast, gregpalast.com

This photo of condemned Iraqi ex-strongman Saddam Hussein amid exotic weapons of mass destruction, taken just before the liberation of Iraq, was released Saturday by the White House.

Proclaiming that the long-awaited evidence of Saddam's deadly weaponry was now irrefutable, Presidential spokesman Tony Snow displayed the picture of Saddam with bow and arrows at a special briefing for the Washington press corp.

"These are 'dirty' arrows, capable of delivering radioactive material wherever shot," said Snow. While conceding that there was as yet no evidence that Saddam had the capability to 'nuclearize' these warheads, sources close to the Office of Special Plans at the Pentagon stated that, "The purpose of a 'dirty arrow' is not to kill but to spread destructive mass panic."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added "Imagine the deadly effect if one of these babies was shot into the goal post at the Super Bowl game during Shakira's half-time show."

Administration defense policy advisor Richard Perle, speaking from the American Enterprise Institute, noted that Saddam clearly had the means to greatly multiply the deadly panic effect of a dirty arrow attack by use of a "war whoop," which Perle demonstrated by repeatedly placing the closed fingers of one hand against his lips while intoning, "whoop-whoop-whoop-whoop."

The discovery of hard evidence of Saddam's dirty arrow program vindicates the claims of Iraqi exile leader Ahmad Chalabi that Saddam had concealed large caches of war paint and battle feathers.

During a scheduled impromptu chat with the press held at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, the President said, "Well, this should put an end to my critics and the nay-sayers and the cutters and runners who said we were fibbing about Saddam's WMDs."

Because of the extreme danger to the American public of such arrows, Mr. Bush said his father, the former president, had given him for his recent birthday a bow and arrows "with these little rubber suction thingies on the end."

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell, reached in Baghdad, when asked about the new dirty arrow revelations said, "You're kidding me, right?" General Powell was in Iraq to continue the hunt for the biological weapons laboratories whose photos he displayed to the United Nations in the lead-up to the 2003 invasion.

"Hey, a picture's worth a thousand words -- or fifty thousand lives," said the General, laughing hysterically as he locked himself inside one of Saddam's "mobile laboratories" filled with nothing but sand.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Welcome To Fundamentalist America: 4 -Year-Old Accused Of Sex Attack On School Aide

Dec 8, 2006 by Jennifer Kent, KXXV

BELLMEAD- A four-year-old hugged his teachers aide and was put into in-school suspension, according to the father. Damarcus Blackwell's four-year-old son was lining-

up to get on the bus after school last month, when he was accused of rubbing his face in the chest of a female employee.

The principal of La Vega Primary School sent a letter to the Blackwells that said the pre-kindergartener demonstrated "inappropriate physical behavior interpreted as sexual contact and/or sexual harassment."

Blackwell says it's ridiculous that the aide would misread a hug from a four-year-old. Blackwell wrote to administrators demanding that the whole incident be expunged from his son's academic file because his son is too young to know what it means to act sexually.

Blackwell got a response from the La Vega administration. The sexual references on the discipline referral were removed.

But the thing that makes Blackwell most upset is they told him "your request for an apology by the aide and removal of all paperwork regarding this incident is denied." Now the young student's file will refer to the incident as "inappropriate physical contact." And Blackwell says he will continue to fight the district.

La Vega I.S.D. administrators told News Channel 25 they couldn't comment on this case because of student privacy issues. **[No doubt the ignorant shits were too busy finding devils and demons inside the kids.]**

Cornered Rat: Approach With Care



Dec. 7, 2006 in Washington. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

CLASS WAR REPORTS

12 Million Suburbanites Live In Poverty

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

Dec 7 By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press Writer

As Americans flee the cities for the suburbs, many are failing to leave poverty behind.

The suburban poor outnumbered their inner-city counterparts for the first time last year, with more than 12 million suburban residents living in poverty, according to a study of the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas released Thursday.

Nationally, the poverty rate leveled off last year at 12.6 percent after increasing every year since the decade began.

[R]esearch analyst Elizabeth Kneebone studied poverty figures for the 100 largest metropolitan areas, measuring changes from 1999 to 2005, the most recent data available.

In 1999, the number of poor people living in cities and suburbs was roughly even, at about 10.3 million apiece, according to the report. Last year, the suburban poor outnumbered their urban counterparts by about 1.2 million.

The federal government defined the poverty level as \$15,577 for a family of three in 2005.

"Traditionally, cities have been viewed as home to poor populations, surrounded by middle- and upper-income suburbs," the report said. "This 'tipping' of poor populations to the suburbs represents a signal development that upends historical notions about who lives in cities and suburbs."

Marc H. Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League, said many of the same social and economic problems that have plagued cities for years are now affecting suburbs: struggling schools, rising crime and low-paying jobs.

"I call it the urbanization of the suburbs," Morial said.

"I hope this says to people that the way to confront poverty is not to wall it off and concentrate it," Morial said. "You really need policies to eliminate it."

The poverty rate in large cities (18.8 percent) is still higher than it is in the suburbs (9.4 percent). But the overall number of people living in poverty is higher in the suburbs in part because of population growth.

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)

Received:

VA Clinics: “Any Audio / Visual Recording Of Other Patients Without Their Written Consent Is A Criminal Violation”

From: David Honish, Veteran
To: GI Special
Sent: December 09, 2006 4:52 PM
Subject: RE: 4L9

I can understand the frustration of the writer who spoke of substandard medical care which he receives from the VA in Alabama.

However, he should be careful of his stated intent to take a camera into the VA Clinic.

Anyone doing this should not record other patients, and make sure that only staff, conditions, or themselves are recorded.

Any audio / visual recording of other patients without their written consent is a criminal violation of both state and federal laws.

Received:

“A Break For Reservists Called To Duty”

From: K

To: GI Special

Sent: December 09, 2006

Subject: Info: A break for reservists called to duty (From MSN Money)

I thought that this might be of interest...might apply to some GI Special readers?

A pain in the ass with paperwork, but looks like a potential money saver.

"Military reservists called to active duty can receive payments from their IRAs, 401(k) plans and 403(b) tax-sheltered annuities without having to pay the 10% early distribution tax. To qualify, a reservist must be called to active duty for at least 180 days. Reservists activated after Sept. 11, 2001, and before Dec. 31, 2007, qualify for this relief. If you do qualify and have paid taxes on the withdrawals in prior years, file Form 1040 X to get a refund. You can normally amend up to three years after the due date of the return."

Solidarity,
K

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://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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