

GI SPECIAL 4L15:

IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR: December 12, 2006: San Francisco



[Photo by Jeff Paterson, Courage to Resist: jeff [at] paterson.net]

**Troops Want Iraq
Withdrawal:
“I Started To Break Free Of All
The Propaganda”**

“I Came To The Conclusion That This War Was Based On Lies And Deception”

[Thanks to Max Watts, Frank Millspaugh, Elaine Brower, and Johanna Pettit, who sent this in.]

December 16, 2006 Marc Cooper, The Nation [Excerpts]

For the first time since Vietnam, an organized, robust movement of active-duty US military personnel has publicly surfaced to oppose a war in which they are serving. Those involved plan to petition Congress to withdraw American troops from Iraq.

After appearing only seven weeks ago on the Internet, the Appeal for Redress, brainchild of 29-year-old Navy seaman Jonathan Hutto, has already been signed by nearly 1,000 US soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen, including dozens of officers, most of whom are on active duty.

Not since 1969, when some 1,300 active-duty military personnel signed an open letter in the New York Times opposing the war in Vietnam, has there been such a dramatic barometer of rising military dissent.

Coming from an all-volunteer military, the Appeal was called "unprecedented" by Eugene Fidell, president of the National Institute of Military Justice.

Signers have been assured they are sending a communication to Congress protected under the Military Whistleblower Protection Act. The Pentagon is powerless to take official reprisals and has said that as long as active-duty personnel are not in uniform or on duty, they are free to express their views to Congress.

There are of course other, subtler risks involved. The military command exercises enormous power through individual reviews, promotions and assignments. But that hasn't kept a number of signers from going public with their dissent.

**"Lisa"
20 Years Old, E-4, USAF, Stationed At Hickam Air Force Base,
Hawaii:**

I joined up two weeks after I turned 17 because I wanted to save American lives. I wanted to be a hero like any American child.

I supported the war when I joined because I thought it was justified. Only after my own research and the truth coming out did I learn how wrong I was, how -- for lack of a better word -- how brainwashed I was.

Now I know the war is illegal, unjustified and that our troops have no reason for being there.

When I saw an article about the Appeal in the Air Force Times I went online right away and signed it and have encouraged others to do the same.

**"Sgt. Gary"
21 Years Old. US Army. Deployed With 20th Infantry Regiment,
Near Mosul, Iraq:**

I joined up in 2001, still a junior in high school. I felt very patriotic at the end of my US History class. My idea of the Army was that you signed up, they gave you a rifle and you ran off into battle like in some 1950s war movie. The whole idea of boot camp never really entered my head.

I supported the war in the beginning. I bought everything Bush said about how Saddam had WMDs, how he was working with Al Qaeda, how he was a threat to America. Of course, this all turned out to be false.

This is my second tour, and as of a few days ago it's half-over. Before I deployed with my unit for the second time I already had feelings of not wanting to go.

When in late September a buddy in my platoon died from a bullet in the head, I really took a long hard look at this war, this Administration, and the reasons why.

After months of research on the Internet, I came to the conclusion that this war was based on lies and deception. I started to break free of all the propoganda that the Bush Administration and the Army puts out on a daily basis.

So far in three years we have succeeded in toppling a dictator and replacing him with puppets.

Outlawing the old government and its standing army and replacing them with an unreliable and poorly trained crew of paycheck collectors.

The well is so poisoned by what we have done here that nothing can fix it.

**Mark Mackoviak
24 Years Old. Us Army. Recently Returned From Iraq. Stationed
At Fort Bragg, North Carolina:**

I joined the Army on September 23, 2001. I had been out of school for a year when September 11 came around, and I was supportive of our action in Afghanistan. I wound up there a year later, and it was pretty eye-opening to see how people live.

I was also in Iraq for about a year, deployed near the International Airport, west of Baghdad. I was never that supportive of the invasion. I thought the media coverage of it was horrendous, really disgusting.

Just about everything I saw in Iraq reinforced my views that it was wrong. The point that really hit me was when the Asmara Mosque got blown up. I said, Wow, this is really a civil war.

I really enjoy being in the Army, enjoy the experience. I just happen to not support this war. I'm very open about that. My buddies either disagree with me or just pay no attention. But I get absolutely no hostility. None.

"Rebecca"

26 years old. 101st Airborne, US Army. Just returned from Iraq. Stationed at Fort Hood, Texas:

I joined in 2004. I was trying to go into the human rights field, but it was very competitive. I was in need of health insurance, and the Army seemed feasible. Now it looks like I will be stop-lossed until 2010.

I had strong feelings about the war, against it, but I'm the type of person that wants to fully understand both sides of the argument.

My experience in Iraq confirmed my views, but it also gave me a more multifaceted view of things. I did see some of the good things being done, but it seemed like a Band-Aid on a gushing wound.

Mostly I saw the frivolity of the missions, the lack of direction, the absurdity of the mission. You go out in your Humvee, you drive around, and you wait to be blown up and get killed by an IED.

About 40 percent of my unit were stop-lossed. Their first mission was to take down Saddam and his regime, and they seemed to understand that and agree with the mission to take down a ruthless dictator.

Now they can't seem to understand why they are there, caught in the cross hairs of a civil war.

I think it is safe to say that the majority of soldiers are wondering what this grand scheme is that we keep hearing about from those above us but that is never translating down to the ground level.

Some politicians are starting to see that not only a majority of Americans oppose to this war.

Now they see this very powerful statement of soldiers who have already been on the front line and who are still in uniform and are also opposed.

None of them have been where we have been, none of them have seen what we have seen.

It's time they do.

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

Soldier Killed In Ramadi



U.S. Army Pfc. Paul Balint Jr., 22, of Willow Park was killed Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his unit came in contact with the enemy using small arms fire during combat. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Friedberg, Germany. (AP Photo/U.S. Army via The Arlington Star Telegram)

Marine From Va. Beach Dies In Iraq

December 07, 2006 BY STEPHANIE HEINATZ, Hampton Roads Daily Press

A 24-year-old Marine from Virginia Beach died Sunday, after the helicopter he was traveling in crashed in Iraq, the Defense Department announced Wednesday.

Cpl. Joshua Sticklen was stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

He was one of four Marines killed when a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter plunged into a lake in al-Anbar province, a volatile Sunni Muslim insurgent stronghold.

Sticklen's family - Margaret Sticklen, his mother, and Larry and Rebecca Sticklen, his father and stepmother - live in Virginia Beach.

In 2004, according to a Marine Corps magazine, Sticklen was an intelligence analyst helping his unit develop three-dimensional models of terrain they'd be training in. The work gave commanders a better idea of where their troops were and what they'd be getting into.

His work on these extremely detailed models shed light on a young man who, in his work, was patient, paid attention to detail and was proud of a job well done.

'We build the model one square at a time,' Sticklen told the magazine Marines. 'You have to pay close attention to the contour lines in order for everything to match, but once it does, it looks incredible.'

There were long days in completing the model, he was quoted as saying, but 'the satisfaction of the completed project was well worth the time spent.'

Michigan Marine Killed Near Fallujah



Lance Cpl. Brent E. Beeler, 22, is from Jackson County's Napoleon Township.

December 9, 2006 BY JOHN MASSON, FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

They called him Bayou Beeler -- this big football-loving Marine from Jackson County's Napoleon Township.

The Marine Corps knew him as Lance Cpl. Brent E. Beeler, and a brief press release Friday delivered the news that the 22-year-old was killed Thursday in combat near Fallujah.

Beeler's family recalled Friday a man who loved his pickup truck, Hank Williams Jr. and water skiing.

Beeler's mother, Rhonda Beeler, said an insurgent had shot her 6-foot-2, 220-pound son in the chest during a battle Thursday, killing him despite the body armor he wore.

"He was a good kid," Rhonda Beeler said. "He had a lot of friends. He was just crazy. Beautiful smile, big heart. ... He loved his truck. He would have that thing loaded down like the Beverly Hillbillies. He loved his quad, and his dirt-bike and his truck ... and he loved to snowmobile."

He also had longed to be in the military since at least high school, she said, because "he always liked being part of a team."

Beeler was assigned to Jackson-based Charlie Company of the 1st Battalion of the 24th Marines, headquartered at Selfridge Air National Guard Base near Mt. Clemens.

The Free Press is chronicling Beeler's battalion, which arrived in Iraq at the end of September, as Michigan's Band of Brothers. About 700 of the roughly 1,110 members of the battalion are reservists based in Michigan.

Beeler is the 11th member of the battalion to be killed in Iraq, and the first since Nov. 19.

"He was 'Bayou' because he was redneck crazy," said his mom. "He has a sister Andrea -- she was 'Little Bayou.' I was 'Mama Bayou,' and Dad was 'Papa Bayou.' Always will be, I guess."

Rhonda Beeler said her son recently asked about a story that ran in the Free Press -- a story about an improvised explosive device that blew up under a Humvee carrying Free Press photographer David P. Gilkey. When the bomb went off, lifting the armored Humvee into the air and slightly wounding the Marine in its turret, Beeler was sharing a trailing Humvee with Free Press reporter Joe Swickard.

"He said 'Mom did you see the article that was in the Detroit Free Press?' " she said. "Then he said that was pretty dead-on about what it was like over here."

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Livingston Soldier Latest Alabama Bomb Death In Iraq

12/8/2006 LIVINGSTON, Ala. (AP)

An Army sergeant from Livingston was killed last week by a roadside bomb — the third Iraq casualty from Alabama in one week.

Staff Sgt. Robert L. Love Jr. died Dec. 1 in Ar Ramadi when an improvised explosive device, or IED blew up near his vehicle during combat. Two other Alabama soldiers, Spc. Christopher Mason, 32, of Mobile, and Spc. Jon-Erik Loney, 21, of Hartselle, died Nov. 28 in separate bombings in Iraq.

Love, 28, a 1996 graduate of Livingston High School in west Alabama, was assigned to the 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Giessen, Germany.

The Defense Department initially announced Thursday that Love was from Meridian, Miss., but Love was born across the line in nearby Livingston, according to school officials.

His mother, Mary Love, contacted Friday in Livingston, said her son and his wife, Staff Sgt. Brianna K. Love, were sent to Germany at the same time. He said the couple had a 3-year-old daughter and Robert Love has an 11-year-old daughter.

"My daughter-in-law called me yesterday," she said. "He was supposed to come home in January."

Mary Love said her son, one of five children, had played in the band at Livingston High. She said he had immediately enlisted in the Army after graduation and had served eight years. She said she did not know why the Department of Defense listed her son's hometown as Meridian, Miss., which is nearby.

"Brianna said they have his body in Delaware," she said. "They're supposed to be doing a service for him Dec. 16 in Germany. The body should be here on the 17th and she wanted to have the funeral on the 20th."

The soldier's father, Robert Love Sr., said his son's loss "has been hard but we're holding up. You know, he was supposed to come home soon."

Love's death brings the number of Alabamians killed in Iraq and the war on terror to at least 73, based on an unofficial count. Lt. Col. Robert Horton, an Alabama Guard spokesman, has been keeping track of deaths from all branches of the military since Sept. 11, 2001.

Finger Soldier Killed In Iraq

December 5, 2006 By NED B. HUNTER, The Jackson Sun

A 22-year-old Army special forces soldier from Finger was among four people killed Sunday when a helicopter made an emergency landing in Iraq, his family said Monday.

Spc. Dustin Adkins was killed in Haditha, Iraq - located in Anbar province - when the Chinook helicopter went down in a lake, said Adkins' grandmother Mayrine Adkins, of Finger.

Mayrine Adkins said her grandson was one of two Army soldiers on the helicopter, along with several Marines.

Dustin Adkins, a father of two, joined the military three years ago, according to his family. He was assigned to the Group Support Battalion of the 5th Special Forces Group, based at Fort Campbell, Ky.

"He was in special forces," Mayrine Adkins said. "He was a dental assistant."

This was Adkins' second tour of duty in Iraq. He left in August and was scheduled to return home in seven months, or sometime around March, his grandmother said, but his tour had been extended.

Dustin's great-uncle Donnie Lynch said his nephew "was a really good kid.

"He never really got excited about anything," he said. "He had a calm nature about him, and he was good with kids" - even better with his own.

"He would fish with his kids sometimes, and was a computer nut," Mayrine Adkins said.

Dustin Adkins was married to Tiffany. They have two children - a boy, Matthew, 3, and a girl, Atlanta, 2. Adkins was the son of Richard Adkins and Karen Scudder, and had an older brother, Nicholas Adkins, and a sister, Crystal Webb.

"He was a real sweet person," his grandmother said. "He was always so concerned about helping me whenever he came to visit. He was always thinking of others."

Funeral arraignments are pending, awaiting the arrival of Adkins' body.

"The Army said his body will arrive in Maryland and then go to Memphis, then to Henderson," Mayrine Adkins said. Finger is located in northern McNairy County near the Chester County line.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Canadian Soldier Injured By Pashmul Landmine

17/12/2006 CP

A Canadian soldier is in serious but stable condition after stepping on a landmine in the Panjwahi district of Afghanistan.

Pte. Frederic Couture was rushed for treatment in Kandahar after the incident, which occurred about noon local time on Saturday. Couture is with the 2nd Van Doos regiment of Valcartier, Que., but his age and hometown have not yet been released.

"At the time they were with the Afghan National Army; they were actually going to a shura (a meeting of village elders) in order to provide humanitarian assistance to that village," Lt. Sue Stefko told reporters.

Couture had been working with the Operational Mentor Liaison Team (OMLT). That unit works with new Afghan National Army personnel.

The blast took place on the Route Summit road in the Pashmul area, about 25 kilometres west of Kandahar City and an area of frequent and intense fighting.

France To Withdraw 200 Special Forces From Afghanistan

12/17/2006 PARIS (AP)

France is to withdraw its 200-strong special forces from Afghanistan, all of its ground troops engaged in the U.S. anti-terror operation codenamed Enduring Freedom, authorities announced Sunday.

Among planned changes is a "withdrawal of special forces from Jalalabad in the coming weeks," she said, referring to the southeastern city.

The 200 special French forces are to withdraw "at the start of 2007," said Caron.

No explanation was provided for the withdrawal from Enduring Freedom.

A French newspaper, Le Journal du Dimanche, reported a week ago that a pullout of special forces in the southeast was in the offing. It suggested the worsening security situation in Afghanistan was a possible reason for the decision. Nine elite troops have been killed in combat.

TROOP NEWS

180 Virginia National Guards Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

December 18, 2006 Army Times

Nearly 180 soldiers from the Virginia Army National Guard will mobilize Jan. 4 for Iraq, the state Guard said.

The three units are Headquarters and A companies of 116th Brigade Troops Battalion and 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry. They will undergo predeployment training at Fort Dix, N.J.

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



A US soldier mans a checkpoint in central Baghdad. (AFP/Ali Al-Saadi)

“Giving Veterans With PTSD A Pill Rather Than The Therapy They Need”
“The Once A Month Therapy Session And Toss Pills At The Vet Therapy Is A Joke”
“The VA And The Military Would Love To Treat Our Veterans ‘On The Cheap’”

The result can be a medication cocktail that leaves a patient constipated, impotent, sedated, subject to sunburn much easier than the norm, easily dehydrated, subject to heat stroke and on and on. One particular side effect is often a sexual side effect such as impotency, decreased libido or refractory ejaculation.

[Identifying information removed to safeguard the writer. T]

From: W
To: Vietnam Veterans Against The War Net
Sent: December 15, 2006
Subject: Re: PTSD Treatment Study

I've worked as a psychiatric RN for over 20 years and I'm also a combat veteran (USMC – RVN 67-69).

I too have reservations about the propranolol (AKA: Inderal) study. [See story at end about this study. T]

Propranolol is the generic version of Inderal and is dirt cheap compared to other meds.

The failure to use any medication in conjunction with ongoing psychotherapy is not adequate for PTSD.

We already have a reduction of time for psychiatric intakes and frequency of therapy office visits taking place at the VA.

The once a month therapy session and toss pills at the vet therapy is a joke.

I won't pass judgment on the study at this point. In fact, as someone who has been treated for PTSD for many years I've convinced my doctor to RX the medication to see if it has any efficacy for myself.

I will advise I became immediately wary of this study and the use of the veterans in terms of how little the medication costs.

My experience tells me the VA and the military would love to treat our veterans "on the cheap" and make the individual vet fit the treatment rather than the treatment fit the individual.

I've also noticed a troubling pattern over the years for Harvard researchers to try to tear apart the PTSD diagnosis.

I subscribed for years to the Harvard mental health newsletter and frequently found some new study of PTSD that seemed to discount the diagnosis by inferring the symptoms had an etiology other than the actual trauma.

I'm not proposing any conspiracy theory but I do know working in mental health PTSD has remained a controversial diagnosis for some psychiatrists.

I've had some say it was a refuge for personality disorders.

I had one psychiatrist who told me they would rather be dead than live with chronic PTSD.

I've seen people with PTSD working in mental health become pariahs when they had relapses or were triggered by something such as the current wars.

We can't fool ourselves to believe psychiatry takes an always unbiased or compassionate view of the people diagnosed with PTSD. We certainly can't expect one treatment to work for all.

The sad truth about psychopharmacy is it often takes several trials on many different medications to bring relief of any sort.

Another sad truth is the Western medical model relies entirely too much on instant relief from medications and fails to provide the needed human factor whether it be therapy or alternatives such as acupuncture, somatic therapy, acupressure, EMDR etc..

Another factor that needs to be put right up front are the side effects of the medications being used. This is very important for all patients and especially important for the young vets.

Frequently meds used for treating PTSD may have adverse side effects that will lead to poor med compliance.

One particular side effect is often a sexual side effect such as impotency, decreased libido or refractory ejaculation.

While not all who take the meds have the side effect there are significant numbers that do. The remedy of Western medicine is to then prescribe another med to counteract the side effect.

For the sexual side effect that can be meds such as Viagra or Cialis. For other side effects there are other particular meds given. All of these meds have their own particular common side effects!!

The result can be a medication cocktail that leaves a patient constipated, impotent, sedated, subject to sunburn much easier than the norm, easily dehydrated, subject to heat stroke and on and on.

There are also possible problems with kidneys and liver which secrete the medications.

I don't lay this out to dissuade anyone from taking meds but I do strongly encourage all patients to be well informed about side effects of what you're putting into your body.

If the doctor or nurses don't tell you don't hesitate to ask!

Read the pharmacy inserts and ask questions if you're not sure about something.

This is where I also agree with Dr. Broder about informed consent being compromised in the military.

An officer (doctor) tells you to take a med you take it is the normal response.

There are many studies of trauma and it plays out differently with each individual.

One certain thing is a medication alone will not allow an individual to return to optimal emotional health following the trauma.

Hopefully Western medicine can keep that in mind but don't trust that it will.

Peace and solidarity,
W, RN
VVAW member
USMC combat vet

“Giving Veterans With PTSD A Pill Rather Than The Therapy They Need”

Sent: December 14, 2006
To: VVAW Net
Subject: PTSD Treatment Study

PTSD UPDATE 09: The Army has agreed to fund research to see if a drug used to treat high blood pressure might be able to lessen the emotional impact of memories associated with post-traumatic stress disorder.

CBS 60 Minutes first reported 26 NOV that the Army was looking at whether the drug Propranolol could be used to treat PTSD.

Psychologist Dr. Scott P. Orr, who works at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Manchester N.H. said, researchers hope to recruit several dozen veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan from the greater Boston area for the study who will help conduct the research.

The study will look at whether Propranolol can reduce veterans' emotional responses to certain memories by cutting down on the accompanying surge of adrenaline. In initial tests people given the drug were observed to have reduced physiological responses such as heart rates to certain memories said Orr who is also part of the department of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital.

In an e-mail to Stars and Stripes Dr. Judith Broder, a Los Angeles-based psychiatrist who is the founder of a nonprofit organization that provides free mental health services to veterans said she has some reservations and is worried about several things:

She believes our soldiers often feel dehumanized by their time in the service. To then treat them with a drug that potentially numbs them may further alienate them.

She fears that the VA under funded and facing an increasing number of veterans returning with PTSD might resort to cost-effective solutions such as giving veterans with PTSD a pill rather than the therapy they need.

She is concerned about the issue of concern of informed consent.

Soldiers are used to following orders. These soldiers are now suffering from a disorder and of course want relief from their suffering.

Is it really possible to give informed consent to an experimental procedure under these conditions?"

The Thieves Fall Out: British And U.S. Commands In Afghanistan & Iraq Openly Fighting Each Other

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: Thieves Falling Out With Each other in Iraq, Afghanistan.]

10 December 2006 By Robert Fox, Independent News and Media

British intelligence officers and military commanders have accused the US of undermining British policies in Iraq and Afghanistan, after the sacking of a key British ally in the Afghan province of Helmand.

British sources have blamed pressure from the CIA for President Hamid Karzai's decision to dismiss Mohammed Daud as governor of Helmand, the southern province where Britain deployed some 4,000 troops this year.

Governor Daud was appointed in mid-year to replace a man the British accused of involvement in opium trafficking, but on Thursday Mr Karzai summoned him to Kabul and sacked him, along with his deputy.

"The Americans knew Daud was a main British ally," one official told The Independent on Sunday, "yet they deliberately undermined him and told Karzai to sack him." The official said the Defence Secretary, Des Browne, was "tearing his hair out".

Meanwhile, a confidential assessment of the situation in Iraq, seen by the IoS, has reported "serious tensions" in the American-British coalition.

American commanders in the country are believed to oppose the British strategy for handing over Maysan and Basra provinces to Iraqi control as part of an exit strategy.

With British commanders warning that they may not be able to succeed in Afghanistan unless forces in Iraq are drawn down, cracks in the transatlantic alliance are likely to widen.

The disagreements have come into the open after the summary sacking of Britain's protégé, Governor Daud. Although rival delegations from Helmand were in Kabul last week, one calling for his removal and the other demanding that he stay, a diplomatic source said Mr Karzai had listened to advice from "other powerful Western players".

Mr Daud, who had survived several Taliban assassination attempts, was seen as a key player in Britain's anti-drugs campaign in Helmand.

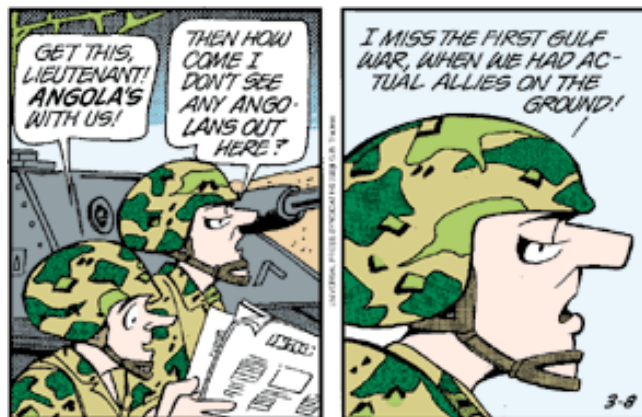
He was also the architect of a deal under which British forces moved out of the town of Musa Qala, where they had been involved in fierce combat with Taliban fighters. But the Americans publicly criticised truces in Musa Qala and other Helmand towns, saying they effectively gave in to the Taliban.

A British diplomatic source said yesterday: "We backed Mohammed Daud because he was an honest man and a progressive man, so obviously this is very disappointing. However, it is also true that he was under tremendous pressure and his position was getting weakened. Where does this leave our policy? Well, we shall have to wait and see."

The British commander of the NATO force in Afghanistan, Lieutenant-General David Richards, has also come in for American criticism as "too political".

The American supreme commander of NATO, General Jim Jones, has let it be known, according to sources, that General Richards "would have been sacked if he had been an American officer".

While the tensions between Britain and the US have burst into the open in Afghanistan, they have been simmering in Iraq. The confidential assessment of the situation there says American commanders want the British to be far more robust in confronting Shia militias in the south.



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

Married Couple Goes AWOL After Learning The Hard Way That Scumbag Recruiter Lied And Lied And Lied

[Thanks to Bunkie, Veterans Against Iraq War, who sent this in.]

12/8/2006 Dave McKinley, WROC-TV

There's a local couple living with a secret tonight. They went "AWOL" from the Army 39 days ago and are now officially classified as deserters. In exchange for a promise to keep their identities secret, they sat down with us to explain their reasons.

"What do we do now? I mean technically we're fugitives."

A year ago they were independent truckers, who underwent a personal epiphany of sorts.

"We were truck drivers on the road when Hurricane Katrina hit. So that's where we wanted to help out America in more ways"

So they enlisted in the army, under something called the married couple's program.

"The married couples program was the program that kept married couples in the army together at every duty station, so we would never be separated."

They also say they were assured by their recruiter not only would they be assigned to drive truck, but that their duty would be strictly stateside.

"My husband's colorblind so they said there's no chance of us going overseas."

But a funny thing happened on the way to basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. When they took a physical aptitude test "I passed mine, my husband didn't pass his."

So they were separated --contrary to what they thought they had agreed to.

They complained to a superior who told them as far as what the recruiter said "He made us promises he couldn't keep..."

"The army can never guarantee a couple to be together."

Not even under the married couples program?

"That's where we found out we were never enrolled in either the buddy program or the married couple program."

And what's more, she was told, she'd likely soon be shipping out to Afghanistan.

That when they made another decision, over lunch in the mess hall, the only time when they were permitted to see each other.

"We decided to leave."

On October 30th, and disguised as civilians, they made an escape akin to The Shawshank Redemption from Fort Leonard Wood.

In the coming days, we we'll tell you more about that part of the story. We'll investigate their allegations that their recruiter forged documents -- including a college transcript --even health records -- to get them into the army when they wouldn't have otherwise qualified and how their pleas for help from some elected officials have thus far fallen on deaf ears.

After the couple went AWOL, they actually contacted the army about turning themselves in, but were told they would be detained and were advised to get a lawyer, thus they remain in hiding for now.

An attorney specializing in military law tells us this sort of thing, by the way, is happening more than you might imagine.

Army And Marine Recruiters Who Preyed On High School Students Caught In FBI Cocaine Investigation

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

Dec 17 The Associated Press

A dozen Army and Marine recruiters who visited high schools were among the personnel caught in a major FBI cocaine investigation, and some were allowed to keep working while under suspicion, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The recruiters, who worked in the Tucson area, were targets of a federal sting called Operation Lively Green, which ran from 2001 to 2004 and was revealed last year. So far, 69 members of the military, prison guards, law enforcement employees and other public employees have been convicted of accepting bribes to help smuggle cocaine.

The Arizona Daily Star reviewed the investigation and court documents and found that the FBI allowed many recruiters to stay on the job even though they were targeted by the investigation. Some were still recruiting three years after they were photographed running drugs in uniform, the newspaper said.

Most of the recruiters pleaded guilty and will be sentenced in March. Some honorably retired from the military.

The sting began after the FBI received tips that a former Army National Guardsman was taking bribes to fix military aptitude tests for recruits, FBI Special Agent Adam Radtke said.

Military officials say they kept the recruiters on the job because the FBI told them to leave the suspects alone to avoid jeopardizing the sting. The military said it also didn't know some recruiters were under investigation, the newspaper reported.

A governing board member of the Tucson Unified School District, Judy Burns, criticized the FBI for allowing the recruiters to stay on the job so long.

"It's ludicrous to me that the FBI would leave these people in place and allow them onto our high school campuses," Burns said.

ARMY DEFINES LEGITIMATE AND QUESTIONABLE INTEL ACTIVITIES

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

December 12, 2006 SECRECY NEWS, Volume 2006, Issue No. 126

A recently updated U.S. Army regulation defines the parameters of legitimate military intelligence activities and outlines procedures for identifying "questionable" intelligence operations.

Among the permissible activities, for example, military intelligence "may conduct nonconsensual physical surveillance of U.S. persons who are -- military personnel on active duty status; present or former intelligence component employees; present or former intelligence component contractors and their present or former employees; applicants for intelligence component employment or contracting" and "persons in contact with those who fall into [the above categories] to the extent necessary to identify the person in contact" (sect. 9-2).

"Nothing in this procedure will be interpreted as authorizing the collection of any information relating to a U.S. person solely because of that person's lawful advocacy of measures opposed to Government policy" (sect. 2-5).

However, "commonly reported questionable intelligence activities (include) improper collection, retention, or dissemination of U.S. person information (such as) gathering information about U.S. domestic groups not connected with a foreign power or international terrorism" (sect. 15-4).

Other "commonly reported questionable activities" include "searching or monitoring a U.S. person's private internet account, under the guise of determining if the individual was passing classified information, without an authorized counterintelligence or law enforcement investigation and proper search or electronic surveillance authority."

Also considered "misconduct" is "coaching a source or subject of an investigation prior to an intelligence polygraph examination in an effort to help the individual pass the polygraph."

In one new provision, the regulation notes that intelligence personnel must ordinarily use government computers for official government business.

But, it says, "if operational security so requires, such as to protect a Government computer from hacker retaliation, a ... commander may approve nonattributable internet access" (sect. 1-9).

The 2005 regulation was released in its entirety this week in response to a Freedom of Information Act request from Secrecy News.

See "U.S. Army Intelligence Activities," Army Regulation 381-10, 22 November 2005 (2.7 MB PDF): www.fas.org/irp/doddir/army/ar381-10.pdf for whole manual

COMMENT UNNECESSARY



Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair autographs an armored vehicle during his visit to British troops in Basra Dec. 17, 2006. (AP Photo/Eddie Keogh/pool)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Welcome To Ramadi: Have A Nice Day



An insurgent stands in the middle of traffic in the centre of Ramadi December 8, 2006.
REUTERS/Stringer (IRAQ)

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

This Peace Movement

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: December 17, 2006
Subject: This Peace Movement

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade,
purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War,
United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

This Peace Movement

**This is not Vietnam, this is Iraq,
this is not Vietnam, this is Afghanistan.
Gone are the hippies
with their peace love long hair.
Gone are the students
because there is no draft.
During Vietnam, they raised hell,
in American colleges coast to coast.
They helped organized the Veterans,
organized the Unions.
Four died at Kent State
when Nixon came at them,
because they had campus protests
that led the Peace Movement.
They held it together, they were the glue,
but that was the sixties, that is Not Now.
This is not Vietnam, this is Iraq,
this is not Vietnam, this is Afghanistan.
The Vietnamese never killed
two towers in New York,**

they never drove a jet into the Pentagon.
There are no rice paddies, there is no jungle,
tanks were useless in Vietnam,
but they work good in the sand.
There is no white coast China Sea,
no country that is cut in half.
This is not Vietnam, this is Iraq,
there are no tunnels
just caves in Afghanistan.
So let's get on with Our Peace,
Our Peace Movement Now,
because what is the same,
is our young soldiers dying.
So whoever can lead,
lead this Peace Movement Now,
or perhaps a leaderless Movement
is all that we need,
because Iraqis are dying,
Afghanistans are too.
All war must stop, all war is cruel.
This is not Vietnam, this is Iraq,
this is not Vietnam, this is Afghanistan.
But what is the same, is all the pain,
a child with one leg, a soldier with one arm.
So let's stop the bleeding
because all the blood runs red.

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

**What An Amazing Coincidence!
Red Crescent Protests Occupation
Attacks:**

Red Crescent Attacked By Death Squad Two Days Later

From: Mohammed Salameh
To: anti-allawi-group@yahoogleroups.com
Sent: December 17, 2006
Subject: More of the same

Today we have been told that dozens of people working on behalf of the Iraqi Red Crescent have been kidnapped. This comes just two days after the Iraqi Red Crescent criticized the US for deliberately shooting at their offices, cars and staff.

The death squads are part of America's Salvador option.

Secondly, the media always report that these gunmen are wearing Iraqi police/army uniforms. They always arrive in Iraqi police/Army vehicles.

But it is never the Iraqi police/Army (US backed death squads) responsible, it is just gunmen

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

A Love Story In 4 Pictures

[Thanks to Katherine GY, Military Project, who sent this in.]





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)

A Photo We'll Never See



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

Can You Hear Me Now? Court Says FBI Can Use Your Cell Phone To Spy ... On You

12/10/06 by Vic Walter and Krista Kjellman, ABC News

Cell phone users, beware. The FBI can listen to everything you say, even when the cell phone is turned off.

A recent court ruling in a case against the Genovese crime family revealed that the FBI has the ability from a remote location to activate a cell phone and turn its microphone into a listening device that transmits to an FBI listening post, a method known as a "roving bug."

Experts say the only way to defeat it is to remove the cell phone battery.

"The FBI can access cell phones and modify them remotely without ever having to physically handle them," James Atkinson, a counterintelligence security consultant, told ABC News. "Any recently manufactured cell phone has a built-in tracking device, which can allow eavesdroppers to pinpoint someone's location to within just a few feet," he added.

According to the recent court ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Lewis Kaplan, "The device functioned whether the phone was powered on or off, intercepting conversations within its range wherever it happened to be."

The court ruling denied motions by 10 defendants to suppress the conversations obtained by "roving bugs" on the phones of John Ardito, a high-ranking member of the family, and Peter Peluso, an attorney and close associate of Ardito, who later cooperated with the government.

"The courts have given law enforcement a blank check for surveillance," Richard Rehbock, attorney for defendant John Ardito, told ABC News.

Judge Kaplan's ruling said otherwise. "While a mobile device makes interception easier and less costly to accomplish than a stationary one, this does not mean that it implicated new or different privacy concerns." He continued, "It simply dispenses with the need for repeated installations and surreptitious entries into buildings. It does not invade zones of privacy that the government could not reach by more conventional means."

But Rehbock disagrees. "Big Brother is upon us...1984 happened a long time ago," he said, referring to the George Orwell futuristic novel "1984," which described a society whose members were closely watched by those in power and was published in 1949.

Rumsfeld Fucks Up Pentagon Christmas Party

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

December 8, 2006 RAW STORY

Concern that soldiers and Pentagon civilians might appear to be celebrating outgoing Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's last day has caused the date of a Pentagon Christmas party to be changed, according to an item in today's Washington Post.

A segment of Al Kamen's "In the Loop" column reports that the offices supporting the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon planned to celebrate the holiday season next Friday, December 15th. But an order came down from the office of General Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, to change the date of the party.

According to Kamen, someone in Pace's office "had fretted that it might look as if all the hootin' and hollerin' that would be spilling out into the hallways was in celebration of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's departure that same day."

Kamen did not disclose the new date of the Christmas Party.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Strikers Picket 150 Goodyear Stores



Members of local unions, Frank White, left, and Mike Sowicz, show support for striking Goodyear workers outside a Goodyear store, in Philadelphia Dec. 16, 2006. (AP Photo/Rusty Kennedy)

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

Dec 17 By NATE JENKINS, Associated Press Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. - Union members battling Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. took their picket lines to about 150 tire retailers in the U.S. and Canada on Saturday, making their case directly to consumers for health care and retirement benefits.

In Lincoln, about 50 United Steelworkers members protested at two Goodyear retailers, decrying the company's use of replacement workers during the 2-month strike.

"We know what it takes to build tires, and unskilled workers just can't do it," said Gary Schaefer, 54, vice president of the United Steelworkers Local 286 in Lincoln. "We do not want the general public riding their lives on temporary workers."

About 15,000 workers are on strike at 12 U.S. and four Canadian plants, including union members on layoff, sick leave or other time off. Goodyear workers went on strike Oct. 5 after talks broke down on a new contract.

Since the strike began, Goodyear has been making tires at some of its North American plants with nonunion and temporary workers as well as some managers and relying on production at its international plants to help supply North American customers.

In suburban Pittsburgh, more than 80 people handed out fliers and urged holiday shoppers driving past a Goodyear service center to honk in support of employees.

"I'd say (we're getting) a lot of support, and that's what we're doing: educating the public on what the dispute is about," said John Sellers, a retired Steelworkers official.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said the labor group's decision to join forces with the USW for the protests was a statement by working people to Goodyear and other companies.

"We're going to hold the line for the nation's middle class. Working people everywhere have been pushed to the brink by giant multinational conglomerates like Goodyear," Sweeney said. "We're going to push back."

In Utah, which has no Goodyear manufacturing plants, about two dozen people waived signs along a busy thoroughfare and chanted, "Goodyear, broken promises don't fly."

"It's a solidarity meeting," said activist Archie Archuleta, a retired teacher and union member. "Wherever union workers are on strike we try to support them."

Goodyear has said it intends to close its Tyler, Texas, tire plant by next year because the company is ending production of low-profit private-label tires. The union wants all plants protected from closing. The USW also strongly objected to a company proposal for creating a retirees' health care trust, which the union argues shortchanges retirees.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

The following have posted issues; there may be others:

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

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

http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>;

<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/qi-special.htm>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.

