

GI SPECIAL 4L18:

NO MORE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason Deguzman, 23, Navy corpsman from Santa Rosa, Calif., tending to 2nd Lt. Samuel Joiners, wounded by an improvised explosive device in Anah, Anbar province, Iraq, Dec. 7, 2006. (AP Photo/Lance Cpl. Nathaniel F. Sapp, U.S. Marines)

55% Of Troops On Repeat Tours Say Morale Is “Low”

December 20, 2006 By Ann Scott Tyson, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpt]

U.S. soldiers serving repeated Iraq deployments are 50 percent more likely than those with one tour to suffer from acute combat stress, raising their risk of post-traumatic

stress disorder, according to the Army's first survey exploring how today's multiple war-zone rotations affect soldiers' mental health.

Soldiers with multiple tours also reported greater concern over the length of the 12-month deployments than those on their first tours and were more likely to give lower ratings for their own morale and that of their units, which 55 percent described as low.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Four Troops Killed In Anbar Province

22 December 2006 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061222-01

Three Marines and one Sailor assigned to Regimental Combat Team 7 died Thursday from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

Two U.S. Troops Killed In Al Anbar

Dec. 21, 2006 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061221-09

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: One Soldier assigned to Regimental Combat Team 7 died Tuesday and one Marine assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division died today from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

U.S. Soldier Killed, Another Wounded West Of Baghdad

22 December 2006 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061222-02

BAGHDAD An attack against a Multi-National Division Baghdad patrol killed a Soldier west of the Iraqi capital Dec. 22.

The Soldiers came under sporadic small arms and indirect fire during a patrol. One Soldier was killed and another wounded.

Portageville Soldier Killed;

“I’m Angry Because So Many Of Our Kids Get Killed. I Appreciate Our Kids Protecting Us But It's Not Their Fight. We’ve Been Put Into Place To Fight Someone Else's Battle”

12.22.06 Reporter: CJ Cassidy, KFVS12

A mother shares her grief after her daughter becomes one of the latest casualties in the war on Iraq.

Military families across the country dread hearing about yet another death overseas.

This time the news came to a Portageville family.

Army Major Gloria Scott-Davis becomes the Heartland's first female casualty, and our twentieth service person to die in the line of duty.

The Major's mother is both angry and in a state of shock.

Military service is a tradition in this family; the Major's son and daughter also served.

Major Gloria Scott-Davis herself had been in the army for 18 years, and had only two years to go before she retired.

Scott-Davis's mother thought she lost her daughter five years ago.

In September 2001, the Army Major worked at the Pentagon, but when terror struck on 9-11 luck was on Annie Washington's side.

"She had taken off that morning to go see her daughter," Washington says.

That bought the now grieving mother five more precious years with her beloved daughter.

During that time, the 47-year-old soldier went on a tour of duty to Iraq and came back home.

But it wasn't over for Scott-Davis. She returned to Baghdad this September, and news of her untimely death reached Annie Washington at her Portageville home on Tuesday.

"Whatever happened- I really don't want to know all the details, because I don't want to block my view of remembering her the way she was - the way she was; a beautiful person," Washington says.

She remembers her daughter sounding scared the last time she spoke with her on the phone from Baghdad.

"I know she was scared and who wouldn't be? I was scared for her - everytime I turn the news on someone's getting killed," she says.

Washington's grief doesn't stop her anger from ebbing through.

"The people sending our kids over there, their kids aren't over there so they don't know my pain. I wish I could give them my pain so they could know what it's like for five minutes. I'm angry because so many of our kids get killed. I appreciate our kids protecting us but it's not their fight. We've been put into place to fight someone else's battle," Washington says.

The army tells her an investigation is underway into Gloria Scott-Davis' death.

Her body is expected to be flown back to the us in a couple of weeks.

Her son was also serving in Iraq, and is said to be flying home to Washington, D.C. where the Major made her home, in the next few days.

Her mother says she plans on having a memorial service at the church she attended in Marston soon afterwards.

Marine From Hope Dies While Serving Iraq

December 22, 2006 HOPE, Mich. (AP)

A Marine from Michigan has died while serving in Iraq, his former high school principal said.

The family of Lance Cpl. Ryan J. Burgess, of Hope, was notified Thursday of his death earlier in the week, the Midland Daily News reported. The Defense Department had not released any information about Burgess as of midday Friday.

Burgess joined the Marines after graduating from Meridian High School in 2003.

``It's one of those sad things that hadn't hit home, but now it has," said Principal Dennis Stine, who had been notified of Burgess' death by a family member. ``We have a lot of students in the service."

Burgess' relatives asked for privacy following his death, the newspaper said.

Hope is located about 115 miles north-northwest of Detroit.

Opelousas Soldier Killed In Iraq

December 21, 2006 The Advertiser

A 21-year-old Opelousas soldier was killed in Iraq on Wednesday night.

According to a family friend, Marine LCPL Myles Cody Sebastien died just two months away from the end of his tour of duty.

Sebastien was a 2004 graduate of Opelousas High School. He leaves behind a wife, Kelie Arnaud Sebastien, also of Opelousas.

According to his personal Website on Myspace, Sebastien was a soldier in Weapons Company 1/6, stationed in Camp LeJeune in North Carolina. He was a vehicle commander with the 2nd Marines Division.

His "greeting" on his Myspace page is dedicated to his wife, and reads "I'm coming home to you, baby girl."

Sebastien is the third St. Landry Parish soldier to die in Iraq since the recent war began.

Kentucky Guard Member Dies In Iraq

December 12, 2006 Lexington Herald-Leader

A Grayson County man serving in Iraq died this week of a heart attack, Army officials said yesterday.

Staff Sgt. Thomas W. Clemons, 37, of the Kentucky Army National Guard, died Monday as his team was preparing to go on patrol near Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq, the Army said.

Attempts to help him were unsuccessful.

Clemons, who lived in Falls of Rough, had served in the Kentucky National Guard since August 2000. He was deployed in March 2006 to Iraq with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor.

His unit was providing force protection and security missions for the Army, officials said.

Clemons is survived by his wife, Sheila; two children, Ryan and Anthony; his sister, Pamela Bowling; and his parents, William H. Clemons and Patricia Frank.

Clemons is the 13th Kentucky Army National Guard soldier to die in U.S. military operations since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

For A Lost Friend, “I’ll Take The Pain”

December 9, 2006 By Sonja Elmquist, Staff Writer, The News & Record

After the Sept. 11 terror attacks, Nicholas Ray Gibbs really needed to do something for his country. His stepfather suggested he give blood.

Two days after her only son, an Army infantryman, was killed in Iraq, his mother reflected on that suggestion.

"We didn't mean this way," Debbie Halstead said.

Halstead remembers her son as her best friend, the one who would always wait to say goodbye to her last when he left because he knew she would take it the hardest.

Her last conversation with her son — an instant-message exchange via computer two weeks ago — was cut short because he had to leave for patrol.

"I didn't even get to say goodbye that time," said Halstead, who lives in Raleigh.

Gibbs, a specialist in the 1st Armored Division, based in Giessen, Germany, was on patrol Wednesday night in Ramadi, Iraq, when he was shot in the face, Halstead said.

Gibbs, 25, had a lot of friends he didn't get to tell goodbye — but they are saying goodbye to him now.

On Friday night, Daniel Baker and Rebecca Bennett, friends from Oak Ridge, where Gibbs grew up, got tattoos in honor of their friend.

Baker remembers meeting Gibbs at age 7 when they lived on the same dirt road.

"I went down the dirt road, and we started throwing rocks at each other," Baker said. "That's how we met, and best friends ever since."

On Friday, Baker got a replica of one of Gibbs' tattoos, a cross with angel wings, on the back of his shoulder. Baker put "Nick" in the center. For Baker, it was easier not to talk about losing his friend. The loss hurt, and the pain of the tattoo — his first — was the right thing to feel.

"He would take the pain for me; I'll take the pain for him," Baker said. "I know he ain't hurting, but I know his mom and dad ..." He broke off.

"He shouldn't even have been over there."

Gibbs was supposed to be home in October, his mother and friends said.

"He was all for the Army, but he was all for coming home, too," Bennett said. For her tattoo, she picked a shamrock similar to one that Gibbs had.

Waiting her turn at Monster's Ink in High Point, Bennett talked about how gung-ho Gibbs was when he enlisted. When he filled out his Army paperwork, he was asked to indicate a first and second choice for his duty station. "He put Iraq and Iraq," Bennett said.

Friends and family said Gibbs was looking forward to a lot. An avid Ohio State football fan, he was ready for a national championship win for his team in January. He was planning to drive his dad's Corvette, go to a welcome-home bonfire in March when his enlistment ended, and just have a steak and a beer at his favorite restaurant, Logan's.

The family is waiting for Gibbs' body to be returned before finalizing the funeral arrangements.

"The pain is just indescribable," his mother said.

She wears Gibbs' infantry ring on a chain around her neck. When he gave it to her as he was leaving for Germany in 2004, she said she would wear it over her heart until her son was back on American soil.

Her son will be back soon, but now Halstead doesn't want to take the ring off.

"I wanted him to come back," she said, "just like he promised us he would."

Marine's Death Comes As Shock To Community

December 10, 2006 By ANN KIM and NOEL GALLAGHER, Blethen Maine Newspapers

Friends of 22-year-old Dustin Libby, a Marine from the Aroostook County town of Castle Hill who was killed in Iraq last week, are shocked by his death, his brother said Saturday.

"They're all really shook up over the loss," said Chris Libby, adding that the family has received a stream of phone calls and e-mails from Dustin's friends, along with condolences from public officials including Sen. Olympia Snowe and Gov. John Baldacci.

"It's gotten out more and more. It's official now," he said. "We've had more calls and more support today."

Cpl. Dustin J. Libby, 22, died Wednesday while manning a rooftop machine gun during a firefight in Anbar province, Chris Libby said. A member of Cpl. Libby's squad told Chris Libby of Mapleton that his brother went down still holding the trigger.

Libby was one of seven Americans killed in combat Wednesday in Anbar province.

Libby was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, and was based at Camp Pendleton in California. He was just two weeks into his second tour of duty when he died.

His brother said Saturday that the family still had no official word on the circumstances surrounding Libby's death. Chris Libby said his family had not foreseen that Dustin Libby would enter the service. His brother described him as a hellion who had been impressed by how a buddy was transformed by his time in the Marines.

There had been talk of invading Iraq for months before Dustin Libby signed up for the Marines. The day he signed the papers, his brother picked him up and they went home to turn on the TV set and see President Bush announcing the invasion. "I looked at him," Chris Libby said, "and he said, 'Well, I knew we were going there.' "

Chris Libby said his brother made it through some tough scrapes on his first tour and was "scared half out of his mind," but he had no regrets.

He recalled how his younger brother looked the day he shipped off for boot camp -- a kid with scruffy, long hair, still a bit tipsy from the previous night's festivities. When the brothers saw each other again at boot camp graduation, Chris Libby did a double take.

"I'm looking at this man in front of me. I'm two inches taller than him and he's looking at me, eye to eye, in full uniform. It amazed me," Chris Libby said. "They talk about it on the advertisements on TV: We'll take your children and we'll turn them into men. He came back a man. He came back more than a man; he came back a Marine."

The family is still making arrangements for the funeral. Dustin Libby's survivors include his mother, Geni Libby of Castle Hill; his father, Judson Libby of Caribou; and his brother. Dustin Libby was engaged to Jeannine Gonzales, whom he met in California and planned to marry when he returned from Iraq.

Local Marine Injured In Iraq: Leg Damaged By Grenade Blast That Killed Friend

December 22, 2006 By CHRIS WETTERICH, STAFF WRITER, The State Journal-Register

A Springfield native was injured in Iraq this week when two rocket-propelled grenades exploded nearby in Al-Anbar province.

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Andrew Harrell, 27, sustained extensive injuries to his leg, according to his aunt, Yvonne Killion of Springfield. A Marine captain, a friend of Harrell's, was killed by the grenades, said Andrew Harrell's father, Randy, who did not know the captain's name.

Andrew Harrell was being treated in Germany and is expected to recover, Randy Harrell said. He is expected to be moved to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington today.

"It broke his leg, broke the femur and messed up his knee," Randy said of the blast, which was near a portable bathroom Andrew was in.

Andrew joined the Marines after he graduated from Lanphier High School in 1996, his father said.

"He'll be able to walk, hopefully," said Randy, who talked to his son Wednesday morning.

Andrew's wife, Gail, lives in the San Diego area, Randy said.

Andrew has done three tours in Iraq, serving about a year there, Randy said. His latest started about six weeks ago and came after a stint helping with tsunami recovery in Indonesia.

Andrew, a member of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, is typically stationed on a ship in the Persian Gulf and flown into Iraq for missions, his father said. The unit was stationed at Camp Korean Village near Rutbah, Iraq, in the province's western desert, according to a Marine Corps news release.

The unit was ordered there "to help address the security situation," said a letter from Col. Brian Beaudreault to family members.

Andrew was "a pretty good football player at Lanphier," his dad said. "He's still got lots of friends in Springfield."

Randy said he expects Andrew to stay in the Marines, "if he can."

South Dakota Soldier Hurt In Iraq

12/22/06 KOTA

STURGIS, S.D. A Sturgis native on his second military tour of duty in Iraq has survived a roadside bomb blast that killed three of his fellow soldiers.

Staff Sergeant Pierce Williams was riding in a Humvee near the edge of Baghdad when his convoy detonated a series of roadside bombs.

A blast sent shrapnel into William's shoulder and perforated his eardrums. He also suffered burns to his hands, neck and thighs.

Williams is being treated at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D-C.

He joined the Army ten days after graduating from high school in 2002.

Williams started his second tour of duty in Iraq in October.

FUTILE EXERCISE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



U.S. soldiers from the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team patrol a road in Baghdad, October 27, 2006. (Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud/Reuters)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Canadian Offensive “Hampered By Transportation Delays And Confusion” “Peculiar For Local Residents And Awkward For The Soldiers”

December 21, 2006 Brian Hutchinson, CanWest News Service [Excerpts]

HOWZ-E MADAD, Afghanistan - The latest NATO campaign to rout out Taliban insurgents from western Kandahar province and win over skeptical Afghans swung into high gear Wednesday as Canadian soldiers mounted Leopard tanks and armoured vehicles and drove deep into enemy territory.

It is the first time Canadian troops have deployed since Operation Baaz Tsuka was launched six days ago and, while there were no casualties, by Wednesday night it was clear everything was not going as planned.

Two Taliban insurgents were apprehended at roadblocks and were handed over to the Afghan national police, but efforts to deliver aid and material assistance to the people here were hampered by transportation delays and confusion.

Operation Baaz Tsuka is designed not only to justify the coalitions presence in Panjwaii District, but also coax local men of fighting age to drop their weapons and pick up shovels - or join the new Afghan national auxiliary police, instead of the Taliban.

But when the Canadians arrived the local elders who they were supposed to be seeing in a village shira or meeting, had not even been identified yet.

Worse still, the material aid, such as farming implements, which the soldiers were supposed to promptly distribute among local residents as a gesture of goodwill, had not yet arrived.

It made the sudden and unexpected Canadian presence seem peculiar for local residents and awkward for the soldiers.

Silly General Acts Surprised Force In Afghanistan Is 2,500 Troops Short

December 21, 2006 Thom Shanker, International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON: The Marine Corps general who just completed a tour as NATO's supreme commander said that NATO's force in Afghanistan was still 2,500 troops short, but he cited progress in persuading countries that send soldiers to remove restrictions on their combat roles.

NATO took over the leading role in the Afghan security mission earlier this year, but is still short of troops and equipment, especially helicopters, he said.

"In terms of the capacity of the alliance, you wouldn't think it would be this difficult, but it has been difficult to generate that last 10 to 15 percent," he said in an interview with two reporters.

The general, who is to retire in February, said Poland had pledged to add 1,000 troops to the mission, but other NATO members have announced that their soldiers are coming home.

Assorted Resistance Action

Dec 21, 2006 HERAT, Afghanistan (Reuters) & By Thom Shanker, International Herald Tribune & December 23, 2006 By Waheedullah Massoud in Kabul, Agence France-Presse & AP

A roadside bomb aimed at a senior Afghan police officer wounded a border police commander and his bodyguard. The remote-controlled blast happened on a bridge on the main highway just south of the western city of Herat bordering Iran.

Another aimed at a convoy of foreign troops killed three policemen and wounded several, police said. The second blast which targeted their convoy in Khost province bordering Pakistan, police said.

A bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a car belonging to MP Padshah Khan Zadran as it left his house in eastern Kabul, police criminal investigation chief Ali Shah Paktiawal said.

"Fortunately Zadran was not in the vehicle," Mr Paktiawal said.

The interior ministry said three bodyguards and five civilians were wounded, one of whom died on the way to hospital. All of the injured were in critical condition, police said.

Blood and parts of the attacker's body were strewn across the road, and the parliamentarian's car was badly damaged, an AFP photographer at the scene of the blast said.

Mr Zadran, the leader of an ethnic Pashtun tribe and a former anti-Soviet fighter, is an MP for southeastern Paktia province. He has often criticised the Taliban and has accused neighbouring Pakistan of aiding them.

Separately today, a remote-controlled bomb planted near a road 15 kilometres north of Tirin Kot, the capital Uruzgan province, ripped through a police patrol vehicle, police said.

"Five police were martyred in the blast near Tirinkot," said provincial spokesman Abdul Qayoom Qayoomi.

A spokesman for the ultra-Islamic militia claimed responsibility for the Uruzgan blast.

Three policemen were killed yesterday by two separate roadside bombs aimed at police convoys.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Staff Sgt. Henry W. Linck of Manhattan, Kan. during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery Dec. 18, 2006. Linck, a paratrooper, was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. (AP Photo/Haraz N. Ghanbari)

Massachusetts Guard Troops Sue For Their Expenses; Make The Chiselers Pay Up

December 21, 2006 By Michelle Tan, Army Times Staff writer [Excerpts]

The Massachusetts National Guard has reimbursed 126 soldiers for expenses they incurred while protecting possible targets after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, officials announced Wednesday.

Four soldiers filed a lawsuit Jan. 11 seeking \$73 million in unpaid expenses for them and hundreds of other soldiers as a class-action suit.

Stearns ruled Aug. 7 that he was going to defer his decision on whether to dismiss the suit until after the Guard completes an internal audit designed to fix the pay discrepancy.

Sgt. And His Lawyer Say Marines Are Trained To Be Mass Murderers And Slaughter Women And Children

21/12/06 THOMAS WATKINS, Associated Press

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Eight Marines were charged Thursday in the killings of 24 Iraqi civilians last year during a bloody, door-to-door sweep in the town of Haditha that came after one of their comrades was killed by a roadside bomb.

The most serious charges were brought against Staff Sgt. Frank Wuterich, a 26-year-old squad leader accused of murdering 12 civilians and ordering the murders of six more inside a house cleared by his squad. He was accused of telling his men to “shoot first and ask questions later,” according to court papers released by his attorney.

“There's no question that innocent people died that day, but Staff Sergeant Wuterich believes, and I believe, they did everything they were trained to do,” said Sgt. Wuterich's lawyer, Neal Puckett.

Iraq, Afghanistan Vets Massively Fucked Over By VA

December 04, 2006 By Rick Maze, Army Times Staff writer [Excerpts]

A 55-page report on veterans' programs has a simple bottom line: Veterans deserve more help and less red tape.

The report, called “Voices for Action: A Focus on the Changing Needs of America's Veterans,” culminates an effort launched by AmVets to look at concerns that veterans' programs are not really targeted toward younger veterans, particularly those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

When veterans file claims for earned benefits, for disability or education or any other purpose, the Veterans Affairs Department needs to work faster and be more helpful, the report says.

The system poses unnecessary roadblocks, such the practice of not completely reviewing claims for errors. A veteran whose claim is denied because of one mistake can find after he resubmits it that it is denied again for a different error.

That would have been noticed if VA's review policy were more customer-friendly, the report says.

Handling paperwork is another problem. “The Department of Veterans Affairs loses a lot of paperwork,” the report says, calling for an internal audit of VA to figure out why it cannot keep track of claims and correspondence.

Union Demands:

Cut Off Funding For The Iraq War

[Thanks to Ron Jacobs, who sent this in.]

Whereas the war in Iraq is continuing, and

whereas the American people in the last election clearly stated their opposition to this war, and

whereas the war can't continue without war funding, and

whereas a major factor in ending the Vietnam war was the cut-off of funding by Congress, and

whereas the Bush administration will ask for further funding for war early next year - up to \$160 billion on top of the \$70 billion approved by Congress last October; therefore,

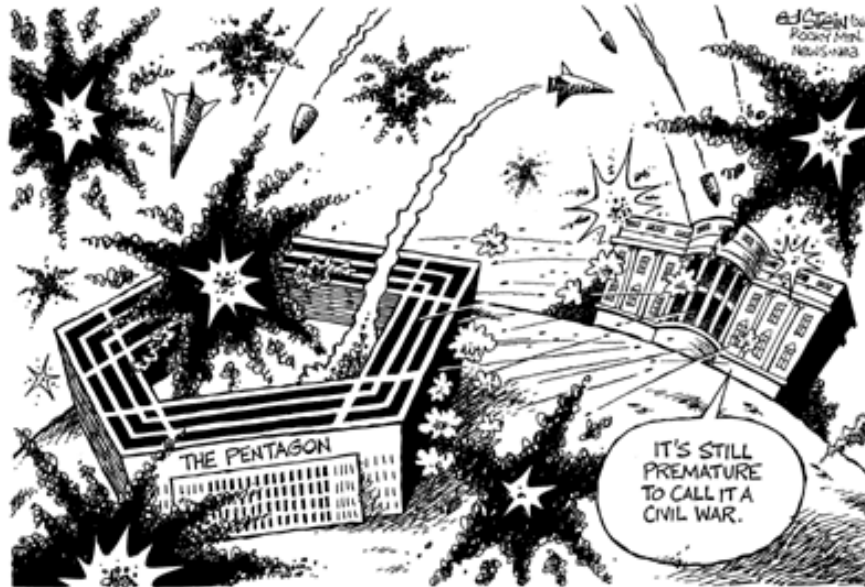
Be it resolved that the Washington-Orange-Lamoille Labor Council, AFL-CIO communicate its opposition to continued war funding - except to bring our troops home safely, and take care of them when they get here - directly with Representative Peter Welch and Senators Bernie Sanders and Patrick Leahy by joining delegations to discuss the issue of ending war funding in order to bring the troops home now; and

Be it further resolved that the Washington-Orange-Lamoille Labor Council, AFL-CIO join with Iraq veterans, Military Families Speak Out, and organize a labor contingent in the January 20th Montpelier Demonstration Against the Iraq War to demand: "Bring Our Troops Home Now - Money for People's Needs, Not War - Solidarity with Iraqi Workers"

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

**General Abizaid Quits:
Bush "Declined To Repeat His Usual
Formulation That He Will Heed His**

Commanders On The Ground When It Comes To Troop Levels”



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

12.21.06 Washington Post

The debate over sending more U.S. troops to Iraq intensified as President Bush signaled that he will listen but not necessarily defer to balky military officers, while Gen. John Abizaid, his top Middle East commander and a leading skeptic of a so-called surge, announced his retirement.

He declined to repeat his usual formulation that he will heed his commanders on the ground when it comes to troop levels.

“Regulation Does Not Prohibit The Possession Of Sexually Explicit Material By DoD Military Employees”

“I Don’t Want Regulations On What I Look At,’ A Service Member Wrote”

December 04, 2006 By Karen Jowers, Army Times Staff writer

Defense Department officials have approved a rule that will allow magazines, videos and audio material dubbed “sexually explicit” to be reconsidered every five years for sale in the military exchanges.

As of Dec. 15, magazines and videos banned over the last 10 years because of the 1996 Military Honor and Decency Act can be reviewed again, according to the Defense Department’s final regulation published in the Federal Register on Nov. 15.

The Resale Activities Board of Review, made up of senior civilians appointed by the Defense Department, determines whether material is lewd and lascivious, carrying out the requirements of the law that took effect a decade ago and was spearheaded by Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md.

In its initial review of materials, completed in October 1998, the board banned 244 of the 281 magazines submitted. One of the few that passed muster was Playboy.

The board also banned 32 of the 47 films it reviewed.

Information was not available Nov. 22 from the Defense Department about the most recent actions of the board.

In the Federal Register notice, the Defense Department also published 14 public comments about the regulation out of 28 received, and its response to them.

Officials shot down one person’s idea that the Pentagon should enlist the help of a consumer group of enlisted members and officers “to help analyze material for decency.”

Not necessary, defense officials stated. “The Resale Activities Board of Review includes civilian representatives from the Army, Navy and Air Force who are capable of identifying sexually explicit material.”

Ten years after the law was passed, it’s clear some people still are surprised and puzzled that such a law exists.

Nine of the comments raised questions about why the Defense Department would ban the sale or rental of sexually explicit material at all; some also mistakenly believe the regulation forbids possession of the material.

“The Department of Defense should not restrict the rights of military personnel more so than the general public,” one citizen wrote. “If military people want to look at pornographic material that is available in the open market, they should be allowed to do so.”

“I don’t want regulations on what I look at,” a service member wrote.

The official response, repeated nine times, stated that the regulation “does not prohibit the possession of sexually explicit material by DoD civilian or military employees. It prohibits the sale or rental of sexually explicit material on property under DoD

jurisdiction, and by DoD military and civilian employees when acting in an official capacity.”

Some people said they are concerned that the regulation violates First Amendment rights. That issue was decided by the Supreme Court, which upheld the ban in 1998 after it was challenged by several publishers, including the publisher of Penthouse magazine.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



A police vehicle damaged in a bomb attack is removed in Baghdad, December 21, 2006. (Mohammed Ammen/Reuters)

December 21, 2006 BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) & Reuters & AFP & 22 Dec 2006 Reuters & Mohammed al Dulaimy, McClatchy Newspapers

Three police officers and 12 recruits were killed and 15 more wounded, the US military said, citing an Iraqi police report, by a bomber who struck a group of police recruits at a police academy in eastern Baghdad.

The area around the facility remained cordoned off hours after the attack. Outside a nearby hospital, at least five bodies lay on gurneys and on the ground, covered in blue tarps as onlookers passed by.

Authorities say the attacker was wearing a belt rigged with explosives.

Two policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near the convoy of police Colonel Adnan Mohammed in Kirkuk, police said.

A car bomber rammed his car into an Iraqi army checkpoint, killing one soldier and wounding four on Wednesday in a town near Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed police Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Saleh on Wednesday in Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two policemen were killed when a roadside bomb targeted their patrol in central Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Around 9 a.m. Baghdad local time an IED exploded targeting police patrol in Al Saadon street, central Baghdad. The blast injured 2 policemen.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

As Christ's Head Drops

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: December 21, 2006
Subject: As Christ's Head Drops by Dennis

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

As Christ's Head Drops

**We don't care if the Resistance slices
your stomach and pulls out your intestines
and you suffer all night, before they shoot you
in the morning because, you are not a good soldier
if you let this happen to you.
We want that oil so bad that we will never
shout the words,
"We have lost the war**

and we are bringing all the soldiers home."
Our eyes are green with envy and dollars
and we say to hell with almost all the American voters.
It is so nice to get million dollar Christmas bonuses,
we thank the Christian Coalition for voting for Christ.
He hangs there like a dead soldier
with a spear in his side
like a modern day IED wound.
Poor Christ is dying for billions of dollars,
never to reach the common man's hand,
but to be used like our soldiers
as they sacrifice their lives for the rich.
These people are the Anti-Christ and they are evil,
these are the people our soldiers should kill.
Remember the money changers when Jesus was mad,
remember all the Judas' in the United States.
They have sold him for oil and billions of dollars
as they go to their Anti-Christ
Churches for Christmas,
feeling so Holy
but they are Not.

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

**Corrupt Officers In U.S. Military
Command Help Corrupt War
Profiteers;**

They Imprison And Torment Civilian Navy Veteran In Iraq: He Blew Whistle On Fraud for FBI; They Threw Him In Military Jail Cell; No Arrest Warrant, No Charges, No Trial

Vance said he was interrogated for lengthy periods, denied necessary medical care and repeatedly threatened with "you'll never leave here again."

Vance said he was unable to make a phone call to the outside world, so that his family didn't know where he was or even if he was alive.

Dec. 19, 2006 By Matt O'Connor, Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO - A Chicago man who worked for an Iraqi contractor alleged Monday he was imprisoned in a U.S. military compound in Baghdad, held incommunicado for more than three months and subjected to interrogation techniques "tantamount to torture."

In a federal lawsuit filed in Chicago, Donald Vance, 29, a Navy veteran, charged that his constitutional rights were trampled by American military interrogators even though they knew he was a U.S. citizen.

"I couldn't believe they did this to any human being," said Vance in a telephone interview.

Vance was taken into custody without charges in April.

While imprisoned at Camp Cropper near Baghdad International Airport, Vance said, he was held in solitary confinement in a continuously lit, windowless and extremely cold cell as loud heavy metal and country music blared nonstop.

The lawsuit charged that Vance, a security consultant for a private Iraqi firm at the time, was denied basic constitutional rights to due process as if he were a suspected terrorist or enemy combatant.

"That's why they did it to him - because they could," said Jon Loevy, one of Vance's lawyers. "If they could do it to Mr. Vance, they could do it to anybody."

The suit sought unspecified damages and named Donald Rumsfeld, who stepped down last week as U.S. secretary of defense, as its lone defendant for his role in overseeing the military prison system in Iraq.

Vance said he and co-worker Nathan Ertel suspected their Iraqi employer, Shield Group Security, of paying off local sheiks for influence in obtaining government contracts.

The two blew the whistle, becoming informants for the FBI in Chicago and U.S. officials in Iraq. But when they felt their lives had been threatened by their employer, they gathered up weapons and arranged for U.S. military forces to rescue them.

"We did an Alamo," said Vance in reference to their barricading themselves in a room in their employer's compound until the military rescue.

But after being debriefed at the U.S. Embassy, the two were awakened in the middle of the night, arrested, handcuffed, blindfolded and taken to the first of two U.S. military installations, according to the lawsuit.

"Certain low-level bureaucrats in the federal government apparently came to believe, quite incorrectly, that Mr. Vance might have more information, and they set out to extract it from him," the suit said.

Vance said military authorities at Camp Cropper knew he was a U.S. citizen because he had his passport and other identification with him.

Conditions at the camp were primitive and depressing, he said.

Vance was kept in solitary confinement in a tiny, unclean cell, the lawsuit alleged. It was difficult to sleep because the lights shined nonstop, temperatures were kept extremely cold and music pounded at "intolerably loud volumes," the suit said.

Vance was frequently denied food and water, sometimes for an entire day, the suit said.

Vance said he was interrogated for lengthy periods, denied necessary medical care and repeatedly threatened with "you'll never leave here again."

Vance said he was unable to make a phone call to the outside world, so that his family didn't know where he was or even if he was alive.

By the end of April, Vance and Ertel appeared before a so-called "detainee status group" - three military officers who wore no insignia displaying name or rank, the lawsuit said.

The two were denied attorneys, barred from seeing any of the purported evidence against them and unable to cross-examine adverse witnesses, the suit said.

Vance said the low point came when Ertel, who had been in an adjoining cell, was released in mid-May. "I had no one to turn to," he said.

Vance was held for two additional months before he was dropped off at the Baghdad International Airport "without so much as an apology," said Michael Kanovitz, another Vance lawyer.

"Plaintiff is not a terrorist," the suit said.

"He is a United States citizen, and a veteran at that, who loves this country, and everything for which it stands, as much as another American. He has never committed, much less been charged with, any crime."

According to the suit, Vance suffered serious emotional and physical distress during the ordeal.

In the interview Vance said he hadn't yet consulted a therapist. "I'm sure I'm suffering from something, (but) I'm not a doctor," he said.

Since returning to Chicago, Vance said, he hasn't confided much to his family about what he went through.

He also said he doesn't go outside much now. "I'm kind of a home-body now," he said.

By contrast, Ertel, who is represented by the same law firm but not part of this lawsuit, has returned to work in Iraq.

Bush Regime Picks Pro-Iranian Collaborator To Take Out Anti-Occupation Nationalist

December 21, 2006 By Sudarsan Raghavan, Washington Post Foreign Service
[Excerpts]

BAGHDAD -- In the quest to create a new Iraq, two powerful clerics compete for domination, one from within the government, the other from its shadows.

Both wear the black turban signifying their descent from the prophet Muhammad. They have fought each other since the days their fathers vied to lead Iraq's majority Shiites. They hold no official positions, but their parties each control 30 seats in the parliament.

But in the view of the Bush administration, Abdul Aziz al-Hakim is a moderate and Moqtada al-Sadr is an extremist.

As the U.S. president faces mounting pressure to reshape his Iraq policy, administration officials say they are pursuing a Hakim-led moderate coalition of Shiites, Sunnis and Kurdish parties in order to isolate extremists, in particular Sadr.

Hakim, who once verbally attacked U.S. policy, now senses a political opportunity and is softening his stance toward the Americans.

Sadr's position is hardening. Young and aggressive, he has suspended his participation in Iraq's government and is intensifying his demands for U.S. troops to leave the country.

As President Bush ponders limited alternatives in forging a new approach in Iraq, some wonder whether the United States is overestimating Hakim's ability.

The U.S. embrace of Hakim "will deepen their rivalry," said Mahmoud Othman, an independent Kurdish legislator. "And it will deepen the rifts between the United States and the Sadrists."

Hakim joined the 25-seat Iraqi Governing Council set up by the interim U.S. administration of L. Paul Bremer. Through his involvement in the government and his allegiance to Sistani, Hakim built up his power base.

Sadr went to war against U.S. forces, launching two major uprisings in the spring and summer of 2004 in the southern holy city of Najaf. Soon, Hakim and Sadr turned on each other. In Iraq's Shiite-dominated south, Sadr's militias have attacked the offices of Hakim's party, SCIRI, and fought with his forces.

Today, the control Hakim's armed wing, the Badr Organization, exerts over Karrada is dwindling.

Since the February bombing of a Shiite shrine in Samarra, which triggered an ongoing cycle of revenge killings, Sadr's Mahdi Army has pushed into mixed Shiite and Sunni neighborhoods across Baghdad. In recent months, it has arrived in Karrada, its stated goal to protect Shiite brethren from Sunni Arab insurgents.

Hakim and Sadr are also sharply divided over whether Iraq should split into autonomous regions.

Hakim is pushing for a separate Shiite region in the south, but Sadr, who views himself as an Iraqi nationalist, wants to keep the country unified.

Senior Sadr officials have circulated a petition among national lawmakers demanding a timetable for U.S. withdrawal. They have managed to get 131 signatures, nearly half of the parliament, Othman said.

"Politically, we can make the occupation withdraw," said Mustafa Yacoubi, Sadr's top deputy and a cleric who wears a black turban.

Hakim, meanwhile, has shown his pragmatism, understanding that he needs U.S. troops and support to balance the growing power of Sadr.

Last month, he met with Bush, an action that many observers saw as the U.S. hedging its gamble on the weak Maliki government.

"Maliki is very worried about this turnabout," said Wamid Nadhmi, a political analyst in Baghdad. "This is because of his affiliation with Moqtada Sadr and the promotion that Mr. Bush is giving to Mr. Hakim."

Maliki is seeing his political end, that they are trying to form a new government with the approval of the Americans."

U.S. pressure on Maliki to isolate Sadr is growing.

American officials have declared Shiite militias -- particularly the Mahdi Army -- the most significant threat to Iraq's stability. Maliki has not cracked down on the militia of his political benefactor. He and his Shiite Islamic Dawa Party are also resisting U.S. attempts to build a moderate coalition.

In many circles, Iraqis question whether Hakim and other so-called moderates can curb the growing power of Sadr.

"I have serious doubts about Mr. Hakim's influence among the Shiites, and I have serious doubts of Hashemi becoming the leader of Sunnis," Nadhmi said.

It's a sentiment shared in Karrada.

"Al-Hakim is not loved by the people," said Abdul Amir Ali, a burly Shiite shopkeeper. "People love the Islamic Dawa Party and Maliki because they don't have militias."

In the sidewalk restaurant where Sadr's poster hangs, its owner, Ali Hussein, points at clusters of young men nearby. They are all Mahdi Army, he said. And so is he.

Hakim, he said, made a fatal mistake by meeting Bush. In today's Iraq, credibility and power are measured by opposition to the United States.

"At this time, whoever has his hands with the Americans or Jews is not an Iraqi," said Hussein, as he chopped up cubes of lamb.

"So how could Hakim put his hands with the Americans? There will be tensions because Sayyed Moqtada Sadr is a revolutionary man, like his father. Even if Hakim tries to come back to Sadr, Sadr will never receive his hand."

**How Dare Those Iraqis Get
Massacred By Occupation
Troops?
Haditha Punished With An
Occupation Siege As Troops Who
Butchered The Citizens Are Indicted
For Murder**

HADITHA, Iraq, Dec 22 (Reuters)

Iraqis in Haditha, where 24 unarmed civilians were killed last year, said on Friday four U.S. Marines charged with their murder should be executed, a penalty they will not face in the United States.

Khaled Salman, whose sister Asmaa was among 24 people killed in Haditha, gathered with friends in the early hours of Friday to watch television coverage of the charges being announced. "Those soldiers killed 24 people. They killed women and children, isn't that enough for them be executed? Just so that the family can have peace," said Salman, 41.

"It's a political trial and it will not bring our rights back," said Salman, visibly angry.

Many in Haditha, a town of over 100,000 people on the Euphrates river, stayed up to watch coverage on Arabic satellite channel Al Jazeera. They had little confidence in U.S. justice.

Anger at U.S. forces has grown since tight security measures were imposed three weeks ago following a helicopter crash.

The U.S. military said the tightened security and a dirt wall recently built around the city were not meant to affect "innocent people's way of life" but to control movement and supply lines of insurgents. [Right. Put a "dirt wall" around the assholes in the White House and see how they like it then.]

Shopkeeper Mohammed Ali said there had been food shortages for three weeks until two days ago, when U.S. troops allowed some goods to enter the town.

"The Americans drive around in their cars and tell us on loudspeakers that we should hand over the gunmen or the siege will continue, but where are we going to get the gunmen from? We don't know them," Ali said.

Saber Mohammed, head teacher at a school, said the situation was difficult. "There is no school, the Americans have cut Haditha off from the rest of its neighbourhood so most of the time the students can't come to school," he said.

"How long is this situation going to continue? If gunmen attack U.S. troops why is it the innocent who pay the price?"

[Gee, that's not a tough question to answer. It's because the filth in command of the U.S. occupation troops learned their tactics from Hitler's SS, and, being cowards and criminals, believe in imposing collective punishment on helpless civilians. Of course they have an excellent defense for their commands: they're just following the example of Bush and the rest of the cowardly traitors in DC: the whole war on Iraqis is nothing but collective punishment for daring to have our oil under their sand. Duh. T]

OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION

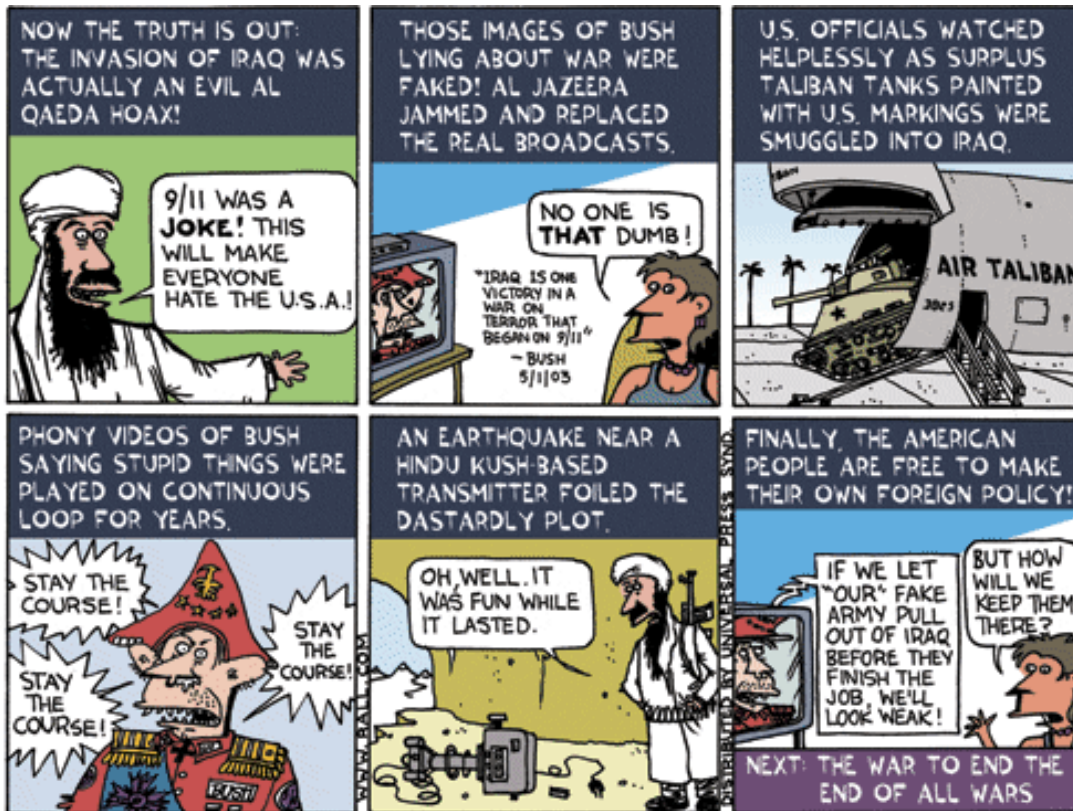
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]



[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]

Rice: Iraq Worth Investment In U.S. Aid

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: **MORE TRUTH: THEY SEE THE WAR AS AN "INVESTMENT."**]

12.21.06 By ANNE GEARAN, AP Diplomatic Writer

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told The Associated Press on Thursday that Iraq is "worth the investment" in American lives and dollars.

The top U.S. diplomat said the United States can win in Iraq, although the war so far has been longer and more difficult than she had expected. She made the remarks at a time when President Bush is under pressure from the public and members of Congress to find a fresh course in the long-running and costly war, which has shown no signs of nearing an end and cost the lives of more than 2,950 American troops.

In the AP interview, Rice was asked whether an additional \$100 billion the Pentagon wants for the Iraq and Afghan wars might amount to throwing good money after bad in Iraq. Bush and Congress have already provided more than \$500 billion for the two conflicts and worldwide efforts against terrorism, including more than \$350 billion for Iraq.

"I don't think it's a matter of money," Rice said.

"Along the way there have been plenty of markers that show that this is a country that is worth the investment, because once it emerges as a country that is a stabilizing factor you will have a very different kind of Middle East."

Rice added, **"I know from the point of view of not just the monetary cost but the sacrifice of American lives a lot has been sacrificed for Iraq, a lot has been invested in Iraq."**

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)

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