

GI SPECIAL 4L2:



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

**“Comments Like The
Ones You Are Making
Are Working Against Us
And Down-Rating Our
Service”**

Criticism:

From: Sander, Timothy P USA SGT USAR HHC 3D BCT 10MTN DIV
To: GI Special
Sent: November 29, 2006 5:45 AM

Subject: Your blog

I recently stumbled upon your website while researching information of my fallen comrades. I don't think you realize how discouraging it is when we hear people back home making comments like "This is how Bush brings them home," (while showing one of our brothers in a flag-draped coffin) and "Hopeless War with no mission."

We are out here every single day trying to help people who are less fortunate than ourselves. We are building schools and providing medical care in addition to constantly rooting out the dangerous terrorist cells that are scattered throughout these lands. We are extremely proud of the sacrifices we are making to keep America safe and comments like the ones you are making are working against us and down-rating our service.

The entire point I'm trying to make is that many of us would love to come home, but not until we know the mission is accomplished. Our mission here and in Iraq have not been accomplished yet sir so please stop trying to "bring us home now!" We are not quitters and we will come home when the job is finished!

Thank you,

Tim P. Sander, Sgt.
345th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Task Force Spartan Public Affairs
Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan
DSN: 318.851.1534

"If everybody is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking."
-General George S. Patton Jr.

Response:

Sgt. Sander,

First, neither GI Special nor The Military Project operate a blog.

GI Special is a newsletter. Most readers and contributors to the newsletter are either serving in the armed forces; military families whose service member relatives are still alive; Gold Star family members; veterans of Iraq and other wars; or other members of the huge majority of Americans now firmly and proudly opposed to the Bush regime's program of war without end.

Surely news of the election returns reached Afghanistan? The notion that GI Special can have a greater impact on troops than that event is ridiculous. Observers here from the far right to the far left agree: the election repudiated Bush's war policy.

In your letter, you represent as photo captions: "**This is how Bush brings them home,**" and "**Hopeless War with no mission.**" GI Special has never, one time, printed photos with the few words you quote as the captions.

It may be you have been misled. The only web site maintained by the Military Project to post GI Special newsletters is <http://www.militaryproject.org>. Anyone technically proficient may go to that web site, copy material, and post it on some other website, having forged material to suit themselves.

Perhaps the web site you visited is maintained by some other entity that carried the photos with the most important words omitted from the photo captions, leaving only the few words you quote, in order, by misrepresenting what the photo captions say, to create an impression of cold, uncaring stupidity.

Below are two examples of photos and captions as they do appear in GI Special. Please compare the reality with the misrepresentation of the captions reported in your letter. Note the words your complaint did not quote.

By the way, working in public affairs, and therefore committed to reporting relevant information to those asked to give up their lives for his government, surely you are making it known to those who serve with you that Hamid Karzai, the suppositious head of government in Afghanistan, is a former employee of Unocal Corporation, the parent company of Union Oil Company of California.

Finally, isolated in Afghanistan, it is understandable that you would not have the faintest notion of how troops in Iraq see the war, but not understandable that you would presume to speak for them.

You are entitled to speak for yourself; you have no right whatever to speak for them.

They have made their views clear.

So you may be brought up to speed about that, three articles on that subject appear below your letter, marked #1, #2 and #3..

Great quote from Patton. But it's a sword that cuts two ways.

In your letter, you assert that everybody serving in Afghanistan thinks the same way: all U.S. troops are pleased to be there doing good for those "unfortunate" people. Thank you for the quote, confirming that, if this is true, not only is it that "somebody isn't thinking." but "somebody" has no grip on the reality of a massive, growing and spreading insurgency, impossible without popular support, which one would hope has not escaped the notice of those serving in public affairs.

To read why the war in Afghanistan is lost, see: *The Guerrilla In History*, by Robert B Asprey, USMC [Ret'd].

Chapter 92, on the destruction of the Russian Army in Afghanistan, is particularly instructive. The notion that the occupation troops now in Afghanistan (a fraction of the force deployed by the Russians) have the slightest hope of success is a silly delusion fostered by politicians in and out of uniform, who are more concerned with preserving their careers than they are about the lives of those serving in the armed forces.

Asprey documents how careerist idiocy has been a problem for Imperial armies for a few thousand years now, since Roman legions led by politicians in uniforms were ambushed and wiped out when they tried to occupy Gaul.

10th Mountain troops are beloved and honored for their service by the majority of us who live in New York: far too valuable to us all to die in either of Bush's stupid, hopeless, incompetently managed Imperial wars.

Come home safe.

T

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



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

MORE:

#1

“After Spending A Year In Iraq, I Have Found That The Iraqis Are Not A Threat Or The Enemy”

“We Do Not Know What We Are Fighting For Anymore; We Do Not Know What Our Mission Is”

[GI SPECIAL 4D24]

Army Times
April 24, 2006
Letters To The Editor

I am a soldier about to embark on my second tour in Iraq.

My first tour started in November 2003. When we arrived, Saddam Hussein was on the loose. In December, he was caught.

When I came into the military, I signed a contract that said I would defend this country against all threats, foreign and domestic.

After spending a year in Iraq, I have found that the Iraqis are not a threat or the enemy. I did find that we are the threat and the enemy to them.

They acted as we would if someone came into America and said we are going to change your ways.

I feel this war is no longer about taking out a threat. But I believe it is about securing oil commerce for the future.

Securing this country and stabilizing it would mean oil contracts and people lining their pockets with money from the oil that my friends have been wounded for and have died for.

I hear the president speak with the press and tell them things to appease them and to divert them to a different subject.

What I don't see is the president having a conference with the soldiers who have fought on the ground in Iraq.

We do not know what we are fighting for anymore; we do not know what our mission is.

I am not alone in this thought. My boys need to know what they may possibly die for.

Is it for a few extra bucks for Halliburton subsidiary KBR?

Is it about the oil?

Is it for America?

How will this war help my family in the future?

Staff Sgt. Christopher Galka
Rainier, Wash.

MORE:

#2

72% Of U.S. Troops Say Get Out Of Iraq By January 2007: 29% For Immediate Withdrawal:

[GI SPECIAL 4C2]

2.28.06 Zogby.com & John Zogby, HuffingtonPost.com.

In wars of America's century just past, we have sent our soldiers to far-off fields of battle and were left to wonder about their opinions of the life-and-death conflicts in which they were involved.

Letters home, and more recently telephone calls and emails, would give us a peek into their states of mind. Some who returned would regale friends and family with tales from the front lines.

Times have now changed.

A first-ever survey of U.S. troops on the ground fighting a war overseas has revealed surprising findings, not the least of which is that an overwhelming majority of 72% of American troops in Iraq think the U.S. should exit the country within the next year. [The poll was taken during January 2006.]

Further, a new Le Moyne College/Zogby International survey shows that more than one in four (29%) thought the U.S. should pull its troops immediately.

MORE:

#3

“I’d Like To Thank You For GI Special”

[GI SPECIAL 4G11]

From: Andrew Sapp
To: GI Special
Sent: July 08, 2006

I'd like to thank you for GI Special. I found it last year while I was still serving in Iraq, and it helped keep me sane.

I shared stories with a number of my buddies, and they went a long way in helping them try to make some sense out the insanity that is Iraq.

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



The casket of Lance Cpl. Minhee Andy Kim of Ann Arbor, Mich. who died while serving in Iraq, during funeral service, Nov. 15, 2006 at Arlington National Cemetery. (AP Photo/Lawrence Jackson)

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 Baghdad

01 December 2006 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory
RELEASE No. 20061201-02

BAGHDAD: A Multi-National Division Baghdad Soldier was killed during combat operations here Nov. 30.

U.S. Convoy Attacked Near Samarra: Casualties Not Announced

01 Dec 2006 Reuters

A U.S. convoy was attacked with machinegun fire in southwest of Samarra 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad on Thursday, the U.S. military said in a statement.

Silly U.S. Commander Pretends Baqouba Hasn't Shut Down

12.1.06 Mideast Stars and Stripes

The commander of American and coalition forces in Diyala province disputed reports saying the Iraqi city of Baqouba had been "shut down" because of widespread violence this week.

Army Col. David W. Sutherland, commander of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, acknowledged "a recent setback experienced by the Iraqi police" but said the city is "fully operational."

The violence flared on Monday, when insurgents attacked the Buhriz police station, scattering the policemen assigned to it.

[How sad his talents were not available at other important military crises. One can hear him now, explaining that things aren't as bad as they look for His Majesty's Army at Yorktown, or the Confederate Army near Appomattox, or the German Army at Stalingrad, or the U.S. Army in Saigon. Just a few setbacks. Not to worry. T]

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Resistance DVDs For Sale By Underground In Occupied Kandahar

Nov. 8 2006 Steve Chao, CTV News

KANDAHAR -- In the busy bazaars of Kandahar City, where everything from Chinese-made bicycles, to modern cellphones, to naan bread, hung individually on rusty nails, are for sale, there is another steady trade that exists mostly in secret.

DVDs showcasing so-called Taliban "victories" against NATO forces can be bought for as little as 60 cents. They are sold by certain store owners who quietly support the Islamic militant group.

CTV, working with The Globe and Mail, obtained a copy of one of the latest.

TROOP NEWS

Marine Corps Rats In Command Defy Military Board: Send War Objector To Iraq

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

November 25, 2006 Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA: A Marine was deployed to Iraq this month after a military board rejected a recommendation that he receive conscientious objector status and a discharge.

The C.O. Status Screening Board noted that Marine Lance Cpl. John Rogowskyj Jr. requested the status after he learned that his Reserve unit was being sent to Iraq and suggested that the request "was simply a means to avoid a combat deployment."

Rogowskyj, 22, was deployed Nov. 2.

"He's not supposed to be there," Eugene R. Fidell, the lawyer representing him in federal court in Washington, told The Philadelphia Inquirer for Friday's newspapers.

In April, a Marine captain who served as the hearing officer recommended the discharge.

But in August, Maj. Gen. D.V. Odell Jr., commander of the Fourth Marine Division, said Rogowskyj's reasoning was "theologically confused and does not reflect any officially recognized faith group."

[Another ignorant piece of shit wearing a general's uniform.

[There is no requirement whatever in the regs that require the individual to "reflect any officially recognized faith group."

[The general has just broken military law. Put his scrawny withered ass on trial.]

In September, the screening board agreed with Odell.

J.E. McNeil, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Conscience and War in Washington, said Rogowskyj's request is not as unusual as the military would make it seem because such requests are not tallied until completion.

Bye Bye Clusterfuck: **Italian Troops All Going Home** **Now:** **No More Iraq War Forever**



Italian Defense Minister Arturo Parisi, center, receives the Italian flag after its lowering at a military base in Nasiriyah, Dec. 1, 2006, during a ceremony marking the end of the Italian military mission there. (AP Photo/Nabil Al Jurani)



An Italian Carabinieri officer waves from a bus December 1, 2006. Italy pulled its last remaining troops out of Iraq on Friday where 32 of its soldiers died since the contingent arrived in June 2003. REUTERS/Atef Hassan (IRAQ)

War Profiteers At Work: \$\$ Charged DoD Up 900%

11.29.06 Hartford Courant

United Technologies' Hamilton Sundstrand unit overcharged the Defense Department for aircraft spare parts, according to a government watchdog group. The costs of some items under a nine-year, \$860 million no-bid contract issued in 2004 have jumped as much as 900 percent, said the Washington-based Project on Government Oversight.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**“Sadr Still Insists His Main Fight
Is With Foreign Invaders”**

**“We Iraqis, Sunnis And Shia, Will
Always Be Brothers”**

He's the one Shia leader who has opposed the U.S. occupation from the beginning, and who has continued to call for a strict timetable for American withdrawal. An overwhelming majority of Iraqis now agree with him.

A September poll by WorldPublicOpinion.org found that 63 percent of 501 Iraqi Shiites surveyed supported attacks against Americans.

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

Dec. 4, 2006 By Jeffrey Bartholet, Newsweek [Excerpts]

American soldiers who patrol Sadr's turf in Baghdad understand. They can spot his men.

"They look like they're pulling security," says First Lt. Robert Hartley, a 25-year-old who plays cat and mouse with the Mahdi Army in the Iraqi capital.

The Sadrists use children and young men as lookouts. When GIs get out of their Humvees to patrol on foot, one of the watchers will fly a kite, or release a flock of pigeons. Some of Sadr's people have even infiltrated top ranks of the Iraqi police. Capt. Tom Kapla, 29, says he knows who they are: "They look at you, and you can tell they want to kill you."

Sadr is a unique force in Iraq: a leader from the majority Shiites who has resisted American occupation from the start. He's a populist, a nationalist...

Large numbers of impoverished Shiites view Sadr as their guardian: the one leader who is willing not just to stand up for them but to strike back on their behalf.

His concerns are high-minded: he speaks of fuel shortages and cabinet politics.

In the past, Sadr was shrugged off as a rabble-rouser and a nuisance. Now he is undeniably one of the most popular leaders in the country.

But the longer the American occupation lasts, the less popular America gets, and the more popular Sadr [becomes].

Among ordinary Iraqis, the United States bears much of the blame for the bloodshed, just for being there. As Sadr put it to NEWSWEEK earlier this year, "The occupation is the decision maker ... any attack is the occupier's responsibility."

Saddam kept a close eye on Sadr because the young man inherited a wide network of mosques, schools and social centers built up by his father.

The network was focused on the impoverished masses of Iraqi Shiites; the sort of people other religious and secular leaders didn't have much time for.

Even some educated Shiites dismissed Moqtada as a zatut, or ignorant child. Some called him "Mullah Atari," because he apparently enjoyed videogames as a kid.

Sadr still insists his main fight is with foreign invaders.

He's the one Shia leader who has opposed the U.S. occupation from the beginning, and who has continued to call for a strict timetable for American withdrawal.

An overwhelming majority of Iraqis now agree with him.

A September poll by WorldPublicOpinion.org found that 63 percent of 501 Iraqi Shiites surveyed supported attacks against Americans.

Even in Baghdad, where ethnic tensions are worst, Shiites agree with Sunnis on one thing: the poll found that 80 percent of the capital's Shiites wanted U.S. forces to leave within a year.

Tehran's main Shiite clients in Iraq are rivals of Sadr, who is often critical of Persian influence.

Sadr worries that Iran may be trying to infiltrate his movement, and he's almost surely right. Fatah al-Sheikh, who is close to Sadr, says the boss sent a private letter to loyal imams around Baghdad in the past two weeks identifying 10 followers he believed were suspect.

They had been using the Mahdi Army name, but Sadr believes they're really tools of Iranian intelligence, says Sheikh.

Last Friday marked the anniversary, on the Islamic calendar, of the killing of Muhammad Sadiq al-Sadr and his two eldest sons. After the previous day's bombings, Moqtada told government officials that he was out of the country. But that seems to have been a feint to keep possible enemies off balance.

In fact, he appeared at the Kufah Mosque, where his father used to lead worshipers in chants of "No, no to America; no, no to Israel; no, no to the Devil!"

As word spread that Moqtada would lead prayers, people crowded into the mosque, most of them clad in black as a sign of mourning. Sadr asked worshipers to pray for his dead relatives, and also for those who had been killed in Sadr City.

He again called for the United States to set a timetable for withdrawal from Iraq.

"After the prophet died," he intoned, "some of his followers deviated from his teachings, and the same has happened with followers of my father."

The "cursed trio," Americans, British and Israelis, were trying to divide Iraq. "We Iraqis, Sunnis and Shia, will always be brothers."

Now diplomats speak of trying to keep Sadr inside the political system, hoping he can tame his followers.

He's a militant Islamist and anti-occupation, they say, but he's also a nationalist, and not as close to Iran as some of his rivals.

What is clear, more today than ever before, is that it's time to stop underestimating him.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Honor And Respect To Them All

Carl Bunin, Peace News

November 27, 1969

100 U.S. Army medics stationed at the 71st Evacuation Hospital at Pleiku, Vietnam, held a Thanksgiving fast to protest the Vietnam War in solidarity with the moratorium movement, the domestic anti-war movement.

BLOWN AWAY

From: Max Watts
To: GI Special
Sent: December 01, 2006
Subject: Poem for GI Special.

Poem written by Rosemarie Waratah Gillespie for GI Special.

Rosemarie, from Melbourne, Australia, ran the blockade into Bougainville (successfully) 4 times, and lived altogether over a year in Free Bougainville with the Bougainville Revolutionary army BRA - fighting Papua New Guinea's Defense Force, the Australian Mercenaries - Iroquois Helicopters - and, above all, behind the scenes, Rio Tinto, then the world's largest mining corporation.

She is writing a second book about the - won by the BRA - war, her experience there... She was a "human shield" in Iraq in March-May 2003. (Max Watts)

BLOWN AWAY

**War and Peace, War and Peace..
Who profits? Who dies?
When the capis (1) call for war
Tell them where to stick their lies.**

**They say you'll get an education
What you get is abomination
Over in someone else's land
In snow and mud or wind and sand. (2)**

War and Peace....

**They send you over to living hell
Where you'll jump at even a baby's yell
The people there don't want you to stay
They'll say g'day and blow you away.**

War and Peace...

(1) Capis - Capitalists

(2) Australian troops are now in: Iraq, Afghanistan (for the snow!), East Timor, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga..

They were in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville.

The Australian Navy/troops are at time of writing off-shore Fiji, where they may plan to "land" to "save Australian lives" any time now.

“The Iraqis Think They’ll Be Better Off Without Us”

12.1.06 Rosa Brooks, Los Angeles Times

"Conditions in Iraq grow more appalling each day, and a substantial majority of Iraqis now believe that the continued presence of U.S. troops is a major cause of the ongoing carnage.

"Despite this, supporters of the Bush administration continue to insist that if we withdraw U.S. troops, we'll be 'abandoning' Iraq.

"'Abandoning' Iraq to what, exactly? To civil war? Iraq already has that, thanks in large part to us.

"Maybe things will get worse if we leave-but maybe our departure is the only thing that can save Iraq. The Iraqis think they'll be better off without us."

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.

“An ‘October Surprise’ Would Save The White House” [End Of Some Of The Stupid Conspiracy Theories]

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

December 1, 2006 By Lance Selfa, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

This one gets hauled out every election year, and it isn't a completely wrongheaded idea. The White House can take actions, from releasing millions in pork-barrel spending to diplomatic gestures, that give it and its supporters a last-minute boost.

But among blogger/activist liberals, the idea persisted that a sudden decisive action, like capturing Osama Bin Laden or bombing Iran, would change the course of the election. None of these things happened, nor could they happen, at least in the current state of disaster in the Middle East.

The failure in Iraq and growing crisis in Afghanistan would have made either of these “October surprises” extremely risky, as even the boneheaded Bush administration must have realized.

More importantly, the American establishment knows that a change of course in the Middle East is needed, and it concluded that a change of leadership in Washington was necessary to facilitate that change of course.

In case anyone doubted that significant sections of the ruling class wanted the Republicans to lose the midterm election, they should consider that the “October surprises” that did emerge, from the leaked Pentagon report that contradicted all the administration's propaganda about Iraq, to the scandal involving Rep. Mark Foley (a long-known story that emerged at the worst possible time for the GOP), served to sink the Republicans, not save them.

This certainly doesn't mean, for instance, that Iran is safe from a U.S. attack. It just means that if such an attack takes place, it will be part of a retooled bipartisan strategy in the Middle East, not some cheap election-year stunt.

Voting Machines Would Steal The Election For The Republicans.

For many liberals, the Republicans' one ace-in-the-hole would be the fact that up to two-thirds of the midterm's votes would be tallied on electronic voting machines, open to hacking, manipulation and vote-stealing to favor the GOP.

Despite an obvious disaster in which machines failed to tally about 15,000 votes in one Florida congressional district, the vast right-wing vote-stealing conspiracy never emerged.

At latest count, Democrats won 52 percent of the national vote for the House of Representatives and a plurality of 4.4 million votes more than the Republicans.

All of the bits of liberal conventional wisdom described above have one thing in common: they let the Democrats off the hook.

For thousands of liberals, it was easier to believe that Diebold machines or Rove's manipulations stole the 2004 presidential election from John Kerry than to admit that Kerry was a terrible candidate.

As a result, one bonus of the Democrats' victory in the 2006 midterms is the fact that these excuses won't wash anymore.

With Democrats running Congress and being forced to take positions on all of today's vital issues, from the war in Iraq to the crisis of affordable health care, they can't run from the consequences of their actions.

[A couple more could have been mentioned.

[For one, the propagandists who serve Bush and the U.S. Empire by yammering about how Israel controls U.S. foreign policy. These disgusting apologists for U.S. Imperial politicians would have you believe the rats in DC are just poor little innocents manipulated by big bad Israel.

[For another, there's the delusional system that would have you believe that Bush and his associates are so mighty, so wise, and so all powerful they could organize the attacks on 9.11 and keep it all a secret for 5 years. Some racist scum sneer that "people living in caves couldn't do this."

[This despicable propaganda leads to the obvious conclusion: if Bush & Co. can do all that, and get away with it, what chance do we have in organizing to fight against them? More demoralizing bullshit serving the Bush regime. The truth is they're weak and incompetent, not strong, brilliant and successful. Duh.]

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



12.1.06: An Iraqi boy looks through the wrecked main door of his family's home broken down without warning when his home was raided at night by US soldiers in Baghdad's Sadr city. (AFP/Ahmad al-Rubaye)

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate

they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

“In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit,” said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay’s Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday’s raid. “Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead.”

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

***Corned Rats;*
Losers 'R Us Shitting Their Pants
In Jordan
[Check The Happy Faces]**



Bush in Amman, Jordan, Nov. 30, meets with his dog, collaborator Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. (AFP/File/Jim Watson)



(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

U.S. Iraq Command Caught Lying About Iraq Battalions: “Only A Small Fraction Actually Exist”

12.1.06 Washington Times

Sectarian allegiances have weakened Iraq's army, according to analysts who question assertions by the Bush administration that the military is free from the religious strife that riddles the police force.

"The capabilities of the Iraqi army, national police and police force have been systematically exaggerated," says Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic & International Studies.

"The reality is that out of the supposed Iraqi battalions, which are formed and which are in the lead, and have combat capability."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush Is Right:

“There Can Be No ‘Graceful Exit’ From Iraq, Only A Terrifying, Bloody Collapse Of Military Power”

01 December 2006 Robert Fisk, The Independent (UK) [Excerpts]

More than half a million deaths, an army trapped in the largest military debacle since Vietnam, a Middle East policy already buried in the sands of Mesopotamia - and still George W Bush is in denial.

How does he do it?

How does he persuade himself - as he apparently did in Amman yesterday - that the United States will stay in Iraq "until the job is complete"?

History's "deniers" are many - and all subject to the same folly: faced with overwhelming evidence of catastrophe, they take refuge in fantasy, dismissing evidence of collapse as a symptom of some short-term setback, clinging to the idea that as long as their generals promise victory - or because they have themselves so often promised victory - that fate will be kind.

In 1967, Egyptian president Gamel Abdul Nasser insisted his country was winning the Six Day War hours after the Israelis had destroyed the entire Egyptian air force on the ground.

President Carter was extolling the Shah's Iran as "an island of stability in the region" only days before Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution brought down his regime.

President Leonid Brezhnev declared a Soviet victory in Afghanistan when Russian troops were being driven from their fire bases in Nangahar and Kandahar provinces by Osama bin Laden and his fighters.

About the only truthful statement uttered in Amman yesterday was Bush's remark that "there's a lot of speculation that these reports in Washington mean there's going to be some kind of graceful exit out of Iraq (but) this business about a graceful exit just simply has no realism to it at all."

Indeed, it has not. There can be no graceful exit from Iraq, only a terrifying, bloody collapse of military power.

Even Hitler must chuckle at this bloodbath, he who claimed in April 1945 that Germany would still win the Second World War, boasting that his enemy, Roosevelt, had died - much as Bush boasted of Zarqawi's killing - while demanding to know when General Wenck's mythical army would rescue the people of Berlin.

How many "Wencks" are going to be summoned from the 82nd Airborne or the Marine Corps to save Bush from Iraq in the coming weeks?



**“Son, You’re Making The Same Mistake
In Iraq That I Made With Your Mother.
I Didn’t Pull Out In Time...”**

[December 01, 2006 Windbear, FIREBASEVOICE]

**Yes!
Let’s Kill More U.S. Troops And
More Iraqis!
Imperial Democrat And Republican
Politicians Agree With Bush About
That**

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

December 1, 2006 By DAVID E. SANGER, New York Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 - **In the cacophony of competing plans about how to deal with Iraq, one reality now appears clear: despite the Democrats ' victory this month in an election viewed as a referendum on the war, the idea of a rapid American troop withdrawal is fast receding as a viable option.**

The bipartisan Iraq Study Group has shied away from recommending explicit timelines in favor of a vaguely timed pullback.

The report that the panel will deliver to President Bush next week would, at a minimum, leave a force of 70,000 or more troops in the country for a long time to come, to train the Iraqis and to insure against collapse of a desperately weak central government.

Even the Democrats, with an eye toward 2008, have dropped talk of a race for the exits, in favor of a brisk stroll.

Standing next to Mr. Maliki on Thursday in Amman, Jordan, Mr. Bush declared that Iraqis need not fear that he is looking for "some kind of graceful exit out of Iraq."

In statements on Thursday, Democrats from former President Bill Clinton to Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr. of Delaware, the incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, seemed to agree that hard timelines could invite trouble.

"I think that what's clearly being implied in the study group's report is what some of us have been saying for a while," said Senator Jack Reed, a hawkish Democrat from Rhode Island with a military record, which has made him a spokesman for the party on Iraq.

"A phased redeployment - one that begins in six months or so - is where we need to head.

Judge Says The Traitor Bush Can't Designate Groups As Terrorists: "Executive Order Establishing Power Was Unconstitutional, Ruling Says"

Nov 28, 2006 The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - A federal judge struck down President Bush's authority to designate groups as terrorists, saying his post-Sept. 11 executive order was unconstitutional and vague, according to a ruling released Tuesday.

The Humanitarian Law Project had challenged Bush's order, which blocked all the assets of groups or individuals he named as "specially designated global terrorists" after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"This law gave the president unfettered authority to create blacklists," said David Cole, a lawyer for the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Constitutional Rights that represented the group. "It was reminiscent of the McCarthy era."

The case centered on two groups, the Liberation Tigers, which seeks a separate homeland for the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, and Partiya Karkeran Kurdistan, a political organization representing the interests of Kurds in Turkey.

U.S. District Judge Audrey Collins enjoined the government from blocking the assets of the two groups.

Both groups consider the Nov. 21 ruling a victory; both had been designated by the United States as foreign terrorist organizations.

Cole said the judge's ruling does not invalidate the hundreds of other designated terrorist groups on the list but "calls them into question."

A White House spokeswoman declined to immediately comment.

She also struck down the provision in which Bush had authorized the secretary of the treasury to designate anyone who "assists, sponsors or provides services to" or is "otherwise associated with" a designated group.

However, she let stand sections of the order that penalize those who provide "services" to designated terrorist groups. She said such services would include the humanitarian aid and rights training proposed by the plaintiffs.

The Humanitarian Law Project planned to appeal that part of the ruling, Cole said.

"Even in fighting terrorism the president cannot be given a blank check to blacklist anyone he considers a bad guy or a bad group and you can't imply guilt by association," Cole said.

UCLA Student Tortured With Taser By Twisted Cop With Record Of Sadism; Terrence Duren, Piece Of Shit In Human Form, Still Walking Around Loose And Healthy

December 1, 2006 By Cristina Hernandez, Socialist Worker

A STUDENT at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) was Tasered by campus police November 14 for the "crime" of failing to present his student ID.

Police stopped Mostafa Tabatabaiejad at one of the campus libraries. The student said he did have his ID, but refused to present it because he felt that he was being subjected to "racial profiling."

Tabatabaïnejad was asked to leave the library. As he was walking to the door with his backpack on, police intercepted him and grabbed him by the arms. Using a common civil disobedience technique, Tabatabaïnejad “went limp” and asked surrounding students to join his resistance. That’s when one officer let loose with a Taser gun.

A bystander captured the incident on a cell phone video, and the footage circulated around the world on the Internet. It shows Tabatabaïnejad screaming in pain and shouting, “I am not fighting you” and “I said I would leave.” The Tasering reportedly continued even after Tabatabaïnejad had been handcuffed.

“It was beyond grotesque,” UCLA graduate David Remesnitsky, who witnessed the incident, told the Los Angeles Times. “By the end, they took him over the stairs, lifted him up and Tasered him on his rear end...The Tasering was so unnecessary, and they just kept doing it.”

Angry students immediately called for a protest. On November 17, some 300 people turned out for a march to the police station organized by various student groups, including the Muslim Student Union. Many protesters taped on themselves a sheet of paper reading, “I am a student. Don’t Taser me!”

The march organizers’ demands were modest--a public apology and an independent investigation. Acting Chancellor Norman Abrams announced that UCLA would agree to the independent investigation, but no university official has apologized yet.

The cop who Tasered Tabatabaïnejad has a history of brutality. Three years ago, he shot a homeless man at a campus study hall, and he was previously recommended for dismissal after an alleged assault on a student outside a fraternity. Yet the officer, Terrence Duren, is still on duty.

Some march organizers said they didn’t think the Tasering was related to racism, but the majority of protesters clearly disagreed. In fact, UCLA students are continuing to protest the consequences of a statewide referendum 10 years ago that made it illegal to use race or ethnicity as a factor in hiring or admissions at public institutions in California.

The morning after Tabatabaïnejad was Tasered, several hundred students marked the 10-year anniversary of Proposition 209 with a protest. The demonstrators focused on the decline in admissions for minorities at UCLA, especially Black students.

Tabatabaïnejad is filing a federal civil rights lawsuit against campus police, students are petitioning for the cops to be disciplined, and the struggle continues against Proposition 209. These are important battles that need to succeed to create a better society, without racism and police brutality.

**Lebanese Want Bush's
Collaborators Out Of Lebanese
Government:
“We Don't Want The (U.S.)
Embassy Inside The Prime
Ministry”
“The Fight Is Against ‘American
Tutelage’”**



12.1.06: Lebanese opposition demonstrators gather in downtown Beirut. 800,000 led by Hezbollah, staged a massive show of force in Beirut on Friday aimed at pressing the Bush-backed government to resign. (AFP/Anwar Amro)

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

12.1.06 Associated Press

Hundreds of thousands of protesters from Hezbollah massed Friday in downtown Beirut seeking to force the resignation of Bush-backed Prime Minister Fuad Saniora, who was holed up in his office ringed by hundreds of police and combat troops.

The protest, which police estimated at 800,000, created a sea of Lebanese flags that blanketed downtown and spilled onto the surrounding streets. Hezbollah officials put the number at 1 million — one-fourth of Lebanon's population.

"Saniora out! We want a free government!" protesters shouted through loudspeakers. The crowd roared in approval amid the deafening sound of Hezbollah revolutionary and nationalist songs. "We want a clean government," read one placard, in what has become the opposition's motto.

Launching a long-threatened campaign to force Lebanon's U.S.-backed government from office, Hezbollah said the demonstration would be followed by a wave of open-ended protests. Hezbollah had threatened demonstrations unless it and its allies obtained a veto share of the Cabinet — a demand Saniora and Lebanon's U.S. allied parties rejected. The protests now aim to generate enough popular pressure to paralyze the Saniora government and force it out.

"People have a right to express their political opinions, but in terms of this being part of the Iran-Syria inspired coup d'etat against the government of Lebanon, we're obviously quite concerned about it," said U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton. **[Translation: most Lebanese hate the U.S. puppet government. They can complain, but, according to Bolton, have no right to rule themselves and choose what government they wish.]**

State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey said U.S. diplomats in Beirut had telephoned Lebanese government officials to offer their support. [That's called the kiss of death.]

Hezbollah's security men, donning caps, formed two lines between the protesters and the security forces to prevent clashes.

"I wish that the prime minister and his ministers were among us today, not hiding behind barbed wire and army armored carriers. He who has his people behind him does not need barbed wire," Michel Aoun, a Christian leader and Hezbollah ally, told the crowd. **[Oops. What's this that snuck into the article? "A Christian leader" is a "Hezbollah ally"? So much for that bullshit about Islamic fundamentalism. Sorry about that.]**

Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah, who has not made a public appearance since a September rally for the militant group, could not be seen Friday. But his speeches, blared through loudspeakers, drove the crowd wild with cheers.

At the rally, some protesters occasionally cried "Death to Israel" and "We want Feltman's government to go," in reference to Lebanon's U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman.

"We don't want the (U.S.) Embassy inside the prime ministry," said one demonstrator, Mahmoud Zeineddin.

A demonstration last week for a slain anti-Syrian politician also drew hundreds of thousands of people downtown, filling Martyr's Square. But Friday's appeared larger, as

protesters swarmed not only that square but others, as well as nearby streets and parking lots.

Hezbollah's deputy leader, Sheik Naim Kassim, made it clear the fight is against "American tutelage" and said the protest action will continue until the government falls.

"We will not let you sell Lebanon, we will protect the constitution and people of Lebanon," Kassim said on television Friday, addressing Saniora.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

Received:

“Bush Has Killed A Lot More Iraqis, In A Much Shorter Time, Than Saddam”

From: J
To: GI Special
Sent: November 27, 2006
Subject: A comment on something good from Al-Ahram:

**Occupation Lies Vs. The History Of Iraq:
Objective: Destroy Arab Nationalism**

[The writer refers to the article by Azmi Bishara:, Published in Cairo by AL-AHRAM 23 - 29 November 2006 (Excerpts): GI SPECIAL 4K25: 11.26.06]

Thank God for this.

When the trouble started in Fallujah I said Saddam had never controlled it. It has a formidable history and when it opposed him he kept out.

Saddam was secular and he tolerated all religions. He did some very bad things but some of the atrocities were at least partly due to America. He and Rumsfeld were such

very good friends. I would have liked to see Rumsfeld on trial with him - as an accomplice.

The Iraqis never considered sect when picking friends and there were many mixed Sunni Shia families.

All this current Civil War idea is due to the allied invasion.

It's good to remember that women were a great deal better off under Saddam and that the country was progressive. It had the best health and education systems in the Middle East until crippling sanctions were imposed. Another nasty way of beating a proud people into submission.

I conclude by saying Bush has killed a lot more Iraqis, in a much shorter time, than Saddam.

Will Iraq ever get the pleasure of seeing him stand trial for mass murder?

I hope so.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

The following have posted issues; there may be others:

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

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

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

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

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