

GI SPECIAL 5A10:

Active Duty Troops Approve Iraq Veterans Against The War Action At Ft. Lewis By 71-11 [86.5%]

Comment: T

This is the news of the year, so far, and it's for sure no media even notice. Nor, most likely, will this be noticed by the Democrat or Republican scum running the government in DC who stand united against bringing all the troops home now, and therefore united in wanting more dead U.S. troops and dead Iraqis.

This report tells you what active duty troops think of Bush's war. It's from members of Iraq Veterans Against The War, who have set up a tent and posters condemning the war near the gate of Ft. Lewis on behalf of Lt. Watada, on trail there for opposing the war in Iraq.

Imagine, if you will, a immense mass of rock, snow and ice, barely clinging to the side of a steep mountain. Nobody can say for sure what day that mass will break lose and obliterate everything in its way, but break lose someday it will.

We don't know from this report what portion of active duty troops expressed no opinion at all as they drove past.

What we do know is that, of those soldiers who did express their opinion, these numbers are enough give Imperial politicians, in or out of uniform, the kind of cold chills and stark fear they might experience standing in front of a firing squad, did they but understand what these numbers mean.

They mean that our troops will not suffer to be butchered for much longer. The enemies domestic who control the government think they can keep their war going against the will of the majority of Americans, especially against the will of the majority of those in the armed services, but the avalanche will come, not so soon as we might wish, but sooner than any of the politicians can possibly imagine.

[Soldiers “delivered fists of solidarity, Peace signs, waves and supportive smiles.”

2007-01-07 by Damon, IVAWdeployed.org

We woke up to an article by Michael R. Gordon of the NY Times explaining that Lt. General David Petraeus is, “a supporter of increased forces in Iraq,” and, “is expected to back a rapid five-brigade expansion, in sharp contrast to his predecessor, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., who has been openly skeptical that additional troops would help stabilize the country.”

With this news in mind, IVAW deployed members Dennis Kyne, Ethan Crowell, Eric Salza, and Damon Murphy took it to the curb here at Camp Resistance.

The response of passersby was overwhelmingly supportive.

Service members both enlisted and commissioned displayed their support with likewise gestures of solidarity with Lt. Ehren Watada.

Local activists and curious citizens stopped by to join in protest, bringing with them money for fuel, water, food, and above all, support for a man who may lose six years of his life in exactly 30 days from now. That’s why we’re here.

Everyday from now on through to the trial, we will be holding a protest starting at 1130 and ending around 1330 at Camp Resistance, which is located off of I-5, exit 119 in Dupont, WA.

08JAN2007 by Damon, IVAWdeployed.org

This day, our 5th day at Camp Resistance, started out beautifully. The sun was out and we were able to accomplish a few tasks that were dependant upon good weather. Blue skies faded to grey as we prepared for our daily scheduled protest which yielded similar results to our previous day's efforts only this time we've recorded our findings:

9 soldiers/10 civilians believe that our actions are inappropriate and have conveyed that with their middle fingers while driving by, **2 soldiers/11 civilians were able to relate with the former, employing the thumbs down** as opposed to the Avian gestures of their brethren.

On the flipside things were a bit more colorful: Truckers, 31 in all, displayed solidarity with an air horn blast as they rolled past; **71 soldiers**, 117 civilians and 2 policemen **delivered fists of solidarity, Peace signs, waves and supportive smiles.**

One person stuck their tongue out at us; I'll leave it up to you to interpret the meaning of that.

All in all today carried with it a positive vibe.

MORE:

“Beware The People Weeping When They Bare The Iron Hand”

**Herman Melville, “The Martyr”
(1865)**

[A poem written on the occasion of the murder of Abraham Lincoln by a conspiracy of traitors in 1865, and respectfully dedicated to every member of the armed forces killed or wounded because of a conspiracy of traitors in Washington DC who began and who continue the wars of Imperial conquest in Iraq and Afghanistan.

[As the poet writes of Lincoln, our troops too yearned to do good, and “redeem the evil-willed.” And as with Lincoln, they too have been betrayed and struck down from behind by the evil-willed in Washington who sent them to war on a platform of lies. Now it’s again time for the iron hand. T]

Good Friday was the day
Of the prodigy and crime,
When they killed him in his pity,
When they killed him in his prime
Of clemency and calm . . .
When with yearning he was filled

To redeem the evil-willed,
And, though conqueror, be kind;
But they killed him in his kindness,
In their madness and their blindness,
And they killed him from behind.

There is sobbing of the strong,
And a pall upon the land;
But the People in their weeping
Bare the iron hand:
Beware the People weeping
When they bare the iron hand.

He lieth in his blood . . .
The father in his face;
They have killed him, the Forgiver . . .
The Avenger takes his place,

The Avenger wisely stern,
Who in righteousness shall do
What the heavens call him to,
And the parricides remand;
For they killed him in his kindness
In their madness and their blindness,
And his blood is on their hand.

There is sobbing of the strong,
And a pall upon the land;
But the People in their weeping
Bare the iron hand:
Beware the People weeping
When they bare the iron hand.

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

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

2 U.S. Troops Killed In Al Anbar

01/10/07 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070110-03

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – One Soldier assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group and One Soldier assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division died Tuesday from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

Iowan Dies In Bombing In Iraq

January 4, 2007 By MEGHAN V. MALLOY, REGISTER STAFF WRITER

The war on terrorism claimed the life of another Iowan this week.

Cpl. Jonathan Schiller, 20, of Ottumwa died Sunday in Baqubah, Iraq, where he was serving with the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, the U.S. Department of Defense announced Wednesday.

Schiller and Spc. Richard A. Smith, 20, of Grand Prairie, Texas, were killed when an improvised explosive detonated during a combat patrol.

Schiller graduated from Ottumwa High School in 2004 and entered the Army in March 2005. He had been in Iraq about three months, deploying to the war zone in October.

A young man with brown eyes and short, dark hair, Schiller was remembered Wednesday as an involved student during his years at Ottumwa High School, Principal Steve Hanson said.

"He was a college prep student," Hanson said.

"He was in the middle and got along with everyone," Hanson recalled. "Not one of the superstars, but definitely not unnoticed. Jon was always in attendance at school functions. A very nice kid."

Schiller was a member of the Bulldogs' basketball team.

Hanson added, "We have offered to family to have the funeral services in our gymnasium."

Schiller's family expressed grief for the 20-year-old's death, but also praised his dedication to the military. "We are proud of our son's accomplishments and those of his fellow soldiers in the Army and all branches of the military," the Schiller family said in a

statement. "We are forever grateful to the Army for changing our boy into a man, who fought and died defending something that we take for granted every day — freedom."

Bob Thomas of Ottumwa, a neighbor of the Schiller family, said he was "very bothered" to hear about Schiller's death. "One thing I knew about Jon was that he had an absolutely extreme patriotic side to him," Thomas said. "He wanted to do what he could for the USA."

Thomas and his wife, Alta, live across the street from the Schiller family.

Thomas, who called the family "just wonderful people," added that he knew Schiller's parents had respect for their middle son's decision to enter the military, even with the danger of war facing him.

"It really just bothers me that a such a fine young man from a nice family would die in a place like that," Thomas said. "But, unfortunately, it happened."

Schiller is survived by his parents, Bill and Liz; and two brothers, Charles, 24, and Max, a 2006 graduate of Ottumwa High School.

Schiller's death brings to 49 the number of Iowans or people with ties to Iowa who have died in Iraq or Afghanistan from combat, illness or accident since the war began in March 2003.

Family Mourns Fallen Marine

December 30, 2006 DEAN BOHN, THE SAGINAW NEWS

VASSAR -- The Eskelson family is mourning the death of Marine Cpl. Christopher E. Eskelson in Iraq -- yet thankful the injuries to his second cousin, Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Ricky "Rick" E. Eskelson, aren't life-threatening.

"Chris always wanted to be a Marine," said his father, David E. Eskelson, 48, of Vassar.

Chris Eskelson lived for the Marine Corps motto of Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful. He had his own creed: Semper Auxiliarius (Always Helping), his father said.

"He eventually wanted to be a doctor and was saving money to become one," he said.

Meanwhile, Ricky Eskelson is mending while awaiting word whether he will recuperate in Germany or try to heal where he in Iraq, his family said.

Ricky Eskelson, who turns 54 on Thursday, is a former Marine who joined and retired from the Army Reserves before re-enlisting in the Army Reserves.

He suffered injuries, possibly Monday, in a mishap a few miles from where Chris Eskelson died, family members said.

Chris Eskelson died while helping fellow Marines -- killed by a direct hit to his torso from enemy fire in an intense firefight, his father said, relaying to The Saginaw News what military personnel told him.

"From what I was told, six went down," he said.

"My son was a squad leader and was trying to help his men -- he was trying to get a fellow Marine to safety when he was hit. He was pronounced dead within three minutes of getting hit."

Serving with the 1st Battalion of the 24th Marines in Iraq, he died around 2:45 p.m. Wednesday, three days shy of his 23rd birthday.

David Eskelson was fishing Thursday on the banks of the Saginaw River with friends when he got a cell phone message that Marines were at his home looking for him.

"My heart just dropped," he said. "As a dad with a son in the Marines, that's what you always fear -- that the military will come.

"Well, they definitely came. There were five of them. They're quite a group."

David Eskelson's former wife -- Chris Eskelson's mother -- Michelle "Mitzi" M. Hill, 48, of Vassar, works as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service and was on her mail route when she got a call from her co-workers.

"The military showed up at my house, where my mother is staying with us," Hill said.

"My mother told (the Marines) where I work, and they went there. The clerks there called me and asked where I was, saying they need to bring me something.

"I just knew it was bad news -- my mom or my son -- because there was nothing they had to bring me. So they came and got me."

Hill, in turn, broke the news to her son's girlfriend of three years, Samantha Reasner, 19, of Owosso.

"She was over (Thursday) night. She was a mess at first, but she's doing better now."

Hill said she didn't want her son to enlist.

"He wanted to earn money for college," she said. "We were worrying about what might happen.

"But he said, 'Nope, I want to be a Marine.' That was what he wanted.

"He was a very smart kid, I feel he could have gotten scholarships if he applied himself. But he said even if he graduated valedictorian, he still would have joined the Marines."

Chris Eskelson loved sports, she said. In high school, he was outfielder and catcher for the baseball team for four years, was defensive tackle on the football team for four years and played basketball for two years.

He was also an avid hunter, bagging deer and turkey and planned to go bear hunting with his father and brother, Craig E. Esckelson, 19.

The brothers have a sister, Kerry M. Esckelson, 17, a junior at Vassar High School. The family attends St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Richville.

Chris Esckelson graduated from high school in spring 2002 and in October joined the Marines, Hill said. In between, he took classes at Delta College.

He shipped over to Iraq at the end of September and was supposed to return in April.

For his birthday, today, his mother e-mailed him that she was going to treat him to dinner and shopping.

"I was going to take him to Zehnder's restaurant, where he worked as a waiter, and then to Abercrombie & Fitch (at Fashion Square Mall) to go clothes shopping, since he worked there, too," she said. "He always liked to look sharp.

"He was a go-getter, a leader. He was outgoing, was well-liked, had lots of friends and loved by lots of family," she said. "He believed in what he was doing. His proudest thing was to be a Marine."

Now, the family is making funeral arrangements.

Members plan to contact Martin Funeral Home in Vassar for services, with burial at Riverside Cemetery in Vassar.

"That's the trouble with the military," David Esckelson said. "They can send (my son) to the front lines in a day-and-a-half, but it takes seven to 10 days to bring him home.

"That's going to be a long seven to 10 days.

"He was a hero," his father said. "He was definitely a hero.

"He was more than a son; he was my best friend."

Jean C. Esckelson, 52, of Vassar, Ricky Esckelson's wife, said her husband was stationed at a gate, and was opening it to let a truck and trailer through.

"The wind caught one of two gates there and when he went to push it open, the other gate swung closed, caught the trailer and tipped it over onto him, pinning him under it" she said.

"He had his back to it, and it forced his knees to bend when it hit him. If he were facing it, it would have broke his legs when it forced them backwards."

Storms have grounded any transportation out of the country for now, she said.

"He's always been obsessed about serving his country," she said.

"He missed Desert Storm because the Army messed up his paperwork twice and wouldn't let him go.

"He kept screaming that that is what he was trained for, he was assigned to a howitzer.

"My son even said, 'Mom, can't we just buy him a ticket and send him there?'

"Now he's a supply sergeant, and they send him."

FUTILE EXERCISE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



U.S. soldiers at a checkpoint in Baghdad October 28, 2006. REUTERS/Thaier al-Sudani

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

A Resistance Fund Raising Pitch Up Close And Personal

Jan 10, 2007 By Syed Saleem Shahzad, Asia Times [Excerpts]

KARACHI - Just as the Taliban move across the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan with impunity, so does the money needed to sustain the Taliban-led insurgency flow unrestricted between the countries.

In the wake of September 11, 2001, the financial squeeze instigated by the United States and its allies in the "war on terror" severely disrupted the flow of funds for al-Qaeda and the Taliban, mainly through closer international scrutiny of bank accounts.

However, as the insurgencies in Afghanistan and Iraq testify, the money has certainly not been stopped. The major reason for this is that Washington and its allies made the mistake of looking for and applying high-tech solutions.

I met Habibullah and Abdul Jalil in a small room in Banaras Colony in Karachi, the largest Pashtun community (1.5 million people) in any city in the world.

From here, the Pashtuns control all of the transport business in Karachi and beyond. We were later joined by several dozen more Taliban, all of them from southwestern Afghanistan.

Also joining us were several noble and rich Pashtun elders. Most of the Pashtun people in Karachi are unskilled laborers, while those higher up the social ladder have a firm grip on the transport business.

Once everyone in the room was settled, Jalil began to speak. "The jihad has been raging in Afghanistan (for five years) and it will be highly intensified this spring. We are confronting the enemy, which is a world superpower, and we have just the power of our faith.

"I invite you to visit Afghanistan and see how the mujahideen (holy warriors) are steadfast at the front. They have scarce food and few warm clothes to cover them in the cold winter nights.

"At the same time, we are confronting a superpower which is like an uncontrolled elephant aiming to crush us all under its feet. It has the world's most powerful technology, air supremacy and bombs. But we are the vanguard of Islam, and our only weapons are our flesh and blood to be sacrificed for our nation and for the religion.

"We need equipment and supplies to dismiss the foreign invaders once and for all from our soil. I beg you all to contribute to the liberation movement of Afghanistan and beg you to hand over your hard cash for the resistance and the mujahideen."

Within an hour, Jalil had collected 700,000 Pakistani rupees (more than US\$11,600), with each person in the room handing over various sums of cash.

"Local Afghans have also contributed a lot and now, with this much money, our Panjwai district (in Kandahar province in Afghanistan where the Taliban have a strong presence) will have the resources to fight for six months," Jalil said.

Jalil's contacts and relatives in Banaras Colony had already tapped up people to make contributions, so the meeting was more of a formal handing over of the money, and an opportunity for him to say thank you.

Fellow Taliban sitting beside Jalil had already been to other places in Karachi and Lahore to gather money for their respective fronts in Helmand and Kandahar.

According to Jalil, local Kandahari tribesmen take care of all routine expenditures of food, satellite telephone cards, fuel etc, and the additional money is used partly to help injured Taliban receive treatment.

In essence, this is the traditional tribal system of taking care of their own, without the sophistication of a modern financial system.

Within the Afghan tribal system, the Noorzai tribe is the most pro-Taliban, while the Achakzai tribal people partially support the Taliban. Between them, they dominate trade in the Pashtun regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Their region spans the southwestern parts of Pakistan and the southern areas of Afghanistan. On the Pakistani side, they control the Chaman markets and on the Afghan side the Spin Boldek markets.

Sardar Shaukat Popalzai is the president of the Balochistan Economic Forum, which conducts research on economic trends in Balochistan. Being connected with the royal Popalzai tribe of Afghanistan, Shaukat also keeps good track of the economic situation in Afghanistan.

"There are only 100 members of the Chaman Chamber of Commerce, but there are over 3,500 importers and exporters in the Chaman market," Shaukat told Asia Times Online.

"Most of them have offices in Dubai and Jabal-i-Ali (in the United Arab Emirates) and they deal mostly in motor vehicles and clothes. It really looks like a wonderland when you go to the wastelands of Chaman and find many really affluent people actually live there. They have such a monopoly on trade that the regional agent of Three Fives cigarettes - which is the most expensive brand in Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia - is based in Chaman.

"They also have a monopoly on the import of used heavy vehicles, which they refurbish and resell in the regional markets, beside reconditioned cars. After Dubai, they have set up offices in Europe as well, importing vehicles," Shaukat explained.

"If you get the chance to go to the Japanese cities of Nagoya and Osaka, you will see Chaman businessmen operating successfully there. They have such an edge over everybody that they have ample cash liquidity - so much so that they can occupy whole floors of five-star hotels for months whenever they visit Japan," Shaukat said.

All of these traders are either from the Noorzai tribe (100% pro-Taliban) or from the Achakzai tribe (partially pro-Taliban).

These tribesmen wield immense financial clout in Kandahar and most newly constructed hotels belong to them.

The UAE, though, remains the hub for the Taliban's finances, with money moving through the traditional hawala (paper-free transfer) system or through direct contacts.

Taliban commanders who have not yet made it on to any wanted list frequently visit the UAE, where they link with the Afghan diaspora to make financial appeals in support of the Afghan resistance.

Before the spring offensive of last year, one-legged former Taliban intelligence chief Mullah Dadullah went to the UAE to raise money.

And getting the money back to Pakistan and then to Afghanistan is not a problem, as the Taliban don't use banks and they move freely across borders.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Army Pfc. Eric R. Wilkus at Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery Jan. 5, 2007, in Wrightstown, N.J. Wilkus died Christmas morning from injuries he sustained in Iraq. (AP Photo/Mel Evans)

**3rd ID Back To Bush's Imperial
Slaughterhouse Again,
But Not Happy About It;**

“Venn’s Wife, Theresa, Said She Fears Iraq Has Become ‘A Hopeless Cause’”

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

Jan 10 By RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press Writer

Twice before, Sgt. Michael Konvicka has picked up a rifle to go to war. Doing it a third time won't be any easier.

"Every time I come back from Iraq, I tell my wife, 'I'm done honey, stick a fork in me,'" said Konvicka, 36, of Flint, Mich. "I'm not really looking forward to it. But I've got 10 years in the Army, and I'm not about to throw that away."

Hours before President Bush was to announce his plan Wednesday to increase U.S. forces in Iraq, soldiers of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division said goodbye to their families as they deployed on their third tour.

The 19,000-troop 3rd Infantry, which helped lead the 2003 charge to Baghdad, is the first Army division to be tapped for a third deployment to the war.

Barely a year has passed since its soldiers returned from their last yearlong rotation.

"It's another year I have to endure, and it's not easy," said Konvicka's wife, Sharon, resting her head on her husband's shoulder while soldiers piled duffel bags and rucksacks into trucks for shipping to Iraq.

Wives wept and wrapped their arms around husbands with rifles slung over their shoulders. Some 400 troops of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment departing Wednesday are among 4,000 soldiers of the division's 1st Brigade Combat Team deploying this month.

"I hope it's the last one," said Staff Sgt. Harold Hensel, 30, of Little Valley, N.Y., hugging his pregnant wife, who is due in May, before leaving for his second combat tour. "I was hoping the first one was the last one. But duty calls."

The 3rd Infantry's three remaining combat brigades are scheduled to deploy later this year, including the 3rd Brigade at Fort Benning, Ga., where Bush planned a visit Thursday.

Sgt. Brad Weston, 23, said he could see positives and negatives to the president's plan to increase troop levels in Iraq while he's deployed there.

"The benefit is you do get more time where you're not having to be out patrolling," said Weston of South Bend, Ind., who is deploying on his third tour. "The negative thing is there's more violence when there're new people there who don't know the area well."

But Cpl. Matt Venn, 21, of Wichita, Kan., said he sees few signs of hope in 2007 with the increasing violence from insurgents and sectarian militias.

"There's not many people over there who are on the straight and narrow," said Venn, who had deployed to Iraq once before, in 2005. "Out of the year, you'll find two families who are really innocent. And that's the people, I guess, we're trying to help out."

Venn's wife, Theresa, said she fears Iraq has become "a hopeless cause."

Unlike most military spouses, she served in Iraq in 2004 as a surgical technician, treating everything from bullet wounds to burns and cuts from roadside bombs.

"It makes it harder, because I've dealt with every injury known to man," said Theresa Venn, 25, who is no longer in the military. "It's unnerving, but I like to be positive and just put it out of my mind."

Bush Decides He's A Military Genius: "Pentagon Insiders Say Members Of The Joint Chiefs Of Staff Have Long Opposed The Increase In Troops"

January 10, 2007 By Michael Abramowitz, Robin Wright and Thomas E. Ricks, Washington Post Staff Writers [Excerpts] & 08 January 2007 By Robert Parry, Consortium News

When President Bush goes before the American people tonight to outline his new strategy for Iraq, he will be doing something he has avoided since the invasion of Iraq in March 2003: ordering his top military brass to take action they initially resisted and advised against.

George W. Bush has purged senior military and intelligence officials who were obstacles to a wider war in the Middle East, broadening his options for both escalating the conflict inside Iraq and expanding the fighting to Iran and Syria with Israel's help.

On Jan. 4, Bush ousted the top two commanders in the Middle East, Generals John Abizaid and George Casey, who had opposed a military escalation in Iraq, and removed

Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte, who had stood by intelligence estimates downplaying the near-term threat from Iran's nuclear program.

Bush talks frequently of his disdain for micromanaging the war effort and for second-guessing his commanders. "It's important to trust the judgment of the military when they're making military plans," he told The Washington Post in an interview last month. "I'm a strict adherer to the command structure."

But over the past two months, as the security situation in Iraq has deteriorated and U.S. public support for the war has dropped, Bush has pushed back against his top military advisers and the commanders in Iraq: He has fashioned a plan to add up to 20,000 troops to the 132,000 U.S. service members already on the ground.

Pentagon insiders say members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have long opposed the increase in troops and are only grudgingly going along with the plan because they have been promised that the military escalation will be matched by renewed political and economic efforts in Iraq.

In going for more troops, Bush is picking an option that seems to have little favor beyond the White House and a handful of hawks on Capitol Hill and in think tanks who have been promoting the idea almost since the time of the invasion.

"The president wasn't satisfied with the recommendations he was getting, and he thought we need a strategy that was more purposeful and likely to succeed if the Iraqis could make that possible," said Philip D. Zelikow, who recently stepped down as State Department counselor after being involved with Iraqi policy the past two years.

Then there was the thorny problem of finding enough troops to deploy. Those who favored a "surge," such as Kagan and McCain, were looking for a sizable force that would turn the tide in Baghdad.

But the Joint Chiefs made clear they could muster 20,000 at best -- not for long, and not all at once.

“My Son Volunteered For Noble Reasons, Not To Fight Bush’s War”

January 08, 2007 By Leigh Davis, Citybelt.typepad.com [Excerpt]

Military Families Speak Out (MFSO) member Joann Sohl spoke to the group about the daily struggle of knowing that her son is in harm's way in Iraq.

Sohl's son has been extended for "six more weeks of hell," she said.

“The soldiers are fighting, suffering, and dying in a war in which there are no clear objectives and no end in sight, and which the majority of Americans don’t support and even most of the military over there doesn’t support,” she said.

“Lots of Americans are oblivious that our boys are getting killed and wounded there. I can’t even comprehend the pain of losing a child over there.

“All I know is the constant fear and nightmares I deal with.”

She continued: “People say the military is all volunteer and they enlisted. We say yes they did, but not to fight in an illegal war based on lies,” said Sohl.

“My son volunteered for noble reasons, not to fight Bush’s war.”

Army Brass Worry That Bush’s Surge “Will Push America's Foot Soldiers Past The Limits Of Physical And Mental Endurance”

1.9.07 Christian Science Monitor

President Bush's plan to send more troops to Iraq would require longer deployments for U.S. troops and shorter rotations at home, raising concerns among experts and some Army brass that the new demands will push America's foot soldiers past the limits of physical and mental endurance.

Public Storage Assholes Throw Away Soldiers Belongings Behind His Back While He’s In Iraq; Now They’re Fucking Him Over Again By Cheating Him Out Of Payment For Damages

“I called them back and told them this isn’t anywhere near right,” Rogalin said. “They upped their offer to \$2,500 and gave me seven days to accept it or get nothing.”

January 09, 2007 The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — After serving a year in Iraq, Spec. Patrick Rogalin came back to Missouri to find all the belongings he had put in a Public Storage locker had been sold.

“It’s really insulting, after all I went through over there serving my country, to come back and have to deal with this,” said Rogalin, 20.

Rogalin said he put his belongings into a Public Storage unit near St. Louis before shipping out and set up automatic payments with the company. But while he was in Iraq, he said, someone accessed his checking account and wrote more than \$900 in worthless checks, which caused his storage payments to bounce.

After learning of the problem from his bank, Rogalin opened a different account. He resumed making payments to Public Storage.

“When I got back I called Public Storage to find out the status of my account and they told me the contents of my storage container had been auctioned off in June because the bill hadn’t been paid,” he said.

Rogalin said Public Storage never told him his account was in trouble, or that everything he owned — clothes, books, electronic gear, furniture, magazines and other property — was going to be sold.

“I was shocked that they had done this,” Rogalin said. “I moved in with my girlfriend who’s going to Missouri State. Otherwise I wouldn’t have anything.

Ron Ramler, regional vice president of Public Storage, said company policy prevented him from talking about Rogalin’s case.

Although his contract with Public Storage, based in Glendale, Calif., states the company is liable for losses up to \$5,000, Rogalin said the company offered him only \$2,000 and an apology.

“I called them back and told them this isn’t anywhere near right,” Rogalin said. “They upped their offer to \$2,500 and gave me seven days to accept it or get nothing.”

He said he rejected the \$2,500 but does not have enough money to fight the company in court. He said he’d like to get the \$5,000 due him under the contract.

Rogalin still has his car and the military clothing he brought back from Iraq.

His girlfriend, Jaimie Alonzo, 21, and her parents bought him some clothes for Christmas.

“At least now I’m not wearing the same three things every week.”

CARE TO SEND THE PUBLIC ENEMIES AT PUBLIC STORAGE A MESSAGE ABOUT THIS? 417.623.2044 AND/OR 417.732-4742. EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION MAY REQUIRE CLEAR, DIRECT LANGUAGE AS USED IN THE ARMED FORCES.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

January 10, 2007 (AP) & BBC & Reuters

A bomber killed four in a crowd outside a police station Wednesday in the northern Iraqi city Tal Afar, police said.

At least 12 people were also injured by the blast when the bomber walked into a crowd of people trying to join the police force which had gathered outside the building about 90 miles east of the Syrian border.

Around the same time, another bomber targeted the convoy of Tal Afar's mayor. The mayor's driver and three police were wounded. The mayor survived.

Last year, Mr Bush praised Talafar as an Iraqi success story, calling it a "free city that gives reason for hope for a free Iraq".

Police said a bomb went off in Baghdad's central Karradah neighborhood, wounding a traffic policeman.

Just south of Baghdad, gunmen shot dead two workers fixing a water pipe damaged by saboteurs a month earlier, a police colonel said.

The workers were killed Tuesday in Madain, about 14 miles southeast of Baghdad, and their bodies were removed from the scene on Wednesday.

Asked if police caught the killers, the colonel, who refused to give his name, said: "With deep regret, the area is full of orchards and it is difficult to carry out raids here." He added that such an operation would require armored vehicles and aircraft, which the Iraqi police do not have.

In Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, four Iraqi soldiers were injured Tuesday night when a roadside bomb exploded next to their patrol, police said.

In Falluja, west of the capital, mortar shells exploded near a crowd of police recruits outside police headquarters, killing one person.

A roadside bomb exploded near a car carrying the son of a police colonel, wounding him and two others in the northern city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

SOB – “Surge On Bush”



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: January 10, 2007

SOB -- "Surge On Bush"

**William Tecumseh Bush's march to the Sea.
Rampaging
Rampaging
Rampaging...**

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
January 10, 2007**

Photo from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

Home

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: January 10, 2007

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

Home

**Thinking about leaving his home like a memory
his front door kicked in, his furniture, shelves
knocking family keepsakes to the floor...
Other men come in the late hours of the night
"If you speak a word about us
your family is dead"...
The only wrong he has did is living at home
in his country that is being used by two forces
who are dangerous and making him weary of war...
which one would he shoot if he could
he might just shoot both of them...
But now he must choose between his home
that he worked for or saving his family
by taking them to another country...
He knows a 100,000 are leaving each month
and Lebanon and Jordan have closed their doors
but Syria is open and maybe Iran...
He will have to bribe them just to get in**

hoping the bandits in the desert won't rob him...
He knows Iraqi officials down low connected
with the US are skimming off money
so when the whole war goes to hell
they will have money to get out with...
But for him he is thinking about leaving
his home like a memory...

The Things They Carried:

[This is sent to GI Special by Katherine Y, The Military Project. Her dad served in Vietnam. These are from his personal effects. T]

HEADQUARTERS
71st Evacuation Hospital (SMEL)
APO 96318

BULLETIN
NUMBER 91

10 November 1968

OFFICIAL

ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONTENTS
OF THE OFFICIAL SECTION OF THIS BULLETIN.

Effective until 19 February 1969. ← BEGINNING OF TET

5. UNAUTHORIZED FIRING: Incidents of indiscriminate firing of weapons have occurred in the vicinity of Lake Bien Ho, primarily on Sundays and holidays. Such incidents are a definite safety hazard to the many Vietnamese who frequent the area. Inquiries indicated that most of the firing is done by Vietnamese Armed Forces personnel; however, US personnel have been observed contributing to this unsafe condition. Lake Bien Ho will be patrolled and violators will be cited and referred to their unit commanders for appropriate disciplinary action.

"3.5 million a day on air strikes in Vietnam. It's more than irony, it's immoral, and harder to live with now that I see the people, the beauty of their country, and know what might be done with the money spent on "national defense."

Captain Jay M. Gorell, MC, ASAF
(Written on the inside front cover of the December '68 Army Digest)

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.



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

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. Soldiers “Say That More Americans Won’t Solve Iraq’s Problems”

“U.S. Trainers Also Say Their Own Preparation For Iraq Was Inadequate”

“In U.S. Commanders’ Sparse Offices And Barracks, Piles Of Books On Counterinsurgency Tactics Sit Unused Behind Desks”

Comment: T

The Elephant In The Room Everybody Pretends Not To See

As you check this out, keep in mind what the reporters and U.S. officers try to make you forget. Why else could it be they never mention it? Never.

What they don't mention, not one time, is that the resistance troops fighting the occupation of their country have no need of U.S. trainers, U.S. money, U.S. supplies or any of the rest of the elaborate but useless bullshit going on in this story.

All the pissing and moaning, confusion, bad morale, lack of motivation etc. etc. etc. seems to be no problem for the resistance fighters.

This story calls them “amazingly quick to adapt, faster than the Americans or the Iraqi military.”

Why do you suppose that is? You can't figure it out? Go back in time to 1776 and ask Tom Paine and Patrick Henry why people fight against occupation by a foreign Empire. Duh.

Five days with American trainers assigned to Muqdadiyah found the Iraqi army there divided, sectarian, underfunded, cold and hungry. It lacks equipment, motivation and a common belief in its mission.
--

Jan. 09, 2007 By Nancy A. Youssef, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

MUQDADIYAH, Iraq

On Wednesday night, President Bush is expected to announce that he's sending thousands more American soldiers to Iraq as part of a new plan to overcome the country's widening sectarian violence.

But to many of the U.S. soldiers who already are struggling to prepare Iraqi troops in Diyala province say that more Americans won't solve Iraq's problems.

"The Iraqis will accept mediocrity," said Staff Sgt. Luke Alphonso, a U.S. Army medic from Morgan City, La., who's been assigned to train members of Iraq's 5th Army Division for the past six months. "They will let us do everything" for them.

In the end, no matter what the Americans do, the Iraqis will find their own way, the U.S. commander of the trainers here said.

"There is no doubt in my mind that when the coalition does leave that this situation will get resolved within a fairly short period of time. These people will figure it out. It may be ugly. It may be very ugly. But they will figure it out," said Lt. Col. Jody Creekmore, who arrived in Iraq last summer from Huntsville, Ala., leaving behind his three teenage children.

Five days with American trainers assigned to Muqdadiyah found the Iraqi army there divided, sectarian, underfunded, cold and hungry. It lacks equipment, motivation and a common belief in its mission.

The old guard is suspicious of the American Army, which defeated them and now trains them. The young guard is suspicious of the old guard.

The enemies here are numerous and come from a variety of political ideologies and groups. They're amazingly quick to adapt, faster than the Americans or the Iraqi military.

They hide in palm groves, infiltrate army units and take over neighborhood homes.

Local commanders say that other government officials often undercut efforts to defeat these enemies.

U.S. trainers also say their own preparation for Iraq was inadequate.

While they received intensive monthlong training at Fort Riley, Kan., using a set of Iraqi-like scenes complete with Arabic speakers, they were unprepared for the severity of the problems they found.

The American trainers said teaching counterinsurgency doctrine had become secondary to more basic pursuits, such as how to load a weapon, take care of equipment and even find basic supplies: food, water and bullets.

In U.S. commanders' sparse offices and barracks, piles of books on counterinsurgency tactics sit unused behind desks.

Indeed, logistics is the biggest problem plaguing the new Iraqi army, said U.S. Col. David Puster, who's in charge of training the 5th Iraqi Army Division, whose territory includes Diyala province.

The day before the fight in front of the base entrance, Ali and Creekmore made a nearly two-hour trip to the 5th Iraqi Division's headquarters in what turned out to be a fruitless search for blankets for the Iraqi soldiers, whose austere barracks have no heat as night temperatures dip near freezing.

"How can they focus on training when they are freezing?" asked one U.S. reservist, who asked not to be identified because he wasn't authorized to speak to reporters.

Gasoline is also in short supply. Some Iraqi soldiers pay for fuel out of their own pockets to keep patrols moving. Others simply cite the lack of gas in refusing to conduct patrols.

"Fuel, that is a paradox," Creekmore said, noting that Iraq has vast supplies of oil.

When the Iraqis can't come up with their own supplies, it falls to U.S. trainers to get them. Americans have provided food, water, bullets, communications, boots and uniforms. They spend hours pleading with the Iraqi government to share supplies with its soldiers.

Desperate to wean them from U.S. dependency, officials here have begun cutting off fuel. "We have to make an Iraqi system. We can't give and give," said Maj. Matt Gore, of Leavenworth, Kan., an Army reservist who's in charge of training the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 5th Division, based in Muqdadiyah.

Nestled halfway between the Iranian border and Baghdad, Muqdadiyah often is called little Iraq, once because the city of 100,000 reflected the Iraqi populace - a mix of Sunnis and Shiites, Kurds and Turkmens - now because it's a microcosm of the country's many feuding groups.

When Iran and Iraq were locked in an eight-year war in the 1980s, five Iraq army divisions were stationed in Diyala province, primarily to protect Baghdad from Iranian fighters sneaking across the border. Many of the soldiers who fought in that war lead the new army.

Among them is Brig. Gen. Rashid Abdul Kareem al-Qadarat, the second highest-ranking officer in the 5th Iraqi Army Division. Al-Qadarat was battling American forces three years ago just south of Baghdad when he received orders to abandon the fight that his army had lost. He's not proud that he walked away, but said he did it out of respect for his commanders in the army's centralized system under Saddam.

Then, it was a top-down organization in which only a few mostly Sunni officers issued orders, and initiative could be interpreted as insubordination, especially from Shiites in the ranks.

U.S. trainers are trying to change that structure, arguing that a soldier facing an insurgency can't wait for a commander in an office to tell him what to do. Al-Qadarat disagrees, and that drags out the training.

He takes as a personal affront the suggestion that the army he served for 22 years didn't work well. He thinks U.S. officials are suggesting that he can't make the best decisions for his men. He defends the centralized command structure, claiming that the army's weapon systems worked and its training worked.

Once American forces leave, "We will go back to what we know," he predicted.

Despite the challenges, the U.S. is planning to hand over control of Diyala to the 5th Division on Feb. 1. While American trainers will remain, the division will take its orders from Iraqi commanders.

Lt. Col. John Russell, the U.S. Army reservist in charge of the border patrol, said the Iraqis got discouraged only when they looked across the border. From their cold facilities, where they struggle for food and clean water, they can see the Iranian border patrol. The sight of light illuminating those stations and what appears to be a warm place to work taunts them.

"If only the Iraqi government would give them food and electricity," Russell said.

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

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)

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Bangladesh: Thousands Of Protesters Fought Riot Police In The Capital Tuesday; “Dockworkers Also Stopped Activities Tuesday”

[Thanks to JM, who sends this in.]

Jan. 09, 2007 FARID HOSSAIN, Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh - Thousands of protesters fought riot police in the capital Tuesday, throwing stones, bricks and homemade bombs as a crippling blockade to force the postponement of elections stretched into a third day, witnesses and reports said.

Police used batons and fired rubber bullets and tear gas at protesters who tried to overrun barbed-wire barricades erected around the downtown presidential palace.

Army troops joined police in manning the barricades, but they did not intervene, witnesses said.

The protesters belonged to a 19-party political alliance that opposes the Jan. 22 election and has vowed to boycott it. The alliance planned to hold a rally Wednesday at a soccer field in Dhaka, walking distance from the presidential palace, to announce a new series of street protests, an alliance statement said.

Media reports have said nonstop blockades on election day could be announced at the rally.

Some major city roads toward the rally venue will remain off-limit to traffic Wednesday to maintain order, police said late Tuesday.

On Tuesday, the protesters also hurled several handmade bombs - small tin pots filled with explosives - at security forces, witnesses said.

The clashes left at least 100 people injured, including police, ATN Bangla TV station reported. Dozens of protesters were detained. The exact number of wounded or detainees could not be immediately confirmed.

Hundreds of other activists, police and security forces were wounded Sunday and Monday, the first two days of a nationwide transport blockade.

The alliance - led by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina - has alleged the voters' list for the election has flaws, including fake names. The group wants the poll delayed until a problem-free list is available.

To press its demands, the alliance blocked roads, railways and river routes Sunday to Tuesday to isolate Dhaka from the rest of the country.

Only a few buses, three-wheel taxis and pedal rickshaws were left to provide transport for the capital's 10 million residents.

Security forces had cordoned off the official residence of the interim leader, President Iajuddin Ahmed, after protesters vowed to lay siege to the building. Authorities earlier banned protests in the area.

Despite heavy security and the ban, thousands of demonstrators poured into downtown Dhaka close to the presidential palace.

Pro-alliance dockworkers also stopped activities Tuesday at the main sea port of Chittagong, disrupting delivery of goods to the rest of the country.

The most violent clashes occurred Monday in Dhaka and its adjoining areas. Police used tear gas, rubber bullets and batons to disperse thousands of protesters. At least 300 people, including several police, were injured, the United News of Bangladesh reported.

Election officials and Ahmed have said the election date cannot be changed.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

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