

GI SPECIAL 5A18:

BUSH'S NEW PLAN FOR IRAQ WAR



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

Not One More Second

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: January 14, 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

Not One More Second

He wants to be a preacher so he doesn't have to work
waiting for a second coming
cobwebs stretching from the mouth of time.
Revelation used as a madman's dictionary
for a republican christian political fist

Vomit spews from the president's mouth
yellow intestines red veins eyes legs and hands.
Preacher man eats our sons in a foreign land
bullets crisscross like the star of david
Middle Eastern men pick up their guns
to shoot at the USA
Camels dot the lands in a ride around war
the cradle of un-civilization can be called on a cell phone
Mama get me out of here on a plane or a ship
There is no good reason why the Sunni Shiites kill
except for a president who vomits into their brains.
The preacher stands behind him in a revelation galore
Greedy men escalate failure with paws like their hands
looting the Pharaoh's oil with missiles and bombs
A preacher man of peace with a crown of thorns
walks from town to town to straighten out his religion
but many of the people will not listen.
The president vomits bloody thorns arms and feet
out he spits dead soldiers and rows of white crosses
Turn your gun around boys, they are abusing you
tell them not one more tour, they are using you
tell them not one more month, they are deceiving you
tell them not one more week, they are wounding you
tell them not one more hour, they are killing you
Cut off the head of the snake, slice the body to pieces
and tell them it's not your war, tell them they must die
and let all sides throw their guns down and surrender
to sanity and grace.

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

Kurdish Troops Ordered To Baghdad Deserting Wholesale;

No “Surge” For Them; Only “Several Hundred” Soldiers Show Up Out Of A Battalion Of 1,600

January 18 by Ivan Watson, NPR [Excerpts]

The atmosphere was tense at the Iraqi National Army base in Sulyemaniye, Northern Iraq, Wednesday as soldiers finished up last-minute preparations for the dangerous trip down south to Baghdad.

The 1st battalion of the Iraqi Army's 3rd Brigade, 4th division, consists almost entirely of Kurds. Until this week, it has been based in the highlands of Iraqi Kurdistan, which without question is the safest part of Iraq. But on Monday, the first Kurdish soldiers began moving south to Baghdad.

Their mission, according to Gen. Anwar Dolani, is to prop up the Iraqi central government and to stop "a very bad massacre of the people of Baghdad."

The deployment is extremely unpopular in Iraqi Kurdistan, where the president of the semi-autonomous region last year ordered all Iraqi flags removed and replaced by the flag of Kurdistan.

"The public is adamantly against it up here," said Lt. Col. Dennis Chapman, who commands a small team of American military advisers attached to the Kurdish battalion. "It's because there's a great fear of the ethnic strife down there in Baghdad and a fear of it somehow making its way up here."

Chapman says there have been desertions. He expects only several hundred soldiers to show up in Baghdad, out of a battalion of 1,600.

Wednesday, more than 60 military vehicles barreled down the highway, leaving Suleymaniye and heading south toward Baghdad.

At a small roadside gasoline stand, a small crowd watched, but did not cheer as the convoy drove past.

"Why should we sacrifice ourselves for Arabs who are killing each other?" asked a man named Serdar Ahmad.

The Arabs, he added, are our enemy.

Sailor Dies In Non-Combat Related Incident

18 January 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory 18 January 2007

BAGHDAD – A Sailor assigned to 16th Military Police Brigade, Camp Bucca, Iraq, died Jan. 17 in a non-combat related incident.

Wisconsin Soldier Killed In Mosul



Spc. Matthew T. Grimm, 21, of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., was killed Jan. 15, 2007 in Mosul, Iraq. Cooper, of the 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle, officials said. (AP Photo/Fort Bliss Public Affairs)

Kentucky Soldier Killed In Mosul



Sgt. John E. Cooper, 29, of Ewing, Ky., was killed Jan. 15, 2007 in Mosul, Iraq. Cooper, of the 2nd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle, officials said. (AP Photo/Fort Bliss Public Affairs)

Notes From A Lost War:

**U.S. Officer Gives Resistance Soldiers “The Highest Mark As Worthy Opponents”
“Ninety To 100 Percent Of The Area’s Residents Either Actively Or Passively Support The Insurgency”**

[At no extra charge, GI Special provides translation of foreign terms, specifically from the alien language of report-o-propaganda used by reporters in bed with the occupation to language reflecting reality. T]

Jan. 18, 2007 Cami McCormick, (CBS) [Excerpts]

In this fertile, rural area of southern Baghdad, date palm trees line the east bank of the Tigris River, often hiding a deadly enemy.

Snipers use the trees for cover to fire on U.S. troops. Insurgents plant roadside bombs and then disappear into the groves.

The U.S. military bulldozes the trees along at least one road it uses frequently.

"This is an area where the terrorists [translation: patriotic Iraqis fighting a foreign occupation] have been able to gain and maintain a sanctuary," said Col. Michael X. Garrett, Commander of the 4th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, because until now U.S. military forces haven't "routinely operated here and there are no Iraqi forces, army or police."

The population of Arab Jabour is estimated at 120,000, and 90 percent to 95 percent of them are Sunni [translation: as recent polls show, the majority of Iraqis identify themselves as "Iraqis," regardless of religious affiliation, and the majority, regardless of religious affiliation, wish to kill occupation troops, as other polls conducted by U.S. sources have also previously reported].

A national police checkpoint sits on the main road to central Baghdad, intended to stop weapons from flowing in and out of the capital, but the police officers are mainly Shiite [translation: police who collaborate with the foreign occupation, regardless of religious affiliation] and the Arab Jabour residents don't trust them [translation: rightly consider them traitors and enemies].

"We're up against a Sunni-based [translation: nationalist led] insurgency that is dissatisfied with the Iraqi government," [translation: rightly considers the government put

in power by the occupation to be a pack of traitors who serve Bush] said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mark W. Odom, the commander of the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry, which deployed to this area two and a half months ago as part of the 4th Brigade.

Although victims of sectarian violence have turned up along the area's borders with Shiite neighborhoods, the local Sunnis often take out their anger on Coalition forces.

[Translation: the local Iraqis who live there are politically sophisticated, intelligent, and highly motivated to engage in armed resistance against the foreign army sent to return their independent nation to the status of a 20th century colony, and loot their oil for the benefit of the Imperial class that rules in the USA. Therefore, not being idiots, they attack U.S. occupation forces. The racist idiot writing this bullshit reduces that to some kind of psychobabble about "taking out their anger," seeing them as little primitive tribe people who need anger management classes.]

[And Now, For A Few Words From An Officer With Some Grip On Reality]

"Ninety to 100 percent of the area's residents either actively or passively support the insurgency," estimates Odom, who calls them well-armed and well-trained.

On a scale of one to 10, he gives them the highest mark as worthy opponents.

"Clearly, many of them have been in the military, based on the engagements we have had. Their tactics, their employment of indirect fire systems, indicates something beyond just paramilitary training," Odom says.

And it's not just the military training that makes them so deadly, it's an engrained ideology. [Odom is an intelligent officer. But here comes the idiot again. Translation: "ingrained ideology" is what the reporter suffers from. What the Iraqis have is called love of country, and hatred of foreign occupiers.]

Odom says a 14-year-old boy was caught recently laying an improvised explosive device. One alleged sniper was just 16. [FYI: Also the ages of hundreds of thousands of soldiers who fought against slavery in the U.S. Civil War. Thank God this reporter wasn't around in 1863 writing silly crap about their "ingrained ideology" or history students would need barf bags.]

"It takes us a while, mentally, to adapt to the fact that when you see a 15- or 16-year-old kid he could very well be the individual that's placing the improvised explosive device in the road, or behind the sniper rifle," Odom said. "That's conceptually, mentally, difficult to grasp, particularly for our young soldiers who haven't seen that before and are now coming to grips with it."

With the daily threat to military vehicles and personnel from IEDs and small arms fire, the 1st Squadron has brought with it a special dismounted Charlie Company. This is its first deployment. It includes small counter-sniper teams that search for gunmen [translation: men and women in the resistance armed forces].

The team also performs reconnaissance, traveling muddy roadways where IEDs are often hidden in sandbags to fool U.S. forces, or they're detonated, most recently, by strings of Christmas tree lights.

Tanks and Stryker vehicles now line one of the most dangerous routes, civilian vehicles have been banned and palm trees have been cleared on either side of the road by U.S. tanks.

Once the unit reaches a spot near the Tigris River where weapons caches were recently found, the two dozen or so soldiers set out on foot through the muddy fields, jumping ditches, and taking cover behind mounds of dirt or in the reeds along the river.

Enemy gunmen [translation: resistance soldiers, sex unknown] fire twice in the vicinity of the soldiers. In both cases the Americans escape (although the company's machine gunners open fire and give chase in one instance). An IED explodes in the distance and some of the soldiers pause briefly to look toward the smoke.

The unit commander says the action that day was typical.

American forces are at the forefront of the battle here against Sunni [translation: nationalist] insurgents.

As in Anbar province, U.S. commanders are generally clear who the enemy is.

But unlike in Anbar, where the U.S. military has enlisted local sheikhs [translation: bought off a few moth-eaten isolated collaborators who have no local influence or following], the Americans here have no visible Iraqi support.

While an Iraqi [translation: collaborator] army battalion works with the 1st Squadron, its 300 men fall far short of what the total number should be — closer to 700.

"They're being attacked the same way Coalition forces are," said Odom.

He says their makeup is slightly more Sunni than most Iraqi battalions, but it's still only accounts for 30 percent of the 300 men.

"Getting police in here to operate effectively will depend on having at least a 50 percent composition of Sunnis. They're working very hard to make the police force representative in the areas that it operates in and to be equally representative of all the religious and ethnic groups. It will be extremely important," said Odom.

[Odom has fallen into the most dangerous trap in war: believing the propaganda put out by the politicians who command him. Odom keeps obsessing about percentages of this or that religious denomination in the collaborator ranks.

[Thus he forgets what he just said previously that reflects the truth: the Iraqis fighting against the occupation couldn't care less what percent of who the collaborator cops or soldiers are. He had said, after commenting that the Iraqi

collaborator soldiers are “30 % Sunni” that “They’re being attacked the same way Coalition forces are.”

[They’re being attacked because they’re traitors serving a foreign Empire and their religious views have nothing to do with it.

[And it won’t matter what percent of who is doing it in the future, either. Odom’s obsession about percentages of this or that in the collaborator ranks means he can’t face this reality. He doesn’t want to get it.

[In Iraq there are only two sides: for or against armed resistance to the occupation. Since U.S. sponsored polls show a majority of “Sunni” and “Shia” are in favor of killing U.S. occupation forces, the labels Sunni or Shia mean nothing when set against the real division in Iraq: for or against the occupation. T]

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers wind up barbed in central Baghdad neighborhood Karradah Oct. 31, 2006.
(AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

US Drone Down In Baghdad

01/18/07 'Pakistan Times' Monitoring Desk

BAGHDAD (Iraq): A US military remote controlled aircraft crashed near Baghdad airport, the military reported Thursday.

The aircraft crashed Wednesday five miles southeast of Baghdad airport at around 11:35 pm (20:35 GMT).

"The aircraft is a medium-altitude long-endurance, remotely piloted aircraft," the U.S. Military said, adding its "primary mission is conducting armed reconnaissance."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Panicked U.S. Commanders Demand More Troops For Afghanistan: Silly Secretary Of Defense Calls Afghanistan Occupation A “Success” [So Successful He Will Send More Troops To The Slaughterhouse As Command Begs For Stop-Loss]

Jan. 18, 2007 By Kim Barker, CHICAGO TRIBUNE [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan - Concerned by Taliban gains and worried about more violence, U.S. military commanders have recommended that more U.S. troops come to Afghanistan, Defense Secretary Robert Gates told reporters Wednesday.

He did not say how many troops were requested. But other military officials have suggested that an additional 1,000 or 1,200 troops would help make up the shortfall in Afghanistan, especially considering the anticipated spring offensive.

Gates, on his first visit to Afghanistan, indicated he would recommend a troop increase to President Bush.

"I think it is important that we not let this success here in Afghanistan slip away from us and that we keep the initiative," he told reporters traveling Wednesday aboard his aircraft, after leaving Afghanistan.

Despite urgent pleas for more troops, though, NATO countries have not yet been able to meet the alliance's requests. [Bullshit. “Unable” implies that don't have

the troops to send. Another lying reporter. Fact is, they have refused to send their troops to this hopeless war of occupation. Get it? *Refused.*]

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan also has asked to extend the combat tour of about 1,200 soldiers already in the country in preparation for the spring offensive by the Taliban.

In an interview Wednesday, Lt. Gen. David Richards, the British commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan, reiterated the need for more troops. He said there are no reserve soldiers for the war. For instance, in the troubled southern province of Helmand, about 5,000 British soldiers have faced an unrelenting battle, without any available substitutes.

SOMALIA WAR REPORT

“For Progressive Observers In The Region And Much Of The Media Outside The U.S., The Conflict Smells Of Petroleum”

<p>Reportedly, nearly two-thirds of Somalia’s oil fields were allocated to the U.S. oil companies Conoco, Amoco, Chevron and Phillips before Somalia's pro-U.S. President Mohamed Siad Barre was overthrown in January, 1991.</p>
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January 11, 2007 By Carl Bloice, Black Commentator Editorial Board
Blackcommentator.com [Excerpts] Carl Bloice is a writer in San Francisco, a member of the National Coordinating Committee of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism and formerly worked for a healthcare union.

Forget about all that stuff about Ethiopia having a “tacit” o.k. from Washington to invade Somalia. The decision was made at the White House and the attack had military support from the Pentagon. The governments are too much in sync and the Ethiopians too dependent on the U.S. to think otherwise.

And, it didn’t just suddenly happen.

Ethiopian troops, trained and equipped by the U.S. began infiltrating into Somali territory last summer as part of a plan that began to evolve the previous June when the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) took control of the government.

In November, the head of the U.S. Central Command, General John Abizaid (until last week he ran the U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq) was in Addis Ababa. After that, Ghanaian journalist Cameron Duodu has written, Ethiopia “moved from proving the Somali government with ‘military advice’ to open armed intervention.”

And not without help.

U.S. Supplied satellite surveillance data aided in the bombardment of the Somali capital, Mogadishu and pinpointing the location of UIC forces resulting, in the words of New York Times reporter Jeffrey Gettleman, in “a string of back-to-back military loses in which more than 1,000 fighters, mostly teenage boys, were quickly mowed down by the better-trained and equipped Ethiopian-backed forces.”

As with the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the immediate question is why was this proxy attack undertaken, in clear violation of international law and the UN Charter?

And again, there is the official line, the excuse and the underlying impetus.

The official line from Addis Ababa is that it was a defensive act in the face of a threat of attack from Somalia. There’s nothing to support the claim and a lot of evidence to the contrary. As far as the Bush Administration is concerned, it was a chance to strike back at “Islamists” as part of the on-going “war on terror.”

For progressive observers in the region and much of the media outside the U.S., the conflict smells of petroleum.

“As with Iraq in 2003, the United States has cast this as a war to curtail terrorism, but its real goal is to obtain a direct foothold in a highly strategic region by establishing a client regime there.,” wrote Salim Lone, spokesperson for the United Nation mission in Iraq in 2003, and now a columnist for The Daily Nation in Kenya.

“The Horn of Africa is newly oil-rich, and lies just miles from Saudi Arabia, overlooking the daily passage of large numbers of oil tankers and warships through the Red Sea.”

In a television interview broadcast on the day of the full-fledged Ethiopian assault, Marine General James Jones (who ironically, like Abizaid, recently lost his position), then-Nato's military commander and head of the US military's European army, expressed his concern that the size of the U.S. army in Europe had “perhaps gone too low.”

Jones went on to tell the CSpan interviewer the US needed troops in Europe partly so that they could be quickly deployed in trouble-spots in Africa and elsewhere.

“I think the emergence of Africa as a strategic reality is inevitable and we're going to need forward-based troops, special operations, marines, soldiers, airmen and sailors to be in the right proportion,” said Jones.

“Pentagon to train sharper eye on Africa,’ read the headline over a January 5 report by Richard Whittle in the Christian Science Monitor. “Strife, oil, and Al Qaeda are leading the US to create a new Africa Command.”

“Africa, long beset by war, famine, disease, and ethnic tensions, has generally taken a backseat in Pentagon planning - but US officials say that is about to change,” wrote Whittle, who went on to report that one of former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's last acts before being dismissed from that position was to convince President Bush to create a new Africa military Africa command, something the White House is expected to announce later this year.

The creation of the new body, he quoted one expert as saying, reflects the Administration concern about “Al Qaeda's known presence in Africa,” China's developing relations with the continent with regards to oil supplies and the fact that “Islamists took over Somalia last June and ruled until this week, when Ethiopian troops drove them out of power.”

Currently, the US gets about 10 percent of its oil from Africa, but, the Monitor story said but “some experts say it may need to rely on the continent for as much as 25 percent by 2010.”

Reportedly, nearly two-thirds of Somalia's oil fields were allocated to the U.S. oil companies Conoco, Amoco, Chevron and Phillips before Somalia's pro-U.S. President Mohamed Siad Barre was overthrown in January, 1991.

According to the plan, the Central Command will retain responsibility for the Horn of Africa for about 18 months while the Africa Command gets set up.

The Pentagon's present Horn of Africa joint task force, headquartered in Djibouti, includes about 1,500 troops.

African countries won't see much difference in the US military presence on the ground under the new command, Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of State for African affairs under the first President Bush, is quoted as saying. "They're already getting a lot of attention from the US military.”

"When the Cold War ended, so too did the interest of the USA in Africa...for a while.

Particularly following September 11, 2001, the interest of the Bush administration in Africa increased several fold,” says Bill Fletcher, Jr., visiting professor at Brooklyn College-CUNY, former president of TransAfrica Forum.

“Their interest was, first, in direct relationship to the amount of oil in the ground.

“Second, it was in relationship to a country's attitude toward the so-called "war against terrorism.”

Irrespective of the character of a regime, if they were prepared to provide the USA with oil and/or support the war against terrorism, the USA would turn a blind eye toward any practices going on.”

"The second piece of this puzzle, however, is that the new interest in Africa was accompanied by a new military approach toward Africa," says Fletcher. "This included both the development of the so-called Trans Sahel project, which supposedly concerns training countries to fight terrorism, as well as the deployment of military bases and personnel to Africa.

"Specifically, and beginning around the time of the initiation of the Iraq war, US military planners began discussing relocating US forces from Europe into Africa, and specifically into the Gulf of Guinea region, a region rich in oil reserves.

"It is clear, once again, that in all of this, the character of any regime is secondary to the regime's compliance with the interests of the Bush administration and their economic/strategic priorities.

"The net effect of this could be the introduction of US military personnel into extremely complicated internal struggles not only in the Gulf of Guinea region, but in other locations, e.g., Somalia, allegedly in the interest of fighting terrorism and protecting strategic oil reserves."

Describing the Trans Sahel project, which covers a swath of North Africa, Foreign Policy in Focus commentator Conn Hallinan wrote recently, "The Bush Administration claims the target of this program, called the Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Initiative is the growing presence of al-Qaeda influenced organizations in the region.

"Critics, however, charge that the enterprise has more to do with oil than with Osama bin Laden, and that stepped up military aid to Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia will most likely end up being used against internal opposition groups in those countries, not 'terrorists' hiding out in the desert."

The Ethiopian government has said it does not have the resources for an extended stay in Somalia even though the projection is that it will take many months to "stabilize" the situation in the invaded country.

As of this writing, the Bush Administration was having difficulty raising troops from nearby cooperative states to take over the job. Only Uganda seemed a sure bet.

Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Africa, Ms Jendayi Frazer, told journalists: "Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni promised U.S. President George Bush in a recent phone call that he could supply between 1,000-2,000 troops to protect Somalia's transitional government and train its troops. We hope to have the Ugandans deployed before the end of January."

Shortly after the invasion, Frazer told reporters there had been no request for U.S. troops or military assistance so far, but she did not rule out that it could be requested and supplied later if necessary.

Later came quickly. On Sunday, U.S. AC-130 gunships began bombarding sites within Somalia and Hawkeye reconnaissance planes took to the air pinpointing locations for attacks by jet aircraft.

Although the announced purpose of the bombing was alleged al-Qaeda personnel, media reports indicated the target were “Islamic fighters”, meaning troops of the UIC government.

"The US has sided with one Somali faction against another, this could be the beginning of a new civil war ... I fear once again they have gone for a quick fix based on false information, one “highly respected regional analyst” told the Times of London.

TROOP NEWS

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



Casket of Specialist Dustin Donica during graveside services in Houston January 8, 2007. Donica has been widely reported in the US media as the 3,000th American soldier killed in the Iraq war. REUTERS/Richard Carson (UNITED STATES)

5,000 From Bragg And 12,000 From Lejune Off To Bush’s Imperial Slaughterhouse

Jan. 18 The Associated Press

The first round of thousands of troops scheduled to go to the Middle East will begin deploying Saturday from North Carolina military bases, the military said Thursday.

About 5,000 paratroopers in the 82nd Airborne Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team will begin leaving from Fort Bragg. The team includes about 3,500 soldiers, about 1,000 members of the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade and about 500 support and headquarters soldiers.

At Camp Lejeune, about 200 Marines in the headquarters element of the 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) begin traveling to Iraq.

Other Marines in the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force also are scheduled to deploy and more than 12,000 from Lejeune will be gone when the deployments are completed within a few weeks.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



Smoke rises from a destroyed police vehicle shortly after a bomb attack in Baghdad, January 18, 2007. (Thaier al-Sudani/Reuters)

18 Jan 2007 Reuters & AP

A car bomber blew himself up near a police patrol wounding four policemen and two civilians in the northern city of Mosul.

A policeman was killed and another wounded when insurgents threw a bomb at a police checkpoint in Mosul, police said.

A car bomb blew up as an Iraqi police patrol passed in a volatile area of central Baghdad, killing two policemen, and wounding 11, according to police.

Guerrillas also opened fire on a police patrol near the al-Shaab stadium in eastern Baghdad, killing one policeman and wounding another, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded three policemen in Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, the Iraqi-U.S. Joint Military Centre said.

Guerrillas attacked a police checkpoint in Iskandariya, 40 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, killing three and wounding one, police said.



Smoke rises from a destroyed oil pipeline in Mahmoudiya, 30km (20 miles) south of Baghdad, January 19, 2007. The pipeline has been burning for the past three days after it was sabotaged by suspected insurgents, police said.

REUTERS/Ibrahim Sultan

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

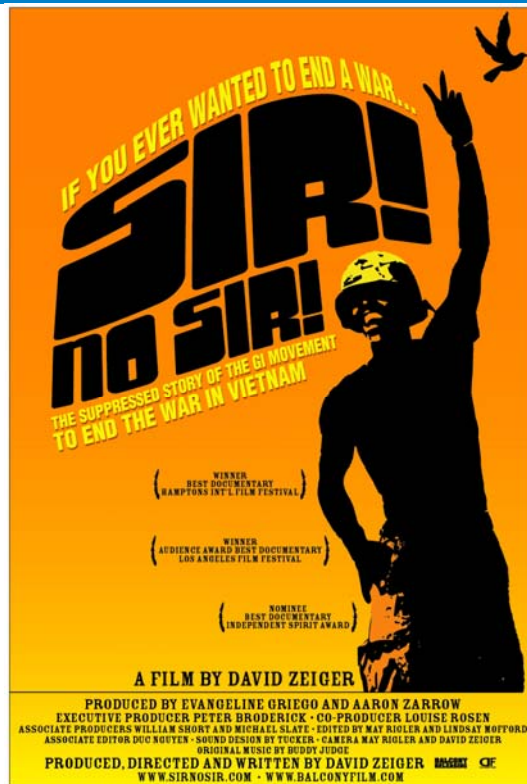
**“If Sadr City Is Attacked We Will Ignore
Those Orders And Take Matters In Our
Own Hands”**

January 18, 2007 Associated Press

One of the Mahdi Army commanders who spoke with the AP said "Our top leadership has told us to lay low and not confront the Americans.

"But if Sadr City is attacked, if civilians are hurt, we will ignore those orders and take matters in our own hands. We won't need orders from Sheik Muqtada (al-Sadr)," the midlevel commander said.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



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**“The President Of The United States
Is Acting Like A Dictator”
“There’s A Fierce Outrage That's
Growing In This Country”
“That Outrage Is Going To Be Felt And
Heard By This Administration”**

I don't know what it's going to take to stop this war, but I know that at a certain point, and it's already beginning to happen, the dam is going to break, and this country is going to experience demonstrations and civil disobedience to this war in a way it's never experienced before in its history.

Jan 9, 2007 By Joshua Scheer, Truthdig [Excerpts]

[Interview with Ron Kovic, Vietnam Veteran]

I have opposed this war from the very beginning. I was speaking out against it before it began. I sensed we were being deceived just as we were deceived during the Vietnam War. I wasn't going to let it happen again.

I made one promise to myself in 1968 after I was shot and paralyzed in Vietnam. (During those years that I was involved with the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, so I was speaking not only for myself, but for many, many other Vietnam veterans like myself who opposed that war, who went to jail with me.)

We said back then, "We're never going to allow what happened to our generation to ever happen again." And to watch this nightmare unfold all over again....

And in particular this week, the outrage that not only I feel, but also all my brothers and sisters in the antiwar movement, and all my fellow citizens all over this country ... that outrage that all of us feel, that the majority of the people of this country oppose this war, including many of our generals and the architects of this policy....

And yet the president of the United States is acting like a dictator. He's not listening to the people.

First of all, let's look at the fact that before this war began, one of the biggest peace movements in the history of the world took to the streets. I believe it was Feb. 15, 2003.

Make no doubt about it: That could happen again. But this time, you're going to see folks who have never demonstrated before taking to the streets of this country. They're going to demonstrate peacefully, in the spirit of Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

You may see great numbers of people in the streets before this is over with.

Because the people of this country, at a certain point, and it may just be starting this week, are not just going to take this anymore.

There's going to be a tipping point, and I think we're reaching it. I think this week will go down in history as a moment when people began to awaken to the fact that they have been terribly misled in this country.

There's a potential for great numbers of Americans going to the streets.

There's a fierce outrage that's growing in this country. And believe me: That outrage is going to be felt and heard by this administration.

I don't know what it's going to take to stop this war, but I know that at a certain point, and it's already beginning to happen, the dam is going to break, and this country is going to experience demonstrations and civil disobedience to this war in a way it's never experienced before in its history.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Commanders Order Tactic That Didn't Work In 2004 Either:

Building “Walls” A Kid Can Get Over



This handout photo from the US Marine Corps(USMC) shows entry control points and an 8-foot sand wall constructed by the US Marines in Barwanah, west of Baghdad. Adapting ideas tracing back from ancient history to modern Israel, US Marines have sealed off flashpoint towns with sand walls in a new counter-insurgency tactic to quell the wilds of western Iraq. (AFP/USMC-HO/File)

[They were doing this shit back in 2004, with the same breathless gushing stories from reporters back then that hailed the brilliant new tactic. You can read old GI Special reports about it and see photos of the same silly, useless berms. And everybody knows how well the war has been going since 2004. The dirt piles fell out of favor for awhile when it became obvious that they stopped nothing at all.]

[They tried a berm at Tal Afar, and below you’ll see just how well that worked.]

[The stupid photo caption above calls this a “new counter-insurgency tactic.” Not only is it not “new”, it’s not a “counter-insurgency” tactic. It’s a defensive wall, pathetic to be sure, and not even really a wall. And the essence of counter-insurgency warfare is that you don’t go hide behind a wall.]

[People started building walls back in the stone age. Purely defensive, get it? Didn’t work at Troy either, and the walls there were considerably more serious than this piddling shit. They were real big on wall building in the Middle Ages too. Until gun powder came along.]

[As any fool can plainly see, it would take about 30 seconds to get over this one. Which is exactly what resistance fighters did at every other Iraqi town where idiots in command though they were doing something brilliant.]

[They built an outdoor prison enclosing a whole city, and call it peace. And the attacks now are “one every two to three days.”]

[Even with all the reporter's happy talk, the truth leaks through here and there. It would appear the citizens do not love the occupation.]

[Wonder why. Wouldn't you just love to live in a big concentration camp surrounded by an army of foreigners commanded by George W. Bush telling you how to live your life?]

[And don't miss the officers charming lesson on how to "convince" rape victims you're a good man.]

Jan 11 by Jennie Matthew AFP [Excerpts from a deluge of bullshit.]

Adapting ideas tracing back from ancient history **to modern Israel [oops]**, US Marines have sealed off flashpoint towns with sand walls in a new counter-insurgency tactic to quell the wilds of western Iraq.

Driving across the desert to Haditha, one of the war's deadliest and most infamous battlefields, the grey plain suddenly collapses into a ditch and rises into an intimidating **12-foot** (around four-metre) bank of bulldozed sand.

Scores of American soldiers have been killed around Haditha in the four years since the US invasion.

[T]he Marines built a defensive sand wall sealing off Haditha from the porous desert, with checkpoints and traffic restrictions.

So last month, "berms" stretching 20 kilometres (12 miles) were built around Haditha and two neighbouring towns to cut off insurgent supply lines.

Today there is one road in and one road out of Haditha. Iraqi police, backed up by US Marines in a bunker, check all travelers and search all vehicles. There are metal wand detectors, mirror plates and bomb sniffer dogs.

Anyone wanting to leave needs written permission signed by the US marines.

Supply convoys are admitted subject to search, but American officers say few truck loads dispatched by the central government make it this far west.

ID cards are scrutinized and travelers questioned. A town census means the authorities know who lives here and who doesn't.

A total ban on vehicle traffic in town has ended car bombings, suicide car bombings and drive-by shootings. "In mid-September there were 10 to 13 attacks per day in the triad, although the enemy was concentrated in Haditha. **Now there is one every two to three days,**" says Major Kevin Matthews **in the sand-bagged US base downtown. [What, attacks with spitballs? No shootings, no car bombs, what's left? What are these sandbags for?]**

Residents, whose sympathy for the pro-Saddam [translation: anti-occupation] insurgency runs high, if doctored by fear of Al-Qaeda, are caught between welcoming the security improvement and frustration at the restrictions imposed by the "occupiers". **[The**

reporters fearlessly took a poll of what the residents think, out of sight of the occupation forces. Sure she did. In college, this is called “creative writing.”]

It takes an average of 40 minutes to cross the checkpoint heading out of town. “That’s a shorter time than trying to drive to work in New York,” smiles Second Lieutenant Andy Frick who helped design the wall. **[No, this is not a parody. This is a real quote. No doubt the Imperial Lieutenant has explained this to this simple natives. Ugh, me big white liberator, things better here than in New York City. Ha ha.]**

Expect that Haditha isn’t New York. The district population is only 80,000.

For calm to return properly, more Iraqi police than the current 120 need to be recruited. Reconstruction needs to happen. A city council needs to be elected. **[For “calm to return properly” she writes? What, as distinct from calm returning improperly? This isn’t a reporter, this is a third rate advertising copy writer for the Pentagon blathering her little menu of occupation propaganda about how to make these Iraqis love their occupiers. She could be writing TV ads: “Support The U.S. Occupation; You’ll Get Calm Returning Properly.”]**

That all this happened after the Americans first arrived in 2003, only to end in a bloodbath [translation: the resistance recaptured the city] when Marines were sent to east to Fallujah for a massive assault on insurgents in November 2004, underscores the fragility.

As soon as the Americans left, Al-Qaeda gunmen [translation: resistance troops] ambushed and killed 21 Iraqi [pro-occupation] policemen in Haditha. [Regretfully, there isn’t enough space here to repeat her bizarre accusations about what the resistance did on recapturing the city, but it includes everything short of cooking and eating small babies.]

“It’s like a man trying to establish a relationship with a woman who’s been severely hurt two or three times. I’ve got to convince you not all men are terrible. It’s about creating warmth and security,” says [Captain Matthew] Tracy.

[Many rapists insist they’re only giving a woman what she really wants. The woman must be “convinced.” That’s the rapist’s job, “convincing” the woman. Usually doing the convincing with a weapon, just like Tracy. It would appear the same dynamic works just fine for U.S. officers raping somebody else’s country. Yes, just lie back and enjoy it, all that “warmth and security” brought to you at gunpoint by warm and fuzzy Captain Tracy. He knows what’s best for you. Or else.]

While some officers recognise similarity with Israel’s separation barrier in the occupied West Bank in terms of the same stated goal of keeping “bad guys out” many are wary about drawing too close a politically explosive analogy.

“Probably some of it does come from Israel, or at least the ideas behind it. We use the same bulldozers as they do, although I think we’re a little more gentle. We don’t run over any homes,” says Frick.

[Killing with kindness, so to speak.]

[And since even Occupation polls find the overwhelming majority of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops, the silly man doesn't seem to have a grip on the fact that Iraq as a whole is the "sanctuary" for "insurgents." In this case, that means the 80,000 people that live in the city he built his silly "wall" around. This will be so until the last Occupation troop goes home.]

MORE:

Welcome To The "Berm" At Tal Afar

January 11, 2007 By Julian E. Barnes, L.A. Times Staff Writer [Excerpts]

In Tall Afar, a city of 150,000, American forces built a berm around the perimeter to control access, then swept through to rout insurgents and Al Qaeda members.

MORE:

[Welcome To The Results Of The Occupation Campaign At Tal Afar] TAL AFAR: "A Political Disaster"

May 14, 2006 Juancole.com [Excerpt]

The NYT reports Gen. Barry McCaffrey, who teaches at West Point, as estimating that the US military should have a big presence in Iraq for 5 to 7 years, while partnering with and building up the Iraqi military. So in 5 years the Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish battalions will like each other more than they do now? Will be more willing to fight against armed groups from their own ethnicities?

My problem with that is that they seem to think that the Tal Afar operation was a success, whereas it is a political disaster, and if they are planning another 5 to 7 years of that sort of thing, then we are doomed.

At Tal Afar they used Kurdish and Shiite troops to assault Sunni Turkmen killed people and made them refugees, and then only took 50 foreign fighters captive.

And the press reports show substantial disappointment in the city even among Shiites with the results.

The Tal Afar operation is considered a "take and hold" or "oil spot" strategy, as opposed to search and destroy. But you can't just empty out one Sunni city after another, bring in troops of other ethnicities to level neighborhoods, force people into tent cities in the desert or into relatives' homes, and call that a counter-insurgency strategy.

Every year the US military has been in the Sunni Arab heartland they have alienated more and more Iraqis.

MORE:

[Welcome To The Results Of The Occupation Campaign At Tal Afar] TAL AFAR: A Military Disaster

[Just a few excerpts from resistance news in GI Special after the mighty berm was built:]

In October 2006, a bombing in Tal Afar killed 14 people

Tal Afar: An additional bombing, outside a car dealership, November 24, 2006, killed at least 22 and wounded at least 26.

A car bomb exploded in Tal Afar on Wednesday, killing at least seven

A bomber strapped with explosives detonated himself at a police checkpoint in Tal Afar

A car bomber slammed into a checkpoint in Tal Afar, 260 miles

A man with explosives detonated himself at a police checkpoint in Tal Afar

Gunmen wounded four policemen in the northern city of Tal Afar

Tal Afar: A vehicle loaded full of explosives exploding on Tuesday evening

Bush Plan To Get Rid Of Maliki Collaborator Regime Collapses

To isolate Mr. Sadr, Americans and several prominent Iraqis, including Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, a powerful Shiite, and Tariq al-Hashimi, Iraq's Sunni vice president, tried to assemble a new political coalition that excluded him.

Those efforts seem to have foundered in recent weeks, marred by events that divided the Iraqi groups — the arrests of Iranians in Mr. Hakim's compound and the indignation surrounding the execution of Saddam Hussein.

January 18, 2007 By SABRINA TAVERNISE, The New York Times [Excerpts]

American military commanders are now debating whether a large-scale offensive in Sadr City, a vast grid of cinder-block houses in northeastern Baghdad that is the stronghold of the Mahdi Army, should be the way to confront the fighters. American soldiers battled the militia twice in 2004, but it emerged stronger after Mr. Sadr entered the political system and helped install Mr. Maliki as Iraq's prime minister last spring.

One senior military official said a large-scale operation "cannot be taken off the table," but others speak of plans to isolate the militia by cutting off northeastern neighborhoods where the militia dominates, and then continuing to chip away at its networks elsewhere.

Shiite neighborhoods present a particular challenge for the American military as it prepares to place thousands of soldiers into Baghdad in the coming months.

"There's no security if the Americans come in," said Ali Hussein Abdallah, a 43-year-old falafel shop owner who had to close for three days during a recent American raid, in which soldiers tore down a poster of Mr. Sadr that was hanging on his wall. "They create confusion. When they come they make a lot of trouble and maybe fighting."

"There is a wariness," said Abu Fatma al-Musawi, a Mahdi Army member in Sadr City. "We feel that this new strategy is against the Mahdi Army. We are worried the American troops might attack our area."

Military action will be all the more difficult because the militias are deeply embedded in the fabric of society. In Topchi, residents pay 3,000 Iraqi dinars a month, or about \$2.40, to support local Mahdi Army members. Fighters are members of the local council, and they arrange trash collections and housing for Shiite refugees, often settling them into empty Sunni houses.

"If they don't make relations with local councils I am sure they will fail," said one prominent tribal member in Topchi who spoke on condition of anonymity. "If they use only force, like before, they will make many more problems."

To isolate Mr. Sadr, Americans and several prominent Iraqis, including Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, a powerful Shiite, and Tariq al-Hashimi, Iraq's Sunni vice president, tried to assemble a new political coalition that excluded him.

Those efforts seem to have foundered in recent weeks, marred by events that divided the Iraqi groups — the arrests of Iranians in Mr. Hakim's compound and the indignation surrounding the execution of Saddam Hussein.

[Wrong. These weren't "events" that fell out of the sky. These were political actions taken by the occupation command and its local collaborators. Their blind stupidity merely underlines the hopelessness of the occupation position, where action taken merely adds fuel to the fires of resistance, and weakens the occupation still more. T]

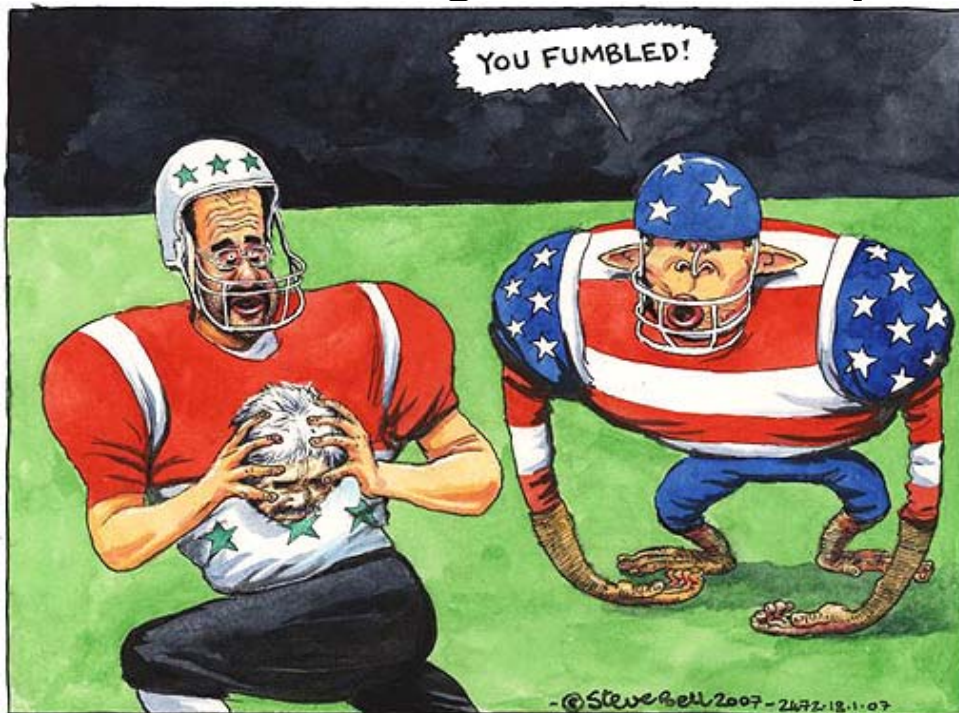
Baha al-Aaraji, a senior representative for Mr. Sadr in Parliament, said Mr. Sadr's supporters knew that recent American efforts were aimed at weakening them, and eventually Mr. Maliki, whom they support.

"The main goals are to exclude the Sadrists from decision-making and, after the formation of a new bloc, to replace the prime minister," he said.

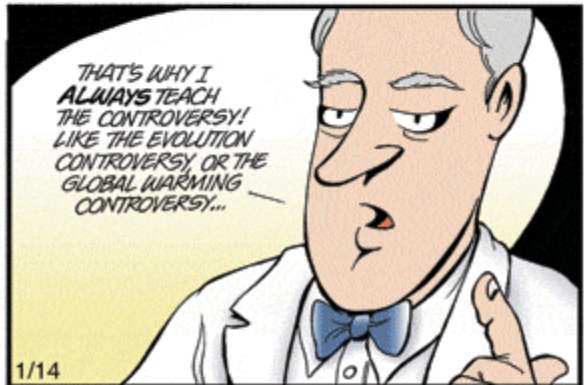
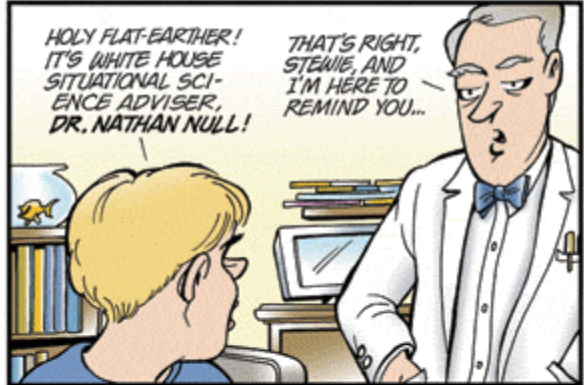
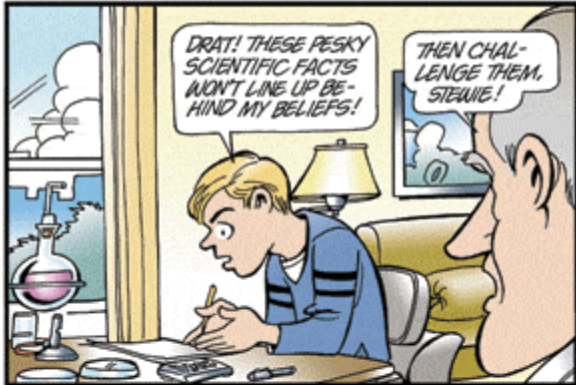
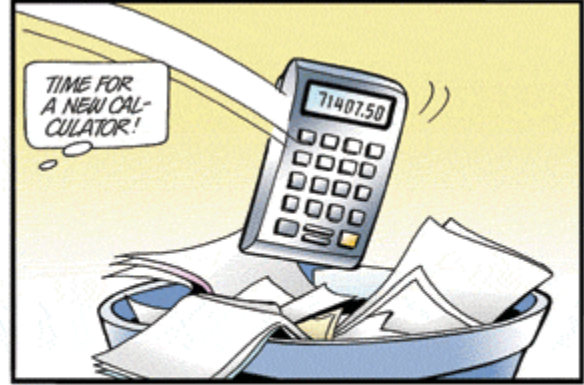
But in the current political situation, in which Islamists are overwhelmingly popular among voters, the efforts are likely to fail, he said.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

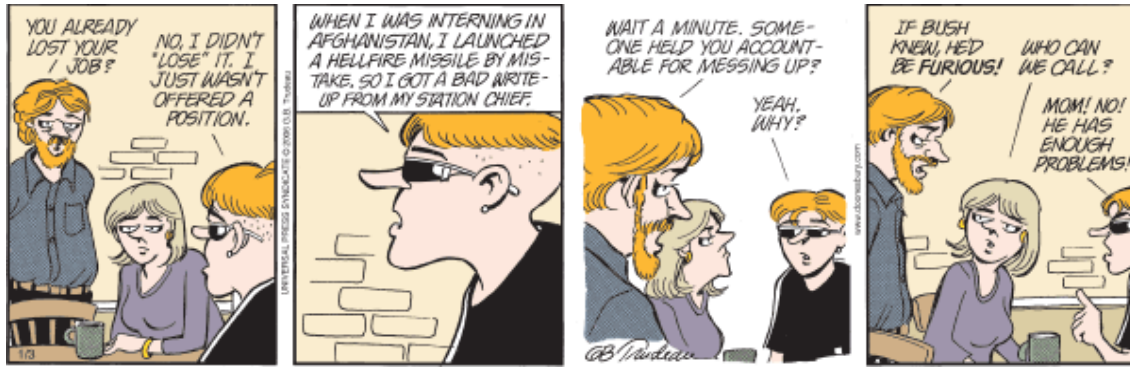
Bush Getting Ahead In Iraq



[Thanks to NB, who sent this in.]



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



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

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

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The following have posted issues; there may be others:

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

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

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

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