

GI SPECIAL 5A28:

IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR



Iraq Veterans Against The War march with thousands of protesters in Los Angeles January 27, 2007. The march was one of several held around the United States, with protesters demanding that the government bring home U.S. troops in Iraq.
REUTERS/Gus Ruelas

Active Duty Troops & Iraq Veterans March Against The War

[A reporter below considers 20 active duty troops marching (with “hundreds” of veterans) a “small contingent.” Given the pressures described below on active duty troops not to participate, the fact that at least 20 were willing to openly identify themselves as active duty, and talk to a reporter, is a fact as big as Mt. Everest, or, more accurately, Mt. Everest in motion headed straight for the White House.

[This is the year the troops will be heard from about this evil war for oil and Empire, in ways the politicians in DC will not find pleasant. They best get their diapers on. T]

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

January 28, 2007 By IAN URBINA, The New York Times Company & Michael Ruane and Fredrick Kunkle, Washington Post Staff Writers & By CALVIN WOODWARD and LARRY MARGASAK (AP)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 — Tens of thousands of protesters converged on the National Mall on Saturday.

"I've got a son who just got out of the military and another still in," said Jackie Smith, 65, from Sunapee, N.H., whose sign read "Bush Bin Lyin." "And I'm here because this is all I can do to try to help them."

Tassi McKee, from Bastrop, La., who said she was a staff sergeant in the Air Force, was among a small contingent of about 20 active-duty service members who turned out.

"I believe this has become a civil war, and we are being hurt and making matters worse by staying in the middle of it," Sergeant McKee said. She said that it was not illegal for active-duty members to attend protests but that it was strongly discouraged.

McKee, 26, said she joined the Air Force because of patriotism, travel and money for college. "After we went to Iraq, I began to see through the lies," she said.

Dressed in the olive green, military-issued flight jacket that he said he wore during the invasion of Iraq while serving as a Marine sergeant, Jack Teller, 26, said he joined a caravan from Greenville, N.C., because he felt that it was his duty.

"I don't like wearing the jacket because it reminds me that I participated in an immoral and illegal war," said Mr. Teller, who had "Iraq Veterans Against the War" stenciled on the back of his jacket. "But it's important to make a political statement."

Fernando Braga, a 24-year-old Bronx native who is a member of the Army National Guard, said that he was skeptical of the war before it started. Mr. Braga said his views hardened into opposition while he served in Iraq from March 2004 through January 2005.

"My own commander told us when we arrived that if we thought we were there for any reason other than oil then we had another think coming," he said. "I realized even commanding officers were against it but following orders."

Michael McPhearson, executive director of Veterans for Peace, said more than 100 veterans from the Iraq war participated in the march, and several hundred veterans from previous wars attended as well.

A New York woman came on behalf of her younger brother, who she said was about to be deployed to Iraq. She had a framed picture of him in a knapsack. An Akron, Ohio, woman came with her infant son, saying his father, in the Navy in Kuwait, had yet to see him.

Oriana Futrell, 21, of Spokane, Wash., came with a sign that said: "Bring my husband home now." She said her husband, Dan, an Army lieutenant, was in Baghdad. They were married in April. She said she was weary of attending military funerals.

"My husband deployed last June to Iraq," she said. "He is an Army infantry officer currently patrolling the streets of Baghdad. And I just have to say I'm sick of attending the funerals of my friends. I have seen the weeping majors. I have seen the weeping colonels. I am sick of the death."

"I don't know what else to say, other than: Bring them home," she said. "It is time. We need to bring them home where they can be safe."

300 protesters tried to rush the Capitol, running up the grassy lawn to the front of the building. Police on motorcycles tried to stop them, scuffling with some and barricading entrances.

“BRING MY HUSBAND HOME NOW!”



The unidentified wife of an Army Ranger serving in Iraq holds a sign near the U.S. Capitol during a protest against the war in Iraq Jan. 27, 2007 in Washington. (AP Photo/Kevin Wolf)

Troops Always Welcome Here

From: X
To: GI Special
Sent: January 26, 2007 5:41 PM
Subject: newsletter

[Parts of letter removed for security. T]

I was given your email address from [XXX]. I would sure appreciate if you could add me to your mailing list for your newsletter.

I'm leaving for Iraq this coming Wednesday.

Thanks in advance and keep up the good fight.

X

REPLY: Every member of the armed forces is welcome to receive GI Special directly by email on request. More to the point, you're also welcome to send in your comments and views.

TO PROTECT YOU FROM HARASSMENT FROM COMMAND, NO WRITER WILL BE NAMED OR OTHERWISE IDENTIFIED UNLESS EXPLICITLY REQUESTED. T]

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

Two Soldiers Killed, 2 Wounded By Baghdad Roadside Bomb

01/27/07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

An improvised explosive device detonated on a Multi-National Division Baghdad patrol in an eastern neighborhood of Baghdad, killing two soldiers Jan. 25 and wounding 2 others.

1 U.S. Soldier Killed In Diyala Province

01/27/07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

An improvised explosive device detonated in Diyala Province, killing one Multi-National Corps-Iraq Soldier.

One U.S. Soldier Killed, Three Wounded In Diyala Province

01/27/07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory & Reuters

A Task Force Lightning Soldier assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, was killed Friday and wounded three more when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle while conducting combat operations in Diyala province.

Three U.S. Soldiers Killed, One Wounded By IED

01/27/07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

Three Multi-National Division Baghdad Soldiers died when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle north of the Iraqi capital Jan. 27. The roadside bomb detonated, killing three Soldiers and wounding another.

Family, Friends Remember Fallen Boston Soldier



A picture of Sgt. Wright from his Myspace page. CBS4

Jan 19, 2007 (CBS4)

Twenty-eight-year-old Gregory Wright was craving experience, and the army gave him direction but he was killed in that service last Saturday, on the day his father didn't get the usual phone call from his only child.

"He just loved what he was doing....never took uniform off since joined national guard he wear it all the time," said Gregory's father, Conroy Wright.

Wright was a nurse's aide and a security guard. In the army he was a sergeant, leading two of his men when a city roadside bomb exploded in a north of Bagdad.

People spoke of his kind heart and generosity at the neighborhood barbershop where he often pitched in.

"If we were busy on a Saturday he'd come grab broom start sweeping the floor," said Doyen Dunkley.

Dunkley befriended Wright when he came to Boston from Jamaica 10 years ago. Now the toll of war has become all too real.

THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; TIME TO COME HOME, NOW



A US soldier standing outside a shop in Tal Afar , Iraq, Nov. 11, 2006. (AP Photo/Mohammed Ibrahim)

Bad Day In Haifa Street;

“This Place Is A Failure” “Every Time We Come Here, We Have To Come Back”

January 25, 2007 By DAMIEN CAVE and JAMES GLANZ, New York Times [Excerpts]

In a miniature version of the troop increase that the United States hopes will secure the city, American soldiers and armored vehicles raced onto Haifa Street

But as the sun rose, many of the Iraqi Army units who were supposed to do the actual searches of the buildings did not arrive on time, forcing the Americans to start the job on their own.

When the Iraqi units finally did show up, it was with the air of a class outing, cheering and laughing as the Americans blew locks off doors with shotguns.

As the morning wore on and the troops came under fire from all directions, another apparent flaw in this strategy became clear as empty apartments became lairs for gunmen [translation: resistance soldiers] who flitted from window to window and killed at least one American soldier, with a shot to the head.

Whether the gunfire was coming from Sunni or Shiite insurgents or militia fighters or some of the Iraqi soldiers who had disappeared into the Gotham-like cityscape, no one could say.

“Who the hell is shooting at us?” shouted Sgt. First Class Marc Biletski, whose platoon was jammed into a small room off an alley that was being swept by a sniper’s bullets. “Who’s shooting at us? Do we know who they are?”

Just before the platoon tossed smoke bombs and sprinted through the alley to a more secure position, Sergeant Biletski had a moment to reflect on this spot, which the United States has now fought to regain from a mysterious enemy at least three times in the past two years.

“This place is a failure,” Sergeant Biletski said. “Every time we come here, we have to come back.”

He paused, then said, “Well, maybe not a total failure,” [translation: he remembers that the reporter is taking notes on what he says, knows his name, and will quote him] since American troops have smashed opposition on Haifa Street each time they have come in [that’s the reporters creative writing, not a quote].

With that, Sergeant Biletski ran through the billowing yellow smoke and took up a new position. [And gets away from the reporter before more truth slips out.]

The commander of the operation, Lt. Col. Avunulas Smiley of the Third Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Second Infantry Division, said his forces were not interested in whether

opposition came from bullets fired by Sunnis or by Shiites. He conceded that the cost of letting the Iraqi forces learn on the job was to add to the risk involved in the operation.

“This was an Iraqi-led effort and with that come challenges and risks,” Colonel Smiley said. “It can be organized chaos.” **[Not Iraqi led and disorganized chaos. One lie and one half-truth; not bad for a Colonel.]**

The American units in the operation began moving up Haifa Street from the south by 2 a.m. on Wednesday. A platoon of B Company in the Stryker Brigade secured the roof of a high rise, where an Eminem poster was stuck on the wall of what appeared to be an Iraqi teenager’s room on the top floor.

But in a pattern that would be repeated again and again in a series of buildings, there was no one in the apartment.

Many of the Iraqi units that showed up late never seemed to take the task seriously, searching haphazardly, breaking dishes and rifling through personal CD collections in the apartments.

Eventually the Americans realized that the Iraqis were searching no more than half of the apartments; at one point the Iraqis completely disappeared, leaving the American unit working with them flabbergasted.

“Where did they go?” yelled Sgt. Jeri A. Gillett. Another soldier suggested, “I say we just let them go and we do this ourselves.”

Then the gunfire began.

It would come from high rises across the street, from behind trash piles and sandbags in alleys and from so many other directions that the soldiers began to worry that the Iraqi soldiers were firing at them. Mortars started dropping from across the Tigris River, to the east, in the direction of a Shiite slum.

The only thing that was clear was that no one knew who the enemy was. “The thing is, we wear uniforms — they don’t,” said Specialist Terry Wilson. **[Right. The British Army had the same problem April 19, 1775 at Lexington and Concord. That’s how it goes when an Imperial army occupies somebody else’s country and the patriots fight back.]**

At one point the Americans were forced to jog alongside the Strykers on Haifa Street, sheltering themselves as best they could from the gunfire.

The Americans finally found the Iraqis and ended up accompanying them into an extremely dangerous and exposed warren of low-slung hovels behind the high rises as gunfire rained down.

American officers tried to persuade the Iraqi soldiers to leave the slum area for better cover, but the Iraqis refused to risk crossing a lane that was being raked by machine-gun fire. “It’s their show,” said Lt. David Stroud, adding that the Americans have orders to defer to the Iraqis in cases like this.

In this surreal setting, about 20 American soldiers were forced at one point to pull themselves one by one up a canted tin roof by a dangling rubber hose and then shimmy along a ledge to another hut.

The soldiers were stunned when a small child suddenly walked out of a darkened doorway and an old man started wheezing and crying somewhere inside.

Ultimately the group made it back to the high rises and escaped the sniper in the alley by throwing out the smoke bombs and sprinting to safety.

Even though two Iraqis were struck by gunfire, many of the rest could not stop shouting and guffawing with amusement as they ran through the smoke.

One Iraqi soldier in the alley pointed his rifle at an American reporter and pulled the trigger. There was only a click: the weapon had no ammunition. The soldier laughed at his joke.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Silly General Says 100% Increase In Resistance IED Attacks A Sign Of “Desperation” [He Writes Speeches For Cheney In His Spare Time]

Jan 27, 2007 By Matthew Cox - Staff writer, Army Times

The commander of the recently extended 10th Mountain Division soldiers in Afghanistan on Jan. 26 downplayed concerns of a Taliban resurgence, describing recent improvised explosive attacks as acts of “desperation.”

[Gen. Benjamin] Freakley described the more than doubling of IED attacks from 865 in 2005 to 1,745 in 2006 as proof the enemy has realized it is incapable of mounting a successful offensive against Afghan and NATO forces. [Right. That’s why the resistance now controls most of the southern half of Afghanistan.]

TROOP NEWS

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



Burial services at Arlington National Cemetery for Sgt. Gregroy A. Wright, from Boston, Mass., Jan. 26, 2007 in Arlington, Va. Sgt. Wright died Jan. 13, in Muqdadiah, Iraq and is the 298th person killed in Iraq War to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Idiot SecDef Gates Babbles Bullshit: Iraq Resolution 'Emboldens' Enemy

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

[He writes: Yeah, as if they are real timid now under the Bush regime policy, or lack thereof.]

Jan 26, By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Friday an effort in Congress to pass a resolution opposing President Bush's troop buildup undercuts U.S. commanders in Iraq and "emboldens the enemy."

NOT ANOTHER DEATH! NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR!

NOT ANOTHER DAY! NOT ANOTHER SOLDIER TO IRAQ!



An unidentified soldier holds his sleeping son while watching deployment ceremonies at Fort Riley, Kan., Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007. In the coming days, 3,400 soldiers from the 1st Infantry Divisions' 4th Brigade based at Fort Riley will board planes and head to Iraq, where they will be thrust into the fight to quell escalating violence in Baghdad. (AP Photo/Orlin Wagner)

Ft. Stewart Memorial To Iraq War Dead Running Out Of Room; “Warriors Walk Has Room For Only 72 More Trees”

Jan 26, 2007 By Russ Bynum, The Associated Press

FORT STEWART, Ga. — The sergeant major calls the name, Staff Sgt. John L. Hartman Jr., as it's unveiled on a granite marker at the root of a new eastern redbud tree on Warriors Walk — where hundreds of these living memorials have been planted to honor the wartime dead.

Hartman volunteered for a third tour in Iraq last year so an Army buddy could stay home with his newborn son. He was killed Nov. 30 when a bomb blast tore into his Humvee.

Last week, Hartman became the 318th soldier memorialized at Warriors Walk, a grove of eastern redbuds begun with 34 trees in April 2003.

Fort Stewart has planted a tree here for every member of the 3rd Infantry Division to die in the war, as well as for soldiers from other Army posts killed while serving with the division.

Jeff Fornshell, the post's ceremonies coordinator, said he wonders how many trees he'll have to plant this year. Earlier this month, the 3rd Infantry began deploying its 19,000 troops for a third tour in Iraq.

Expanded twice since its inception, Warriors Walk has room for only 72 more trees.

"Is 72 going to be enough? I hope it is," Fornshell said. "I hope we don't put any more out here. You're all the time thinking you don't want to have a new tree dedication."

Fornshell said he never expected Warriors Walk would grow so much when the first tree was planted. The 3rd Infantry lost 42 soldiers during the invasion to topple Saddam Hussein's regime. Trees honoring those soldiers were planted in single-file rows, about 13 feet apart.

But the division's second tour in 2005, when its troops faced shadowy insurgents rather than a stand-up army, proved more costly. The 3rd Infantry suffered 105 deaths, not counting those among supporting units. A second walkway of memorial redbuds had to be started.

World's No. 1 War Profiteer Lockheed Rakes In The Cash As Troops Die



- Three guesses:
This is a chart of:
A) U.S. Troop deaths in Iraq
B.) The price of Lockheed stork
C.) Both

[Thanks to Alberto Jaccoma, The Military Project & Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

Jan 25, 2007 NEW YORK (Reuters)

Lockheed Martin Corp. said on Thursday fourth-quarter profit rose 28 percent, and raised its full-year profit forecast, as the world's No. 1 defense contractor posted strong sales of military gear and electronic systems.

The company, which is taking advantage of record levels in U.S. defense spending, extra funding for operations in Iraq and more outsourcing of government technology projects, said profit increased to \$729 million, or \$1.68 per share. That compares with \$568 million, or \$1.29 per share, in the year-ago quarter.

Revenue rose 6 percent to \$10.8 billion.

Profit easily beat Wall Street's forecast of \$1.45 per share, according to Reuters Estimates.

Shares of Lockheed, best known for its F-16 fighter jets and Patriot missiles, hit an all-time high earlier this week, and have risen 50 percent in the past 12 months.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Further Along the Dead-End Road We Call the Iraq War; “Can We Mobilize Enough Resistance To Make A Troop Withdrawal A Reality?”

From: Ron Jacobs
To: GI Special
Sent: January 25, 2007

If there was ever any doubt about who is really running the war in Iraq, George Bush erased it in his "surge" speech of January 10, 2007.

Subsequent testimony before Congress by administration spokespeople and various news reports made it clear that the White House and the Pentagon are firmly in control of making policy and military decisions regarding that debacle. Indeed, hints have been dropped by Secretary of State Rice and Secretary of Defense Gates that if the current regime in Baghdad drags its feet in helping the US military institute its raids and lockdowns of the city it could find itself no longer in power.

Initial reports from the US powers running the war explain that the first neighborhoods to be attacked will be primarily Sunni in makeup. Once these neighborhoods are pacified--gunships attack, soldiers come in, the men rounded up and the areas locked down and fenced in, the remaining residents will be issued identification cards which will most likely

include retina scans and will be limited in their travels outside of the region assigned to them by the US command.

The plan then apparently calls for a similar effort in the Shia areas of Baghdad, including the area known as Sadr City. This is when the Green Zone regime of al-Maliki will be challenged. Will he give in to US demands and support the almost certainly bloody raids into this part of the city? Will he accept the US plan to turn the Shia regions of Baghdad into the equivalent of the Vietnam war's strategic hamlets?

Since it is quite unlikely that Muqtada al-Sadr or his followers will, if al-Maliki were to do so, he would most certainly lose the support of this important bloc of Iraqis. If he opposes US attacks and lockdowns of Shia areas of the city, then he would most likely lose his job.

The scenarios outlined above do enough to prove that it is Washington that really runs the war in Iraq.

The major difference between the situation before Mr. Bush's speech and now is that the post-speech plan strips away even the pretense that the Iraqi Green Zone government is in control.

What this means on the ground is that the US command will no longer even pretend to ask the Green Zone government for permission to conduct its activities.

This change was graphically illustrated almost immediately after Mr. Bush's speech when US troops raided the Iranian diplomatic mission in Irbil and captured six Iranians. No Iraqis even knew about this raid until after the fact. In fact, the Kurdish military units guarding the region almost killed some US troops trying to enter the region because they were unaware of their intentions. We will surely see more examples like this in the coming weeks and months.

I am reminded of Vietnam once again.

Although Washington was always firmly in control of that mission, it often pretended early on that it was merely a partner of the Saigon regime and its army. There was a point, however, when Washington took over for good.

If I were to pinpoint that time, it would be the late winter of 1965. In February Lyndon Johnson ordered the aerial bombardment of northern Vietnam in an operation called Operation Rolling Thunder. The following month, the first two battalions of US combat troops arrived in country. By the end of 1965, there were 180,000 US troops in southern Vietnam.

The US military had taken over the war and would continue to run it as it saw fit until its end in May 1975, despite the myths of Vietnamization.

An interesting article appeared in the UK's Guardian newspaper on January 13, 2007. The essence of the article was that the Sunni insurgency seems to be split between attacking the US troops or concentrating on the Shia. In the article, the reporter pieces together anecdotal evidence describing an overall sense by the insurgents that they

were used by al-Qaida forces to fight for its agenda, not against the occupation. This became clear when the targets became Shia and not US soldiers.

Now, the article continues, the general rule is not to attack US troops unless they are accompanying the Iraqi military, whom the insurgents see as Shia death squads. This brings up an interesting and relevant question. If the US military begins its attacks to "quell the violence" in Sunni neighborhoods as it apparently intends to do (the recent attack on Haifa Street in Baghdad being the most recent such incident), isn't it inviting the Sunni-led resistance to make them their primary targets once again?

The purpose of the minor escalation in Iraq is difficult to decipher right now. Nominally there to end the sectarian violence and the insurgency, the question that no one has asked is will there be more if that mission fails or will Bush and company accept the loss and pull the troops back?

Given the administration's prior history, it's unlikely that Mr. Bush will pull back at all no matter what the outcome of his most recent plan.

In addition, as I outlined in an earlier piece that appeared in another journal (Coalition of the Lunatics, Counterpunch January 10, 2007), Mr. Bush is using a plan put forth by the American Enterprise Institute technocrat Fred Kagan which calls for a total increase of around 30,000 US troops by the fall of 2007.

This seems to point, then, to the introduction of more and more troops as long as the Pentagon can find them.

Furthermore, Secretary of Defense Gates went on record stating that there is no plan to withdraw US troops even if the Bush escalation fails.

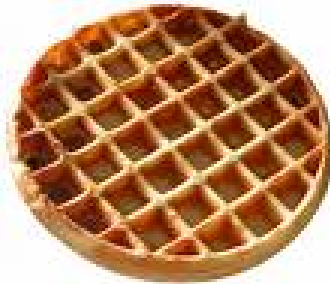
It's clear that most US residents and a good number of our legislators disagree with the Bush escalation; the question is can we mobilize enough resistance to make a troop withdrawal a reality?

As a Washington Times story on January 13, 2007 made clear, it's not enough to oppose the funding of the recent escalation since, as White House spokesman Tony Snow stated, the monies "for the forces and to dispatch them to the region, it's already in the budget.

So we're going to proceed with those plans." To truly end the war, funding for the entire war must be opposed.

UFPJ's LeBlanc Leaves Skid Marks Running Away From Immediate Withdrawal From Iraq:

“What’s Wrong With Sticking Unequivocally With “... Troops Home Now!”?”



January 27, 2007 By Vicit Agnus Noster, vfpdiscussion@yahoogroups.com [Excerpts]

Judith LeBlanc, National Co-chair of United for Peace and Justice, was on National Public Radio yesterday talking to Melissa Block about today's non-working day, civil obedient 'anti-war' rally in Washington, DC.

As Block alluded, UFPJ's official position is "End the war in Iraq, Bring all the troops home now!"

However, LeBlanc explained "When we say 'immediately' we mean make the decision now and then map out a plan."

What's wrong with sticking unequivocally with "... troops home now!"?

Of course, no expects the troops to be transported instantaneously -- that's magical thinking -- but there is no practical reason why an American withdrawal from Iraq could not begin "now" i.e. "at the present time or moment" or "in the time immediately to follow : FORTHWITH" and be concluded within days.

All that is lacking is the political will in Washington and also, as is now clear, within the leadership of UFPJ.

On the UFPJ web site, LeBlanc is identified with the Communist Party, USA (CPUSA). In fact, LeBlanc is a National Vice-Chair of the CPUSA and Chair of its Peace and Solidarity Commission.

LeBlanc's involvement in both UFPJ and the CPUSA is not surprising as both groups have thoroughly accommodated themselves to the Democratic Party, which has steadfastly backed the US war in Iraq.

As Joe Allen wrote last year in CounterPunch:

“By every conceivable measure, the antiwar movement in the United States should be a vibrant, mass movement. ...

“Another crucial reason for the weakness of the antiwar movement is the political course chosen by United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ), the largest and most visible antiwar coalition in the U.S.

“UFPJ's main claim to leadership was the role it played in organizing the U.S. end of the worldwide antiwar protests on February 15-16, 2003, a month before the invasion took place.

“Yet in the three-and-a-half years since, UFPJ has organized only a very small number of national mobilizations. And even these have not always been unambiguously antiwar demonstrations.

“For example, the clear target of UFPJ's protest outside the Republican National Convention in August 2004 was George Bush, not the war on Iraq, which has taken place with bipartisan support.

“This past spring, meanwhile, some coalition leaders explicitly described the New York City demonstration on April 29 -- which UFPJ cosponsored with a wide array of liberal groups -- as part of a broader mobilization behind the Democrats in the 2006 election.

“UFPJ's response to the major crisis points for U.S. policy since the invasion -- the leveling of Falluja, the Abu Ghraib torture scandal, the threats to attack Iran, the recent Israeli-U.S. assault against Lebanon -- has been feeble in terms of protest, while its emphasis on building support for the so-called antiwar Democrats in Congress has grown more distinct.”

“The American Invader Is Radioactive In The Middle East”

December 26, 2006 by Gary Dorrien, Christian Century [Excerpts]

Certainly, the country is paying a terrible price for the arrogance of the Bush team, which had a vision of the outcome in Iraq that it allowed no one to challenge.

But even a competent U.S. occupier would not have had enough power to prevent the insurgency or the civil war.

Iraq exploded because it is the Arab world's Yugoslavia and because the American invader is radioactive in the Middle East.

The U.S.'s innocent self-image as the redeemer nation and benevolent superpower does not resonate, to put it mildly, with most Iraqis, and the hostility between Iraqi Sunnis and Shi'ites is beyond American control.

Adding more U.S. troops to this picture would not have made it better, and will not.

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

Here Comes The Bullshit Again

[Thanks to Katherine GY, The Military Project, who pointed this out.]

Here comes the bullshit again:

“Rural America Pays the Price for War in Iraq” “American dead of the Iraq and Afghan occupations come disproportionately from rural America”.

[www.alternet.org/story/47235]

This silly lie has been repeated over and over and over.

You may run into people who believe this, so it's important to know reality.

This is an urban, working class based armed force. Never forget it.

This map is updated monthly at, <http://icasualties.org/oif/>, a source of a lot of valuable information.

T



DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

TOM THE DANCING BUG

BY RUBEN BOLLING



Bush Says He Will Stop Himself

Jan 26, By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer

"It makes sense that if somebody's trying to harm our troops or stop us from achieving our goal or killing innocent citizens in Iraq, that we will stop them," Bush said.

**LIAR
TRAITOR
TROOP-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE**



(AFP/Jim Watson)

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)



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

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Rats Who Run New Orleans Housing Authority Try To Silence Lawyers For Poor Black Residents

1/26/2007 By CAIN BURDEAU, The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A bitter fight over the future of public housing in this city's reconstruction devolved Friday into a volley of attacks between lawyers for the two sides — housing agencies on one side and poor black residents on the other.

It began last summer when U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced a plan to demolish four large public housing developments and replace them with mixed-income neighborhoods.

On Friday, the Housing Authority of New Orleans sent a letter telling one of the lead lawyers for the residents to stop speaking to the media. The letter also asked Bill Quigley to remove statements he made in a video from several activist Web sites.

Quigley, a civil rights lawyer with Loyola University in New Orleans, has been outspoken about his views that the housing plan discriminates against blacks. He has also suggested that the HUD and HANO officials have not been honest with residents.

HANO also threatened to haul Quigley in front of the Louisiana State Bar Association's disciplinary board if did not agree to stop discussing the case.

Quigley immediately denounced the letter. "It sounds like they're trying to infringe on our First Amendment rights."

U.S. District Judge Ivan Lemelle has sought to get the two sides to reach a settlement, one that could open more units for residents.

The lawyers are barred from discussing the details of those talks, but there is no gag order preventing them from talking about the rest of the case.

Constitutional law experts questioned the appropriateness of the letter to Quigley, while they also pointed out that a lawyer's free speech right is somewhat circumscribed when he is discussing a lawsuit.

Neil Richards, a constitutional law expert at Washington University in St. Louis, said "generally people are allowed to talk to the press on behalf of their clients, not the least because people are interested in the conduct of public matters in the court."

Received:

Received: Discussion

An article from GI Special 5A26 brought two contrasting responses.

The article is reproduced first, followed by the responses.

If other readers wish to comment, fine. They are, however, asked to make clear in their comments their own view of the politics of volunteering to serve in the U.S. army of occupation in Afghanistan, as well as whether the writer and/or the writers organization is for or against the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all occupation troops from Afghanistan.

Arguments for continuing the occupation of Afghanistan are not welcome. They may be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary Of Defense, or the Wall St. Journal, where they will be welcome.

T

[The Article]
[From: GI Special 5A26]

An Honest U.S. Army Officer Who Refused To Serve In Iraq But Wants To Serve In Afghanistan Betrayed By Deceitful “Anti-War” Sleaze Hiding His Real Point Of View

Comment: T

There is a major campaign going on to defend 1st Lt. Ehren Watada from prosecution by the Bush regime for refusing to serve in Iraq.

Rightly so.

However, some organizations promoting his defense have buried under concrete the truth about what he believes. That betrays him and how he sees the truth.

It is not necessary to agree with him that the war in Afghanistan is justified to demand that the public know what he believes and does not believe, and what he wishes to do as well as what he refuses to do.

What he refuses to do is go to Iraq, and participate in the war there, which he regards as without any justification whatever.

What he has repeatedly offered to do, instead, is obey orders to go to serve with the U.S. occupation of Afghanistan.

This man is risking prison to stand up for his beliefs, and he has every right to them, and to have them known. He is not a puppet or a piece of furniture, to be used as convenient by some anti-war organizations for their own purposes.

And it is certainly not necessary to hide or defend his view that the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan are honorable to defend him from government attack for his completely accurate understanding that the war in Iraq is indefensible.

Hiding what he believes about Afghanistan from the public, which some campaigning in his defense have done, is not merely lying by omission to the public about Watada, it's refusing to accord him the dignity that he has earned by risking prison for the clear views he holds.

Lt. Watada's view of the war in Afghanistan as a just war is mistaken, but he has not tried to hide it for one second. He is principled, open and honest about it, as the list below shows. Respect to Lt. Watada for his honesty about what he believes.

Deepest respect also to his mother and father, who, in speaking to the public, have repeatedly pointed out the Army turned down his offer to serve in Afghanistan instead of Iraq.

On Jan 7, in an interview with the Honolulu Advertiser, his father reconfirmed his offer to serve in Afghanistan. Speaking in Princeton, New Jersey, his mother, Carolyn Ho, once again made his offer to serve in Afghanistan clear to the audience who heard her speak: [Trenton (NJ) Times, December 14, 2006]

It is not Lt. Watada or his family who have engaged in a campaign of deceit. But those who use him for their own agendas while refusing to make known where he stands are beneath contempt. They betray him and disgrace the movement they pretend to serve.

Understand, again, that this soldier has never hidden what he believes about serving in Afghanistan; that he and his family have been honest, principled and open about his views all along; and that no dishonor attaches to him for the sleaze who are lying by omission about where he stands.

Which organizations lie by omission?

Check for yourself.

Check the web sites of any in the Watada defense campaign to find out.

See if they tell you about *this*: A very small sample of the news reports which have accurately presented his views:

www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=Watada+%2B+Afghanistan

War Crimes | Features | The Stranger, Seattle's Only Newspaper
When he realized he could not allow himself to deploy to Iraq, **Watada** asked to be sent to **Afghanistan**, a war he supports because it has a clear connection ...
www.thestranger.com/seattle/Content?oid=57019 - 81k - Jan 25, 2007 - Cached - Similar pages

Seattle Post-Intelligencer: Sound Off
Watada is no coward. He volunteered for **Afghanistan** as an alternative, but he has the cojones to stand up to the US military for what he believes. ...
seattlepi.nwsourc.com/soundoff/comment.asp?articleID=299599 - 98k - Cached - Similar pages

starbulletin.com | News | /2006/12/25/

When the Army denied his request to be deployed to **Afghanistan** instead, **Watada** brought his case to the public's attention, appearing at anti-war ...

starbulletin.com/2006/12/25/news/story03.html - 33k - Cached - Similar pages

The Seattle Times: Local News: **Watada** can't base defense on war's ...

Watada said he is not a conscientious objector and offered to deploy to **Afghanistan**. But he cited specific objections to the legality of the war in Iraq and ...

seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003528296_watada17m.html - 33k - Jan 25, 2007 - Cached - Similar pages

Missing From the NIE: **Afghanistan** » Netscape.com

Politics – September 29, 2006 Missing From the NIE: **Afghanistan** by Paul Sperry

... Politics – September 26, 2006 The Lt. **Watada** Case: a Day of Reckoning for ...

politics.netscape.com/story/2006/09/29/missing-from-the-nie-afghanistan/ - 27k - Cached - Similar pages

YouTube - First Lt. **Watada** (Part one)

In solidarity with the Iraq Veterans In solidarity with the Iraq Veterans Against the War, First Lt. Ehren **Watada** speaks at the Veterans for peace ...

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qa6ZHYcG_EM - 89k - Jan 25, 2007 - Cached - Similar pages

Afghanistan Education News - Media Monitoring Service by EIN News

after finishing a degree at Hawaii Pacific University, Lt. **Watada** served so ably during a ... promotion. **Watada** has volunteered to serve in **Afghanistan**, ...

www.einnews.com/afghanistan/newsfeed-afghanistan-education - Similar pages

Tennessee Independent Media Center: feature/16102

It is important to note that 1LT **Watada** agreed to deploy to **Afghanistan**. One of the most important legal principles established at the Nuremburg trials is ...

www.tnimc.org/feature/display/16102 - 24k - Cached - Similar pages

Ehren **Watada**

"Eric Seitz, **Watada's** attorney, said the Army rejected offers by his client to give up his commission and serve in another combat zone, such as **Afghanistan**. ...

www.omjp.org/Watada.html - 16k - Cached - Similar pages

[Response #1]

From: Jeff Paterson

To: GI Special

Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2007 1:09 AM

Subject: RE: GI Special 5A26: US Majority Opposes Afghan War

A reply to article attributed to "T" titled "An Honest U.S. Army Officer Who Refused To Serve In Iraq But Wants To Serve In Afghanistan Betrayed By Deceitful "Anti-War" Sleaze Hiding His Real Point Of View."

Who is this "anti-war sleaze" you speak of?

You seem to be referring to the people who have actually supported Lt. Watada since the spring of last year. The folks that have paid his legal expenses. The people who have supported his family in their endless speaking tours. And the organizers that have created and distributed the information regarding his stand against the Iraq War--including a few websites.

If Lt. Watada wanted the content of these websites changed, he knows how to make that happen.

From my conversations with him, Lt. Watada came to the understanding, after nearly a year of research, that Iraq War was illegal (and immoral)--beyond any reasonable doubt. This is well documented.

The last time I talked to Lt. Watada about Afghanistan, he expressed no eagerness to fight there. He might even agree that it is "wrong" or worse; however, he has not come to the position that it is "illegal" under U.S. and international law. As such, he would be obligated to follow a lawful order to deploy.

The fact that Lt. Watada primarily opposes an illegal war in Iraq is not hidden, nor is anyone that I know of trying to pass him off as a conscientious objector. Through the fundraising of the campaign in his defense, Lt. Watada has hired himself a well respected media consultant. He doesn't have to spin his messaging by anyone.

If there is something that you take offense to on ThankYouLt.org, then that's between you and Lt. Watada, him family, and his hired staff. If there is something on CourageToResist.org that irks you, please be more direct.

As the first military service person to speak out against, refuse to fight, and be imprisoned for resisting the 1991 Gulf War, I can assure you that I have seen many sides of the "being used by the anti-war movement" debate. It happens, but its not happening here.

Jeff Paterson Active duty USMC 86-90 Courage to Resist

[Response #2]

From: D [Veteran, U.S. Army, Veterans For Peace]

Sent: January 26, 2007

Subject: Thomas Barton on "Anti-War Sleaze" betraying Watada

I had much appreciation for this point of view expressed by Thomas Barton in his current issue of GI Special, excerpted below. [This introduction is followed by the original article, reproduced above, sent to the writer's list. T]

Received:

“DESIGNED TO HARM” A FERES “INCIDENT”?

From: Dave M
To: GI Special
Sent: January 27, 2007
Subject: "DESIGNED TO HARM".

Revision: 1/27/07

The U.S. Senate's Department Of Defense (DOD) "designed to harm" experiments have an outstanding characteristic.[6]

Their objectives are to determine the debilitating affects of weapon systems and protection from same, e.g., the results of the Project 112 chemical and biological causes.[3]

Other than those useful for short term objectives there is no "to harm" follow-up treatment for a subject's long term consequences.

The Top Secret 1953 DOD Secretary's NO non-consensual experiments MEMO wasn't declassified until 1975, 22 years later! [2] Under the secrecy cover the 1962 Project 112 it didn't become generally known until about 2002, 40 years later! Then the 1994 Report's many other covered up experiments.[6]

All 50 years of time spans well beyond those needed for short term DOD Research and Development (R&D) goals!

In 1950 the U.S. Supreme Court stopped claims against the federal government for injuries arising from or incident to military service; Feres Doctrine.[1]

Covering this same time period is a study from 1944 documented by the 1994 U.S. Senate Report.

This is the 50 years of conducted on "hundreds of thousands" DOD "EXPERIMENTS THAT WERE DESIGNED TO HARM"![6]

Its NOTES (No.'s 72, 168 & 169) cite, "The Nazi Doctors and the Nuremberg Code, Human Rights in Human Experimentation". Not addressed is their own Report's proven dereliction of duty! Which is its experiments conducted in direct disobedience of the DOD Secretary's 1953 order; "The Nazi Doctors" pages 343-345.[2]

These DOD human experiments demonstrate R&D protocol by both military and civilian agencies. First, all prior R&D is reviewed. The resulting Scope of Work defines what each research program is to accomplish. The where, how, when and who is involved is spelled out. Each "designed to harm" project's cause and effects are closely followed

and recorded. Developed is the specific needed treatment and protection from "to harm".

This crucial human "experiments...designed to harm" revealing evidence is not part of a subject's medical history. Therefore, unavailable for a past, present and future victim's diagnosis and treatment by Health Maintenance Organization Physicians', the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Physicians' or for use during any VA and Judicial Branch processes!

The 12 July 1973 National Personnel Records Center fire destroyed "designed to harm" military service records. Congress's 1974 Privacy Act censored the names of all witnesses from surviving and future records.

The 1987 U.S. SUPREME COURT in the 1953 disobedience STANLEY Case makes very clear that UNLESS CONGRESS CHANGES IT, BY REASON OF MILITARY SERVICE AFTERWARDS VETERAN'S LOST ARE PRIOR TO CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.[4] "The court may not review the schedule of ratings for disabilities or the policies underlying the schedule." The Chief Judge's statement during 17 & 18 Oct. 1994.[5] His severely restricted 12/18/88 established 'no teeth' Veterans Court is congress's oversight and accountability response to STANLEY.

THEREBY, THE VICTIM NEVER THE WISER BECOMES! AN AFTER SERVICE AND "NATIONAL SECURITY MISSIONS" MISSED MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS. CREATED ARE INCREASED SERIOUS AND CHRONIC INJURIES!

Under the "NATIONAL SECURITY MISSIONS" of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) [7] continued in 2007 is the advancement of the SHAD R&D lessons learned? One of the starting in 1962 DOD Project 112 chemical and biological experiments.[3] BARDA also lacks the MILITARY Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD) oversight and accountability for their CIVILIAN biological contamination.

BARDA too, as most conducted on "hundreds of thousands", will be under the cover of our nation's wars. In 2007 is the H. R. 4259 "To establish the Veterans' Right to Know Commission." [8] A proposal to study the DOD's SHAD lack of oversight and "Right to Know" accountability?

The 1994 Senate Report documents many more "experiments that were designed to harm". [6] Most were also in direct disobedience of the DOD Sec.'s 1953 order. Noted was that rights be restored.

This still has not been done!!

All for the greater good, end justifies the means!

The excuse for an in 2007 from 1944 ongoing 63 years of "hundreds of thousands" [6] JUSTICE AND TREATMENT DENIED!

By the 2007 BARDA "national security missions" to-date continued.[7]

Requested is your support by contacting your members in the U.S. Congress. Please have them return to Veterans' their Constitutional Rights with treatment for disabilities, oversight and accountability for all!

Thank you.

REFERENCES:

[1] Feres v. United States, 340 U.S. 135, 146 (1950)

[2] DOD Secretary's 26 February 1953 NO non-consensual, human experiments Memo pages 343-345. George J. Annas and Michael A. Grodin, "The Nazi Doctors and the Nuremberg Code; Human Rights in Human Experimentation" (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992). In REFERENCE 6 as NOTES 72, 168 & 169.

[3] "Project 112 (Including Project SHAD) Home"; www1.va.gov/shad/ Starting in 1962 chemical and biological experiments.

[4] U.S. SUPREME COURT, JUNE 25, 1987, U.S. V. STANLEY, 107 S. CT. 3054 (VOLUME 483 U.S., SECTION 669, PAGES 699 TO 710). In REFERENCE 6 cited in NOTE 169.

[5] Chief Judge and colleague statements, Court of Veterans Appeals, Annual Judicial Conference, Fort Meyer, VA., 17 & 18 October 1994.
www.goodnet.com/~heads/nebeker.html

[6] December 8, 1994 REPORT 103-97 "Is Military Research Hazardous to Veterans' Health? Lessons Spanning Half a Century." Hearings Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 103rd Congress 2nd Session. With NOTES 1 to 170.

[7] Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), Bill S. 3678 2006.

[8] H. R. 4259 "To establish the Veterans' Right to Know Commission."

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