

GI SPECIAL 5A9:



[Thanks to Elaine Brower, NB & JM, who sent this in.]

“Show Our Troops Support In Their Resistance Against The War”

“As A Navy Veteran And Member
Of Iraq Veterans Against The War,
I Cannot Stress Enough How
Important It Is”

On Saturday, January 6 the Military Project conducted outreach to National Guard and Reserve troops attending drill at an Uptown Manhattan armory.

This was the first such outreach that I have attended since joining the group 3 months ago. I was impressed with the simplicity and effectiveness of the outreach.

Over 100 packets of literature were handed out to soldiers as they arrived at the armory for drill early in the morning. Included in a packet was information on joining Iraq Veterans Against the War, the Appeal for Redress from the War in Iraq, A Petition for Redress of Grievances concerning National Guard and Reserve soldiers suffering decreases in income when recalled, and a copy of Traveling Soldier.

A few soldiers outright refused to take our literature, which was also offered with home-baked cookies. Other soldiers politely gave us back the handouts after reading the top pages.

But most soldiers gladly took our literature for review. It's difficult to immediately gauge the effectiveness of our outreach, but I think it is fair to say that many, if not most, of the soldiers at that armory were more than interested in what we had given them.

One soldier saw the words "Fight Back" on the cover of the Iraq Veterans Against the War pamphlet and said to me that he was sick of fighting.

I told him that he needed to keep reading. He did, and nodded in approval as he kept walking towards the armory. Another soldier, an officer, was not willing to completely speak his mind as he was in uniform, but he made it clear that he approved of what The Military Project was handing out.

As a Navy veteran and member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, I cannot stress enough how important it is to show our troops support in their resistance against the war.

There are a myriad of problems that veterans have to deal with because of this war.

Those problems need to be addressed, but I truly feel that our first priority should be to end this war immediately.

The sooner this war ends, the less veterans there will be that will need help with PTSD, depleted uranium poisoning, and the hundreds of other problems occurring because of this war.

But first, we need to end the war.

Outreach of the sort conducted by The Military Project on the morning of January 6 is vital to bringing this war to an end NOW.

This outreach is simple, effective, and promotes solidarity between troops and civilians who are opposed to this immoral and illegal war.

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

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Soldier Killed In Diyala

Jan. 8, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070110-01

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Task Force Lightning Soldier assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, died Tuesday as a result of injuries sustained from a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in Diyala Province.

Soldier Killed In Salah Ad Din

Jan. 8, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070108-04

TIKRIT, Iraq – One Task Force Lightning Soldier based out of Fort Hood, Texas, died of wounds sustained during combat operations in Salah Ad Din province, Sunday.

Soldier Killed In Ambush North Of Baghdad

Jan. 8, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070108-01

A Multi-National Division - Baghdad patrol was engaged by small arms fire, killing one Soldier north of the Iraqi capital Jan. 7.

The unit was repairing a crater in a road caused by an improvised explosive device when they came under small arms fire, killing one Soldier.

Soldier Dies A Day Before Son Is Born

04-JAN-07 By DICK FOSTER, Scripps Howard News Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. -- Sgt. John Michael Sullivan "always had a smile on his face," his stepfather remembered.

Sullivan would have had even more reason to smile Sunday, when his wife gave birth to their first son.

But the day before, the 22-year-old Fort Carson soldier from Hixson, Tenn., was killed in Iraq when a roadside bomb destroyed his vehicle while he was on patrol in Baghdad.

Sullivan had volunteered for the Saturday patrol because another soldier was out sick, his relatives said.

That was typical of the young man he knew, his stepfather, Charlie Beavers, said Wednesday night from the family home in Hixson.

"He was a happy-go-lucky, easygoing guy, who would always do anything in the world for anybody," said Beavers.

Family members said Sullivan had planned to return home Jan. 10 from his second tour in Iraq to see his wife, Michelle, and their new son, who was born early Sunday in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Sullivan's mother, Debbie Sullivan, said he joined the Army after graduating from Soddy-Daisy High School in 2003 and taking classes in auto mechanics at Sequoyah Vocational School.

He went to Iraq on his first tour from August 2004 to August 2005.

Sullivan met his wife-to-be, Michelle, in Colorado Springs when he returned home. They were married last April, but repeated the ceremony in July when his parents came to visit.

Sullivan was wounded by a roadside bomb on his first tour in Iraq, but declined a Purple Heart medal because the ceremony would have kept him from returning home on time, his mother told WTVC-TV in Chattanooga, Tenn.

His unit returned to Iraq in 2006, and Sullivan told his stepfather he planned to re-enlist when his four years in the Army were up and eventually return to Iraq for a third tour.

"He didn't want to leave his friends over there," Beavers said. "He wanted to join back up so he could be with his friends."

Said his mother: "I was upset, but that's a decision that he had to make."

His family learned Saturday evening that Sullivan had died. When his son was born the next day, his wife named him John Michael.

Family – And Myspace – Counted On Illinois Soldier's Return

January 2, 2007 By KIMBERLY FORNEK Staff Writer, Sun-Times

Will Newgard posted a clock on his MySpace Web page to count down the hours, minutes and seconds left in his military duty in Iraq, or as he wrote, "until I'm out of Iraq for good."

On Tuesday night, the clock on the social networking Internet site showed five months and 17 days remaining, but U.S. Army Pfc. William Newgard was gone already. He died Friday morning of wounds from a homemade explosive device that detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad, the U.S. Department of Defense reported. Killed alongside Newgard was Sgt. Lawrence J. Carter, 25, of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

Newgard was home on leave Dec. 5-20, visiting his father J. Richard Newgard in Arlington Heights, his mother Kaki Newgard in Palatine and his 24-year-old sister Holly, who lives near Rockford, Ill. They celebrated an early Christmas and Will's belated 20th birthday, which was Nov. 27.

They didn't do anything special, Kaki Newgard said. Her son simply wanted to hang out with his friends and his girlfriend, Samm, a senior at Rolling Meadows High School. He wasn't interested in seeing a movie or going downtown.

"It was all people time," Kaki Newgard said.

He had been in Iraq since July until he surprised his mother Dec. 5 at the Palatine school where she works.

More than once during his December leave, Will mentioned he might not survive his second deployment to Iraq.

"He would say, 'What if I don't come back?'" But his mother believed that he would.

"I said, 'That is not going to happen. You are going to come back to us and back to Samm,'" Kaki Newgard said. Since learning of her son's death Friday, Newgard said she has "gone through a range of emotions."

"My comfort and my peace is that this was his dream, to serve the U.S. in the military. He loved weapons," Kaki Newgard said. "He also loved the structure and formation of the military."

Kaki Newgard said her son was "a little kid, shy and reserved and tentative" when he left for basic training. He came out a young man "with a very military bearing. His self-esteem was wonderful. His outlook on life had changed. He was a grown-up."

In Iraq, he drove an armored Humvee and transported high-ranking U.S. Army officials to meetings and inspections.

When they arrived at their destination, "Will would get out of the Humvee and climb on the roof of the building to provide protection, when the officials exited the vehicle," Kaki Newgard said.

Will also had completed special training to qualify as an expert marksman. "He was really proud of that," his mother said.

On leave from the Army, Will made time to visit staff at his old schools.

Thomas O'Rourke, the principal at Thomas Middle School, estimated Newgard visited the school at least three different times since he joined the service, most recently Dec. 15, the last day of school before winter break.

"He would just come up to keep us informed and say hello," O'Rourke said. "There are lots of teachers here who had him as a student."

O'Rourke described Newgard as "a caring, soft-spoken person" with "a great smile. He had a sense of pride, a sense of duty, but he was pretty quiet. He didn't say a whole lot."

The school and the PTA will hold a memorial in Newgard's honor, but it still was in the planning stages early Tuesday.

Joe Krajacic, the dean of students at John Hersey High School, was amazed by the change in Newgard when he visited the school in the spring on leave from Germany where he was assigned.

"He looked like a completely different person," from the one who graduated Hersey in 2005, Krajacic said. Then Newgard had "a scruffy look," typical for many high school students. "I picture him in jeans and a T-shirt." But when he walked in Krajacic's office, Newgard wore desert fatigues and tan boots. He had a tan complexion and a "high and tight haircut. You could see the build" on the young man. "It floored me," O'Rourke said.

In high school, Newgard was "a nice, polite young man," but the person Krajacic talked to in the spring "was more mature. He had a determined, purposeful look."

Will's MySpace page confirms he was happy he joined the Army.

"I love what I do," he wrote. But he also was looking forward to life after the Army. He wrote he wanted to work for a security firm and open a "club" in Chicago with his friends.

Users of MySpace provide a personal profile by answering a series of questions, including, your heritage, your fears and "How do you want to die?"

Will's answer? "Not in fucking Iraq."

Funeral arrangements, through Glueckert Funeral Home in Arlington Heights, are still pending as the family awaits the arrival of his remains.

Perry County Soldier Dies In Iraq Bombing; “We Pray God Has Given Him A Home In Heaven That He Didn’t Have Here On Earth”

January 3, 2007 By Jennifer Marrs, Sentinel Reporter

U.S. Army Pvt. David Eugene Dietrich of Marysville beheld the ocean for the first time just this past September. He was 21.

“It’s like wrestling with the waves, but they win,” he exclaimed on Delaware’s Rehoboth Beach seashore, remembers his long-time motherly role model, Jean Raisner.

The young man she and her husband, Craig Raisner, had grown to love as a son died Dec. 29 while on patrol in Baghdad, Iraq, after being in the Army less than seven months and in Iraq less than two months.

“He was pretty much part of our family,” Jean Raisner says of the self-determined young man, who didn’t allow his homelessness to bring him down.

Craig Raisner said Dietrich’s girlfriend received notification Saturday from the military of his death. Her mother then called to notify the Raisners.

“I was shocked,” he says.

His wife says she was angry. “Two weeks ago he was filling sand bags and he was safe” where he was stationed at Camp Ramadi with the F Troop 1st Cavalry BRT, she says, adding they kept in touch with him through e-mail.

Then they heard he was out on patrol. “We took some fire and sent some fire. I’m OK,” he e-mailed.

That’s the last the Raisners heard from him.

The Department of Defense has not yet released information about how Dietrich was killed.

The Raisners want to use their memories to honor Dietrich, who would have turned 22 in two weeks.

“David didn’t have a family and we didn’t want to let it go by unnoticed,” they say.

Dietrich had a difficult life after being thrown out of his grandfather’s home in Marysville at age 14 and was left to raise himself, the Raisners say.

The Sentinel was not able to reach Dietrich’s local family members, including his mother, Rose Dillman of Camp Hill; his sister, Stacy Dietrich of Mt. Holly Springs, and his grandfather, Charles Dietrich of Marysville.

The Raisners say none of them have telephones and Dietrich himself could not reach them when he tried to let them know he was joining the Army.

For Dietrich, family became his foster families and friends like the Raisners, they say.

After being kicked out of his grandfather’s house, Dietrich went through several foster homes, including the Newville home of Ed Gamble and his family, until he reached age 18.

He had a good home in Newville and commuted to Susquenita High School, but he kept wanting to return to Marysville, the Raisners says.

So he returned and he lived with the Raisners for a time and also with their daughter and her husband in an upstairs apartment in their home.

He paid them \$25 a month “to teach him responsibility,” Craig Raisner says.

Other times, Dietrich slept over at the home of a retired Marine, Charles Nelson, and other friends’ homes around Marysville, the Raisners say. For a while, he stayed at the Marysville Pentecostal Church of God.

“David came to us in a snow storm,” Jean Raisner says of the first time she met Dietrich. “He relied on friends — the Nelsons, us, Marysville Pentocostal....”

For all the challenges Dietrich endured, “he shouldn’t have been as nice as a boy as he was,” the Raisners say.

He was in the Boy Scouts until age 18 and achieved the rank of Life Scout, with Craig Raisner as one of his scoutmasters. Dietrich played on the Susquenita High School football team and became an active member of the Marysville Fire Company at age 14. He also regularly attended the Church of God in Marysville.

He graduated in 2004.

“He didn’t drink, didn’t smoke,” Jean Raisner says. “He was an amazingly good kid.”

Her husband says Dietrich “had a sense of humor” and was “very kindhearted, good natured. He would come off with sarcastic wit — he knew a lot more than he let on.”

After graduating, he attended Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster to learn collision repair.

Dietrich graduated July 20 from the U. S. Army training center at Fort Knox, Ky., as a member of Foxtrot Troop, Fifth Squadron, 15th Cavalry Regiment. He was sent to Germany for about a month, then through Kuwait and into downtown Baghdad, the Raisners say.

During his high school years, the Raisners remember, Dietrich would come to their home sometimes after not having eaten a meal for a day or more.

“He would buy popcorn from the dollar store for dinner.”

When asked if he was hungry, he would say, “Well, I don’t know.” Then she would give him food and he “would devour everything he could see” because he didn’t know when he would get to eat again.

Dietrich “would walk wherever he had to go,” she says. If he couldn’t get a ride from someone, he’d walk from Marysville all the way to Susquenita High for football practice and then walk back.

“Jean and I gave him support,” her husband says. “He was almost like another child.”

“I was so worried about him going to Iraq,” Jean Raisner says. But she remembers him saying, “Jean, my destiny is not to die in Iraq, my destiny is to die an old man in Marysville.”

“We were in favor of David being in the structure of the Army,” her husband says. “He thrived in that kind of environment — with structure, you could count on him.”

She says she was especially concerned because he enlisted as a “cavalry scout,” meaning he would go out in the front.

Dietrich was “proud he completed one of the hardest basic trainings you can do,” Her husband says, adding he also knew being a cavalry scout would enable him to receive an extra \$10,000 from the Army.

“That’s a fortune for a homeless boy and he bit it,” Jean Raisner says, her voice cracking.

The Raisners have been spending time looking at a collection of Boy Scout photographs, remembering Dietrich.

In one photo, he’s learning to raise a flag, in another, he’s in a horseback riding experience at the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. In another, he’s in a Klondike Derby and another shows him on a canoe trip down the Susquehanna River.

The last photographs they have are from a going-away party Sept. 9 at Duke’s Riverside restaurant in Wormleysburg. He wore his military uniform, his eyes and face glowing with pride after having completed his basic training.

“He was very proud of being in the Army — when you see his picture, you can see his pride all over,” Raisner said looking at the photo.

In a written statement, the Raisners say: "David will be remembered by the Marysville community for his kind heart and good nature, and most importantly, for his ability to persevere in the face of adversity. We pray God has given him a home in heaven that he didn't have here on earth."

Richard Anthony Smith, KIA

January 3, 2007 By JOE SIMNACHER, The Dallas Morning News

During the short time he served in the Army, Spc. Richard Anthony Smith gained recognition as the 1st Cavalry Division's soldier of the year.

Spc. Smith, 20, who believed he was called by God to serve in the Army, was killed by a roadside bomb on New Year's Day while driving a Humvee with his unit northeast of Baghdad. Another soldier also died in the attack, which injured two other soldiers.

Spc. Smith had started his tour of duty in Iraq in October and was a driver for a commander. He had been trained as a dietitian and cook, but that work is done by civilians in Iraq.

He and his wife, Amber Smith of Arlington, were expecting their first child in three months. Spc. Smith married his high school sweetheart in July 2005 after completing boot camp.

"He loved her so much," said his mother, Barbara Speer of Grand Prairie. "He told me that the worst thing he could think of was if he died there ... because he wouldn't want to hurt her."

She said her son had transformed his life since marrying Ms. Smith.

"He became very passionate about the Army and about doing what God was trying to tell him to do," his mother said. "I cried because I didn't want him to go into the service at first. Then he told me, 'Mom, I'm going because God called me, and you can't cry.' "

Spc. Smith was born in Arlington, where he grew up, with the exception of time his family spent in Whitehouse in East Texas.

Spc. Smith was taking college courses and intended to get a degree after his military service was complete, his mother-in-law said.

In 2004, Spc. Smith graduated from Summit High School in Mansfield, where he met his wife-to-be when they were both juniors.

"They'd known each other for five years," said his mother-in-law, Diane Hipple.

In addition to his wife and mother, Spc. Smith is survived by his father and stepmother, James and Tammy Smith of Frisco; a brother, Andy Preston of Grand Prairie; and two sisters, Denise Thompson of Arlington and Jessica Preston of Grand Prairie.

Spc. Smith's body will arrive in Dover, Del., today. Services are pending.

Collaborators Announce “An Assault On Baghdad” Fierce Fighting Reported; U.S. Command Using Attack Aircraft In Push To Recapture The City



A heavy cloud of smoke rises from aerial bombardements during fierce fighting between insurgents and the Iraqi army, backed up by US forces, around Haifa street in central Baghdad..(AFP/Ahmad al-Rubaye)

January 9, 2007 (CNN)

BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN) -- Hundreds of U.S. and Iraqi troops battled with insurgents in a stronghold of the insurgency in central Baghdad Tuesday.

The firefight began before.

The U.S. and Iraqi troops came under attack by snipers, mortar rounds, and small arms fire.

By midday Tuesday (4 a.m. ET), the U.S. military sent in fixed-wing aircraft and Apache attack helicopters to support the ground forces.

They said the group was waging a sophisticated, coordinated battle, and was fighting against 400 U.S. troops and 500 Iraqi soldiers.

Casualty figures were difficult to determine while the battle continued to rage, but the Iraqi army said nine of its troops and 23 insurgents had been killed.

The fighting along Haifa Street began Saturday after Iraqi police trying to recover bodies dumped near a cemetery were attacked and withdrew, according to an Interior Ministry official.

On Sunday eight Iraqi soldiers were killed and six others were wounded when they ran out of ammunition during a firefight with insurgents.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said on Saturday that Iraq's armed forces were set for an assault on Baghdad to take out militias and rogue security forces.

Ugly Reality For A Change: What The Reporters Don't Report: "Somebody Get Hit In The Chow Hall" "You Get Shot At Every Day"

January 09, 2007 The Associated Press [Excerpts]

PHOENIX — State Rep. Jonathan Paton had what amounted to a permission slip from Uncle Sam to miss the beginning of the Arizona Legislature's annual regular session on Monday.

The 35-year-old Republican from Tucson is serving a five-month deployment in Iraq as an Army Reserve intelligence officer.

"It's been a rough week. we've had a lot of small arms fire and a lot of mortar fire. We had somebody get hit in the chow hall the other day, and I was in the chow hall when it happened. That was pretty bad. You get shot at every day."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Four Occupation Soldiers Wounded In Barmal; Nationality Not Announced

Jan. 8 (Xinhua)

On late Friday, a bomber rammed his car into a NATO convoy in Barmal district of Paktika province, wounding four soldiers.

Canadian Soldier Seriously Injured In A Roadside Bomb Attack In Kandahar

January 9, 2007 CanWest

QUEBEC -- A Canadian soldier seriously injured in a roadside bomb attack in Kandahar over the weekend is expected to make a complete recovery, a Canadian Forces spokesperson said Sunday.

Oops #1

January 09, 2007 Doug Schmidt, CanWest News Service

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay ended a two-day inspection of Canada's mission here with a \$10-million contribution to improve the salaries of Afghanistan's corrupt, under-equipped and undisciplined police force.

The Minister's departure from Kandahar Airfield was delayed by a nearby rocket strike.

At a recent shura, or gathering of village elders, in a former Taliban hotbed, residents said they welcomed the new Afghan National Army but pleaded with NATO troops not to let the police return, citing corruption and other crimes by the notoriously inept force.

Oops #2:

9 January 2007 BBC

NATO troops have shot dead an Afghan civilian who worked at a coalition base in the south-east of the country.

Troops returning to the base in Paktika province opened fire after a vehicle approached at high speed, NATO said.

The vehicle did not stop despite a warning shot, a statement said. "A disabling shot was subsequently fired, regrettably killing one civilian."

The Afghan worked at the base in Orgun.

NATO vowed a shift in tactics last week after mounting civilian deaths in 2006. **[Well, so much for that.]**

Assorted Resistance Action

Jan. 8 (Xinhua)

A bomber attacked Afghan National Army in eastern Afghanistan Monday, killing himself and wounded three Afghan soldiers, a local official said.

"A man riding an explosive-laden car targeted a convoy of Afghan National Army forces in Barmal district of Paktika province around 10 a. m. this morning," the province's governor Mohammad Akram Akhpelwak told Xinhua.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket containing the remains of Marine Lance Corporal Brent E. Beeler following Beeler's funeral in Napoleon, Michigan, December 19, 2006. Beeler was killed in combat near Falluja. (Rebecca Cook/Reuters)

Soldiers Less Than Thrilled By Bush's Escalation Of Iraq War: "More Troops Isn't Enough" "Now It Might Be Too Late"

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

Jan 9 By KRISTIN M. HALL, Associated Press Writer

Some U.S. soldiers aren't convinced that President Bush's plan to send as many as 20,000 more troops to Iraq will make a difference.

Pfc. Odom Walker, who served in Iraq two years ago and is stationed at Fort Drum in northern New York state, worries that the window of opportunity has passed.

"This is what we should have done in the first place," said Walker, of Montgomery, Ala. "We could have done the job right. Now it might be too late."

Master Sgt. Mark Brown, who just came home to Fort Campbell from his second deployment in Iraq, said that more troops could help stabilize Iraq, but that he knows most Americans don't like the idea.

"Americans want a winning team, and right now it appears we don't have one," Brown said.

Other soldiers say the U.S. strategy in Iraq has to be about more than troop numbers.

Juan Duff, a recently retired Marine sergeant major from Camp Pendleton, Calif., said a troop escalation would work only if Iraqi security forces bolster their efforts to fight insurgents.

"My concern is what the Iraqis are doing. Are they stepping up?" said Duff, who served in Iraq in 2003.

Fresh out of basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., 19-year-old Zac McDonald said that he expects to be part of the next wave of soldiers in Iraq, and that he hopes military leaders have plans to use the new troops well.

"They have to come up with a better strategy," said McDonald, who just arrived at Fort Campbell. "More troops isn't enough."

Lt. Col. Chris Beckert of Madison, Conn., helps train U.S. soldiers at Fort Riley, Kan., and served in Iraq during the initial invasion and the fall of Saddam Hussein. He agreed that there had to be a reason for boosting troop levels and a clearly defined mission.

"I needed more intelligence, not more soldiers," Beckert said.

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



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

**STATEN ISLAND WILL NOT BE
SILENT:
THURSDAY AT BORO HALL 6-8 pm**

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

Members of SDS/MDS (Students for a Democratic Society) Staten Island are holding a protest at Borough Hall on January 11, 2007 from 6 - 8 pm.

Bring banners and signs: We Will Not Be Silent, No More War, No More Lies, No More Torture. Wear Orange prison jumpsuits, if possible.

The event is open to all - please join us!!

January 11, 2007, 06:00 PM until 08:00 PM Borough Hall, Across the terrace from the Staten Island Ferry Terminal.

Take the Staten Island Ferry from New York (Whitehall, South Ferry in lower Manhattan) to the Staten Island side, walk across Richmond Terrace to Boro Hall.

Questions? Email the Host: nyc@studentsforademocraticsociety.org Or Call: 347.524.5631

General David Petraeus: Deceitful Rat In Action



Asshole Buddies

January 7, 2007 By FRANK RICH, New York Times [Excerpt]

Last month the Army and Marines issued an updated field manual on counterinsurgency (PDF) supervised by none other than Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, the next top American military commander in Iraq. It endorsed the formula that “20 counterinsurgents per 1,000 residents” is “the minimum troop density required.”

By that yardstick, it would take the addition of 100,000-plus troops to secure Baghdad alone.

The “surge,” then, is a sham. It is not meant to achieve that undefined “victory” Mr. Bush keeps talking about but to serve his own political spin. His real mission is to float the “we’re not winning, we’re not losing” status quo until Jan. 20, 2009.

[Will Petraeus say the surge is useless bullshit? Of course not? Will he complain what he wrote is being ignored? Of course not. Will he say his own manual calls for 100,000 more troops in Baghdad? Of course not. He’s got his nose so far up Bush’s ass he couldn’t say a word if he wanted to, which of course he does not. Might fuck up his career. What are more dead U.S. troops compared to that? T]

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.

Navy Attorney Faces Court Martial For Leaking Names Of Gitmo Detainees

January 09, 2007 From Katherine GY, The Military Project

Headline from Democracy Now:

A staff attorney working in the U.S. Navy will be court-martialed for allegedly leaking the names of detainees held at Guantanamo Bay. Lt. Cmdr.

Matthew Diaz is charged with leaking secret national defense information to a person outside the government. For years the government refused to reveal who was being held at the military prison which opened five years ago this week.

Citizen Soldier's Internet Café For Ft. Drum Troops Announces: Grand Opening Of "Purple Hearts: Back From Iraq"

From: CitizenSoldier1@aol.com
Sent: January 08, 2007
Subject: Grand Opening of the "Purple Hearts: Back from Iraq"

Friends.

We are excited about our plans for the "Purple Heart: Back from Iraq" photographic exhibit and want to issue a special invitation to each of you to pay us a visit to see this show. This collection of large, powerful color photographs of injured Iraq war vets, along with their personal accounts, has been artfully mounted in the Different Drummer Internet Cafe by volunteers Scott and Paul, assisted by our director, Cindi.

We hope that you will be able to visit the "Drummer" and view these powerful photos, which make a compelling statement about exactly who it is that pays the real cost of this war.

Press Conference: 12:00 Noon, Friday, January 12, Different Drummer, Watertown, New York

Opening Night Reception, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Friday Jan. 12 Snacks and complimentary wine will be served.

Show will be available for viewing during the Drummer's opening hours, through Saturday, January 20.

If possible, if some of you could arrange for groups of students to visit and view these photographs. Please make arrangements for such group visits with Cindi in advance. "Drummer" phone is (315) 782-0595 www.differentdrummercafe.org

Best,
Tod Ensign, Dir., Citizen Soldier

“Army Private Charged With The Slaughter Of An Iraqi Family Diagnosed As A Homicidal By A Military Three Months Before The Attack” Told To “Get Some Sleep”

**Among the most salient findings from a July review of Green's treatment:
"Although a safety assessment was conducted, there is no safety plan addressing how Soldier (Green) will keep from acting on his homicidal thoughts."**

1.9.07 By RYAN LENZ, FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP)

An Army private charged with the slaughter of an Iraqi family was diagnosed as a homicidal threat by a military mental health team three months before the attack.

Pfc. Steven D. Green was found to have "homicidal ideations" after seeking help from an Army Combat Stress Team in Iraq on Dec. 21, 2005.

Green said he was angry about the war, desperate to avenge the death of comrades and driven to kill Iraqi citizens, according to an investigation by The Associated Press.

The treatment was several small doses of Seroquel - a drug to regulate his mood - and a directive to get some sleep, according to medical records obtained by the AP.

The next day, he returned to duty in the particularly violent stretch of desert in the southern Baghdad suburbs known as the "Triangle of Death."

On March 12, 2006, Iraqi police reported a break-in at the home of a family in Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles from Baghdad. The intruders shot and killed the father, mother and two young daughters. The older girl, 14-year-old Abeer Qassim al-Janabi, was raped and her body set afire.

Now the Army believes Green and four other soldiers are responsible. One of them has confessed and provided information to prosecutors; in testimony at his court-martial, the soldier identified Green as the ringleader.

The Army and the Marines, who have the most personnel on the ground in Iraq, have been faulted for the manner in which troops with mental and emotional difficulties are being treated.

Sending troops already in Iraq who have been diagnosed with mental illness back to combat duty - often under medication that has not been prescribed long enough to have provided relief - has been a particular criticism.

From interviews with people who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized by the military to discuss the case, and from viewing the Army's medical and investigative records, the AP also has learned:

Three months passed without Army doctors and clinicians from the Combat Stress Team having any contact with Green.

He was summoned for a second examination on March 20, 2006 - eight days after the killing of the family. Green was diagnosed as having an anti-social personality disorder and declared unfit for service. The process of discharging him began a week later and he was sent home.

The Army's own investigation of Green's initial treatment, prompted by concerns he and others would use mental health problems as a defense in trial, is highly critical.

**Among the most salient findings from a July review of Green's treatment:
"Although a safety assessment was conducted, there is no safety plan addressing how Soldier (Green) will keep from acting on his homicidal thoughts."**

Armed Services Committee Chair Makes It Clear: Top Commanders Putting Their Careers Above Troops Lives

[Wow! What A Big Surprise!]

January 09, 2007 By Rick Maze, Army Times Staff writer

President Bush's planned Wednesday announcement of a new strategy for Iraq, expected to include a call for 20,000 to 25,000 more deployed troops, will be missing a key ingredient, according to the new Senate Armed Services Committee chairman.

Without either an end date for U.S. deployment or milestones for Iraq to start assuming more control of its own security while U.S. combat forces begin withdrawing, the new Bush strategy has "no teeth" and is unlikely to be effective, said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.

How much independent advice Bush is receiving from top military officials is unclear, Levin said, adding that Defense Secretary Robert Gates is more likely than his predecessor, Donald Rumsfeld, to provide unwanted advice, but he does not think top military officers are speaking freely about their views.

"Our military leaders have pulled their punches and will continue to do so publicly," Levin said.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

08 Jan 2007 Reuters & 1.9.07 CNN & Reuters

Security sources say the main road to the former Saddam International Airport, which also houses the U.S. military headquarters in Iraq, has seen a recent rise in attacks.

A truck bomber killed two policemen and wounded three more at a checkpoint in Ramadi, capital of Iraq's western Anbar province, police said.

Militants captured a senior tribal chief in Salahaddin province named Naji Hussein Jubara, seizing him from his car on the road north of Samarra, police said. Jubara is the brother of the deputy governor of the province.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed a policeman and wounded two, including a civilian, police said.

Two were killed and five wounded when a roadside bomb targeted a convoy of official vehicles in southeastern Baghdad, the Interior Ministry source said.

Insurgents ambushed a bus that was carrying workers to Baghdad International Airport, killing at least four and wounding nine others, said an Interior Ministry official.

A roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol on the Ghadeer bridge in the New Baghdad section of eastern Baghdad. The attack killed one policeman and wounded two.

Guerrillas captured Abdul Ghafour al-Jouburi, head of the customs department in northern Iraq.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**Debby Churchman, a Quaker from the DC area, doesn't see the political power shift as much reason for hope. "We used to have Coke, now we have Pepsi." 09
January 2007 Stacy Bannerman, Truthout**

COMA ZONE BOWL



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: January 08, 2007
Subject: COMA ZONE BOWL

Ohio State vs. Florida

**Goal: To Keep Americans From Thinking About
The Fact That Their Country Just Bombed Somalia.**

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
January 8, 2007**

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

A Parable

1.8.1940 Berlin [Reuters]

The government today announced the arrest of Oberstleutnant Hanz Kormis, who refused a direct order to report for service with German forces stationed in the area formerly known as Czechoslovakia.

Kormis said that he rejected the invasion and occupation of Czechoslovakia because that was not where the enemy was to be found, and that the invasion was immoral and a war crime.

Kormis said that before refusing to serve in Czechoslovakia he had requested that the General Staff order him to report to and serve with the army in Poland, "where there are too few German forces now." "That war is justified and necessary for the national security of the Reich."

Kormis' attorney told Reuters that the whole case can be settled immediately if the General Staff will simply withdraw the order to report to Czechoslovakia and issue Kormis orders to deploy to Poland instead, which Oberstleutnant Kormis will immediately obey.

Groups opposed to the invasion and occupation of Czechoslovakia have launched a campaign to free Kormis, and will aid his defense. None would comment on his request to serve with German occupation forces in Poland. Their campaign literature is silent about that.

Reporters in Warsaw were not able to interview Polish political leaders about the development. They are either dead or in concentration camps.

[End Item]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

The Traitor Bush Orders Military To Attack Somalia:

**“U.S. Officials Were Trying To
Figure Out Who Was Killed”**

**“So Many Dead People Were Lying
In The Area. We Do Not Know
Who Is Who, But The Raid Was A
Success”**

**[No Objection From Democrat
Congress]**

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

Jan 9 By ROBERT BURNS, AP & AFP & BBC & January 10, 2007 Xan Rice in Nairobi, Suzanne Goldenberg in Washington and Richard Norton Taylor; The Guardian & Leader, The Guardian & By Gordon Lubold, Army Times Staff writer

Somali officials said at least 27 people were killed in the air strikes led by AC-130 gunships around Ras Kamboni. It was not clear whether any of the dead were al-Qaida operatives, although Pentagon officials confirmed that bodies had been seen on the ground.

The village of Haya near the Kenyan border was also strafed on Monday, Somali officials said, and there were further reports of operations yesterday.

"It's akin to the heart of darkness, just shooting into the jungle," said Bob Baer, a former CIA agent.

"At the end of the day you are just making more enemies."

The air strikes were the first direct military action by the US since the bungled intervention of 1993 killed 18 troops, and they appeared to be continuing.

An Associated Press report, quoting Somali officials, indicated the U.S. was conducting other combat operations from the air, including ones with American helicopter gunships. AP also quoted a Somali official who said the U.S. had attacked again on Tuesday.

The American airstrike in Somalia marked a new, open military foray by the United States.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman would not address whether military operations were continuing. Other defense officials speaking on condition of anonymity suggested that more strikes were either planned or under consideration.

But the issue here is not Washington's right to strike back at its sworn enemies, but how many innocents are wiped out in the process. One of the instruments used was extremely blunt, an AC130 gunship which strafed a village near the Kenyan border.

The tactic is well proven in Afghanistan and Iraq: kill everything that moves within given coordinates and then see who you have got afterwards. It's the military equivalent of drift-net fishing.

U.S. officials were trying to figure out who was killed — a process that may require a mix of intelligence and getting personnel to the scene.

The Somali transitional government says many people were killed in the raid.

U.S. officials noted that there has been additional fighting, creating more casualties, since the U.S. airstrike on Monday.

In addition to the AC-130 gunship, the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower was deployed off the coast of Somalia.

The AC-130, a four engine turboprop-driven aircraft, is armed with 40mm cannon that fire 120 rounds per minute and a 105mm cannon, normally a field artillery weapon.

The plane's latest version, the AC-130U, known as "Spooky," also carries Gatling gun-type 20 mm cannon. The gunships, which have long ranges and take off from land, were designed primarily for battlefield use to place saturated fire on massed troops.

Witnesses told the BBC Somali service that areas near the town of Afmadow were being bombed on Tuesday. They report hearing heavy firing in a number of areas and have seen military helicopters flying overhead.

On Monday, the nearby village of Hayo was bombed, with unconfirmed reports of four civilians killed.

"My 4-year-old boy was killed in the strike," Mohamed Mahmud Burale told the BBC from the area.

The island of Badmado off Ras Kamboni was also hit by air strikes on Monday afternoon.

"So many dead people were lying in the area. We do not know who is who, but the raid was a success," interim government spokesman Abdirahman Dinari told AFP news agency about Monday's raids.

Both the domestic rulers and their foreign soldiers are living on borrowed time. The government has yet to prove it can govern, and the Ethiopian army has yet to fulfil its promise to withdraw.

The US "has a right to bombard terrorist suspects who attacked its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania", the Somali president, Abdullahi Yusuf, told journalists in Mogadishu.

[He wouldn't be the unelected president without America -Would he? -- J.]

"U.S. involvement in the fighting in our country is completely wrong," said Sahro Ahmed, a 37-year-old mother of five.

Already, many people in predominantly Muslim Somalia had resented the presence of troops from neighboring Ethiopia, which has a large Christian population and has fought two brutal wars with Somalia, most recently in 1977.

Bush Offers to Re-Hang Saddam;

‘We’ll Get It Right This Time,’ President Promises

January 7, 2007 The Borowitz Report

At a press briefing at the White House today, President George W. Bush said that he was “sensitive” to the global outcry over the manner in which former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was hanged and would attempt to make amends by hanging Mr. Hussein for a second time.

“I have heard the criticism of Saddam’s hanging loud and clear,” Mr. Bush said. “We are fully prepared to re-hang Saddam Hussein, and we will get it right this time.”

After video images of the Iraqi strongman’s hanging appeared on the Internet and turned him into a martyr in the Arab world, a “new, improved re-hanging” of Saddam was the only solution, Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Bush said that the re-hanging of Saddam was an important first step in anew campaign he called “Operation Iraqi De-martyrization.”

According to the president, Saddam’s second hanging will be conducted under a strict new set of rules handed down by the U.S., including a zero tolerance policy on camera phones.

“If this second hanging shows up on the YouTubes, I am going to blow my stack,” Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Bush said that the U.S. would try to control the taunting by the hooded Shiite militiamen responsible for hanging the Iraqi dictator by issuing an “official list of approved Shiite taunts.”

“If it’s not on that list of taunts, I don’t want to hear it,” Mr. Bush said. “You stay classy, Shiites.”

Elsewhere, an FBI spokesman said that the agency has arrested a man for secretly wiretapping Oprah Winfrey, adding, “If anybody’s going to be eavesdropping on innocent American citizens, it should be us.”

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Bangladesh:

“Activists Manned Strategic Points To Prevent Vehicles Entering And Leaving The City”



Riot police try to disperse protesters during a clash in Dhaka.

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. She writes: **This is first and foremost a political statement. The fact the protesters are not at work, and the transport system isn't operating, arises from the need for political change and the fact people believe the up coming election will be rigged.**]

01/9/2007

Dhaka: Bangladesh's army chief was summoned to the presidential palace yesterday following a day of renewed clashes between police and political activists two weeks before parliamentary elections.

At least 50 people were injured and 30 detained on the second day of a transport blockade, called by former prime minister Shaikh Hasina's multi-party alliance, which is boycotting the January 22 vote.

Police used batons and teargas to disperse Hasina's stone-throwing supporters after they set ablaze several vehicles across the capital Dhaka and its outskirts, witnesses said. As the violence spread, caretaker President Iajuddin Ahmad summoned army chief Lieutenant-General Moiuddin U. Khan to the presidential palace.

Officials said they might discuss the latest developments and possible ways to restore order ahead of the polls.

Army troops, who are patrolling the streets of Dhaka, have so far avoided direct confrontation with the activists.

About 70 people including police were injured on Sunday, the first day of the three-day blockade.

Hasina's alliance called for the blockade in protest at what it sees as the interim government's inability to hold a free and fair vote. It says Iajuddin favours Hasina's rival, Begum Khaleda Zia, in the polls. The alliance, which has threatened to block access to the presidential palace today, wants Iajuddin to resign but he has refused.

Yesterday, buses and lorries did not operate, deliveries from ports were suspended and most businesses and educational institutions were closed. Rail and ferry services were also disrupted.

Some taxis and rickshaws were operating within the capital Dhaka but alliance activists manned strategic points to prevent vehicles entering and leaving the city, they added.

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)

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

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