

GI SPECIAL 5B8:

**“THE AMERICAN TROOPS TOOK
SOME CARE TO BE POLITE WHEN
ENTERING IRAQI HOMES”
[NEWS STORY BELOW]**



(AFP/David Furst)

2.6.07: An Iraqi citizen holds his mother in their home after she suffered a panic attack following the forced entry into their home and the questioning and near-detainment of her son by US Army soldiers in the Shaab neighbourhood of northern Baghdad.

Citizens of Iraq have no legal right to resist these home invasions by armed foreigners, and can be killed or wounded if they do so. They are required show obedience by kneeling on the floor while the armed foreigners are present.

“We Should Have Pulled Out A Long Time Ago,” Hiler Said

Sgt. Michael Hiler, 26, Described The Day’s Effort As “Stupid” “Whatever New Plans They Come Up With, It Won’t Work Out Here”

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

"All these extra troops start coming into Baghdad, you'll start reducing the anti-American violence. That way, it will show quick results for the Bush administration. And that way, 'Hey, we won the war, let's get out of here,' " said Pfc. Daniel Gomez, 21, a medic.

But he said of the forces opposing the Americans: "They're like the Viet Cong, they can wait it out. We're not going to be here forever, and they know that. And then we're gone, and it's all theirs."

Feb 6, 2007 By Joshua Partlow, Washington Post [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The camouflaged American soldiers, weary from hours of struggling to talk with Iraqis during a patrol in eastern Baghdad, laughed with relief after an Iraqi army major's wife met them at her door. The soldiers had no interpreter. She had a master's degree in English translation.

"Do you want to work for the Americans?" asked U.S. Army Lt. Anthony Slamar, 26. "Do you want a job as a translator?"

The woman stepped back into her darkened doorway.

"With you? No. Not with you. Do I want to die?" she said. "I am afraid of you, I'm sorry."

The American and Iraqi plan to pacify the capital rests on the assumption that U.S. troops can win the trust of a wary population by protecting civilians trapped amid sectarian warfare.

Each day, U.S. soldiers go door-to-door in the city, searching bedrooms and bathrooms, cabinets and closets, for unauthorized weapons.

The operations also offer a chance to cultivate Iraqis as sources of information about the violence entangling their neighborhoods.

Although their commanders argue otherwise, the extent of the challenge led some soldiers to express doubt in interviews that the additional 17,500 American troops slated for Baghdad can make a lasting difference.

"I don't think the infantry or pretty much anyone in the United States Army are properly trained to deal with the guerrilla tactics these guys use against us," said Spec. Jeffrey Steele, 22.

"This is a policing thing, you know. It needs more investigation into how these guys work, where they're located.

"I don't think we can do any better."

At 7:30 a.m. Thursday, under a drizzling rain, Slamar gathered his unit in a circle in a gravel lot on their base to brief them on the day's mission. He passed around a photograph of a tire filled with explosives, a new type of roadside bomb found in the sector they patrol.

"They are filled with rifle ammunition, nails and pieces of iron to increase the intensity of the explosion and increase its fragmentation effect. Lovely," Slamar said. "Make sure you're . . . scanning, okay?"

"Hey, now's not the . . . time to give up, all right? We've still got a long deployment ahead of us. Keep on going."

[So, the Lt. is worried about his troops "giving up" "now" is he? Now what could that mean? If "now" is not the time to give up, how about next week? Tomorrow? Or maybe, just maybe, it's already a done deal, that "giving up." The soldiers aren't stupid; they're some of the most highly intelligent realists walking this earth. As you will read. And this does not refer to the officers, or some of the senior NCOs, desperately babbling stupid bullshit happy talk.]

The first goal was to identify potential rooftop sniper positions for a future operation. The troops, armed with M-4 assault rifles, fanned out and soon found a resident, Ahmed, to lead them into a house they wanted to inspect.

When the soldiers entered, past plates of orange peels and half-eaten bread in the kitchen, nervous children came down a marble staircase in their pajamas and stood next to their barefoot mother.

"We're just in the area to secure the area, so we're visiting people," said Capt. Andrew Jasso.

"There's been a lot of explosions, like on the road here, the bombs."

"No, no, no, no, okay, okay," Ahmed said, motioning toward neighboring houses. "Friend and friend and friend, okay, no problem."

"So this area is pretty good?" Jasso said, sounding dubious. A single bullet hole was visible in the wall above the stairway.

"No problem," Ahmed said.

The lack of an Arabic interpreter -- a chronic problem, the soldiers say -- made communication more difficult.

But even when Americans and Iraqis can understand each other, U.S. soldiers said, many Iraqis do not speak openly because they are afraid of being perceived in their neighborhood as collaborating with the Americans.

The Iraqi army major with the English-speaking wife begged the Americans not to reveal his profession to his neighbors, and said he would be risking his life even going outside with them.

"If the people see me with you, they do this," he said, shooting an imaginary gun with his hands. "Okay? Understand? They come and kill me: 'You work with the U.S.A.'"

[Gee, that doesn't sound much like a problem between Sunni and Shia, does it? Now why could that be?]

The American troops took some care to be polite when entering Iraqi homes.

During Thursday's six-hour patrol, they handed out Iraqi newspapers and packets of gum and attracted an eager following of young children.

But machine-gun-toting Americans rooting through bedrooms, inspecting weapons and demanding identification cards clearly unsettled some residents.

Inside the Iraqi major's house, Jasso tried to put the major's wife and her relatives at ease by telling stories about his two young children.

She interrupted him. "Sorry, I have to ask you. Why didn't you just knock at the door? Why did you just jump in?"

A soldier explained to her that the Americans avoid standing in the street in front of houses because of the threat of snipers.

"Just trying not to give everyone a bad impression of Americans is the hardest thing," said Staff Sgt. Andrew McKay, 27.

"Being courteous, being nice to the kids, being nice to the families, but still maintaining your military bearing and doing your job -- it's a fine line to walk."

Faced with an often distrustful, frightened populace, members of the task force said they doubted that adding thousands more U.S. troops would change this frustrating dynamic.

“JUST TRYING NOT TO GIVE EVERYONE A BAD IMPRESSION OF AMERICANS IS THE HARDEST THING”



2.6.07: (AFP/David Furst)

One soldier, on his second tour in Iraq, said the attitude of the Iraqi civilians toward the Americans continues to deteriorate.

"Whatever new plans they come up with, it won't work out here.

"It's getting worse and worse," the soldier said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he worried about a reprimand from his superior officers.

"I was here last time, in the beginning. Now it's totally changed. They don't even respect us anymore. They spit at us, they throw rocks at us. It wasn't like that before."

The unit's acting commander, Maj. Clay Padgett, said the influx of U.S. troops and changes in tactics would generate more intelligence about insurgent and militia activity.

"When you hear the stories about soldiers who say the local Iraqis don't want us to be here, you would be amazed at the amount of tips that have come in just from us establishing inside of the JSS," Padgett said.

[The Major has just admitted to a reporter that he has lost control of the troops. The Major has just admitted his troops will say what the fuck they please to who

the fuck they please. The Major is *begging* the reporter to ignore what the soldiers are saying and print his stilly, stupid lies instead.]

Sgt. 1st Class Luis Enrique Gutierrez Rosales, 38, said most of the Iraqis he has met say they are pleased that the Americans patrol their neighborhoods.

"They said they always feel safe when we're around. People stop on the road and say thank you. They say, 'If it wasn't for you, I probably wouldn't be alive,' " he said.

“THEY SAID THEY ALWAYS FEEL SAFE WHEN WE’RE AROUND”



2.6.07: (AFP/David Furst)

But some of his soldiers saw less reason to be hopeful about either their relations with the Iraqis or the troop increase.

After the patrol on Thursday, Sgt. Michael Hiler, 26, stepped down from his Humvee and described the day's effort as "stupid."

"We should have pulled out a long time ago," Hiler said.

"It's going to take the hand of God to change anything about what we do here, which is nothing. This country's going to fall apart sooner or later, and at this point I say, 'Good riddance.'"

Sitting on bunks while waiting for an evening patrol, a group of soldiers discussed the enemy and the latest security effort, described by Padgett as "the last best hope for Iraq."

"All these extra troops start coming into Baghdad, you'll start reducing the anti-American violence. That way, it will show quick results for the Bush administration. And that way, 'Hey, we won the war, let's get out of here,' " said Pfc. Daniel Gomez, 21, a medic.

But he said of the forces opposing the Americans: "They're like the Viet Cong, they can wait it out. We're not going to be here forever, and they know that. And then we're gone, and it's all theirs."

“SGT. 1ST CLASS LUIS ENRIQUE GUTIERREZ ROSALES, 38, SAID MOST OF THE IRAQIS HE HAS MET SAY THEY ARE PLEASED THAT THE AMERICANS PATROL THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS”



2.6.07: (AFP/David Furst)

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

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

CH-46 Sea Knight Shot Down In Iraq; Seven U.S. Troops Killed

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

Feb 7, 2007 (Reuters) & By KIM GAMEL, Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A Sea Knight helicopter crashed Wednesday in an insurgent stronghold northwest of Baghdad, killing all seven people on board, the military said

The twin-rotor CH-46 went down about 20 miles northwest of the capital, said U.S. military spokesman Maj. Gen. William Caldwell.

The military said later that the Marine CH-46 helicopter went down in Anbar province

The aircraft was operated by Marines, he said, adding that other Marine aircraft were in visual contact at the time it went down but he did not know whether a distress signal was communicated by radio.

An Iraqi air force officer, who was familiar with the investigation but declined to be identified because he was disclosing confidential information, said the helicopter went down after it was hit by an anti-aircraft missile.

Witnesses also said the helicopter had been shot down in a field in the Sheik Amir area northwest of Baghdad in an area between the Taji air base, 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of Baghdad, and Karmah, 80 kilometers (50 miles) to the west of the capital.

"The helicopter was flying and passed over us, then we heard the firing of a missile," said Mohammad al-Janabi, a farmer who was speaking less than a half-mile from the wreckage. "The helicopter, then, turned into a ball of fire. It flew in a circle twice, then it went down."

At least two witnesses said they saw the helicopter, which they described as a twin-rotor, come down on Wednesday amid gunfire from the ground.

The Iraqi air force officer says the anti-aircraft missile brought down the chopper about 20 miles northwest of Baghdad. It burst into flames, sending a huge plume of black smoke into the sky.

A farmer about a half a mile away says he saw the chopper fly past, then heard a missile fired and saw the helicopter turn into a "ball of fire."

"We have a CH-46 that is down," U.S. military spokesman Major-General William Caldwell told reporters, referring to the twin-rotor Sea Knight, the Marine version of the Chinook, which can carry up to 25 passengers and four crew.

The CH-46 is used by the Marines primarily as a cargo and troop transport.

U.S. Soldier Killed Southwest Of Baghdad

2.7.07 UPI

A Multi-National Forces statement issued Wednesday said a U.S. soldier had been killed by insurgents southwest of Baghdad on Tuesday,

Marine Killed In Anbar

07 February 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070207-07

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq –One Marine assigned to Multi-National Force - West died Feb. 6 from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

Barnwell Native Killed In Iraq

February 6, 2007 AP

An Army soldier from Barnwell was killed in a helicopter shoot-down in Iraq.

The family of Army Warrant Officer Jason Garth DeFrenn says he was killed on Friday and family members were informed by the Defense Department over the weekend.

Defrenn's father Garth DeFrenn says the 34-year-old soldier was a member of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 227th Aviation Regiment, of Fort Hood, Texas.

The family says he was due to be home in a week or so.

His Apache helicopter was shot down while flying in formation north of Taji, Iraq.

The soldier leaves behind three children and a spouse who was pregnant with their fourth child.

WINDTHORST MOURNS THE LOSS OF ONE OF THEIR OWN

January 24, 2007 KFDX

The war in Iraq brings tears and heartache to the town of Windthorst.

21-Year old Gary Johnston graduated from Windthorst High School in 2003, and joined the Marines.

Yesterday, Gary's family got the heart-wrenching news that he was killed in the line of duty.

Gary is being remembered for the young man he was. A smart, soft-spoken guy who commanded and gave respect. He earned that respect on the Windthorst Football team as a linebacker and a fullback.

According to a family member, he went to Iraq the first of October and had just made sergeant.

Word about his death brought a flood of tears and memories to those who knew him. "The first thing I did was go through my files and it's amazing how many pictures I pulled out and it's not really hard to find him, so I didn't have to do that, but it's one of those things you do to remember him," said his high school football coach. Gary wore number 44 on his jersey. Coach Green says that number will forever hold a special place in his heart.

Family members tell us it will be several days before Gary's body is returned home so services can be made.

Chagrin Falls Grad Killed Serving In Iraq

January 26, 2007 Patrick O'Donnell, Plain Dealer Reporter

Marine Sgt. Michael Kashkoush, a 2001 graduate of Chagrin Falls High School, was killed in Iraq Tuesday.

The 24-year-old former high school wrestler joined the Marine Corps in 2003. He was a counterintelligence specialist with the 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Okinawa, Japan. He was promoted to sergeant in 2005.

The military would not release details of his death, which occurred in operations in Anbar province in Iraq.

He is the son of Parker-Hannifin Corp. executive Marwan Kashkoush and his ex-wife Mary.

Unconfirmed reports of Kashkoush's death spread through the community Thursday. David Axner, superintendent of Chagrin Falls schools, said students and staff were bracing themselves for the official news.

"Because we're such a close and small school, it was devastating," said Axner, who remembered him as a well-rounded and lively student who made his presence felt. "It brought the war and sadness and reality of everything to the school."

Kashkoush did not spend a full four years at the high school, school officials said, but left and spent some time in Europe with his family. After wrestling and playing both offensive and defensive line on the football team, he did not play either sport when he returned his senior year.

Wrestling coach Paul Perrine remembered him as a competitor in the 189-pound class who practically lived in the weight room. "He was an extremely hard worker," Perrine said. "He really was a leader in the room."

Kyle Kiffner, who graduated the same year, said Kashkoush loved weightlifting and worked out regularly. He attended college for one semester, and talked about returning to school once he got out of the service.

Kiffner talked to him by phone Jan. 10 while Kashkoush was still in Okinawa packing for his deployment to Iraq. Kiffner said he died just 10 days into his seven-month tour.

"He was kind of a joker at times," Kiffner said. "He always had parties, but was never the center of it. He just wanted to have people there."

Soldier Gets A Hero's Farewell

February 1, 2007 By Megan Tench, Globe Staff

WOBURN -- Trying to hold his composure, Richard Haverty of Lunenburg stood beside the flag-draped coffin carrying his nephew yesterday. While reading a letter from members of the platoon paratrooper Keith A. Callahan was protecting before a bomb took his life, Haverty's emotions began to unravel.

"January 24 was the worst day of our lives -- a nightmare of a day," the anguished uncle read during a funeral Mass at St. Charles Church, pausing to choke back tears. "One emotion . . . all of us vividly remember of that day, pride . . . the professional way Keith trained us all. We were able to push through and survive."

Callahan, 31, a sergeant first class for the Army's 82d Airborne Division, was killed that day south of Baghdad. He had posted himself at a critical road to provide security for his platoon when a bomb exploded.

His fourth deployment spanned two years. The husband and father of four is the first Woburn native to die in combat since the Vietnam War, his former high school principal had said.

Outside the church yesterday, dozens of students from St. Charles School silently waved American flags.

Inside, bagpipes played a mournful rendition of "Amazing Grace" as family members clung to one another. Boxes of tissues were passed through the crowded pews as hundreds of overwhelmed mourners sobbed through their prayers and disbelief.

Callahan's uniform, decorated with an array of ribbons and medals, dangled on a hanger above his coffin. A framed photograph of him in his uniform was placed nearby.

Callahan, the youngest of eight, graduated from Woburn Memorial High School in 1993. The stocky man, who stood at 5 feet 5 inches, was a Golden Gloves boxer and a two-time boxing champion at Fort Bragg, N.C., where he earned his nickname "Bam-Bam."

"I wonder where he learned to take a punch," his uncle said and chuckled for a moment between wiping away tears.

On the day Callahan was killed, his mother and his four children received letters he sent them just days before. He wrote that he wished the war was over, his uncle said.

"He wanted to hear the voices of his wife and children," Haverly recalled. "He wanted to be there if they needed him."

Callahan last visited his relatives in Woburn last summer.

He will be buried near McClure, Pa., where he lived with his wife and children.

U.S. Military Post Mortared In Ramadi; Casualties Not Announced

February 07, 2007 Xinhua

Several mortar rounds landed in one U.S. military headquarters in Ramadi City, 100 km west of Baghdad, on Tuesday, a local police source said, saying that explosions were heard and smoke was seen rising over the scene.

More U.S. Troops Killed In Iraq In Past Four Months Than In Any Similar Period Of War

February 6, 2007 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON: More U.S. troops were killed in combat in Iraq over the past four months — at least 334 through Jan. 31 — than in any comparable stretch since the war began, according to an Associated Press analysis of casualty records.

Not since the bloody battle for Fallujah in 2004 has the death toll spiked so high.

The reason is that U.S. soldiers and Marines are fighting more battles in the streets of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, and other cities.

And while hostile forces are using a variety of weapons, the top killer is the roadside bomb.

The increasingly urban nature of the war is reflected in the discovery of a higher percentage of U.S. deaths in Baghdad lately.

Over the course of the war, at least 1,142 U.S. troops have died in Anbar province, the heart of the Sunni Arab insurgency, through Feb. 6, according to an AP count. That compares with 713 in Baghdad.

But since Dec. 28, 2006, there were more in Baghdad than in Anbar — 33 to 31.

The 334 U.S. troops killed in action in Iraq over the past four months does not include 36 who died of nonhostile causes like vehicle accidents.

The previous highest total for those killed in action during any four-month period was 308 between September and December 2004, which included the November battle to retake Fallujah.

The upward trend began in August, the same month that U.S. and Iraqi forces launched the second phase of a Baghdad security crackdown, dubbed Operation Together Forward, that ultimately failed.

From a total of 38 killed in July, the number rose to 58 in August, 61 in September and 99 in October, according to an Associated Press count.

It slipped to 59 in November but jumped to 96 in December and totaled 80 in January.

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO
COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS
EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS
TIME, EXCEPT THAT A TRAITOR WHO LIVES
IN THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS YOU THERE**
That is not a good enough reason



U.S. soldiers following a car bomb explosion in Mosul, Nov. 29, 2006. (AP Photo/Mohammed Ibrahim)

TROOP NEWS

Watada Court Martial Ends in Mistrial

Thanks to James Starowicz, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

2.7.07 By ADAM LYNN; The News Tribune (Tacoma)

The military judge presiding over the court-martial of Lt. Ehren Watada declared a mistrial early this afternoon after prosecutors huddled and agreed they wanted one.

Lt. Col. John Head, who is presiding over the proceedings at Fort Lewis, set a new date of March 19. But Watada's civilian attorney, Eric Seitz of Honolulu, said that he had other commitments around that time.

It could be summer before charges are refiled and court action resumes.

Head threw out the basis for the Army's case right after lunch and asked prosecutors if they wanted him to declare a mistrial. Prosecutors took 30 minutes and decided they did.

At issue was a stipulation of facts that Watada signed earlier this week. In it, he admitted to a set of facts, including that he had a duty to board the plane that carried his unit to Iraq last June but that he intentionally missed the flight.

Questions over the "duty" portion arose this morning, causing Head to question Watada about the stipulation.

Under direct questioning from Head, Watada said he did not believe he had a legal duty to board the plane because he thinks the war is illegal.

"No, I did not believe I had that duty," Watada said.

Head then ruled over the arguments of prosecutors that Watada's statement today invalidated the earlier stipulation of facts upon which the case is based. Head said he had no choice but to throw it out.

"I don't see how I can continue to accept (the stipulation) as we stand here now," said the judge, who had called Watada's original agreement a tacit confession to missing movement.

"You have to treat it essentially like a guilty plea because he admits to all the facts surrounding the offense," the judge said. He then threw out the stipulation.

Army prosecutor Capt. Scott Van Sweringen asked Head whether the panel of seven officers sitting in judgment of Watada would be able to consider any other facts from the stipulation, including Watada's statements to the media and a Seattle veterans group in which he criticized the war.

Head said no.

"They would disregard it in its entirety. That's the problem with this. How do we unring this bell?" the judge said. Van Sweringen then asked for 30 minutes to decide whether he would like to request a mistrial.

The issue over the stipulation came to the forefront this morning after all parties in the case, including Head, met to discuss instructions that would be given to the panel of officers when testimony ended.

Seitz objected to Head questioning his client, saying it was too far along in the process to reopen the stipulation. Head responded that unless he was satisfied that Watada knew what he had signed, he would be forced to declare a mistrial.

The defense attorney said in open court this morning that it was Watada's intent to avoid the entire Iraq war when he refused to board the plane, not just to miss that specific flight. He is charged only with missing that plane.

"That is why we did not plead guilty to that charge (of missing movement," Seitz said.

In pretrial rulings last month, Head decided that Watada could not call witnesses to bolster his claims that the war is illegal.

Watada is charged with three violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for refusing to deploy with his unit to Iraq in June and public statements he made about what he sees as the illegality of the war in Iraq.

He faces up to four years in confinement and a discharge from the Army if found guilty of missing movement and two counts of conduct unbecoming an officer.

The 28-year-old Stryker Brigade officer contends he had a duty to refuse orders to deploy because he believes the war violates U.S. and international law and that his participation would make him party to war crimes.

He has said he would fight in Afghanistan and potentially other conflicts.

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



U.S. Army Pfc. Shawn Falter is buried with full military honors in Homer, N.Y., Jan. 31, 2007. Falter and three other soldiers were killed in an ambush attack in Iraq Jan. 20, 2007. (AP Photo/Kevin Rivoli)

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Article And Two Responses

The article in GI Special 5B5 below has brought two opposite responses.

So the reader may know the context, the original article is reprinted, followed by the responses.

Note well: Neither the two writers of the responses, nor the original commentator, Ward Reilly, a member of Veterans For Peace, are speaking for any organization or entity. They are expressing their own views.

If others wish to comment fine. However, writers are asked to comment on the specifics, rather than engage in generalized rhetoric.

The specifics are:

- 1.) that the rally organizers did not allow active duty troops and Iraq Veterans Against The War to lead the march, and that the rally organizers
- 2.) gave the speakers mentioned in the original article below, a member of Iraq Veterans Against The War, and the two key organizers of the Appeal For Redress, a member of the United States Navy and a Marine, less than four minutes of total, combined speaking time at the rally.

Writers who are for those decisions by the rally organizers will not be published here. They may direct their comments to the White House or the Department of Defense, where their views will be welcomed, as giving aid and comfort to those carrying out the wars on Iraq and Afghanistan.

An additional article on UFPJ has been sent in, not directly relevant to the events at the rally, which is found after the original article and the two responses.

It speaks for itself.

T

[1. The Original Article:]

[From: GI SPECIAL 5B5: 2.5.07]

**ACCORDING TO THE RALLY ORGANIZERS,
THEY WERE NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO LEAD
THE MARCH:**



In this photo taken with a video camera, members of Iraq Veterans Against The War rally against the war in Iraq Jan. 27, 2007 in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

**UFPJ SHITS ON ANTI-
WAR TROOPS &
VETERANS:
Active Duty Troops & Iraq Vets
Against The War Betrayed By
Lowlife Scumbags, As Usual**

[Every major report on this march pointed out there were “hundreds” of anti-war veterans, and at least 20 active duty troops who courageously showed up to demand that our troops be brought home now.

[See below how the rally organizers treated them in the march. See below how they were barely given enough time on the speaker's platform to sneeze.

[What they got was a big gob of political spit right in the face.

[The troops can stop the war, as they did in Vietnam. But, obviously, the unelected, anti-democratic, self-appointed movement bureaucrats in charge of these events aren't there about stopping the war. Their mission is about kissing the ass of any Democrat politician that comes within range, and fuck the troops, they can keep on dying.

[Well, nothing new here.

[For years UFPJ has refused to organize outreach to serving members of the armed forces. They mouth abstract lying words about "supporting" anti-war troops, but in the real world they won't go near them by doing outreach work to National Guard and Reserve units, or military bases.

[When troops and veterans show up, this is how they are treated.

[Be aware, these people mean no good. Their words mean nothing: they serve the Empire by their deeds.

[Too harsh? The proof of the pudding is the eating.

[Garett Reppenhagen, Iraq combat vet, got exactly one minutes and 52 seconds on the speakers platform to talk about Iraq Veterans Against The War.

[And then there was the stunning welcome for Jonathan Hutto, U.S. Navy, and Liam Madden, U.S. Marine Corps, who organized the Appeal For Redress and got the signatures of over 1,000 troops to call for withdrawal from Iraq.

[Hutto got two minutes 20 seconds and Madden got 45 seconds.

[The most important people there, with the greatest capability to reach the troops who can stop the war, are treated, as usual, like unimportant bit players by the despicable scum who pretend to be organizing to stop the war. And, as usual, they gave the "important" people -- the "celebrities," the sell-out politicians, and the self-promoting movement "leaders" -- all the rest of the speaking time.

[In case you didn't catch it the first time: Be aware, these people mean no good. Their words mean nothing: they serve the Empire by their deeds. T]

From: Ward Reilly [Veterans For Peace]
To: GI Special
Sent: February 03, 2007

DC was good, but the assholes-in-charge of the march (BUSH/CHENEY???) yanked IVAW [Iraq Veterans Against The War] from the lead of the march at the last moment...

what complete idiots!!!...

and they put all the "celebrities" in the lead....Penn, Fonda, Saranden, Jackson, Robbins...

And also gave them 75% of the stage time, FOR WHAT?

jesus H fricken Krist!!!... a bunch of people that haven't done a god damned thing in the movement in the last 5 years...pathetic!

Oh well, it was nice to see half a million citizens that gave a shit all in one spot...

[2. Response:]

From: max uhlenbeck
To: GI Special
Sent: February 05, 2007
Subject: Re: GI Special 5B5: Not Good Enough To Lead

you know i really like your news letter and share it with all of my friends both in the anti-war movement as well as those soldiers i know that are currently enlisted. I have to really take issue though with this recent "UFPJ shit on the anti-war troops" piece you wrote up.

for the various real problems that UFPJ might have (by its nature since its such a broad based coalition with hundreds of groups who share different politics across the spectrum), i found this piece factually incorrect, dishonest, and just kind of nasty all around.

from where i was i heard plenty of other anti-war "military voices" including members of MFSO and the Watada family speak from the stage. UFPJ has consistantly promoted the voices of anti-war soldiers, members of IVAW specifically, but they also have other constituencies who have to be represented at the march as you know.

this kind of writing serves only to further divide the already heavily fractured anti-war movement and does nothing to bridge the real disagreements might have.

as someone who does reach a lot of people inside the US military, i think it would be appropriate for you to either let someone from UFPJ respond or otherwise retract this article.

yours in struggle,

Max Uhlenbeck

[3. Response:]

From: Nick Mottern
To: GI Special
Sent: February 05, 2007
Subject: Re: GI Special 5B5: Not Good Enough To Lead

Thanks for sending this.

We will be running this on www.consumersforpeace.org for our next news edition on Feb. 15 if that is OK.

You may want to pick up Charles Jenks' article from our website as he takes UFPJ to task for essentially the same thing. It was just published last Thursday and it is appearing on uruknet too.

Thanks for your great work.

***An Open Letter To UFPJ:
Al-Maliki Is Not Iraq's Prime
Minister. He Is The Appointed
Head Of An Illegal Government
And Currently The U.S. Stooge
Of The Month:
Your Coddling Up To Him Is
Ludicrous And Disgusting.***

February 5, 2007 Malcom Lagauche, Uruknet.info

In the 1990s, I and several comrades organized demonstrations against the Iraqi embargo. We demonstrated at radio/TV stations, the U.S. Federal Building, offices of Congressmen, etc.

During this time, there was a glaring absence of peace or anti-war groups. I called all the local organizations and was outright told that they were not interested to "touch the Iraq thing." One activist in a pro-Cuba group told me she was not interested because of the

way they treated women in Iraq. When I told her that Iraq was secular, she said, "The still all wear veils."

The ignorance of the "peace" community about the embargo and world politics was stifling.

In my writings, I have lambasted the peace movement in general for not opposing the Iraqi embargo and only coming out of their closets a few days before bombs were to drop.

This past weekend, we saw a massive anti-war demonstration in Washington D.C. that included hundreds of thousands of marchers. The group "United for Peace and Justice" was listed as the sponsor and it gained much publicity. The group claims to have more than 1,400 affiliated members.

What appears to be an umbrella group for the cause may not exactly have altruistic designs. After the march on Washington, various writers accounted how United for Peace and Justice really messed up.

Chris Jenks of Traprock Peace Center said:

"Unfortunately, United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) - the primary sponsor - didn't live up to the standards set by the marchers.

"Its continuing refusal to work with some other national coalitions, and its focus on celebrities and politicians, was reflected in its botching the start of the march and focusing of media coverage."

Other writers corroborated Jenks' account.

They maintain that United for Peace and Justice was more interested in camera position and the Hollywood celebrities than about the march itself.

At one point, the marchers took matters into their own hands and began to act. If they had not, the entire day could have turned into a fiasco that would have embarrassed the participants in the event.

Normally, I don't specify any single group in the peace movement. And, not all groups are as remiss in their commitment as those I have mentioned.

But, United for Peace and Justice poses some quandaries.

If you go to their website, there is much talk about the devastating effect of the deaths of U.S. troops in Iraq. Slogans abound about bringing our troops home so more don't get killed.

However, there is little about the plight of the Iraqis. There was not one word about the illegal government put in power by the U.S. and the plight of the members of the pre-April 2003 government.

United for Peace and Justice actually recognizes the Iraqi stooges meeting in the Green Zone as the legitimate government of Iraq.

In addition, there is a large portion devoted to "faith-based" groups and how they should join United for Peace and Justice, who has an entire section about "faith-based" activism. Many anti-war activists have no religious affiliation. In the U.S., atheists, by percentage, well outnumber the general public in their opposition to the war against Iraq. United for Peace and Justice appears to be tossing these people aside.

I am curious to know how many affiliate members of the organization have really looked into United for Peace and Justice actions and ideas. Many would be surprised.

To top everything off, in July 2006, the group wanted to meet Malaki to discuss peace in Iraq.

They praised him and said what an honor it was for him to visit Washington D.C. And, they wanted to take out an ad in a Baghdad newspaper.

Along with the announcement came the obligatory request for money.

To me, their actions are similar to those of the TV preachers who ask for money to promote their lamebrain ideas.

The following is a plea from United for Peace and Justice to support the ridiculous idea of meeting with Malaki, the same Malaki who is responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Iraqis because of his support for Shi'ite death squads.

Following their plea is the letter I sent to them about this quandary.

They never answered me when they had the chance to explain their actions, so I consider it fair game now to expose the group and its egotistical and outright stupid actions.

[The UFPJ Appeal For Money, Followed By The Disgusting, Ass-Kissing, Groveling UFPJ Letter To The Collaborator Maliki]

Help us place an open letter from the peace movement to Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Maliki as an ad in one of Iraq's largest newspapers.

For only \$1,500, we can reach tens of thousands of Iraqis with our message. [Click here to donate online toward this effort](#) or call 212-868-5545 to make a contribution by phone.

You can also mail a check or money order to:

United for Peace and Justice
P.O. Box 607

Times Square Station
New York, NY 10108

Dear Friends,

This week, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki will make his first visit to the United States, visiting Washington DC and New York City. He will be meeting with George Bush and members of Congress, but don't you think he should also meet with representatives of the peace movement? Don't you think he -- and the Iraqi people -- should know that there is a strong movement in the United States to end the occupation of their country?

We have delivered letters to the Iraqi Embassy in Washington DC and to the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations in New York requesting that Prime Minister Al-Maliki meet with representatives of the peace movement. Now we need you to play a critical role in making this historic opportunity a reality.

Help us place an advertisement based on the following Open Letter to Prime Minister Al-Maliki in one of the largest newspapers in Iraq, Assabah Al-Jadid. This is not only a great way to pressure the Prime Minister for a meeting, but it is also a way to reach out to the Iraqi people to let them know that we stand with them in their call to end the occupation of their country. A poll earlier this year showed that 87% of Iraqis support a timeline for the withdrawal of U.S. troops; another poll showed that only 1% of Iraqis trusted U.S. troops to protect their security.

For only \$1,500, we can place a half-page ad that will reach tens of thousands of Iraqis. If, through your generosity, more than that comes in, we will use the money to continue spreading our call for immediate withdrawal from Iraq and to help with the ongoing antiwar work of UFPJ. [Click here to make a donation toward this effort today.](#)

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

Prime Minister Al-Maliki's visit this week is also a great time to write letters to the editors of your local newspapers, mentioning the peace movement's request for a meeting with the prime minister and bringing attention to the growing calls for an end to the occupation and the reconciliation proposal put forth by numerous Iraqi leaders. You can use text from the open letter as talking points, but please use your own words to make your letter more effective and more likely to be printed. [Click here to send a letter to your local media outlets.](#)

Thank you for helping us to make this critical, direct link with the Iraqi people, and to make the call for peace heard loud and clear throughout the United States. Let's make sure that Prime Minister Al-Maliki, the people of Iraq, and people here in the U.S. don't just hear the voice of George Bush. Let's make sure they hear the voices of the majority in this country, who want to see an end to the bloodshed and the beginning of a true effort to rebuild Iraq and our neglected communities at home.

OPEN LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER AL-MALIKI

Dear Prime Minister Al-Maliki,

On behalf of United for Peace and Justice, the largest coalition of peace and justice organizations in the U.S., which includes more than 1,400 national and local groups united in opposition to the U.S. war in Iraq, *it is our pleasure to welcome you in the United States.*

We are writing to request a meeting with you during your visit in New York City on Thursday, July 27, 2006, in order to brief you about the U.S. peace movement's efforts to end the military occupation of Iraq and to discuss how to work together to bring about a troop withdrawal, promote reconciliation, and begin the process of reconstruction and development.

We have been heartened by the Iraqi reconciliation plan put forth by numerous Iraqi leaders to end both the occupation and sectarian tension within Iraq. We are dismayed, however, that due in part to U.S. pressure, the plan does not include a demand for a timetable for withdrawing the troops -- a point that is essential for any true reconciliation plan.

A poll earlier this year showed that 87% of Iraqis support a timeline for the withdrawal of U.S. troops. A solid majority of people in the United States agree: a June poll by CNN showed that 53% supported a timetable for withdrawal, and other major polls have found similar results.

We oppose the interference of the Bush administration in your country's domestic policies. We support your recent independent and courageous stand criticizing the aggressive Israeli attacks on Lebanon, and we hope you will continue to take independent stands that prioritize the desires of the Iraqi people over foreign interests.

There is a strong movement in the United States to end the continuing military occupation of your country, and we hope that you will have time to meet us during your visit to the United States. We would, of course, be prepared to meet at whatever time or location is best for you.

Sincerely,

Leslie Cagan
National Coordinator
United for Peace and Justice

Help us continue to do this critical work: Make a donation to UFPJ today.
ACTION ALERT * UNITED FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE
www.unitedforpeace.org | 212-868-5545

Here Was My Response:

Dear People,

It is with great incredulity that I write to you. I thought my eyes were deceiving me when I saw your appeal for solicitations to place an ad in an Iraqi newspaper addressed to Al-Maliki.

And, your coddling up to him ("It is our pleasure to welcome you in the United States") is ludicrous and disgusting.

Al-Maliki is not Iraq's prime minister. He is the appointed head of an illegal government in Iraq and currently the U.S.' "Stooge of the Month."

To lend him any credibility is outrageous.

Al-Maliki and his cohorts spent decades in Iran and/or Syria, plotting for the overthrow of the legitimate Iraqi government. If the same situation occurred in the U.S., one would call the person the correct name: traitor.

I notice that you call yourself the "largest coalition of peace and justice organizations in the U.S." Do all your affiliated members know of this letter to Al-Maliki? I don't think so.

His actions in the past decades show that he wanted Iraq to be invaded. In other words, he cheered on the illegal March 2003 invasion.

You pretend to have opposed intervention in Iraq and now you invite one of the invasion's biggest supporters to meet you. I am at a loss for words.

I have sent your appeal to a few colleagues in the past hour. Their responses are identical to mine.

Al-Maliki is visiting the U.S. to get his trip to the woodshed with Bush. When he comes out, he will say "Yasuh."

In Iraq, his movements are limited to a few square miles.

He is meeting with the architect of the invasion that ruined 5,000 years of proud history of Iraq as well as about 300,000 Iraqis, and you want to meet with him. The mind boggles.

I am a known anti-war writer and have about a million readers because more than 100 websites pick up my articles.

I would like to interview someone on your staff and try to discover what kind of logic you are using.

Maybe something is going over my head.

Please let me know if you are interested in a dialogue.

I will take a no-response to mean you are not.

Either way, I will write about this quandary.

Sincerely,

Malcom Lagauche

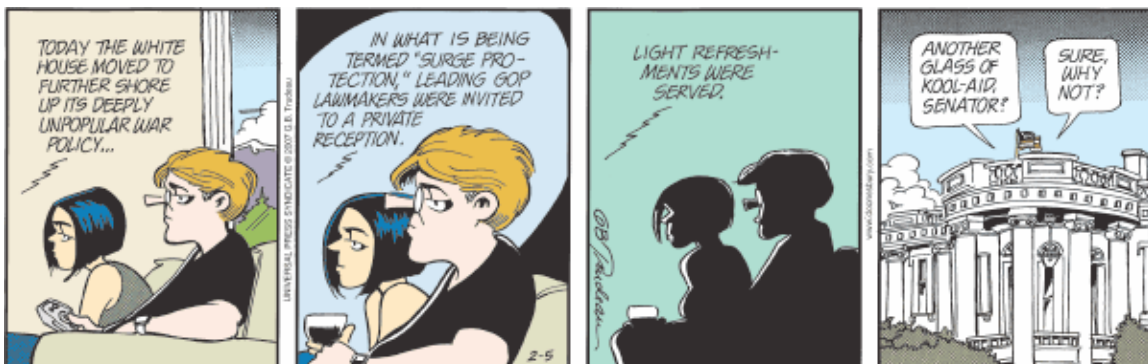
(P.S. I never received a reply)



Troops Invited:

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 email contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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



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

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

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

Received:

RE: How Charles Manson Kept Me Out of Vietnam

From: David Honish

To: GI Special
Sent: February 07, 2007
Subject: RE: How Charles Manson Kept Me Out of Vietnam

US forces did not "spill over into Laos and Cambodia in 1971" as the writer stated.

The USAF and CIA paramilitary advisers who were seconded to the CIA from the US Army Special Forces were in Laos since 1964. Nixon's invasion of Cambodia was in the spring of 1970, and not 1971 as reported.

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)

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

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

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

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

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

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