

GI SPECIAL 5B9:



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

Helicopter Shot Down January 31: “In Support Of State Department Operations” Report Hidden Until Today; Casualties Among U.S. Troops From IED Still Not Announced

February 8, 2007 By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr. and JAMES GLANZ, The New York Times
[Excerpts

BAGHDAD, Feb. 7 — With two more helicopter crashes near Baghdad, including a Marine transport crash on Wednesday that killed seven people, the number of helicopters that have gone down in Iraq over the past three weeks rose to six.

The number also includes a previously unreported downing of a helicopter operated by a private security firm on Jan. 31.

The private security helicopter shot down last week was being flown in support of State Department operations and was forced down 10 miles south of the capital after insurgents attacked it with heavy-caliber ground fire as it flew from Hilla to Baghdad, American officials said Wednesday. Another American helicopter quickly swooped in to rescue the passengers and crew.

Two American officials said the previously unreported downing of the private helicopter supporting State Department operations last week came after it was subjected to a hail of gunfire from the ground. One official described the gunfire as heavy caliber and said that after the helicopter crash-landed a second aircraft set down and evacuated the stranded passengers and crew.

But the official said that as a quick reaction force rushed to the crash scene, the force was struck by at least one large roadside bomb and suffered several casualties.

The force withdrew from the site, and American officials decided to destroy the aircraft rather than risk it falling into insurgent hands.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Four Marines Killed In Anbar

08 February 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070208-01

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Four Marines assigned to Multi-National Force - West died Feb. 7 from wounds sustained due to enemy action in two separate incidents, while operating in Al Anbar Province.

Polish Soldier Killed In Iraq, Three Wounded

February 7, 2007 The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland: A Polish soldier was killed and three others injured when their convoy hit a roadside bomb in Iraq Wednesday, the Defense Ministry said.

The convoy was 30 kilometers (20 miles) from a Polish base in the central Iraqi city of Diwaniya when the bomb exploded, ministry spokesman Piotr Paszkowski said.

Maryland Marine Cpl. Killed In Anbar



Cpl. Jennifer Parcell reading a Medal of Honor citation during a stop at a memorial on Iwo Jima, Japan, Sept. 27, 2005. Parcell, 20, of Bel Air, Md., was killed Feb. 7, 2007, in Al Anbar province, in Iraq. Parcell was assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Okinawa, Japan. (AP Photo/U.S. Marine Corps, Cpl. Martin R. Harris)

Crash In Iraq Kills Marine From Tri-Cities

February 8th, 2007 By Sara Schilling, Herald staff writer

A Marine from the Tri-Cities died Wednesday in a helicopter crash 20 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Sgt. Travis Pfister, 27, who loved a good joke and worked for months on the perfect recipe for barbecued ribs, was due home from his third tour in Iraq next month.

He graduated in 1997 from Hanford High School in Richland, where he wrestled and played defensive end on the football team.

"On the surface, he was a very happy-go-lucky guy. But he was very aware of how people were feeling around him," said his uncle, Blaine Hulse of Pasco. "He was one of the guys that kept tabs on everybody, made sure they were motivated and happy."

Pfister was stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and served as a helicopter crew chief. His wife, Jessica, also is a Marine.

His mother and stepfather, Lorrie and Loron Tallett, live in Kennewick; his father and stepmother, Richard and Jackie Pfister, live in Richland. Four other Marines and two Navy personnel were killed when the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter crashed in Iraq's Anbar province.

Many in Pfister's family gathered Wednesday at his mother's house in Kennewick.

They laughed and told stories of his childhood antics with his older brother, Josh Pfister, 29. They also talked about how he loved to fish, hunt and ski, and how he lived life to the fullest.

"He carried himself with confidence and pride, and without (bravado)," said Hulse.

"Travis was a tough little nut," added his former Hanford High football coach, Greg Sevigny, in a phone interview. "He always had a smile on his face. And he was tenacious. He was a tough kid, but he always had a smile on his face."

Pfister enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1998, though he'd long been fascinated with the military. As a boy, he was a regular customer at a local military surplus store, remembered his dad, Richard Pfister.

"He loved all that stuff. I saw (when he was) 7 that he'd be in the service for life," said his stepmother, Jackie Pfister.

In Iraq, he helped transport the sick and wounded, and often volunteered for extra flights. He liked the discipline and camaraderie of the Marine Corps, and he believed in what he was doing, his family said.

In an e-mail to his mom last week, Pfister wrote that he'd taken more than 20 people to the hospital for urgent medical care this month alone.

"Things are going well, though just waiting to come home," he wrote. "I love you guys and will see you all soon."

A memorial service hasn't yet been arranged.

Eastern Shore Sailor Killed In Iraq Helicopter Crash

February 8, 2007 Associated Press

FEDERALSBURG, Md. — A sailor from the Eastern Shore was one of seven people killed when a U.S. Marine transport helicopter crashed in Iraq, his mother said today.

Manuel Ruiz, 21, of Federalsburg, was a Navy paramedic assigned to Camp Lejeune, N.C.

His mother, Lisa Ruiz, described him as a "very outgoing" man who loved running. He attended Colonel Richardson High School in Federalsburg, joined the Navy three years ago and was just two weeks into his second tour in Iraq, she said.

Federalsburg is just a mile from the Delaware line, northwest of Seaford.

"I spoke with him last week," she said. "He was saying how much he loved his job, what he was doing."

At Ruiz' former high school, the news of Ruiz' death was met with an immediate, stricken silence when it was announced over the school intercom this morning. Many students at the small Eastern Shore school enter the service after they graduate and several others have friends and relatives who are shipping out to Iraq, school officials said.

"He was just a wonderful young man who was excited when he graduated to be going to serve his country," said Christine Handy-Collins, principal of the small school.

Ruiz, who graduated in 2003, had been back to the school several times in his dress whites on recruiting tours, said Marjorie Scott, his former art teacher.

"The kids really respected him," she said.

But she remembered the young man they called "Manny" most for his talent as an artist.

"When Manny would pick up a pencil and he would draw, there was so much feeling, so much emotion, so much power in his drawing – he could make a pencil and paper sing," Scott said.

He planned to continue his studies at the Art Institute of Washington after the service, Scott said. And on a visit last spring, he showed her photos of a mural he was painting on his barracks wall in Iraq.

"So you see, he carried his talent not just through school but in the service," she said.

The military reported the helicopter crashed Wednesday in Al Anbar province about 20 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Lowhill Pilot Killed In Iraq Battle

February 01, 2007 The Morning Call, By Kathleen Parrish

The last time Carol Resh heard from her son Mark, an Army helicopter pilot, was on Jan. 18 when he called home to wish his father, Charles, a happy 59th birthday.

"He told us that he loved us," Resh said. The next day Mark, 28, who grew up in Lowhill Township and graduated from Northwestern Lehigh High School, left Fort Hood, Texas, for a second tour in Iraq.

On Sunday, Capt. Resh died when his helicopter was shot down about 1:30 p.m. during one of the fiercest battles between Americans and Iraqi militants since the war began four years ago. The other soldier on board, Chief Warrant Officer Cornell C. Chao, 36, of California was also killed.

Both Mark T. Resh and Chao were pilots assigned to the 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. Their bodies were recovered by American soldiers.

Carol Resh said her son recently bought a new home in Killeen, Texas, with his girlfriend, but wasn't sure if the pair had been contemplating marriage.

"He just loved life," she said. "He loved everything he did. He was a happy-go-lucky person. I don't think I ever saw him angry at someone."

In high school, Mark Resh was a member of the National Honor Society, served on Student Council during his senior year and was captain of the varsity soccer team.

"Mark was honestly the very best of what you would hope for in a young person," said Resh's soccer coach, Paul Kleinert. "He was incredibly hard-working, dedicated and responsible. He was a leader on and off the field. His demeanor set the personality of the team."

After graduating in 1996, Resh attended the University of Pittsburgh and was in ROTC. "I asked him if he was going to play soccer at Pittsburgh, and he said, 'No, I'm going there to learn,'" Carol Resh recalled.

Devotion to his studies paid off, and he graduated summa cum laude in electrical engineering in 2001. He joined the Army that September and was accepted into flight school at Fort Rucker, Ala., where he learned to fly Apache helicopters.

"The thing about Mark is, if he set his mind to do something, he accomplished it," Carol Resh said. "He was incredibly focused."

But he also had a light-hearted side. "He liked to tease, especially me," she said. "If I cried at something or got sentimental, he'd say, 'Oh no, here we go again.'"

Jim Kellerman, a Scoutmaster for Resh's Boy Scout Troop, said Resh obtained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1995.

"He was very together," he said. "He had every confidence in himself. He was a quiet type of person, modest, but demonstrated a lot of leadership ability."

Ryan Snyder played soccer with Resh from the time they were 5 years old through high school, and the two shared a love for the game and the outdoors. "He was one of the few left-footers on the team," said Snyder, 28, of Fogelsville. "He was fast."

Snyder said he lost touch with his friend after graduation, then Resh was overseas when the class held its 10th-year high school reunion in September 2006.

"He was always a happy, smiling guy," said Snyder, a charter pilot for East Coast Jets.

Carol Resh said that when she and her husband visited their son in Texas a few weeks ago, his mood was subdued and she sensed he wasn't as enthusiastic about deploying to Iraq as he was before.

"He wasn't looking forward to it," she said.

Nonetheless, she takes comfort in knowing her son died doing what he loved.

"He lived his life to the fullest. It was a short life, but a good one," she said. "He always got what he wanted once he made up his mind and went after it."

Local Soldier, Cornell C. Chao, Killed In Iraq



U.S. Army pilot Cornell Chao, 36, formerly of Fullerton, died Sunday when his Apache helicopter crashed in Najaf, Iraq.

Jan. 31, 2007 By TOM BERG, The Orange County Register

He'd become a son to so many.

A symbol of strength and what's right with the young generation.

Members of the Kirkwood Assisted Living Residence in Orange began writing to the handsome helicopter pilot during his second tour of Iraq in 2003. They hung his picture in the lobby and threw him a party when he came home. When he was called to Iraq a third time, they kept writing.

Now he's gone.

U.S. Army pilot Cornell Chao, 36, formerly of Fullerton, died Sunday when his Apache helicopter crashed in Najaf, Iraq.

"I did take a liking to him," said Doris Hunsaker, 93, one of dozens of residents who threw Chao a party in 2004. "I wrote him a Christmas letter this year, telling him how I was feeling, about my broken hip, and I hoped he was well. He was like a brother or a son because we had a lot in common."

Residents learned about Chao through his mom, Jasmine Crowl, who served as activities director there until retiring last year. Every morning she'd pray for her son in Iraq. Every meal she'd look at his photograph near the dining table. And every evening, she'd pray again for his safety.

"I'd just think, 'He's too far away.' I wished he'd come back home, very soon."

So when two Army officers knocked on her door Sunday, she knew why.

"My heart just felt like it was falling apart," she says. "I kept holding my husband most of the night."

She'd just talked with her son by phone a week ago. He sounded tired, she said. He was flying missions seven days a week.

"Things are pretty tough over here," he told her. "But don't worry about me. The ground troops have it tougher."

She ended the call the way she always did: "I wish you and your troops a safe return," she said. "I love you."

Chao, a 1988 graduate of Sunny Hills High School in Fullerton, served in the infantry during Operation Desert Storm – the first Gulf war – in 1991.

He returned as a helicopter gunner during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, patrolling mostly around Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad.

On March 23, 2003, his Apache Longbow helicopter took more than 25 rounds during an attack 100 miles behind enemy lines. One of the 33 helicopters in his task force that night was shot down, and two pilots were taken prisoner.

Chao escaped serious injury when a round struck the armor plating of his seat, sending shrapnel toward his neck. Instead, it clinked into the barrel of his M-16.

Such heroics prompted letters like this, from an 84-year-old woman who kept in touch: "You made me feel proud again to be an American. What you're doing shows that bravery will overshadow fear. Thank you for showing us what courage is."

Chao, a chief warrant officer 3, flew with the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, part of the 1st Cavalry Division based in Fort Hood, Texas.

He bought a house in nearby Killeen, Texas, a few years ago.

Chao played golf for the Sunny Hills High School team during his early years in Fullerton.

"He was a rebel," said his brother Ray Chao, 35, of Lake Forest, who also was on the team. "He'd show up in jeans – you weren't supposed to do that. Or wearing some crazy fashion. He was a trendsetter."

High school classmate S.K. Ahn, 36, of Washington, D.C., remembers playing computer games with Chao, listening to bands like R.E.M. and wondering what they'd do the rest of their lives. "We were typical O.C. suburb kids," he said. "We'd listen to albums, drive around and go to Taco Bell."

When he heard of a helicopter crash in Iraq last weekend, he began checking the Internet every few hours. He had a strange feeling. On Tuesday, he was overcome trying to describe his feelings. "I don't know, man," he said, his voice breaking. "I'll have to tell you tomorrow."

Chao's loss leaves a void in so many places. From Washington, D.C., to Louisiana, where his fiancée received her engagement ring last week, to a community of Orange County seniors.

"I feel real bad because he was such a nice young person and a very good friend," said Hunsaker, a former Kirkwood resident now living in Anaheim Hills.

But nowhere is the void felt more than at home.

"I'm so proud of him," said Crowl, who is awaiting word on when her son's remains will arrive in Orange County for services. "He loved his country. He said he's not afraid to die for his country. He said that to me."

Candor Mourning Loss Of Soldier



January 30, 2007 By Monique Lewis, Gannett News Service

CANDOR — Karen and Paul Fairlie are still waiting for final confirmation of when their son's body will be brought home.

Nathan Fairlie, of Candor, was driving a Bradley Fighting Vehicle when an explosive device killed him on Friday in Baqubah, Iraq, according to the U.S. Department of Defense. The 21-year-old soldier was assigned to the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division of Fort Hood, Texas.

Fairlie will be missed by the Candor High School community, said Principal Ryan Dougherty. Fairlie graduated in the Class of 2004 and was a lineman for the school's football team.

“Obviously, we're deeply saddened,” Dougherty said. “He was just a wonderful young man, special kid and shining personality. He will be missed deeply.”

The school district's thoughts and prayers are with the Fairlie family, Dougherty said. The school appreciates Fairlie's service and sacrifice beyond what words can describe, he added.

Dougherty said the school is considering a couple of possible memorial events.

Fairlie's high school football coach, Mike Swartz, said he will always remember Nathan for his original sense of humor.

“He would say something and everybody would laugh.” he said.

Karen Fairlie said she expects to soon schedule a funeral service for her son.

Great Moments In U.S. Military History: Massacre In Zaidan

2.8.07 AP

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Local officials said a U.S. airstrike Thursday in a volatile area west of Baghdad killed 45 civilians, including women and children.

Police and hospital officials in the area offered a conflicting account, saying the airstrike hit the village of Zaidan south of Abu Ghraib and flattened four houses, killing 45 people, including women, children and old people.

An Associated Press photo showed the body of a boy in the back of a pickup truck at the nearby Fallujah hospital and people there said he was a victim of the Zaydan airstrike. Other photos showed several wounded children being treated in the hospital.

Thamir al-Dulaimi, a doctor with the Fallujah Public Hospital, said 20 other civilians from the village were being treated, while a highway patrol officer said civilian cars were being used to bring the wounded to the hospital.

Amiriyah is in Anbar province, an insurgent stronghold west of Baghdad where hundreds of U.S. troops have been killed. **[Thanks to this piece of work, the rate of killing of U.S. troops is due for a surge. Well, that's not an Air Force problem, is it?]**

Time To Come Home, Now! “Pilots Have Been Flying Low To Avoid Surface To Air Missiles, Increasing The Danger From Smaller Arms”



Smoke and flame rise from the crash site of a U.S. military CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter which went down about 30 kilometers (20 miles) northwest of Baghdad. Insurgents claimed responsibility. (AP Photo/APTN)

Historically, improved tactics in shooting down helicopters have proved to be important factors in conflicts in which guerrillas have achieved victories against major powers, including battles in Somalia, Afghanistan and Vietnam. February 8, 2007 By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr. and JAMES GLANZ, The New York Times

Feb. 7, 2007 ABC News

U.S. military helicopters have typically been the safest way to travel in Iraq — they fly low, are extremely fast and by the time they can be heard from the ground, they're gone.

But a series of recent crashes is raising new worries about their safety. In the last two and a half weeks, five U.S. helicopters have gone down in Iraq, killing 28 Americans.

So far the common denominator in these attacks has been anti-aircraft and machine guns hitting vulnerable parts of the aircraft.

Ironically, pilots have been flying low to avoid surface to air missiles, increasing the danger from smaller arms.

And, the fact is, with ground travel exceedingly dangerous, the military cannot afford to stop flying.

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



U.S. troops following an explosion in Kirkuk Dec. 1, 2006. (AP Photo/Yahya Ahmed)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Our Troops?

To Where? Thanks But No Thanks!

06 Feb 2007 By Mark John, (Reuters)

NATO's top operational commander wants more troops to help crush an expected Taliban offensive in Afghanistan but is facing widespread reluctance among allies to come forward, alliance officials said on Tuesday.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged allies at a NATO meeting in January to come forward with troops "ready to fight", but the response so far has been largely limited to a British announcement of an added 800 troops.

Spain, the Netherlands, France and Turkey have ruled out near-term reinforcements. Germany, while looking to send reconnaissance jets to the south, has resisted calls to deploy troops outside its base in the relatively calm north.

Assorted Resistance Action

2.7.06 By Saeed Ali Achakzai (Reuters)

A roadside bomb killed two Afghan guards working for a U.S. security company in the southern province of Kandahar, provincial officials said. Six guards were wounded.

Three police officers were killed while defusing a mine planted by the Taliban on a road in the west of the country on Tuesday night, police said.

A parked motorbike packed with explosives detonated near a van of a US-based security firm accompanying a NATO convoy through the volatile southern province of Kandahar, killing two Afghan guards, the company said on Wednesday.

Six other men in the US Protection and Investigation (USPI) vehicle were wounded in the attack and three of them were critical and in a coma, said the head of security for the convoy, Abdul Khaliq.

The van had been escorting a convoy that was supplying logistics to NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops when it was hit in the volatile Maiwand district of Kandahar, the Taliban's birthplace.

The district governor, Haji Saifullah, said it was a remote-controlled bomb.

The attack was around 100 metres (yards) far from the district headquarters on a major highway that links Kandahar city with the western capital of Herat and Kabul.

Another blast occurred while police were defusing a remote-controlled bomb in the Shindand district of Herat province.

It killed three of Zir Koh district's top police officers, including the criminal investigation and police operations directors, said the police commander for western Afghanistan, General Akramudin.

A third remote-controlled bomb hit a patrolling police vehicle in the southwestern province of Nimroz, the provincial police chief said.

"Their vehicle was targeted by a remote-controlled bomb. Three police were wounded and their vehicle was destroyed," Mohammad Daud Askarzada told AFP.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Sgt. First Class Keith A. Callahan, 31, emerges from St. Charles Church in Woburn, Mass. Jan. 31, 2007, after his funeral. Callahan died Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2007, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was conducting a combat patrol south of Baghdad. (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

Jobs Refused By State Department Staff In Iraq To Be Filled By Military

Reserves Personnel Who Can't Refuse

[For some odd reason, this report leaves out what the first report made clear: Rice had asked for volunteers from the State Dept. to fill the jobs, and, surprise surprise, didn't get enough. Under State Dept. rules, staff can't be ordered to serve in Iraq. T]

Late yesterday, both departments agreed that the 129 military personnel – most of whom have not yet been identified and tasked – may include active-duty troops as well as reservists. It is up to the military, the State Department agreed, to decide whom they can spare.

February 8, 2007 By Karen DeYoung, Washington Post Staff Writer

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Congress yesterday that more than 40 percent of nearly 300 State Department positions to be added in Iraq as part of President Bush's new strategy will have to be filled by military personnel.

"Frankly, the agencies of the U.S. government cannot fill that many posts" as quickly as necessary, Rice said at a hearing of the House Foreign Relations Committee yesterday morning. "And so our agreement with the Department of Defense was that for a period of time . . . we would actually use reservists to fill those positions."

Deployments will last at least six months until Congress provides supplemental funding to pay for private contractors.

The request for reservists to fill civilian-designated positions has been a source of tension between State and the tightly stretched Defense Department, which has already been asked to provide an additional 21,500 combat troops for Iraq.

In a Senate hearing Tuesday, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said that he shares the concerns raised by senior military officers over a Rice memo detailing the request.

Their reaction, Gates said, "was mild compared to my reaction when I saw it."

State Department officials expressed surprise yesterday at Gates's remarks. At the hearing, Rice insisted there is no controversy, saying that agreement over the use of reservists for the PRTs had been reached as the new Iraq strategy was developed in December.

Not so, a Defense official countered, noting that Rice's memo to Gates arrived only recently. A State Department official acknowledged that the memo was dated Jan. 21, but said it was merely "formalizing on paper . . . discussions from back in December."

"Everybody just wants to pretend this never happened," a State Department official said of the tempest.

Late yesterday, both departments agreed that the 129 military personnel – most of whom have not yet been identified and tasked – may include active-duty troops as well as reservists. It is up to the military, the State Department agreed, to decide whom they can spare.

GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT

**THE (FALSE) IMPRISONMENT OF A
(MUSLIM) ARMY CHAPLAIN
AT GUANTANAMO BASE**

CHAPLAIN JAMES YEE

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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

VA Rats, As Usual, Caught In Incredibly Stupid Lie About Vets Needing Mental Health Services

VA officials in Washington flatly denied these assertions and also denied a finding that the number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans seeking mental health services had doubled just from October 2005 to June 2006.

Unfortunately, those statistics came straight from VA's own quarterly reports to Congress.

February 12, 2007 Editorial, Army Times [Excerpt]

Like thousands of America's youngest generation of veterans, former Marine Jonathan Schulze came home from Iraq, hung up his uniform and tried to move on.

He could not. The bloody memories of the insurgents he killed and the buddies he lost haunted him.

Finally, with thoughts of suicide swirling in his head, he contacted the Veterans Affairs hospital in St. Cloud, Minn., in person and by phone, and asked to be admitted to the mental health unit.

But according to Schulze's family, a VA counselor told him there was no room, and placed him on a waiting list. Four days later, at age 25, Jonathan Schulze hanged himself.

Under VA policy, a veteran talking of suicide is to be escorted immediately into a locked mental health unit for treatment.

It's not yet clear what went wrong last month in St. Cloud, but what is clear is that the VA has consistently underestimated the mental health crisis it faces as this war goes on.

Last year, the Democratic staff of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee surveyed VA Vet Center managers around the nation. Many said they are cutting back on various services — including one-on-one mental health counseling for combat vets — because demand was outstripping available resources.

VA officials in Washington flatly denied these assertions and also denied a finding that the number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans seeking mental health services had doubled just from October 2005 to June 2006.

Unfortunately, those statistics came straight from VA's own quarterly reports to Congress.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

The Idiot Reporters Thinks It's A Cute Story: Resistance Still Using Fake IED Tactic To Cripple Convoy Movements

[This was first reported in 2004. The reporter back then understood the tactic perfectly: plant endless fake IEDs easy to spot to make occupation patrols and convoys waste endless time stopped on the road. And, often, set up for an ambush ahead. Still at it, still works.]

February 8, 2007 by Jamie Tarabay, NPR

In Iraq, improvised explosive devices pose a constant threat to security forces. The makeshift bombs are stashed on the sides of roads, buried in trash or hidden just about anywhere. The U.S. military has sought to train Iraqi security forces to handle them on their own.

But things don't always go as planned.

U.S. Army Sgt. Ryan Lord hadn't driven his Humvee more than 50 yards out of Forward Operating Base Warrior when he came upon Iraqi police standing in the middle of the road. An IED had been spotted up ahead, they told the Americans.

In most cases, that means a U.S. explosives ordnance team comes in to defuse the bomb. But in this case, an Iraqi explosives team is on the case.

The Iraqi police start shooting at the potential bomb, hoping to set it off. But to no avail. The convoy continues to sit and wait.

An hour passes. As Sgt. Lord watches, the Iraqi police move closer to the suspected bomb.

The first IED turns out to be a fake. To the surprise of the American soldiers, this emboldens the Iraqi police, who are now focusing on the second suspected bomb.

"Oh, he kicked it," says an American soldier watching.

"The second one must have been safe," Lord says, "because they went over to it, kicked it over, and then threw it across the road."

An hour and a half after first stopping, the convoy moves on.

Assorted Resistance Action

Feb. 06, 2007 By Ali Fadaam, McClatchy Newspapers & 07 Feb 2007 Reuters & CNN &UPI & By KIM GAMEL, Associated Press Writer & 08 Feb 2007 Reuters

A bomber attacked an Iraqi police checkpoint north of Haditha in Anbar province, killing seven policemen and wounding three, police said.

Guerrillas attacked a joint Iraqi army-police checkpoint in central Baghdad, killing an army officer and a soldier and wounding three policemen and one soldier.

(1) soldier injured after a parked car bomb exploded in al-Yarmuk neighborhood west of Baghdad.

The car was parked on the main road of al Yarmuk between the petrol station and the Yarmuk intersection (the four streets) the car exploded on Iraqi army convoy.

Guerrillas attacked a rapid reaction police unit and killed four policemen and a civilian in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

In central Baghdad, a police officer was killed and three others were wounded when a roadside bomb detonated near their vehicle, police said.

Four Iraqis, including an Interior Ministry official, were wounded in the New Baghdad neighborhood when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle, an Interior Ministry official said.

Police found five policemen dead in Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, during the past 24 hours.

Three guards at the government-funded Iraqi Media Network who were killed by a sniper in Baghdad. They were shot to death outside the station's headquarters in central Baghdad in what police called a "sniper attack."

A female government official was shot to death while she was riding to work with her husband in the northern city of Mosul.

The body of a soldier was found shot dead in the town of Shirqat, 80 km (50 miles) south of Mosul, the Iraqi-U.S. Joint Coordination Centre said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

THE LESSONS OF TERROR



Photo composite taken in Vietnam by Mike Hastie U.S. Army Medic

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: February 08, 2007
Subject: The Lessons of Terror

THE LESSONS OF TERROR

The principle reason that the United States was defeated in Vietnam was not the inadequacy of its military effort or the failure of its soldiers or even the superiority of the enemy it faced. For the effort was enormous, American soldiers fought well, and the North Vietnamese, while dogged and well led, themselves admitted that they could not have won without the deterioration of domestic morale that occurred within the United States.

And that deterioration was not due to media influence or to social degeneracy: it was due to the fact that such American leaders as John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Henry Kissinger had given themselves over to a repugnant and self-defeating philosophy.

They had become terrorists, and all in the cause of a political fallacy -- for when North Vietnam finally triumphed, there were no waves of communist troops suddenly landing on the shores of Hawaii, as Lyndon Johnson had once publicly predicted.

There was simply a reunited Vietnam, a great many dead soldiers and civilians, and a heightened international perception of America as a nation that had no difficulty matching terror with terror.

That perception bred powerful resentment in many parts of the world, places where the continued American rationalization that their objectionable tactics were being employed in the name of freedom was rejected. In such places, a new response to the overwhelming military might of the West began to emerge, especially after the Vietnam War: a particularly vicious type of unlimited warfare that would soon become known as international political terrorism.

Caleb Carr;
The Lessons of Terror
A History of Warfare Against Civilians:
Why It Has Always Failed And Why It Will Fail Again

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)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004**

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

So Much For That “Sovereignty” Bullshit: **Occupation Command Orders Troops To Arrest Iraqi Deputy Health Minister And Trash The Offices**



Iraqis look at wrecked furniture and papers inside the Iraqi Health Ministry offices in Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 8, 2007. U.S. forces stormed the offices of the Health Ministry on Thursday and detained a senior ministry official. (AP Photo/Samir Mizban)

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

Mercenaries “Pelting Surrounding Vehicles With Water Bottles To Persuade Drivers To Clear The Way”

Feb 7 By HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press Writer

A three-vehicle Western security company convoy came under fire near Haifa Street, a Sunni insurgent stronghold just north of the Green Zone.

The security men in the armored cars returned fire and quickly exploded green and white smoke bombs for concealment. Minutes later, after the smoke cleared, they sped away.

An Associated Press reporter could see bodyguards in the convoy leaning out the car windows and pelting surrounding vehicles with water bottles to persuade drivers to clear the way.

“If This Security Plan Is The Same As Those We Had Before I Can Tell You Now That It Will Be A Failure” “Worst Fuel Crisis In Months”

Feb 7 By HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press Writer

Lines outside gas stations stretched for more than a mile, as the city is experiencing its worst fuel crisis in months.

With electricity available only about two hours a day in much of the city, residents also were buying candles and lanterns.

"We live hand-to-mouth and don't have money to stock up on anything," said Ibrahim Mohammed, a 78-year-old retired engineer from the Azamiya district.

"No one goes to work anymore," Mohammed said.

"If this security plan is the same as those we had before, with checkpoints delaying the traffic for hours, then I can tell you now that it will be a failure," said Murtadha Mahdi, a 35-year-old unemployed father of two who lives in Hurriyah, now a predominantly Shiite district in northern of Baghdad that saw some of the worst sectarian fighting late last year.

Three Thieving U.S. Army Officers Indicted For Scam That Netted Millions

2/8/07 BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

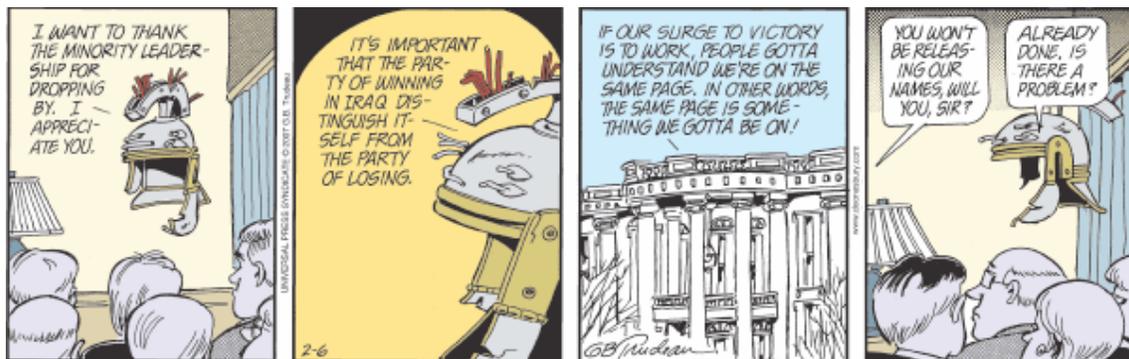
WASHINGTON - Three Army Reserve officers and a U.S. contractor were indicted Wednesday as part of a bid-rigging scam that steered millions of dollars of Iraq reconstruction projects to a contractor in exchange for cash, luxury cars, jewelry and other pricey goods.

The husband of one of the military officials also was charged with helping to smuggle at least \$10,000 into the United States that the couple used to pay for improvements to their New Jersey house.

The three U.S. Army Reserve officers were responsible for helping to supervise how the U.S.-managed Coalition Provisional Authority spent an estimated \$26 billion available for reconstruction projects in Iraq. They were in those posts in 2003 and 2004.

The indictment says the three officers - Col. Curtis G. Whiteford of Utah, Lt. Col. Debra M. Harrison of New Jersey and Lt. Col. Michael B. Wheeler of Wisconsin - directed at least \$8 million to a construction and services company. In return, they allegedly demanded cash, a Nissan sports car, a Cadillac SUV, real estate, a Breitling watch, business-class plane tickets and other items.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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



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

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)

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