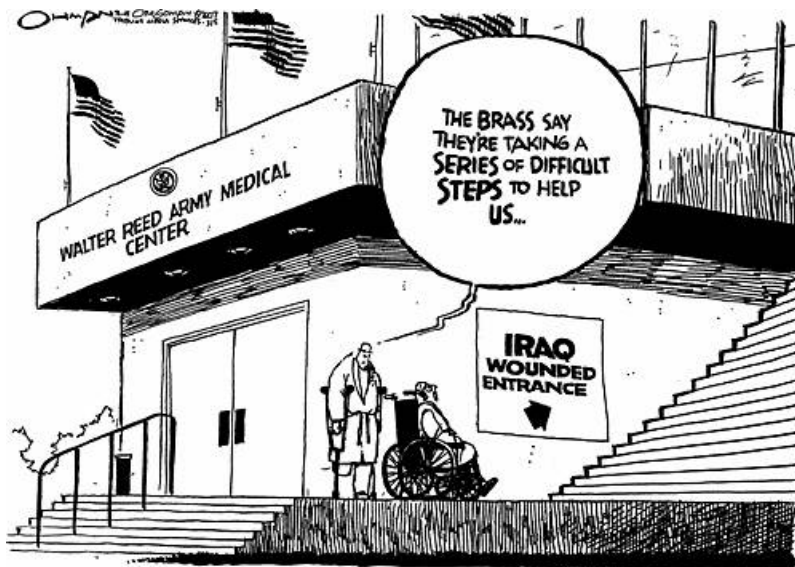


GI SPECIAL 5C16:



[Thanks to Katie GY, The Military Project]

NOTICE:

In order to participate in outreach to troops at Ft. Bragg, GI Special will suspend publication until 3.21.07. This also means that it's even more difficult to respond to and thank all the members of the armed forces, veterans and civilian activists who send in the news that makes GI Special possible. So please accept this expression of respect. T

**“She Said He Wasn’t In
Favor Of The War”
“There Was No Reason Why We
Need To Be Over There,” She
Recalled Him Saying**

ALLENTOWN -- A Pennsylvania soldier killed in Iraq had volunteered for patrol duty despite the fact it was his day off, according to his pregnant wife. Spc. Luis O. Rodriguez-Contrera, 22, and Staff Sgt. Paul M. Latourney, 28, of Roselle, Ill., were killed Friday when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle, the Department of Defense said Monday.

Both were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

Monica Rodriguez said her husband joined the Army in August 2005 and arrived at Fort Hood for training in January 2006. Before leaving for Iraq in November, he promised that he would return safely, his wife said. He was a tank driver who "wanted to come back and go to college so he could drive the helicopters," she said.

Rodriguez, who has two older children, said her husband enlisted to make a better life for the family.

She said he wasn't in favor of the war. "There was no reason why we need to be over there," she recalled him saying.

"But he had his duty, and his duty was basically to protect his country," she said.

Rodriguez, who is five months pregnant with a boy, said she will name their son after her husband.

"I will let him know that his father was the most incredible man, that his father was looking forward to seeing him, that his father was a hero," she said.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

IED Kills 4 U.S. Soldiers In Baghdad; Two More Wounded

Mar 15 The Associated Press

A roadside bomb exploded Thursday in eastern Baghdad, killing four U.S. soldiers and wounding two others, the U.S. military said.

The attack began when a bomb went off as a U.S. unit was returning from a search operation in the mostly Shiite area, the military said. Moments later, a second bomb exploded, killing and wounding the soldiers.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Anbar

15 March 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070315-05

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Soldier assigned to Multi National Force-West was killed Mar. 14 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province.

U.S. Marine Killed In Anbar

15 March 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070315-06

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Multi National Force-West died Mar. 14 in a noncombat related incident in Al Anbar Province.

Oregon Marine Killed In Action In Iraq

March 14, 2007 KPTV; Portland, OR

NEWPORT, Ore. -- An Oregon Marine was killed in action in Iraq's Al Anbar province last weekend, according to the Department of Defense.

Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Windsor, 20, died March 13 from wounds suffered during combat.

Windsor was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

According to a list maintained by the Governor's Office, Windsor is the 82nd service member from Oregon or with Oregon ties to die in Iraq or Afghanistan.

A community memorial service for Windsor is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at Newport High School.

Former Crooksville Resident Killed In Iraq

3.15.07 By HOLLY RICHARDS, Staff Writer, Zanesville Times Recorder

CROOKSVILLE — A former Crooksville resident who served as an Army specialist was recently killed in Iraq.

On Wednesday, family members of 21-year-old Brian Chevalier were notified by Army personnel of their loved one's death.

"They came to tell me yesterday, but I don't know a whole lot yet," said Rick Chevalier, Brian's father. "But he won't be back in the U.S. for a week."

Chevalier said his son left Crooksville when he was 6 years old, living in Florida, Tennessee, Arkansas and Georgia with his mother, June "Fonda" Fegar. She currently resides in Athens, Ga.

"He lived with his mom his whole life, but I remember him as a good kid; kind-hearted, fun-spirited and smart as a whip," Chevalier said. "He joined the Army on his own as something he wanted to do. He defended his country, and it's too bad it had to happen this way."

Brian's uncle, Tom Chevalier, also praised his actions. "He was a good kid," he said. "He tried to make something out of his life."

Chevalier said funeral arrangements will be left up to Brian's mother, but he hopes to bury his son in Ohio because this is where most of his family is from.

Another Arkansas Soldier Killed In Iraq



Justin Estes was 25 years old.

3/7/2007 TVH2

It's another day at Oden High School. But on this day, students pay special attention to the graduation photo from 2000. That's the year Justin Estes graduated and eventually decided to join the Army.

He was killed in Iraq just two weeks before he was due to come home. He was 25. He lived in Montgomery County in the small community of Sims.

"We all remember him playing basketball and riding his motorcycle and things he used to do to get in trouble, and he found a lot of it. But he was a good kid," says Justin's big sister Kelli Estes.

She says Justin was tall and the center of the basketball team. Justin's name is on the banners in the gym honoring their basketball accomplishments. Kelli says Justin loved movies and could quote lines from them. He was funny and quick-witted.

Kelli says, "And he got out of so much trouble with my mom because he would just make her laugh. She'd say something about his grades and he'd say, 'Pack your bags momma, we're going on a guilt trip.' And she'd start laughing at him and he never got in trouble. And I would be like I would be in so much trouble if that was me."

"As we were growing up, we played army and stuff as kids and he loved it," she recalls.

Steven Gibbs and Justin were best friends growing up. He says it was hard to hear that his boyhood friend had been killed in Iraq.

He says, "It hit me kind of hard at first. I took it pretty rough. I started thinking about why he was over there and realized, you know, that that is what he wanted to do. That's what he was meant to do."

Ex-Coloradan Dies As Hero In Iraq War

March 9, 2007 By John C. Ensslin, Rocky Mountain News

Andrew C. Perkins was running through flames with a blanket trying to rescue a fellow soldier in a burning Humvee Sunday when a second roadside bomb blast killed the 27-year-old Army paratrooper who once lived in Northglenn.

Army officials have told the family that Perkins' actions will likely result in his being nominated for a distinguished service medal, his father, Weldon Perkins, said Thursday from the family home in Belen, N.M.

"You should be proud of him too," Perkins said. "What he did was just absolutely incredible."

Andrew Perkins was one of five soldiers killed in Samara. They were members of the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, based in Fort Bragg, N.C..

They were on night patrol as they had been dozens of times before, Weldon Perkins said.

Perkins was inside the second Humvee when a roadside bomb hit the lead vehicle and it burst into flames.

"His staff sergeant told me Andrew was the first one to have boots on the ground as he ran to help the soldiers in the lead Humvee," the father said.

Three of them were already dead, but the driver was alive. Perkins ran back to his vehicle and grabbed a blanket and then ran through the flames a third time. He had just begun to pull the wounded driver out when the second blast detonated, killing them both.

Once or twice a week, at the end of his night missions, Perkins would call his dad at about 11 a.m. New Mexico time.

The last time they spoke was Friday. Perkins sounded tired but OK, his father said. He talked about a two-week leave he was getting in April. His tour of duty was scheduled to end in August.

It was not unusual for a few days to go by between calls. But then on Monday, Weldon Perkins had just returned home when he heard his wife Elizabeth in the kitchen saying "No. No. No."

There were four soldiers and a chaplain in dress uniform at the door. For one illogical moment, Perkins said he refused to let them in. If they couldn't come in, this couldn't be real, he reasoned.

"My wife and I, we just crumpled," he said.

Later, he let them in.

Andrew Perkins was born in Amarillo, Texas. He moved with his father to Tucson and later to Denver, where Weldon Perkins worked as an energy trader with Xcel Energy.

Andrew Perkins lived with his younger brother for a few months in Northglenn before enlisting. Weldon Perkins said his son loved skateboarding and just about any sport that had an edge to it. So it seemed natural that in the Army, he wanted to jump out of airplanes, the father said.

During a family outing water tubing in Winter Park, Weldon Perkins said it was Andrew who helped him start dating the woman he would eventually marry.

Andrew was sitting next to Elizabeth in a van as his father drove when he nudged her and asked, "Do you like my dad?"

"Maybe," she replied.

"Would you like to kiss him?"

The couple married about eight months later.

"He was a sweet, sweet kid," Weldon Perkins said. "Give him honor. I loved him so much. I'm going to miss him."

Former Roselle Man Dies In Iraq

March 06, 2007 By Ted Gregory, Chicago Tribune

His high school German teachers used to say Paul Latourney could speak more German than they wanted to hear.

The tall, slender young man with the affable manner also spoke Spanish fluently. His talent for language was the result of a childhood in Germany and a mother of Mexican descent.

Latourney received a partial college scholarship, but he wanted to be a soldier. On Friday, while patrolling in a perilous section of Baghdad, the Humvee he commanded was struck by a roadside bomb, killing the staff sergeant and Spc. Luis O. Rodriguez-Contrera, 22, of Allentown, Pa.

'There wasn't a more noble person,' his father, Paul, formerly of Roselle, said Monday night. 'He had the biggest heart you could imagine.'

Latourney, 28, was born in Atlanta and moved to Germany at age 3 when his father was transferred. He spent the next 13 years there before moving to Roselle in 1994 and enrolling at Lake Park High School.

He made the honor roll and was in the German club. His junior year he ran on the cross-country team. As a senior, he joined the ski club. Between his final two years of high school, he went through basic training in South Carolina, the elder Latourney said.

His parents reserved a college dorm room for him at the University of Illinois at Chicago, but Latourney never occupied it, his father said. Ten days after high school graduation, Latourney was in the Army, reporting to Ft. Bliss, near El Paso, to learn to drive Bradley tanks and Humvees, his father said.

'He just couldn't see himself in an academic environment or in an office,' his father. 'He came from a comfortable environment, and I think he wanted a little bit of a challenge.'

The Army provided him that challenge and more. Latourney was dispatched to Germany and then served in Tikrit, Iraq, in February 2004 until February 2005, when he returned to Germany for a few months. In about November 2005, Latourney was sent to Ft. Hood, Texas, then deployed to Iraq in December 2006, his father said.

'He was out all the time--night and day,' the elder Latourney said of his son's patrols. 'He loved it. He knew the risks. That's real bravery--when you know the risks and you control the fear and do what you've got to do.'

Latourney loved to snowboard, ski, hike and brew beer, his father said. He recalled a boy who 'would never argue with us' but do what he wanted. Three years ago, Latourney and his wife had a son, Isaiah, his father said.

In the Latourneys' former Roselle neighborhood, Steve Libera, who lived across the street, described Latourney as 'very intelligent, very sociable' and 'very polite.'

'He enjoyed socializing with people who were more mature,' Libera said. 'He was not one of those wild boys.'

'I can't believe it. After you know somebody from childhood, a super person like that, and they die in that way, it's just terrible, terrible to hear.'

The elder Latourney struggled to explain exactly what drew his son to the Army. It might have been the stories his paternal grandfather, a World War II veteran, told him. Whatever the motivation, Latourney's younger sister, Anna, also was intrigued. She enlisted and rose to the rank of sergeant before leaving the Army to raise a family.

On Saturday, the family sent an e-mail to friends at St. Walter Catholic Church in Roselle, which they had attended, to inform them of the grim news.

'He was a brave and very proud soldier willing to face great danger everyday,' the e-mail stated. 'He was a wonderful son and the greatest of fathers. Those truths give us much comfort, and hopefully will help us get through this period of immense grief.' The family plans to have Latourney buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Two U.S. Soldiers Seriously Wounded At FOB Loyalty



REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch: U.S. army paramedics react as one of two rescue helicopters carrying two comrades injured during a mission, takes off from the forward operating base Loyalty in Baghdad March 15, 2007.

Two soldiers were seriously injured during the mission, a paramedic said. The cause of injury was not officially confirmed.

Norman Marine Dies In Iraq

March 06, 2007 By Julianna Parker, Transcript Staff Writer, The Norman Transcript

A Norman Marine died Friday when he attempted to disarm a bomb, but saved his comrades in the process.

Staff Sgt. Dustin Michael Gould, 28, a bomb technician, was on patrol when he came across an explosive device.

Gould analyzed it and thought it was safe. He was moving it to a vehicle when a second explosive that was part of the same device exploded.

"When he was placing it in the vehicle, it exploded," his father, David Gould, told the Longmont (Colo.) Daily Times-Call.

Dustin died a hero because he saved the lives of everyone in his platoon, family friend Kay Weyneth of Norman said.

Gould was on his fourth tour of duty in Iraq and was scheduled to return home in only 15 days, his father said.

The news was delivered in person to his mother, Karen Gould, of Norman, at her work Friday at Annie's Salon, 930 24th Ave. SW.

As soon as the two Marines showed up, she knew that something was wrong, salon owner Annie Rust said, because her son had told her they would send someone in person if he died.

Karen Gould flew out to Camp Pendleton, Calif., this past weekend, where she will wait with David Gould and her son's wife, Elizabeth, until his body arrives in about a week, said Weyneth, who has known the family for years.

Memorial services in Norman are pending, she said.

Gould was born in Norman Jan. 18, 1979, Weyneth said. He moved to Colorado with his father the next year after his parents divorced.

In high school, he began researching the military. His father said he chose to join the Marines because it is such an elite group.

"It was hard to let him go," David Gould said, but Dustin had made up his mind.

"He always had a good head on his shoulders."

Family friends in Norman said he was a strong, caring person.

"You have never met such an unselfish, outstanding young man," Weyneth said. "He never gave his mother trouble, he always excelled at whatever he did, he would give you the shirt off his back. No one could wish for a better son."

Gould received medals of commendation for recovering and safely disposing of "tons" of explosives, his father said.

"It was an astronomical amount," David Gould said. "I can't remember offhand."

His exemplary actions commanded the respect of all those around him, his father said.

"He was a true Marine," he said.

This is not the first time Gould's family has experienced the pain and loss of war: Gould's half-brother, who was in the Army, was killed by a sniper in Iraq only two weeks ago, Weyneth said.

Gould is survived by his mother, father, wife at Camp Pendleton, Calif., sister Bethany White of Van Buren, Ark., and grandparents Bobby and Inez Gould of Byng.

U.S. Troops Assist Iraqis: Open Fire On Collaborator Troops

3.15.07 Reuters

U.S. forces targeting al Qaeda militants in the northern city of Mosul killed one Iraqi soldier and wounded three after thinking they were insurgents, the U.S. military said in a statement. It said U.S. soldiers had come under fire from a building and returned fire.

Notes From A Lost War:

The Resistance Springs A Trap In Baqouba; Newly Arrived Stryker Unit Hard Hit: Two Soldiers Dead, 12 Wounded And Two Strykers Destroyed; “Gunfire Seemed To Come From Nowhere And From Everywhere”

Throughout the day, soldiers took aim but seldom got a clear shot on the elusive enemy that hid behind rooftop water tanks and vanished in lush palm groves. Insurgent fire kicked up pebbles at the Americans' feet as they ran between buildings. Enemy bullets were getting more accurate.

March 15, 2007 The Associated Press

BAQOUBA, Iraq: Dozens of U.S. Stryker combat vehicles roared into Baqouba at sunrise. The enemy was ready. As the dawn call-to-prayer fell silent, the streets blazed with insurgent fire.

Within minutes of the start of their first mission in volatile Diyala province Wednesday a voice crackled across the radio: "Catastrophic kill, with casualties."

Inside the rear of one Stryker, soldiers shushed one another and leaned closer to the radio. They all knew what it meant. A U.S. vehicle had been lost to enemy fire.

Nearly 100 Strykers were called north from Baghdad into the province and its capital to try — yet again — to rout insurgents...

Diyala province is quickly becoming as dangerous as Anbar province, the Sunni insurgent bastion west of Baghdad.

Rocket-propelled grenades pounded buildings Wednesday where U.S. soldiers sought cover. Mortars soared overhead and crashed to earth spewing clouds of deadly shrapnel.

Gunfire rattled ceaselessly — the hollow pop of insurgent AK-47s and whoosh of grenade launchers nearly drowned out by shuddering blasts from U.S. 50-caliber machine guns.

Soldiers screamed into their radios for backup. Apache attack helicopters swooped in, firing Hellfire missiles.

By day's end, one soldier was dead, 12 wounded and two Strykers destroyed. The Americans said dozens of insurgents were killed but gave no specific number.

It was a brutal, bloody first-day for the 2nd Infantry Division's 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment — the crack Stryker battalion dispatched from Baghdad's northern suburbs.

"They threw everything at us — RPGs, mortars — and a guy even tossed a grenade just in front of my vehicle," said Capt. Huber Parsons, the 28-year-old commander of the 5-20's Attack company. "But the most devastating was the IEDs," the Coral Gables, Florida, native said. He was talking about improvised explosive devices — roadside bombs.

One Stryker was lost in a particularly sophisticated ambush.

Struck head-on by an IED, the rubber-tired armored vehicle was swallowed up in the bomb crater. Insurgents emerged from hiding, firing RPGs in unison.

The Stryker crew was trapped. One U.S. soldier was killed. All nine other crew members were wounded, though six later returned to duty. [See update below: Two dead.]

The other Stryker was destroyed when a roadside bomb exploded as the armored fighting vehicle drove over it. The nine-man squad got out alive, three with injuries.

"It was quite an introduction to Diyala," said Sgt. William Rose of the 5-20's 3rd platoon, Alpha company. "That was the most contact we've had in weeks, maybe months," said Rose, a 26-year-old Arlington, Massachusetts, native.

"They always say the next place we're going is the worst — the most violent — and it never turns out to be the case," Rose said. "They really meant it this time."

Insurgents have slowly been taking control for months, however. Attacks on American forces in the province have shot up 70 percent since last July, according to military figures.

The Stryker group sent to fight the insurgents was hand-picked by Gen. Ray Odierno, the second in command of all U.S. forces in Iraq.

The Stryker group arrived in Baqouba on Tuesday full of optimism about pacifying Diyala, as they had done earlier in parts of Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul.

Confidence faded Wednesday in the hail of insurgent fire and news of casualties among comrades.

"Our first day and we lost one already," said 22-year-old Spc. Jose Charriez of Hermiston, Oregon. "You realize how quickly your life can go."

He and his comrades went through names — Jones, Rubenstein, could it be them? — trying to figure out who had been killed. A young private bowed his head in prayer.

"One killed in action and nine casualties. That's basically all of us right here," said Spc. Anthony Bradshaw, a 21-year-old from San Antonio, pointing to the nine men around him.

Hunkered down in their vehicles, the 3rd platoon were itching to get out and into the fight. They are infantrymen trained for foot patrols, not to ride in armored vehicles, they said. And the news of the two lost vehicles fueled their determination.

Then the order came: dismount, clear houses to the north.

At the back of the Stryker, the hatch dropped open, and nine soldiers piled out. They took cover on the front porch of an abandoned house and plotted their path. Explosions rang out to the east, source unknown.

They crouched behind a crumbling cement wall separating overgrown lawns where rusted garbage trucks lay. With large red wire cutters, Spc. Jeremiah Westerfeld, 22, ripped through concertina wire to allow soldiers to scramble over the wall.

The Batesville, Indiana, native bent over and offered a visiting reporter his shoulder as a step to break her fall.

They dropped down into a scruffy yard, thick with foliage and muddy ruts. A dog barked wildly. Smoke grenades were thrown for cover.

Someone shot the dog.

Doors were kicked in, residents questioned. One vacant house was booby-trapped with a trip wire connected to a homemade bomb made from a propane tank.

Throughout the day, soldiers took aim but seldom got a clear shot on the elusive enemy that hid behind rooftop water tanks and vanished in lush palm groves. Gunfire seemed to come from nowhere and from everywhere.

Insurgent fire kicked up pebbles at the Americans' feet as they ran between buildings. Enemy bullets were getting more accurate.

In Baghdad, the 5-20 had found little resistance as the unit scoured suspected insurgent dens in neighborhoods around Sadr City. They often drank tea with locals.

Things were different in Diyala, which could prove far more difficult to tame than Baghdad.

"I think the chai (tea) days — the quiet days — are over," said 24-year-old Pfc. Allen Groth of Winona, Minnesota.

<p>3.15.07 Reuters: DIYALA PROVINCE - Two U.S. soldiers were killed by separate explosions near their vehicles in Diyala province on Wednesday, and a third was shot and killed. Another nine soldiers were wounded, a U.S. statement said.</p>
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AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Assorted Resistance Action

March 13, 2007 Los Angeles Times & 03/15/2007 RAHIM FAIEZ, The Associated Press & News Limited

A bomber struck near a police convoy in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday. A policeman was killed. Nine policemen were wounded, and a mullah who led prayers at the police headquarters, police official Wazir Padshah said.

The attacker, described as a young man wearing a Muslim prayer cap, detonated his explosives as the last in a column of police vehicles passed in front of a bank in Khost, a city near the Pakistani border, officials and witnesses said.

Also Wednesday, suspected Taliban fighters attacked a police checkpoint near Qalat in the southern province of Zabul. The ensuing gunbattle left a policeman wounded, said Zabul highway police commander Ghulam Jailali.

In a similar incident, Kandahar provincial police chief Esmatullah Alizai said two police were killed and one wounded in a gunbattle that followed a Taliban attack on a checkpoint Tuesday night on the Spin Boldak-Kandahar highway.

A roadside bomb targeting a police convoy killed nine officers and critically wounded one in western Afghanistan, officials said.

Welcome To Liberated Afghanistan

03/15/2007 RAHIM FAIEZ The Associated Press

NATO said its forces in Kandahar fired at a truck that came too close to their convoy Wednesday, killing the driver.

TROOP NEWS

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



The coffin of Army Sgt. Richard Ford, during a funeral ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery March 5, 2007. Ford of East Hartford, Conn., died on Feb. 20, of wounds suffered during combat operations near Baghdad. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING GI RESISTANCE PANEL DISCUSSION THIS SUNDAY EVENING!

When:

Sunday, March 18th from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Where:

**Judson Memorial Church, Washington
Square Park, NYC**

Who:

**Jose Vasquez of Iraq Veterans Against the War - Army sergeant and medic,
applied for Conscientious Objector status when assigned to Gulf - President of
New York IVAW**

**Michael Harmon of Iraq Veterans Against the War (+ at least one other panelist
from IVAW)**

**Katherine Gorell of the Military Project - focusing on civilian outreach to service
members**

Why:

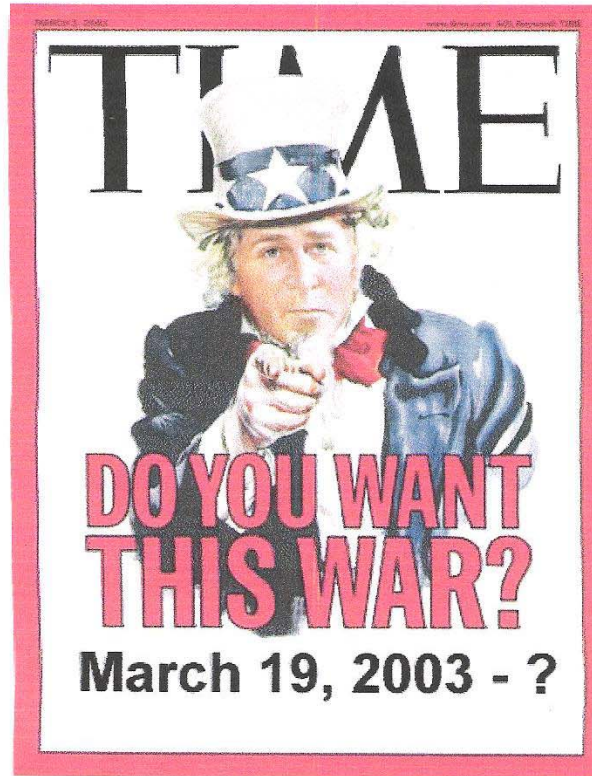
**We want to end the war NOW (Not by September 2008!)--and we need to build the
movement from below that can do this!**

Not another death, day or dollar!

**Show your support for troops (and vets) who are actively organizing against the
war--and have the power to stop it!**

**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, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657



BENEFIT FOR IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR

We invaded Iraq 4 years ago. What are you doing about it? Join host **Anthony Lappé** and comedian **Seth Herzog** (Vh1) for a night of hilarity and pathos to benefit your local branch of the nation's leading antiwar veterans organization. **Hear what it's really like over there straight from vets. With video, music and prizes!**

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8:00 PM RECEPTION & PHOTO EXHIBIT - NINA BERMAN (*PURPLE HEARTS*)

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9-MIDNIGHT *THE WAR ROOM*: \$15 ADVANCE, \$20 @ DOOR



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**GUESS WHO'S WORRIED
GUESS WHO ISN'T
GUESS WHY
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



An Iraqi citizen watches foreign occupation soldiers of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment of the Second Infantry Division, U.S. Army as they patrol in Baghdad's Sadr City, March 9, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

3.15.07 Reuters & By Claudia Parsons, Reuters

A car bomber targeting an Iraqi army and police checkpoint killed eight policemen and soldiers in the Karrada district of central Baghdad. The blast wounded 25 more, including two bodyguards of city mayor Sabir al-Issawi, who was unhurt, witnesses said.

In the town of Iskandariya, 7 people died and 35 were wounded when a car bomb exploded as a bus carrying state employees passed by a stronghold of insurgents fighting the U.S.-backed government.

Another car bomber killed an Iraqi soldier at an Iraqi army checkpoint in Baghdad's western Yarmouk district, while in the northern city of Mosul a car bomb killed a policeman.

Clashes erupted between insurgents and police when they attacked a police station in the town of Dhuluiya. A police officer was killed and another wounded.

Guerrillas killed a policeman and a man working with the police as a cook in Mosul, police said.

A car bomb targeting a police patrol wounded a policeman in the northern city of Mosul, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“In The Beginning Was The Ops Plan”

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

03.14.07 ftapao, Walterreed.blogspot.com

In the beginning was the Ops Plan.

And then came the Orders.

And the Orders were without form.

And darkness was upon the face of the privates.

And they spoke among themselves, saying, "It is a crock of shit, and it stinketh."

And the privates went unto their sergeants and said, "It is a pail of dung, and none may abide the odor thereof."

And the sergeants went unto their lieutenants, saying, "It is a container of excrement, and it is very strong, such that none may abide by it."

And the lieutenants went unto their captains, saying, "It is a vessel of fertilizer, and none may abide its strength."

And the captains spoke amongst themselves, saying one to another, "It contains that which aids plant growth, and it is very strong."

And the captains then went onto the colonels, saying unto them, "It promotes growth and is very powerful."

And the colonels went unto the generals, saying unto them, "This new plan will actively promote the growth and vigor of the Army; with powerful effects."

And the generals looked upon the Plan, and saw that it was good.

And the Plan became Policy.

This is How Shit Happens.

March 16, 1968: My Lai: Unhappy Anniversary



[Vietnam GI, June 1970]

MY LAI

“C” Company the Goat ?

Vietnam GI

Because when you come right down to it, the wrong people are on trial for atrocities.

Nixon, Westmoreland, Abrams and Mendal Rivers, the very bullshitters who are most eager to see Charlie Co. brought to justice, are finally the men most responsible for My Lai. They were the ones telling us that Ky and Thieu's corrupt government is worth dying for. They are the ones who taught us to kill, who put us over here in this mind-fucking shit hole and told us to go to it. In short, they started the war and they know you never have a war without atrocities.

[Vietnam GI, June 1970]

Laughin', Cryin',
Livin', Dyin'
Hee Haw
Who's the jackass now?

Charlie Co. is the jackass. From Nixon and Abrams on down to all sorts of deluded fat ass lifers and selfrighteous civi-pigs there is a feeling that Charlie Co. really blew it. They didn't give candy bars to the kids of My Lai. They didn't pass out soap to the women. Instead they blew off the village.

So the men of Charlie Co. fucked up. They didn't act like your friendly neighborhood Peace Corpsman. They acted instead like the ordinary sons of ordinary people.

They acted like an outfit of short-timers and Purple Heart winners who'd been in the shit, who'd lived it and breathed it for a long time. They acted like men who

were taught to believe in and respect officers like Lt. Calley, who awarded himself an extra 7 days leave while his platoon was being chopped to shit in a minefield. They acted like men who were given the bullshit line about getting their GED's and going to an Army school and then were dumped into the infantry.

The men of Charlie Co. conducted themselves like men whose personal knowledge of the Vietnamese people came from encounters with whores, pimps, begging kids, black market operators, thieves, and of course the VC. They acted like men, a tight group of men, who for two months had seen their brothers getting mangled in mine fields and ripped off by snipers and who'd rarely seen anybody to shoot back at.

Sound familiar so far?

Then pay attention.

Charlie Co. is ordered by Lt. Col. Barker to hit My Lai 4. He tells Medina there's a crack VC battalion in the village. They are supposed to destroy it, then burn out the village.

Next day they move in. No VC. But a few of the villagers panic and run. The men, fucked over, psyched up, looking for revenge, open fire.

A lot of people fall.

The rest of them are too scared to move.

Next we see Snot Calley ordering his men to herd the people into ditches and to start cutting them down. Some do and dig it. Some get pissed off and sickened by the whole thing.

Calley and Medina make a bullshit body count, find a few imaginary weapons, and pull out. A few days later Westmoreland commends Medina for doing a good job. The real story gets hushed up for the obvious reasons that nobody in the Army wanted the publicity

But after 20 months word does get out. And as the story gets pieced together by the CID, the press takes it up. The Establishment is surprised, shocked and outraged... both because there was a massacre ("How could our boys have done such a thing?"), and because the Army covered it up.

After showing that their hearts were in the right place, they gave up the stage to the Brass with parting remarks to the effect of "well, if you are just men, you will not sweep this under the rug... you will see to it that the guilty are punished."

Enter the Brass, anxious to prove that they are indeed, just men.

How do they do it?

They tell the ex-GIs of Charlie Co. that they want them to come to Washington, all expenses paid, to tell their version of the massacre so they can get the goods on Calley.

Half of the company gets sucked in. Now that the Brass has the whole story of My Lai, what do they do?

The two-faced bastards turn around and announce their intention to prosecute the whole company. But you say most of the guys are civilians now, so they are out of the reach of military "justice"? Well, not exactly... the latest is that the JAG is trying to find a way to extradite them to SVN for trial.

The Brass is really pissed at Charlie Co. But it's not because they give a fuck about the killing of innocent people.

If that were true they'd be a little more careful where they ordered air and artillery strikes. They'd also find it a little harder to just shrug when they hit our own men and say, "Well, accidents happen you know."

What they are pissed about is that news of the massacre has made them and their war look worse than they ever have before. So they know what they have to do. Put the screws to Charlie Co., to make it look to people back home and around the world that they believe in-fighting a good clean war.

At the same time they are making the GI's of Charlie look like bloodthirsty freaks. While everyone is talking about what a terrible thing it is they completely forget who is really responsible.

Because when you come right down to it, the wrong people are on trial for atrocities.

Nixon, Westmoreland, Abrams and Mendal Rivers, the very bullshitters who are most eager to see Charlie Co. brought to justice, are finally the men most responsible for My Lai. They were the ones telling us that Ky and Thieu's corrupt government is worth dying for. They are the ones who taught us to kill, who put us over here in this mind-fucking shit hole and told us to go to it. In short, they started the war and they know you never have a war without atrocities.

If you put men in the shit long enough, you're going to have My Lai's.

It's as simple as that.

If they were really concerned about putting a stop to massacres like My Lai they'd stop the war.

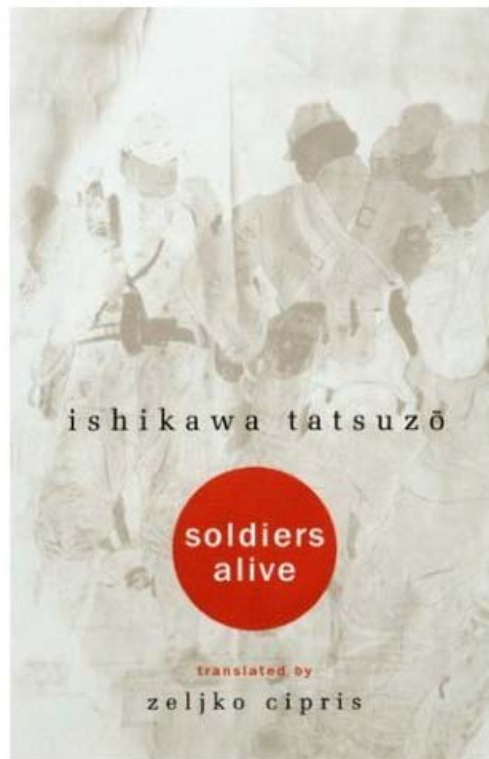
But right now their concerns are very clear; easy promotions, soft civilian jobs for retired Brass, and money for the owners of the arms industry. If by making the men of Charlie Co. into the scapegoat they can keep the ball rolling a bit longer you can bet your ass they'll do it.

Comment: T

If you're looking for people to blame for the endless evil shit that happens in Iraq in this dishonorable Imperial war, blame the politicians that put the troops downrange, in an impossible situation.

Everything flows from the act of invasion and conquest ordered up by the greedy Imperial liars and traitors in Washington DC. They are the enemy.

Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there's no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z



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.

TOP U.S. GENERAL PUTS IT IN HIS MOUTH

March 15, 2007 By James Ryan, Cofounder, West Point Graduates Against The War.

His foot, that is.

After four years of conducting an illegal war in Iraq, which has killed almost one million people, maimed, wounded and dislocated millions more, tortured countless thousands, and in general brutalized and destroyed a once sovereign, secular country, wreaking havoc and disgrace in the world for his own country, the military's top general has put his finger on (or into) the problem, and his foot firmly into his trap.

It's all about whose sexual organ rubs against another's.

Or, "Mothers lock up your sons and daughters, the fleet's in... with other mothers' sons and daughters in the crew."

How astoundingly stupid this morality lesson from our dear, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Peter Pace... and at taxpayer expense.

"I believe homosexual acts between two individuals are immoral and that we should not condone immoral acts," General Peter Pace recently opined ex cathedra to the Chicago Tribune, forgetting his own long and growing rap sheet of ordering war crimes in the name of Bush-Cheney Incorporated.

General Peter Pace doesn't much like adultery either, telling the newspaper that homosexual acts were "akin to a member of the armed forces conducting an adulterous affair with the spouse of another service member."

In fact, my dear, spick-and-span General Peter Pace, adultery is one of those activities that takes only one married entity to tango. So it's not at all akin to your (and the military's) tortured, credential-laden formulation.

Picture Burt Lancaster rolling around in the Waikiki sand of your closed mind with Deborah Kerr. Or did you miss that film, too?

If so, know that we won the war despite Sgt. Burt's hanky-panky.

My dear, deluded General Peter Pace, do you really think that your real-life military fighting persons only have extra marital shenanigans with other, card-carrying, ring-wearing spouses?

Or, more particularly (morality-wise), do you think that your married fighting men and women in Iraq are only having sex with unmarried men and women, not necessarily in that order?

And if so, would that make it okay?

Therefore, by your standards, is your military force in Iraq a moral one?

“I believe,” said the proselytizing Pace, “that military members who sleep with other military members’ wives are immoral in their conduct.”

Well maybe, but why target the wives?

Ah, those desperate, temptress military member’s wives. Talk about stomping through a gender minefield.

Sex is confusing, isn’t it? But perhaps you are investigating this issue (with all the vigor of the usual military investigations in Iraq) in order to have a lily-white moral fighting force.

No gays, no bad-bad sex.

No kidding?

Be serious, General Peter Pace.

But then, you are.

Fine, then investigate your fighting forces. Eliminate ALL the immoral apples from the barrel, and not just the gays. Get rid of the adulterers, too, that is, anyone who is married who had sex with anyone or anything other than the legal beloved. And fornicators. And criminals. And sinners in general, General.

And start counting the beer consumption too.

Thinking about it, this may be the best way to bring the troops home from the overwhelming moral disaster in which they serve. Then you’d indeed have a true “army of one,” and perhaps you’d be “it.”

Or do you, my dear, criminal accomplice General Peter Pace, like the deal your criminal boss gave you there? Good for the career, maybe?

Methinks you protest much too much in public about some things and much too little about others, General Peter Pace. Like the medical care of the wounded, for example.

The general said his views were based on his “personal upbringing,” in which he was taught that certain types of conduct are immoral. At this point in his life, with his awesome responsibilities, perhaps the good general should be relying more on his “non-personal” upbringing.

He was born in Brooklyn, which, as every schoolchild knows, has never tolerated gays or adulterers.

Thence to New Jersey, where he was raised, the full while no doubt maintaining and reinforcing his chastity and moral probity, despite being on the “other” side of the Hudson River.

His parents allowed him to venture forth into that tiny sliver of the real world known as a “Service Academy,” in his case, the United States Naval Academy – no cruising allowed there.

He graduated in 1967, apparently totally oblivious to the four-year education intended to shape body, mind and spirit, TO INSTILL HONOR, and to develop military people with broad, worldly educations.

He currently consorts with unrestrained civilian criminals, for whom he personally supervises murder, torture, and the vast destruction of private property.

For ocular proof see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwkyXyHpTqM>.

In his limited spare time, he casts homophobic slurs in public in the name of the United States military. Sadly, the petty Pace seems the very model of a modern political general.

James Ryan, a 1962 graduate of the United States Military Academy, is co-founder of West Point Graduates Against The War (<http://www.westpointgradsagainstthewar.org/>) and Service Academy Graduates Against The War (<http://www.sagaw.org/>).

SUBJECT: COMMAND REDUCTION OF ARMY PERSONNEL (C.R.A.P) “Here Is A Memorandum That Has Been Passed Around In The Medical Brigade”

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

March 13, 2007 Walterreed.blogspot.com

Here is a memorandum that has been passed around in the Medical Brigade for a little over a year.

The reader will have to imagine it being typed on official Army letterhead...because it is. It's a shame that it is so true.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

**WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
6900 GEORGIA AVE, N.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20307-5001**

MCHL-MCB

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: COMMAND REDUCTION OF ARMY PERSONNEL (C.R.A.P)

1. As a result of DOD budget cutbacks, we are forced to reduce the size of the force. Under CRAP, older Soldiers will go on early retirement, thus permitting the retention of lower paid Soldiers who represent the Army's future.
2. A program to phase out older Soldiers via retirement by the end of the current fiscal year will be placed in effect. The program will be known as the Retire Active Personnel Early (RAPE).
3. Soldiers who are RAPEd will be given the opportunity to seek civilian employment with in the Department of the Army. To that end, RAPEd Soldiers will be required to fill out numerous DA forms (currently in the development, test, and evaluation stage) detailing their education and experience.

This phase does not guarantee retired Soldiers a civil service position; it does, however, guarantee that Soldiers' unique capabilities will be considered before being bypassed in the hiring process. This phase of CRAP is known as Survey of Capabilities of Retired Warriors (SCREW).

4. Soldiers who have been RAPEd and SCREWed may request review of their situation by higher authority. This is the Study by Higher Authority Following Termination (SHAFT) phase.
5. CRAP policy dictates that a Soldier may be RAPEd once, SCREWed twice, but may be SHAFTed as many times as the Army leadership deems appropriate.
6. If a Soldier follows the above procedures, he or she will be entitled to get Half Earnings for Retired Personnel Early Severance (HERPES). As HERPES is considered a benefit payment, any Soldier who gets HERPES will no longer be RAPEd or SCREWed by the Army.
7. The Army leadership wishes to assure younger Soldiers who remain on active duty that the Army will continue its policy of ensuring that Soldiers are well trained through our Special High Intensity Training (SHIT) program.

The Army takes pride in the amount of SHIT our Soldiers receive and can boast that it gives its Soldiers more SHIT than any other service.

8. If a Soldier feels he or she does not get enough SHIT, see your commander. Your commander is especially trained to make sure you receive all the SHIT you can stand.
9. Point of contact is the undersigned.

Name Withheld
Rank, USA
Med Hold Company

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



3.13.07: An Iraqi citizen pleads with foreign occupation soldiers from Baker Company 2-12 Infantry Battalion, USA, not to wreck her home or make her family stand outside in the cold as they search her home in the Dora neighbourhood of southern Baghdad. (Photo: AFP/David Furst)

[Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.]

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

"My sons and wife were very terrified," complained Muhannad Mihbas, 30, who said his brother and six cousins were taken in the sweeps. "Does the security plan mean arresting innocent people and scaring civilians at night?" BRIAN MURPHY, AP, Feb. 27, 2007

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

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.org/)

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/maqalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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