

GI SPECIAL 5C28:

Bush Reveals New Plan To Wipe Out Iraqi Insurgents As Unrest Breaks Out Inside The Armed Forces



Bush showing press his new anti-insurgency tactic. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

**July 4, 2008
FTA News Service**

Bush, at the North Portico of the White House today, flanked by Republican House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, left, and Republican House Minority Whip

Roy Blunt of Mo., revealed a new weapon against insurgents in Iraq that he said will guarantee victory.

He told reporters than when he stamps his left foot, the insurgents will all disappear. "See," he said, "I am doing it now."

He added that this won't happen immediately, and that it will be necessary to keep U.S. troops in Iraq "until the power of my foot manifests itself."

He promised to stamp his foot at least once a week until Iraq is "prosperous and peaceful."

Democrat House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was quick to condemn the President's latest move.

She accused Bush of practicing the Satanic Ritual Of The Lifted Foot and added that if "this evil scheme" did not produce progress in Iraq by April 30, 2011, House and Senate Democrats would have no choice but to complain loudly and excitedly, sending him rude emails, wherever he might be by that time.

In other news, reports reached Washington this afternoon that at least five combat-ready brigades of U.S. troops have placed their commanding officers under arrest at Army and Marine bases in North Carolina, Georgia and New York today, elected new officers, and are moving on the nation's capitol to express their own views of how to end the war in Iraq.

A spokesperson for the troops, speaking for background only, told FTA News Service that as a result of their action, neither they, nor any other troops, will ever be deployed from the United States to Iraq or Afghanistan again.

However, she said that their newly-formed Joint Armed Forces Council -- made up of delegates elected from the Army, Navy, Marines, Airforce, National Guard and Reserves -- which now commands the armed forces of the United States, view it as dishonorable and cowardly to leave their brothers-and sisters-in-arms facing death in Imperial war overseas while they are safe at home.

She told FTA News "The Joint Armed Forces Council has agreed that upon arrival in Washington, and liberating it from the domestic enemies who now control the government, it will be necessary to order that all our brothers and sisters be brought home immediately."

She thanked the hundreds of thousands of citizens and veterans who are surrounding military bases all over America to show their support for the troops' decision to obey their oath to defend the Constitution and American citizens "from all enemies, foreign and domestic."

"The domestic assholes are history," she said.

"Now we have a cause worth fighting for."

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.



1968: Vietnam

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Jamaican Soldier Killed In Iraq



Stephen Ron Oneil Karl Richardson, a Jamaican in the US Army who died on duty in Iraq

March 22, 2007 KERRY McCATTY, Observer staff reporter

ABOUT 4:00 am on Tuesday, Jacqueline Hamilton-Carby said her morning prayers, but could not return to sleep.

Her son Stephen Richardson, who had been living in the United States since 1999, was on her mind. She decided to write him a letter.

"It has been 43 days, that is 1,032 hours or 61,920 minutes better yet 3, 715,200 seconds since I heard your voice. That is a long, l-o-n-g time, but whereas I was worried before, I have placed you in the hand of God," Hamilton-Carby wrote.

Four hours after she put down her pen, 22-year-old Richardson, a member of the US Army who had been deployed to the war in Iraq, was dead.

"My, my, my, my son," Hamilton-Carby muttered, with a deep sigh yesterday afternoon.

"I was hoping that maybe is a hand blow off or maybe a foot," Hamilton-Carby said of her state of mind when she first learnt later that day that something had happened to her son. When she finally got confirmation of his death, she just broke down.

Hamilton-Carby was not formally notified of her son's death until yesterday afternoon. A lieutenant based at the American Embassy in Kingston, gave her the news - although she had already spoken to her son's wife earlier in the day and had her worst fears confirmed.

Hamilton-Carby is not sure how her son died, but is satisfied that God took him at the appropriate time.

"I am not angry with the US Army, I am not angry with Mr Bush, I'm not angry with anyone. I refuse to be angry. He chose to go there...I just view it as the work of God," Hamilton-Carby said, clearly saddened. She told the Observer that she had cried so much the day before, she felt like she had no more tears left.

Hamilton-Carby said she last spoke to her son on February 5 - the day he was deployed to Iraq. In the letter she wrote to him early Tuesday morning, she called Richardson the "crowned one".

Hamilton-Carby said arrangements will be made for the funeral of her only child to be held in St Mary.

"I told them that he is a Jamaican and I want him here," she said.

Richardson died leaving behind one child and baby scheduled to arrive on July 7 - on the same day he would have celebrated his 23rd birthday had he lived.

Baghdad Soldier Dies

Mar. 31, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070331-04

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier died March 30 due to a nonbattle related cause.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers pass under a generator powered light as they patrol a Baghdad neighborhood with other soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division. [Rick Loomis / LA Times]

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Assorted Resistance Action

Mar 31, 2007 Deutsche Presse-Agentur (AP)

Taliban attacked an Afghan police patrol in southern Uruzgan province on Thursday, killing five Afghan security forces and taking another prisoner another, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement.

The U.S.-led coalition said that one Afghan guard was killed and another was wounded.

The reason for the difference in the two counts could not be immediately explained. [Sure it can. NATO command reports what happened. U.S. command, as usual, lies, an old practice going back to Vietnam days: "Always make our guys

look good.” And as ever, they’re too stupid to understand what happens when you believe your own bullshit.]

Afghan and ISAF troops conducted an operation and rescued the captured police who was also wounded during the firefight, the statement said, but it did not say if there was any casualty on the Taliban side.

Meanwhile, a group 25 Taliban attacked Sar Hawzeh district centre of eastern Paktika Province on Friday, a separate ISAF statement said.

The militants took hostage an Afghan policeman.

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

Casco Native Dies In Afghanistan Crash



Sgt. Edmund McDonald, 25, who grew up in Casco, was killed this week in a vehicle accident in Afghanistan.

March 31, 2007 By JOSIE HUANG, Staff Writer; Blethen Maine Newspapers, Inc.

CASCO - Tears mingled with laughter Friday as Sgt. Edmund McDonald's large Irish clan pored over pictures they had gathered after learning of his death in Afghanistan.

What a hippie he is in that picture with that long hair! He always wanted to be from the 1970s.

Remember how impossible it was to wake him up?

He was so scared of heights, he wouldn't even climb up three rungs of a ladder, recalled the older of two cousins named Mike McDonald.

To his mother, it almost felt like he was in the room, smiling wider than everybody else.

"Ed's with us right now," said Kathy McDonald, who oversees a Head Start program in Casco. "Without Ed in our hearts, we wouldn't get through it."

The family learned on Thursday morning that the 25-year-old Army sergeant had been killed the day before while on convoy duty, when the vehicle he was riding in tipped over.

He is the 31st service member with ties to Maine to die in Afghanistan or Iraq, and the state's second casualty in a week.

Sgt. Jason Swiger of South Portland was killed on Sunday by a suicide bomber in Iraq.

Both men belonged to the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, based at Fort Bragg, N.C., and were on their third tours of duty.

McDonald had just bought a house near the base with his wife of nearly three years, Melissa, a fellow student from Lake Region High School in Naples.

McDonald had committed to a career in the military.

Before he enlisted in late 2003, he bounced between positions such as a preschool teacher, a construction worker and a high school janitor. The military could have been the farthest thing from his mind, which was preoccupied with guitar-playing and the Grateful Dead.

McDonald used to say that he would move to Canada if the draft was ever activated.

But when one of his best friends, the younger of the two Mikes, told him of his experiences at Army boot camp, McDonald realized that he yearned for the same kind of structure and discipline in his life.

"He knew he needed a lifestyle change," said Mike McDonald, who is 25 and lives in Portland.

His first two deployments were to Iraq.

In April 2005, during his second tour, McDonald was one of three Maine servicemen who spoke with loved ones via a live satellite feed during the Heroes Parade in Portland.

An estimated crowd of 30,000 attended the event to honor the troops as well as the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots.

"Hey, who's there from the Patriots?" McDonald asked.

His family said that during his time in the Army, McDonald did everything from conquering his fear of heights to becoming a mentor for other soldiers.

He always made sure that no one felt left out, and asked his older sister, Chris Cronin of Portland, to organize letter-writing campaigns to soldiers. He shared presents he got from the community and relatives.

"Except for the brownies," Cronin said.

Cronin said that even after he cut his hair and learned to follow a regimented lifestyle, McDonald remained his tender-hearted self.

He called her son's preschool from Iraq on the boy's third birthday, she said.

He showered his family with presents, including paintings he that commissioned from artists when he was in Iraq.

One of them -- a portrait of his beloved Jessie, the deceased family dog -- hangs amid the antler displays at his mother's house.

Always thinking of his family, McDonald said his duties in Afghanistan were restricted to those of a mechanic.

Only his cousin, the younger Mike, knew that he was traveling with convoys.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Bush Collaborators Under Attack In Somalia: Resistance Shoots Down Helicopter; Occupation Soldiers Bodies Dragged Through The Streets

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in. With the full backing of the Bush regime, including air attacks by U.S. forces, the Ethiopian government invaded Somalia a few months ago to get rid of a popular government hostile to the U.S. Empire. Looks like payback. T]

March 30, 2007 Guardian Unlimited

The Somalian capital, Mogadishu, was today ravaged by the worst fighting for 15 years, the International Committee of the Red Cross has said.

For the past two days, Ethiopian and Somali forces have sought to crush an insurgency by Islamists and clan militia.

Insurgents today shot down a helicopter gunship in the city as government and allied troops battled hundreds of gunmen [translation: patriotic Somalia citizens who do not wish to be enslaved by a Bush sponsored foreign occupation] in the streets.

"The helicopter looked like a ball of smoke and fire before crashing," Ruqiya Shafi Muhyadin, who watched as the aircraft went down near Mogadishu's airport, said.

Somali soldiers and troops from neighbouring Ethiopia, in Somalia to protect the fragile government [translation: to keep the occupation government in power] were under severe attack for a second day.

Mobs dragged dead Ethiopian soldiers through the streets yesterday, and gunmen [see translation above] posed with the corpses.

"A mortar has just fallen into the house next to me. We can hear crying," Faisal Jamah, a resident in the south of the capital, said. "We barely slept. ... The sky was lit up by shelling all night."

Analysts said Addis Ababa [translation: the pro-Bush dictatorship that controls Ethiopia] appeared set on an all-out push against the insurgents, who have been emboldened by recent strikes, including the shooting down of an aeroplane serving an African peacekeeping [translation: occupation] mission.

While Christian-led [translation: military dictatorship led] Ethiopia hopes the offensive will crush the rebels, experts warned it may have the opposite effect, further alienating the city's population or attracting foreign Muslim jihadists [translation: people of various faiths who hate Bush and the U.S. Empire].

Despite the carnage, the prime minister [translation: Bush collaborator] Ali Mohamed Gedi, said he was confident a major reconciliation conference scheduled for mid-April would still go ahead. He denied security was in tatters.

The African Union (AU) has sent 1,200 Ugandan troops to help the government [translation: to help kill Somalis who do not want Bush's whores running their country] but they have been attacked.

Other African nations are balking at sending further troops needed to boost the AU force to its planned strength of 8,000.

TROOP NEWS

400 From Fort Drum And 300 From Fort Polk Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

April 2, 2007 Army Times

About 400 soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, will deploy to Iraq in late April and early May, according to a press release from Fort Drum, N.Y.

The squadron will begin loading its 30 OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters in late March for the upcoming deployment, which was moved up one month to support the increase of troops in Iraq.

More than 300 soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, will deploy to Iraq soon after March 22, according to a press release from Fort Polk, La.

They will provide convoy security support in northern and southern Iraq.

The regiment falls under 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Polk.

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



The casket containing Marine PFC Bufford Kenny VanSlyke in Bay City, Michigan, March 12, 2007. VanSlyke was killed at a checkpoint in Fallujah, Iraq. REUTERS/Rebecca Cook

250 From Nebraska National Guard Locked In The Kill Zone

April 2, 2007 Army Times

About 250 Nebraska National Guard soldiers are spending an extra 125 days in Iraq, part of the Bush administration's military buildup to crack down on rising sectarian violence and insurgents.

The 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry Regiment, and 134th Infantry Detachment won't be back until July, although they should have been home already.

The cavalry squadron is responsible for base security at Camp Anaconda, where 27,000 U.S. troops are stationed north of Baghdad.

As of March 21, there were 63,211 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers on active duty in support of the partial mobilization, according to a Defense Department press release, bringing the total number of reservists mobilized in all services to 80,373.

As Troops Die From IEDs, Pentagon Pigs At The Trough Get Fat On Blood Money And Won't Tell Who's Profiting From Billions Spent By IED Project To Accomplish Nothing

April 02, 2007 Editorial, Army Times

In the often surreal world of federal Washington, a billion dollars is a drop in the ocean.

But as Republican Sen. Everett Dirksen of Illinois supposedly quipped back in the 1960s: "A billion here, a billion there, pretty soon it adds up to real money."

So it is with the Joint IED Defeat Organization, which has the critical mission of devising ways to counter improvised explosive devices — the ubiquitous roadside bombs that have killed and injured so many U.S. troops in the combat zones.

What began as a small Army office in 2004 has exploded into a bureaucracy employing 400 staffers working with numerous defense contractors.

Since its creation, the outfit has received \$6.3 billion in funding, and in February, President Bush asked for a similar amount for the rest of this year and next.

Even in Washington, \$13 billion is nothing to sneeze at. But it would be money well-spent if it could neutralize the deadly impact of IEDs.

Unfortunately, IEDs continue to account for more U.S. combat deaths than any other cause. In the past 12 months, 56 percent of the more than 700 Army deaths in the war zones resulted from roadside bombs.

The organization says it can't talk in detail about its work, lest it give away secrets to the bad guys.

But there can and should be a more public accounting of where those billions are going.

Even Congress feels left in the dark.

In their 2007 supplemental funding bill, Senate appropriators said the organization's roles lack "clarity and definition," expressed concern about its "exponential growth" and noted that "all contractor support is not being accounted for properly."

Lawmakers demanded a report on those and other related issues by May 18.

In the meantime, the only conclusion an impartial observer can draw is that insurgents building highly effective bombs for little more than spare change are getting far more bang for their buck than U.S. troops are getting from the JIEDDO.

“The U.S. Army Is Not The Boss Of The Canadian Police” AWOL Iraq Veteran Set Free

March 30, 2007 By Sam Bernstein, Seattle; Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

ON FEBRUARY 23, under the direction of U.S. authorities, AWOL U.S. soldier Kyle Snyder was illegally arrested by Canadian police and detained for seven hours.

The 23-year-old Snyder was an engineer with the Army's 94th Corps of Engineers and was sent to Iraq in 2004. Despite not being trained as a combat soldier, he was immediately assigned to conduct ground patrols and raids of Iraqi homes.

After witnessing an innocent Iraqi man seriously wounded by U.S. weapons fire, Snyder turned against the war. While on leave in the U.S. in April 2005, he decided to go AWOL to Canada rather than return to Iraq for a second tour. In late October 2006, Snyder decided to return to the U.S., turn himself into the Army and request a discharge.

His lawyers had worked out a deal with the Army in which he would go to Fort Knox in Kentucky, be processed back into uniform, and then promptly discharged.

However, upon surrendering himself, the Army said they were transferring him back to his unit's command at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, and that his unit would decide what to do with him.

Rather than face an uncertain future with his unit--including possibly being redeployed to Iraq or sent to prison, Snyder went AWOL again.

"I realized this deal was going to go bad," Snyder said. "I came back in good faith. I put my trust in them one more time. Why should I put my trust in them again when I can just go back to Canada?"

However, Snyder did not immediately return to Canada--he just didn't show up at Fort Leonard Wood. Instead, he went on a national speaking tour around the U.S. with Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) publicizing his case and speaking out against the war on Iraq.

"At the end of the day," Snyder said while facing the immediate threat of arrest, "you have to ask yourself if this is something you can live with. It's your life and the choice is ultimately yours to make. I said no, and I will never regret it."

Snyder spent late November 2006 with IVAW doing volunteer reconstruction work in New Orleans more than a year after Hurricane Katrina devastated the region. As a military engineer, he said, "There are so many engineering units of the U.S. military--they should be here and not in Iraq."

While at a public speaking event in Oakland, Calif., on December 8, 2006, local police attempted to arrest Snyder under orders from the Army. Snyder then decided it was time to return to safety in Canada. "I was planning to return to Canada anyway," said Snyder. But that safety was short-lived when Canadian police arrested and detained Snyder for unspecified immigration violations.

Snyder has been living in Nelson, British Columbia, with his fiancée Maleah Friesen--a Canadian--and fellow U.S. war resisters Ryan and Jenna Johnson. On February 23, 2007, Canadian police knocked on their door. Snyder, who had been cooking in the kitchen, appeared in his bare feet, wearing only a robe and boxer shorts.

The police barged into the house, grabbed Snyder, handcuffed his hands behind his back, and, without letting him put on any clothes, dragged him off to the Nelson police station.

The police had no warrant for Snyder's arrest. He was not read his rights or allowed to call his lawyer. Nelson police told him he would be deported to the U.S., where he is wanted for unauthorized absence from the Army.

Snyder's housemates frantically called members of the Canadian parliament who, in turn, called Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Immigration officials informed Nelson police they had no legal basis for arresting Snyder. Nelson Police released Snyder after holding him incommunicado for seven hours.

Joci Peri, an immigration official in Vancouver, later told Snyder he had been arrested at the request of the U.S. Army.

Being AWOL from another country's military is not an extraditable offense in Canada, nor does it have any bearing on immigrating to Canada, according to Vancouver lawyer Daniel McLeod, who is representing Snyder.

"And the U.S. Army is not the boss of the Canadian police," says Gerry Condon of Project Safe Haven.

War resister advocates on both sides of the border were outraged upon hearing the news of Snyder's arrest. "We hope that the Nelson, British Columbia, police will be held accountable for their actions," said Lee Zaslofsky, who coordinates the War Resister Support Campaign in Toronto.

"Kyle was treated in a degrading manner that is completely contrary to Canadian values. Kyle Snyder is a man of courage and decency. He spent months in Iraq under very difficult conditions. It is disgraceful that he should receive such ill treatment in Canada."

The War Resister Support Campaign is pressing the Canadian government to create a sanctuary policy for military personnel who, obeying international laws, refuse to participate in war crimes. They are using this repressive overreach against Snyder to further their campaign.

Snyder and Friesen will be married soon. Eighteen months later, under Canadian immigration law, Snyder may become a permanent immigrant of Canada.

Walter Reed: More

#1:

Maj. Gen. George Weightman "Sacrificed For The Failures Of Others, Including The Commander In Chief, The Secretary Of Defense And Congress"

Letters To The Editor
April 2, 2007
Army Times

Maj. Gen. George Weightman, former commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, was relieved from his command because of poor living conditions for outpatients (“Turmoil at the top: Walter Reed scandal claims Army secretary, leaves force reeling in time of abrupt change,” March 12).

He has been sacrificed for the failures of others, including the commander in chief, the secretary of defense and Congress.

He had been on the job for six months. The deterioration of facilities didn’t happen in six months; it was long-standing.

I feel it was the result of Congress failing to appropriate sufficient funds for maintenance of military facilities. This has been a continuing problem for years, made more critical by a war that has not required sacrifice from anyone other than our service members and their families.

The president has chosen to fight his war on the cheap with no new taxes to pay the costs involved. That means that within the military, “deferred maintenance” becomes a way of meeting funding shortfalls.

What is deferred maintenance? It means not doing maintenance when it is required.

Would you run your car without changing the oil regularly? That is effectively what the services are having to do with respect to routine maintenance of facilities.

Don’t blame the commander who isn’t given the tools to do the job. Blame the people who gave him a mission without the resources.

Lt. Col. Thomas E. Washington (ret.)
Honea Path, S.C.

#2: “To Put Such Services Out To Bid To An Already Questionable Civilian Firm Was Inviting Trouble”

Letters To The Editor
April 2, 2007
Army Times

There must be millions of us military retirees who are furious, upset and disturbed by the reports on shabby post-medical treatment of our war-wounded service men at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (“The waiting wounded,” Feb. 26).

Some of us old-timers think firing the top generals involved is not going to solve the problem.

Somewhere in our government, someone should have known that to put such services out to bid to an already questionable civilian firm was inviting trouble.

Also, military managers should know that below the professional level in military installations are lower-paid workers who may lack professional supervision and skills. There are no excuses, and there is apparently no investigation into this area.

Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond L. Milz (ret.)
Roanoke, Va.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Betrayal--Soaked In Blood



An Khe, Vietnam 1970

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: March 30, 2007

Betrayal--Soaked In Blood

I'm freer today than I have ever been,

because I know who the enemy is.
I was the enemy in Vietnam.
Not the so-called Gooks.
Not the VC.
Not the Insurgents.
Not the Communists.
I was nothing but a disposable tool for
the Ruling Class in America.
I was duped in a dog and pony show
for U.S. aggression against innocent people.
Innocent people defending their homeland.
And, when I came back from Vietnam,
I went through a slow process of experiencing
the death of my belief system.
I was tossed away by the government
who sent me to Vietnam to do their
dirty work.
Over two million Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian
people were killed in a make-believe war for freedom.
Murders.
Atrocities.
All hidden from the American people,
like they were adolescent children.
Washington, D.C. lawmakers lying with
every breath they take.
It's all about Corporate Wealth making
billions of dollars off of the working
class and poor who carry their guns.
Day after day,
the Rich roll their shit down hill.
They don't care who they roll over.
Civilians, soldiers, families back home.
No cause, just for the love of \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.
The Domino Theory was a crock of shit.
Any veteran who thinks he or she served
in Vietnam for the cause of freedom,
is living in revisionist history.
Duped!
The last thing I felt before I left Vietnam,
was Dick Nixon's dick withdrawing from my ass.
The White House was pure evil.
Killing civilians as fast as they could.
Genocide is not just a word.
Nothing was off limits in Southeast Asia.
It is the most bombed area in the world.
Carpet bombing.
Destroyers destroying everything.
Free fire zones everywhere.
400,000 tons of Napalm.
19 million gallons of Agent Orange.
Starvation.

Total War!!
Sherman's March To The Sea.
You destroy anything that supports the combatants.
Anything!
Drain the Sea, to kill them all.
Even if it means destroying yourself.
The absolute insanity of war.
When I put it all together,
I found myself in a padded cell.
I spent twenty years after Vietnam,
hiding in a closet soaked in blood.
Political Incest was the ultimate betrayal.
It dismantled my entire life.
In order to survive, I had to seek justice.
I had to re-define the word truth.
My government,
my childhood mentor,
was finally executed in my mind with my bare hands.
I no longer live in a patriotic fantasy world.
No one owns me.
I know who the enemy is.
I'm freer now,
than I have ever been.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
March 30, 2007

"Send guys to war, they come home talking dirty."
Tim O'Brien
Vietnam Veteran
The Things They Carried

Photo and caption 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)

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.

1970:

1000 GIs March In California Anti-War Demonstration

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in. Reprinted from Veterans Stars & Stripes For Peace, Vol. 3, #1, January 1970]

27 Dec. 69 By Patty Lee Parmalee, Guardian

Oceanside, Calif.

Some 1000 active-duty GIs and 4000 civilians participated in a militant antiwar march and rally near the sprawling Marine Corps base at Camp Pendleton Dec. 14.

Servicemen who came from bases throughout Southern California and civilians, including blacks who traveled from Los Angeles 100 miles away and local high school students from Oceanside who had never seen an antiwar protest before, combined to conduct the largest Moratorium day action in the nation this month.,:

The protest was organized by the all-GI Movement for a Democratic Military (MDM) founded just a few weeks ago and publicized largely by word-of-mouth on the bases (since distributing leaflets of newspapers on base is illegal).

The political direction was determined by GIs and all the speakers but one were or had been in the service.

The principal function of the march and rally was to demonstrate to other antiwar GIs that they are not isolated and there is a large, growing movement they can join. MDM members were elated at their success in accomplishing this goal. Other important results of the demonstration were the beginnings of a radical civilian movement in the very conservative town of Oceanside: and an increase in solidarity between racial minorities and GIs.

From the start MDM. was a radical coalition of blacks, chicanos, Asians and white GIs and their demands go far beyond usual peace and GI rights demands.

MDM's radical positions, their determination to fight racism and understanding of imperialism were evident in the Oceanside action as well.

Marching in disciplined manner behind a large red bus and led by black GIs, demonstrators chanted, "One, two, three, four, We won't fight your fascist war!" "Hell no, we won't go!" and "All power to the people! Black power to the Black Panther party! People power to all oppressed peoples."

They wore armbands reading, "40,000 dead" and carried signs reading "Bring our brothers home now: keep us here." "Self-determination for all oppressed peoples - MDM," and "Victory To The NLF: Vietnam will win."

Members Of The 1st ID Organized Against The War; “The Need For The Anti-War Movement To, Now, Turn Its Attention To Troop Support Cannot Be Overstated”

2007 Second Issue Street News, By Alan Stolzer, The Military Project

On November 17, 2006 at a Public Meeting at the Judson Memorial Church in Manhattan the Anti-War Movement took on a new direction.

At this event there were no political speeches or email sharing.

Instead, we heard testimony about what really goes on in Iraq from three former members of the First Infantry Division, Jeff Englehart, Joe Hatcher and Garrett Reppenhagen, who organized against the war in that country/target of U.S. Imperialism during 2004-5.

The Meeting, sponsored by the Military Project, Iraq Veterans against The War (IVAW) and New York City Labor against the War (NYCLAW), drew approximately 125 people. Many veterans of the Anti-War Movement were there but new faces attended as well — a hopeful sign.

The audience listened intently as the three ex-soldiers told how they went about opposing the war they smelled, heard and tasted every day. It's no picnic taking on a task this heavy with inherent danger to one's well being lurking behind command's eyes and ears.

Talking to other troops about their situation, showing anti-war DVDs, pasting up anti-Bush stickers anywhere they could, brought predictable attention from superiors, hence the danger.

Nevertheless, their courage wasn't detoured by threats and intimidations (extra work details, possible leave cancellations, etc.).

Clearly these three knew the real meaning of anti-war work - a lesson to us all. Now members of IVAW, the three have brought home the message.

Coupled with a rash of fresh dissent from military ranks including a petition of redress and the growing tide of anti-war feeling, Republican and Democrat misleader ship, led by chicken hawk-in-chief, Commander less George Bush, is in political retreat.

Since the voting public made its opinion(s) well known recently, further steps are on the agenda.

The need for the Anti-War Movement to, now, turn its attention to troop support cannot be overstated.

The crying need to sustain any troop opposed to the wars in Iraq/Afghanistan sits squarely on the political agenda; there's no turning back.

This fact will only become more apparent as the war's quagmire grows. Any march in Washington D.C., New York or anywhere else must have our brave military dissenters in its forefront or remain suspect in the eyes of those who truly want to end these wars.

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

Film Review: 'Shooter'

“It's Government Skullduggery At Its Most Evil, Craven, Banal, Self-Serving Worst”

April 02, 2007 Film Review By Chuck Vinch, Staff writer, Army Times.

Action films have long used corrupt government weasels and thugs as handy foils. But you'd be hard pressed to find an action film with a more cynical view of government than “Shooter.”

“There's always someone who thinks one man can make a difference,” sneers oily, power-drunk Sen. Charles Meacham (Ned Beatty). “You gotta kill him to convince him otherwise. That's the trouble with democracy.”

That pretty much sets the tone, as director Antoine Fuqua and screenwriter Jonathan Lemkin, adapting Stephen Hunter's best-selling novel, serve up a sweat-soaked, two-hour trek through the dark side of truth, justice and the American way.

The underrated Mark Wahlberg, one of my favorite actors, stars as Gunnery Sgt. Bob Lee Swagger, a legendary Marine sniper who can split heads like overripe cantaloupes from 1,000 yards.

The film opens with Bob Lee and his spotter, Donnie (Lane Garrison), on a mission in Ethiopia that quickly goes south. They're abandoned by the higher-ups for the time-honored cause of plausible deniability, and Donnie is killed in the ensuing firefight.

Three years on, a still-haunted Bob Lee is out of the Corps, living a solitary existence on a mountaintop in the Rockies with his guns and his dog, when he gets a visit from retired Col. Isaac Johnson (Danny Glover), who claims he's with U.S. intelligence.

Johnson says highly credible and detailed chatter has been intercepted that indicates an assassination attempt will be made on the U.S. president at one of three upcoming public venues.

Johnson needs Bob Lee to scout the sites and describe how he'd do it, so countermeasures can be devised to foil the plot. Bob Lee doesn't trust this mook, but he's still patriotic enough to stand up when duty calls. He agrees to come off the mountain long enough to give his assessment.

It's a setup. The assassination target is not the president, but rather a visiting African archbishop (Dean McKenzie). The conspirators plan to take out the archbishop, then kill Bob Lee and frame him for the murder.

But despite being shot twice, Bob Lee escapes and goes on the run from a nationwide manhunt while trying to figure out how to circle back on his tormentors to exact sweet, bloody vengeance.

His only allies are Nick Memphis (Michael Pena, a rookie FBI agent who goes rogue after refusing to drink the official cover-up Kool-Aid, and Donnie's cute but tough widow, Sarah (sultry Kate Mara).

Once the plot is in motion, it keeps moving as Bob Lee wages his own little war, to include a deafening battle at an isolated farmhouse that pits him and Nick against two dozen of Johnson's heavily armed ex-military thugs — no contest, since Bob Lee knows how to shake and bake homemade napalm bombs from materials picked up at a local hardware store.

Along the way, the reason for the whole assassination plot is peeled away. Linking Johnson and Meacham and stretching back to that FUBAR Ethiopia mission, it's government skullduggery at its most evil, craven, banal, self-serving worst.

It's fantasy, of course, but what action movie isn't? And if the framework is more than a little evocative of "The Bourne Identity/Supremacy," well, you could do a lot worse than riff on those two fine flicks.

While the film goes well over the top on any number of fronts, it stays close enough to the edges of possibility that many people — particularly those who worry that their civil liberties are slipping away — will have no trouble diving in for a couple of hours.

"Shooter" has an appealing and sympathetic anti-hero, a hot love interest, unexpected flashes of humor, high-octane action and despicable bad guys who get all they so richly deserve.

There's even an explanation for what really happened on that grassy knoll in Dallas in 1963.

What more could you want in an action flick? Rated R for extreme violence.

OCCUPATION REPORT

60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: Big Surprise



An Iraqi citizen in his own home holds his daughter while U.S. army soldiers from B Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment search through their belongings in west Baghdad's Ghazaliyah neighborhood, March 22, 2007. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

[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.

[U.S. sponsored polls reported recently that 60% of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops. Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist. T]

“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!**

Even The Collaborator “President” Turns on Bush; Condemns “Occupation” Of His Nation

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: Even his stooges are blasting him.]

Mar 29 PARIS (AFP)

Already feeling the heat at home to pull out of Iraq, US President George W. Bush was under mounting international pressure Thursday to bring American troops home.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani followed the lead of Saudi King Abdullah the previous day at the same Arab summit in Riyadh, hitting out at the US for its "occupation" of his country and attacking Washington's mistakes.

Washington got little comfort from Talabani in his speech Thursday.

"The decision to turn the liberation of Iraq into an occupation ... with the dire consequences this had internally and the fears (it aroused) in Arab, regional and international arenas -- all this was contrary to what Iraqi parties and national forces were planning at the time," he said.

MORE:

Al-Maliki Calls On Iraqis Not To Let “Evil” Bush Regime Triumph; Says Cooperate With The Resistance Fighters

March 30, 2007 (AP)

"We call on you (Iraqis) not to allow the evil ones to triumph and to cooperate with your armed forces. ... Justice will reach them sooner or later." Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, March 30, 2007 (AP)

EVIL ONES 'R US
“Justice will reach them sooner or later.”



Doug Mills/The New York Times January 3, 2007

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/)

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**In Paris, Texas, Racist Hell Hole, A
White Teenager Burns Down Her
Family Home And Gets Probation:
A Black One Shoves A Hall Monitor
And Gets 7 Years In Prison**



Creola Cotton (left) and her daughter, Shaquanda, run to embrace one another last month near Shaquanda's dormitory at the Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex in Brownwood, Texas. Her mother and local civil rights activists believe her case is evidence of lingering racism in Paris schools and courts. (Tribune photo by Antonio Perez)



Creola Cotton sits in her daughter's room at their home in Paris, Texas. The room has been empty since Shaquanda was sent to a youth prison for shoving a hall monitor at her high school. (Tribune photo by Antonio Perez)



A corrections officer leads Shaquanda Cotton to her dormitory last month. The 15-year-old could be imprisoned until she is 21 years old. (Tribune photo by Antonio Perez)



Shaquanda Cotton peers through the window of her dorm room at the Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex. (Tribune photo by Antonio Perez)

But the teen's defenders assert that long before the September 2005 shoving incident, Paris school officials targeted Shaquanda for scrutiny because her mother had frequently accused school officials of racism.

"Shaquanda started getting written up a lot after her mother became involved in a protest march in front of a school," said Sharon Reynerson, an attorney with Lone Star Legal Aid...

March 12, 2007 By Howard Witt, Chicago Tribune senior correspondent [Excerpts]

PARIS, Texas -- The public fairgrounds in this small east Texas town look ordinary enough, like so many other well-worn county fair sites across the nation. Unless you know the history of the place.

There are no plaques or markers to denote it, but several of the most notorious public lynchings of black Americans in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries were staged at the Paris Fairgrounds, where thousands of white spectators would gather to watch and cheer as black men were dragged onto a scaffold, scalded with hot irons and finally burned to death or hanged.

Brenda Cherry, a local civil rights activist, can see the fairgrounds from the front yard of her modest home, in the heart of the "black" side of this starkly segregated town of 26,000.

And lately, Cherry says, she's begun to wonder whether the racist legacy of those lynchings is rebounding in a place that calls itself "the best small town in Texas."

"Some of the things that happen here would not happen if we were in Dallas or Houston," Cherry said. "They happen because we are in this closed town. I compare it to 1930s."

There was the 19-year-old white man, convicted last July of criminally negligent homicide for killing a 54-year-old black woman and her 3-year-old grandson with his truck, who was sentenced in Paris to probation and required to send an annual Christmas card to the victims' family.

There are the Paris public schools, which are under investigation by the U.S. Education Department after repeated complaints that administrators discipline black students more frequently, and more harshly, than white students.

And then there is the case that most troubles Cherry and leaders of the Texas NAACP, involving a 14-year-old black freshman, Shaquanda Cotton, who shoved a hall monitor at Paris High School in a dispute over entering the building before the school day had officially begun.

The youth had no prior arrest record, and the hall monitor -- a 58-year-old teacher's aide--was not seriously injured.

But Shaquanda was tried in March 2006 in the town's juvenile court, convicted of "assault on a public servant" and sentenced by Lamar County Judge Chuck Superville to prison for up to 7 years, until she turns 21.

Just three months earlier, Superville sentenced a 14-year-old white girl, convicted of arson for burning down her family's house, to probation.

"All Shaquanda did was grab somebody and she will be in jail for 5 or 6 years?" said Gary Bledsoe, an Austin attorney who is president of the state NAACP branch.

"It's like they are sending a signal to black folks in Paris that you stay in your place in this community, in the shadows, intimidated."

The Tribune generally does not identify criminal suspects younger than age 17, but is doing so in this case because the girl and her family have chosen to go public with their story.

None of the officials involved in Shaquanda's case, including the local prosecutor, the judge and Paris school district administrators, would agree to speak about their handling of it, citing a court appeal under way.

But the teen's defenders assert that long before the September 2005 shoving incident, Paris school officials targeted Shaquanda for scrutiny because her mother had frequently accused school officials of racism.

"Shaquanda started getting written up a lot after her mother became involved in a protest march in front of a school," said Sharon Reynerson, an attorney with Lone Star Legal Aid, who has represented Shaquanda during challenges to several of the disciplinary citations she received.

"Some of the write-ups weren't fair to her or accurate, so we felt like we had to challenge each one to get the whole story."

Among the write-ups Shaquanda received, according to Reynerson, were citations for wearing a skirt that was an inch too short, pouring too much paint into a cup during an art class and defacing a desk that school officials later conceded bore no signs of damage.

Shaquanda's mother, Creola Cotton, does not dispute that her daughter can behave impulsively and was sometimes guilty of tardiness or speaking out of turn at school--behaviors that she said were manifestations of Shaquanda's attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, for which the teen was taking prescription medication.

Nor does Shaquanda herself deny that she pushed the hall monitor after the teacher's aide refused her permission to enter the school before the morning bell -- although Shaquanda maintains that she was supposed to have been allowed to visit the school nurse to take her medication, and that the teacher's aide pushed her first.

But Cherry alleges that Shaquanda's frequent disciplinary write-ups, and the insistence of school officials at her trial that she deserved prison rather than

probation for the shoving incident, fits in a larger pattern of systemic discrimination against black students in the Paris Independent School District.

In the past five years, black parents have filed at least a dozen discrimination complaints against the school district with the federal Education Department, asserting that their children, who constitute 40 percent of the district's nearly 4,000 students, were singled out for excessive discipline.

An attorney for the school district, Dennis Eichelbaum, said the Education Department had determined all of the complaints to be unfounded.

"The (department) has explained that the school district has not and does not discriminate, that the school district has been a leader and very progressive when it comes to race relations, and that there was no validity to the allegations made by the complainants," Eichelbaum said.

But the federal investigations of the school district are not so clear-cut, and they are not finished.

In one 2004 finding, Education Department officials determined that black students at a Paris middle school were being written up for disciplinary infractions more than twice as often as white students -- and eight times as often in one category, "class disruption."

The Education Department asked the U.S. Justice Department to try to mediate disputes between black parents and the district, but school officials pulled out of the process last December before it was concluded.

And in April 2006, the Education Department notified Paris school officials that it was opening a new, comprehensive review to determine "whether the district discriminated against African-American students on the basis of race" between 2004 and 2006. Federal officials say that investigation is still in progress.

According to one veteran Paris teacher, who asked not to be named for fear of retribution, such discrimination is widespread.

"There is a philosophy of giving white kids a break and coming down on black kids," said the teacher, who is white.

Meanwhile, Shaquanda, a first-time offender, remains something of an anomaly inside the Texas Youth Commission prison system, where officials say 95 percent of the 2,500 juveniles in their custody are chronic, serious offenders who already have exhausted county-level programs such as probation and local treatment or detention.

"The Texas Youth Commission is reserved for those youth who are most violent or most habitual," said commission spokesman Tim Savoy.

"The whole concept of commitment until your 21st birthday should be recognized as a severe penalty, and that's why it's typically the last resort of the juvenile system in Texas."

Inside the youth prison in Brownwood where she has been incarcerated for the past 10 months -- a prison currently at the center of a state scandal involving a guard who allegedly sexually abused teenage inmates -- Shaquanda, who is now 15, says she has not been doing well.

Three times she has tried to injure herself, first by scratching her face, then by cutting her arm. The last time, she said, she copied a method she saw another young inmate try, knotting a sweater around her neck and yanking it tight so she couldn't breathe. The guards noticed her sprawled inside her cell before it was too late.

She tried to harm herself, Shaquanda said, out of depression, desperation and fear of the hardened young thieves, robbers, sex offenders and parole violators all around her whom she must try to avoid each day.

"I get paranoid when I get around some of these girls," Shaquanda said.

"Sometimes I feel like I just can't do this no more -- that I can't survive this."

[Troops in Iraq will understand that perfectly. T]

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