

GI SPECIAL 5D5:

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



Workers pour dirt on the casket of U.S. Army soldier Jason Nunez, 82nd Airborne Division, at his burial, the military cemetery, Bayamon, Puerto Rico, April 4, 2007. Nunez was killed last week in a bomb attack near Baqubah, Iraq. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**On Keeping Men Alive:
Ft. Stewart:
“185 Days Since Our Last Driving
Fatality”
“Three Hours Since A Soldier Died
In A War For Which There Was No
Need”**

From: Monica Benderman
To: GI Special

Date: Apr 3, 2007

Monica is the wife of Sgt. Kevin Benderman, a ten-year Army veteran who served a combat tour in Iraq and a year in prison for his public protest of war and the destruction it causes to civilians and to American military personnel. Please visit their website, www.BendermanDefense.org to learn more.

Also, check out the Benderman's Bridge site -- www.BendermansBridge.com and the trailer for Soldiers of Conscience -- <http://www.socfilm.com/>

Monica and Kevin Benderman may be reached at mdawnb@coastalnow.net

Ft. Stewart, Georgia. Home of the "Mighty Third Infantry, Rock of the Marne."

I always find it interesting as I drive through the gate onto post. As the contracted gate guards check my ID and verify the registration on my car, they give a subtle smile, a military signal to move-out, and call out "Rock of the Marne" just before I drive away.

The Third Infantry Division has a proud heritage. Originally activated in 1917, just 8 months later its soldiers found themselves sent to combat in France distinguishing themselves as the only division not to retreat at what became known as the "Battle of the Marne." German soldiers later nicknamed the division the "Rock of the Marne" for having stood like a rock along the banks of the Marne River when all others retreated in the face of an enemy onslaught finally overcome by the Third Infantry's stand.

Just inside the gate visitors are drawn to an imposing display of mechanized vehicles of the Mighty Third Infantry soldiers; the Bradley fighting vehicle, a Paladin artillery vehicle, and an Abrams tank, with a Cobra helicopter positioned above them all, symbols of power in a world where that sort of power is deemed necessary for control these days.

On the far side of the grassy field behind the massive display of weaponry is a small outdoor theater of seats where units gather for award ceremonies and such. At the center of the theater is Rocky, the Disney-created bulldog figure standing strong as the mascot for the "dog-faced soldiers" who are the Third Infantry.

The word on post is that when Rocky was first unveiled it was in full male splendor. Unfortunately the commanding general's wife at the time didn't take too kindly to the natural display of testosterone and promptly demanded that Rocky be neutered. A welding unit complied with the order and Rocky was allowed to stand, although perhaps not quite so proudly, his smile a little more sheepish.

Every morning that soldiers are not deployed, the sound of the "Dog-Faced Soldier" fight song echoes across post as the units form for 6 am PT (physical training) and the sun slowly rises over the horizon.

"I'm just a dog-faced soldier

With a rifle on my shoulder

And I eat raw meat for breakfast every day”

Just behind Rocky's theater stands the new headquarters building for the Third Infantry.

It is an imposing structure with iambic columns, marble trim surrounding three stories of brick and windows stretching the length of a football field all capped off with a bright green metal roof. Construction crews have been working for over a year on a headquarters building which dwarfs the one it is replacing; a World War II era design of clapboard and shake now hiding in the Georgia pines amazingly left standing as its replacement takes shape.

Not far beyond that is yet another building still under construction, the one which causes me to think more than any others about war, peace and the consequences of being a dog-faced soldier upholding the “Rock of the Marne” image in a world where power should be derived from those able to restrain themselves the longest before pulling out the biggest guns, but where the guns are now poised to destroy any hope for peace when the foundations so carefully laid by past generations are crumbled in an instant for the greed of a leadership putting materials before humanity, illusion over substance, death over life, designating medals of burnished gold to exaggerate the honor.

An enormous brick box, with few windows and another bright green metal roof, its one distinguishing aspect is the pristine white steeple pointing sharply to the sky like a lightning rod beckoning the presence of a higher power to grant redemption and instant healing for questioning soldiers looking for answers when the haunting ghosts of the reality of war come creeping into their consciousness unwilling to be denied. Is that the answer; a building, a steeple and a prayer?

Just a half mile down the road is Warrior Walk – 320 Redbud trees serve as a living memorial to this war's contribution of over 300 honorable dog-faced soldiers who have now given their lives in combat.

Seeming testimony to the fact that the sacrifice of the 35,000 dog-faced soldiers who had died before, lost its meaning on the day our leaders lost their courage, and neutered their souls by believing it was the strength of war machines that could give them true power over those who only wielded swords.

Only a few short months ago the command at Ft. Stewart announced the grand opening of “Rocky's” night club.

What had once been a family sports center now became a full-fledged bar established on post to give soldiers a safe environment in which to drink their troubles away when the prayers didn't work and the steeple lost its power.

The regulations for visitation for non-military personnel were relaxed when the sun went down and Rocky's opened, and on-post privileges no longer required a stop at the visitor's access building as long as cars were licensed, drivers were licensed and heading to Rocky's for a drink and more.

To commanders, there was no point in giving soldiers a place on post to drink if there were no girls at the bar – so the bar was opened, the rules relaxed and I wonder how many notice the steeple as they drive on past neutered Rocky standing a little less proudly on guard before the behemoth of office space replacing the once commanding headquarters for the division that had refused to back down from its stand at the banks of the Marne.

Just before driving out of the back gate onto the road leading through the training grounds of the Mighty Third stands a flashing neon sign proudly announcing “185 days since our last driving fatality.”

The training grounds of Ft. Stewart belie their true purpose.

Rifle and artillery ranges are carefully hidden behind walls of tall Georgia pines. For every road marked “off limits to civilians” there is another marked “landing area” leading to the peaceful banks of a slow moving river full of catfish, bream and wildlife safe in the refuges acting as barriers to the real purpose of the land.

On almost every red-clay dirt road is a marker pointing to a cemetery lined with protective fencing, dating to the early 1800’s or sooner; the only remaining testimony to the small civilian towns devoured by the progress of a warring nation.

One mile down the road in a cutaway that once was forest, is the first billboard of almost thirty ordered erected by the installation command.

In the clearing before the sign I pull off of the roadway and turn off the lights. A small herd of deer feed in the moonlight, just near enough to the safety of the trees to scamper quickly if someone approaches too closely. The stars overhead seem to go on forever in the darkness and somewhere a giant owl calls out – wisdom from nature wondering when we will finally understand.

I glanced up at the boldly lettered sign:

“Don’t Drink and Drive, We Want Our Soldiers Alive.”

We’re spending millions of dollars on a new headquarters for our military machine and millions more on a building with a steeple whose purpose is to help with the aftermath of the destruction that military machine creates.

The training ground for the “dog-faced soldiers” lies in the middle of a wildlife sanctuary lined with over 100 cemeteries memorializing a time when communities lived where Abrams tanks now patrol.

Three more soldiers died in combat today.

Rocky’s nightclub is in full swing, and a neutered cartoon dog stands with his weapon at attention guarding the gates to the home of the Rock of the Marne.

“Don’t Drink and Drive, We Want Our Soldiers Alive. “

“185 days since our last driving fatality.”

Three hours since a soldier died in a war for which there was no need.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Happy Iraqis Celebrate: Four British Soldiers Killed By IED West Of Basra; One Severely Wounded



[Associated Newspapers Ltd]

[Thanks to Z, who sent this in.]

[He writes: Of course people will cheer a successful attack by the resistance. Nobody loves invaders and occupiers. Solidarity, Z]

5th April 2007 Associated Newspapers Ltd & Daily Express & Reuters

A carefully planned attack killed four British soldiers near Basra at 2am as a column of Warriors was returning to base after a counter-insurgency search in the slum district of Hayaniya. Another was severely wounded.

One vehicle was caught in a blast thought to have triggered by remote control.

Almost immediately a number of shells buried under the road were also set off.

The 20-ton Warrior was blown into the air and onto its roof.

Iraqis danced and sang in celebration around a 3ft crater in the road near Basra, brandishing grisly souvenirs' including a soldier's helmet and body armour as "trophies" of the tragedy.

A British military spokesman said "The unit was involved in an operation elsewhere. As they were on they way back from the operation it was targeted by a roadside bomb in conjunction with small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades"

UK troops immediately surrounded a nearby Iraqi police checkpoint and arrested all the men there.

Iraqi police accused British troops of storming a police checkpoint close to the scene of the attack shortly afterwards and beating some police.

The Basra blast left a crater in the road at least a meter (yard) deep and several meters across.

"We heard two explosions that shook the house. I went out and saw one armored vehicle that was completely destroyed and another with less damage," said one resident.

All the soldiers who died were in a Warrior armoured vehicle shattered by a devastating explosion. One of the women was from the Royal Army Medical Corps, the other from the Intelligence Corps.

One of the men who died was also from the Royal Army Medical Corps and the other from the 2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. Their next of kin have been informed of their deaths but their names had not been released last night.

Another UK soldier is being treated at the British military hospital at Basra Air Station, and was said to be in a 'very serious' condition.

A Jordanian interpreter was also killed and a fifth soldier was fighting for his life last night.



A crater is left where a roadside bomb killed four British soldiers and a Kuwaiti interpreter. [Associated Newspapers Ltd]

Southern Baghdad IED Kills Two U.S. Soldiers, Three Wounded

05 April 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070405-02

BAGHDAD – While conducting a combat security patrol, two MND-B Soldiers died and three others were wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated in a southern section of the Iraqi capital April 4.

IED North Of Baghdad Kills Two U.S. Soldiers; One Wounded

05 April 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070405-03

BAGHDAD — While providing escort security for another unit, two MND-B Soldiers died and another was wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated **north** of the Iraqi capital April 4.

One U.S. Soldier Killed, One Wounded In Baghdad

05 April 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070404-09

BAGHDAD — A MND-B Soldier died when the patrol was attacked by small arms fire in the southern outskirts of Baghdad April 3. The unit was conducting a dismounted patrol when the attack occurred. One other Soldier was wounded in the attack.

IED Kills U.S. Soldier In Diyala Province; Two Wounded

April 06, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070406-15

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Task Force Lightning Soldier was killed Thursday when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle in Diyala Province.

Two other Soldiers were also wounded in the attack and were taken to a Coalition Forces' medical treatment facility.

U. S. Soldier Killed By Baghdad Small Arms Fire

05 April 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070405-03

An MND-B Soldier died when a patrol was attacked with small arms fire in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital. The unit was conducting an area reconnaissance mission when the attack occurred. No other Soldiers were wounded during the attack.

Another Soldier Killed In Baghdad By Small Arms Fire

05 April 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070405-01

BAGHDAD – An MND-B Soldier died April 3 when a patrol was attacked with small arms fire in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital.

The unit was conducting a presence patrol in the area when the attack occurred. No other Soldiers were wounded during the attack.

Soldier Dies From Wounds Received On Sep. 16 In Baghdad

April 04, 2007 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 381-07

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a soldier who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Spc. Curtis R. Spivey, 25, of Chula Vista, Calif., died April 2 in San Diego of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations on Sep. 16, 2006, in Baghdad, Iraq. Spivey was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Attack Kills Soldier From Frazee, Injures Three Others

March 26, 2007 By The Associated Press

A Minnesota National Guard soldier was killed in Iraq, the Defense Department announced Saturday.

Sgt. Greg N. Riewer, 28, of Frazee, was killed while on patrol Friday in Fallujah with soldiers from the Bemidji-based Company A, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry when his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb, the Guard said.

Three other Minnesota National Guard soldiers were injured in the attack. Their names and conditions were not released.

Riewer was a 1997 graduate of Frazee High School and was one of 13 children in their family, including a brother who is serving in the same company, said Maj. Patricia Baker, a Guard spokeswoman.

The sergeant had served previously in Bosnia and both he and his brother, Staff Sgt. Andrew Riewer, were sent to Iraq together last year, Baker said.

Greg Riewer was an avid hunter, according to his family.

"We always got a kick out of him when he would return to deer camp with his buck but not say anything about it until I asked hours later," his father, Richard Riewer, of Frazee,

said in a statement released by the Guard. "I will miss the sight of him returning at the end of the day in his blaze orange, oversized coveralls."

Greg Riewer was very quiet but had a big heart, and he and his brother were best friends, their father said. He also loved riding his motorcycle.

"My image of Greg was when he would jump on his bike in the middle of the night," his father said. "He was always proud of his bike even though it bothered mom that he had bought and then upgraded it to be more powerful. I think he felt most free on his motorcycle."

Funeral arrangements were pending.

Fifty-four people with strong Minnesota ties have died in connection with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Statement From Gardner's Family

27 March 2007 (I Corps release)

The wife of Sgt. Freeman L. Gardner, Jr., released a statement yesterday.

Gardner, 26, of Little Rock, Ark. died Mar. 22 in Baghdad, Iraq, from wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit while on combat patrol. He was assigned to the 18th Engineer Company, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team).

Kara Gardner, his wife, released the following statement:

"Sgt. Freeman L. Gardner was a devoted husband, son, brother, uncle and soldier and a friend to many. He was a quiet man with a gentle demeanor. Freeman loved going to the movies every Saturday with his wife and he loved listening to her colorful stories and impressions which always kept him laughing.

"He loved working on computers, playing video and strategy games, reading, and studying military and international history. He also loved watching college football games and could not be interrupted when the University of Oklahoma Sooners or University of Michigan Wolverines were playing.

"Freeman adored his mother and younger sister Darlene and he was enamored with his niece Chanel who he felt was the sweetest, caring and most respectful child he'd ever encountered.

"Freeman joined the Army in 2004 in order to obtain valuable work and leadership experience. He died serving his country and he was proud to have the opportunity to be a soldier. Freeman tried to prepare his wife in the best way he knew how for his departure from this life by pushing her everyday to be strong, assertive and resilient. Freeman was extraordinarily loved and will be missed every moment of every day."

A memorial ceremony at Fort Lewis to honor Sgt. Gardner is being planned for early next week.

Members of the I Corps and Fort Lewis community extend their condolences to the Gardner family.

U.S. Helicopter Shot Down In Baghdad; Four Wounded

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

Apr 5, 2007 (CBS News) & AP

A U.S. helicopter went down after coming under fire Thursday in a militant stronghold south of Baghdad. There were no deaths, but four of the nine aboard were wounded, the U.S. military said.

Gunmen opened fire on the Black Hawk helicopter at about 7:30 a.m. as it flew over Latifiyah, 20 miles south of Baghdad, an Iraqi army official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

The U.S. helicopter went down in a rural area and U.S. forces had cordoned off the site, the Iraqi army official said.

He said the militants apparently were using an anti-aircraft heavy machine gun.

Sgt. Watson Recovers From Grenade Blast In Iraq

April 5, 2007 LORY POUNDER, Summit Daily News, Summit County, CO Colorado

FRISCO - Since waking up in the hospital from an attack in the Diyala Province of Iraq, Army Staff Sgt. Rich Watson is hurting, but in good spirits.

"The concussion is still pretty serious, and they're taking it very seriously," said his mom, Sharon Jones-Bird, of Frisco.

Doctors are keeping a close watch on Watson, a decorated soldier already in possession of a Purple Heart who is nearing the end of his second tour in Iraq. Instead of being sent back out, he is monitoring the radio at the base in the province of Diyala, his mom said.

Watson was injured about two weeks ago when a rocket-propelled grenade landed within feet of him and two other soldiers.

The blast knocked him to the ground and when he woke up on the pavement, he saw one of his men being shot at in the street. After pulling him out of the "kill zone," he took cover behind a Stryker Armored Vehicle and passed out, waking up in the hospital, his parents said.

And now even though Watson is cracking jokes and has an upbeat attitude, he doesn't like being away from his troops, said his mom, who is a bit relieved he's on the base recovering instead of out in the field.

Jones-Bird and her husband Jerry Bird have had a stressful year worrying about their son. The family is looking forward to their reunion in June as Watson's second year of fighting comes to an end.

"He's looking forward to coming home in a couple months to go fishing and be with his family," Jones-Bird said.

Watson and his wife, Tonya, who is staying in Texas with her family, will soon be back together with their three young children. But before that happens, on Memorial Day at Dillon Cemetery, Jones-Bird will be reading a speech her son wrote.

"He wants to thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes and good thoughts," Jones-Bird said. "He is a firm believer in that."

NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP AND GO HOME



U.S. soldiers with Company B, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, in a palm grove, Baqouba, Iraq, March 16, 2007

TROOP NEWS

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



A hearse containing the coffin of U.S. Army Sgt. Ed Santini, 25, who was killed in a bomb attack in Iraq last week, and whose remains were returned to his native Puerto Rico, in San Juan, March 23, 2007. The impending arrival of Santini's first child and his mother's advice that his job at a fast-food joint would not get his family ahead led him to enlist in the military at the age of 20. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

1,300 From Maryland National Guard Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

April 5, 2007 By Matthew Dolan, Sun Reporter

The Maryland National Guard has announced that roughly 1,300 of its part-time soldiers will go to Iraq, the largest call-up of combat troops from the state since American forces stormed the beaches at Normandy more than 60 years ago.

The mobilization order issued one week ago and confirmed by Guard officials today almost quadruples the number of guardsmen from the state now deployed.

The call-up's impact on the Guard is likely to be the most substantial since Sept. 11, 2001. There are only 7,000 members of the state's army and air guard and many have been called on for repeated deployments in recent years.

Officials said the soldiers will be drawn from 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Units include the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 58th stationed in Pikesville; the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment headquartered in Dundalk; and the 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment headquartered in Annapolis. The brigade also will include National Guard units from California and New Mexico.

The soldiers mobilized under the order are scheduled to report to Fort Dix, N.J., next month, for processing and additional training prior to deployment overseas.

MORE:

And Another 300 From The Virginia National Guard

[Thanks to Anna Bradley, who sent this in.]

April 2, 2007 WDBJ7

Three area National Guard units have been ordered to active duty. The units from Roanoke, South Boston and Staunton may head to Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Company A of the 429th Brigade Support Battalion includes 64 soldiers from South Boston. Company E of the 429th Brigade Support Battalion includes 108 from the Roanoke area. 149 soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Staunton are also being called up.

The 172 citizen-soldiers from Roanoke and South Boston will enter federal service on May 11. They will then head to Camp Shelby, Mississippi for training. Their active duty service is expected to last 13 months. The Virginia National Guard says the units will support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**New Army Uniform Doesn't
Measure Up;
"It Stands Out Against Anything
Except A Concrete Wall"**

“It Is Surprising Such A Mediocre Product Finally Emerged”

The cotton/nylon blend burns very quickly and can add to the injuries sustained in a burning vehicle by melting to the Soldiers skin.

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

April 05, 2007 By Eric Coulson, Military.com. Eric Coulson is an Army officer commanding an Engineer Company in Iraq.

One of the most visible and high-impact changes adopted by the Army since Operation Iraqi Freedom began has been the fielding of the Army Combat Uniform, or ACU. The new uniform replaces the woodland camo Battle Dress Uniform and the "three color" Desert Combat Uniform.

One of the main goals of the change was to have a uniform that worked in all environments - woodland, desert, and urban - and held up to the rigors of combat duty, as well as the strictures of day-to-day work in garrison.

A great deal of time and money was spent on the development of this new uniform and the Army Program Executive Office Soldier did extensive testing with Soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan and at home in the United States.

Considering all the testing the uniform went through, it is surprising such a mediocre product finally emerged.

The Good:

The overall layout and organization of the uniform is good, the pockets are generally more useful and accessible in field gear.

Additionally, adoption of the rough-out boot is sensible from the maintenance and appearance standpoint. Soldiers coming out of the field are not going to be immediately giggered for having unshined boots, and while an old Army tradition may have gone by the wayside, no one really misses shining boots - particularly in the field.

The Bad:

Velcro was a good idea, but the execution was simply lacking. This material is just not ready for combat. Putting anything of size or weight in the pant's cargo pocket will often cause the closure to fail if your Velcro has any wear and tear - which in Iraq, it does. Soldiers risk losing belongings and being chewed out by the nearest NCO for an unsightly appearance.

The addition of Velcro on the sleeves to attach patches was intended to keep a Soldier from spending money modifying uniforms with new patches and skill badges. But this savings has been lost in a couple of ways.

First, patches are much more likely to be lost now that they can be easily removed. And, more obviously, Velcro repair kits are beginning to appear in the exchange shops - a tacit admission the Velcro does not last.

Instead of shelling out cash to put new patches on the blouse, Soldiers now have to buy new Velcro to replace the material that failed.

The uniform is also poorly constructed.

In more than 10 years of active and reserve service, I never once had a uniform "malfunction." Twice in my tour in Iraq I have had the crotch on my pants rip out. Embarrassment was the least of my worries.

Had I not been near the end of a patrol it would have been a serious problem if my vehicle had gone down.

And I am not alone. I've talked to many Soldiers that have had this happen. The data is anecdotal at best, but it sure appears to be a problem.

The material itself is a problem as well. The 50/50 blend of cotton and nylon does not appear to have the staying power or the protection of the old 100% cotton or the Nomex of today's flight suits.

In fact, Soldiers and Marines that spend a great deal of time in vehicles in Iraq are being issued tan Nomex flight suits to protect them from the possibility of flash fires in their vehicles.

The cotton/nylon blend burns very quickly and can add to the injuries sustained in a burning vehicle by melting to the Soldiers skin.

The ACU in universal camouflage is just not a very attractive camouflage pattern. Admittedly that's a poor reason to choose such utilitarian clothing; especially if I was convinced that it is a highly effective pattern. But I am not.

The pixilation assists in breaking up the shape of the Soldier - particularly through night vision - but in general, it stands out against anything except a concrete wall.

The pattern also shows every last bit of dirt the Soldier's been exposed to. I never once saw my original BDUs stain like my ACUs have, and I was spending more time rolling around on the ground in my earlier days. Even though the new uniform is supposed to stand up to the rigors of daily wear and tear enough that I don't have to buy separate "field" and "garrison" uniforms, a stained ACU isn't going to work in either environment.

Here are some suggestions to improve and complete the ACU:

A new pattern -- Army PEO Soldier is using a so-called "multicam" pattern in its testing of the Land Warrior system. This is a proven all-environment camouflage. It may stand out a tad more in urban environments, but the likelihood is the Soldier has already been detected. I say just adopt this pattern.

New material -- Use Nomex or some other fire-retardant material instead of the 50/50 cotton-nylon blend.

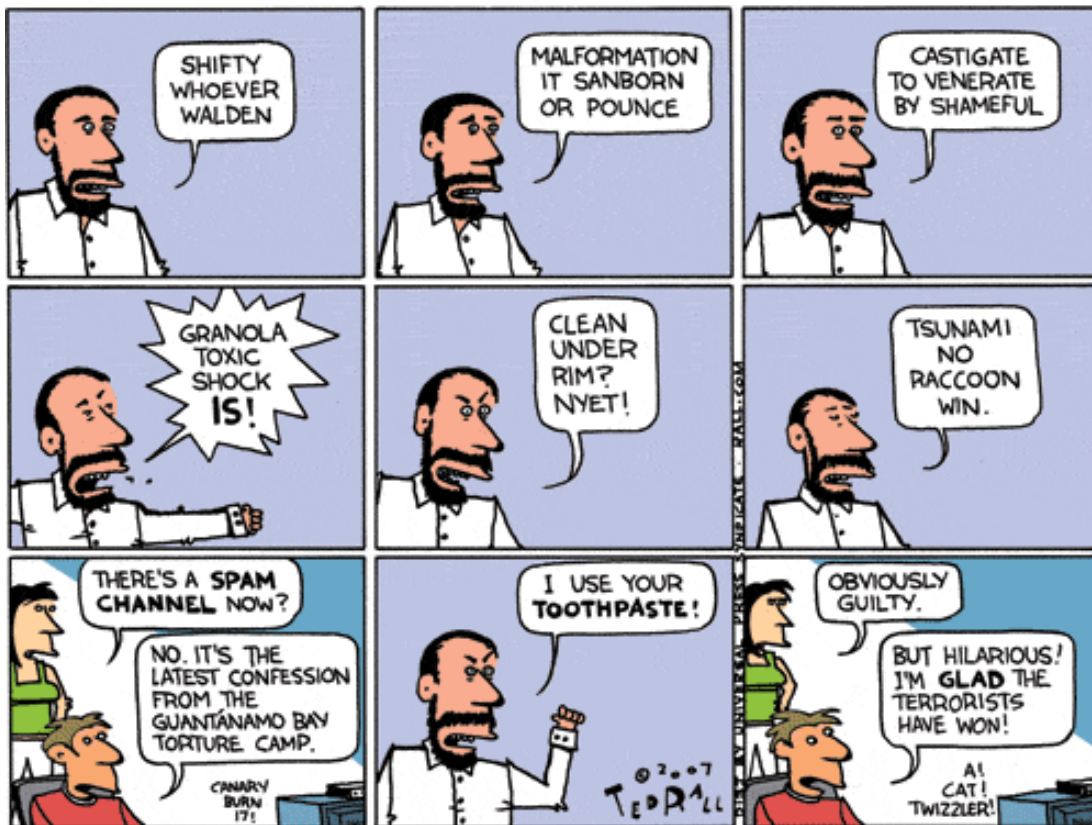
The extra cost of Nomex will be more than made up in savings for the treatment and care of burned Soldiers.

Return to sew on patches and buttons -- Velcro is simply not up to the standard needed for combat. A return to sew on patches would also be a morale booster. Soldiers want to have their skill badges sewn on like they were on the BDU and DCU.

When the ACU was first introduced, I was a big fan.

Having lived and worked in the uniform for over in year in various field environments - including combat in Iraq - it is clear the goal has not yet been achieved. With a few changes, the Army can complete the process and ensure today's Soldiers have a top-quality uniform ready to take them into combat.

Welcome To Truth, Justice & The American Way



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

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.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

GET THE MESSAGE? Iraqis March On U.S. Occupation Base “Demanding The Release Of Their Relatives”



An official from the local council of the Jamia neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq, shows the list of people who were recently arrested by the American forces in the area to US troops in front of their base, April 3, 2007.

Some 300 people marched to the base demanding the release of their relatives including an Iraqi woman who was arrested at her home. (AP Photo/Asaad Mouhsin)

GET THE MESSAGE?

Iraqis March To Condemn The Slaughter Of Their Brothers And Sisters By U.S. Occupation Air Attack



Angry Obeidi residents, in south east Baghdad, Iraq, display part of an U.S. missile during a protest April 3, 2007. Some 500 residents protested recent American bombing in the area that killed 17 people. (AP Photo/Ali Kadim)

Resistance Blows Up Pipeline To Basra Export Terminal

Apr 5, 2007 (CBS News)

A bomb struck an oil pipeline Thursday, cutting off supplies and causing a huge fire in southern Iraq near the border with Kuwait, an official said.

The pipeline carries oil from surrounding fields to storage tanks in Basra for export to the Gulf region, according to the official with the South Oil Co.

Assorted Resistance Action

05 Apr 2007 Reuters & (Xinhua)

Guerrillas killed 10 Iraqi soldiers and wounded one in an attack on a military checkpoint near the northern city of Mosul on Thursday, an army officer said.

The source said at least 40 resistance soldiers attacked the checkpoint at dawn northwest of Mosul, setting their vehicles on fire and seizing their weapons.

An explosion went off near the office of a Baghdad TV station on Thursday, the pan-Arab al-Jazeera television channel said. The attack killed one person and wounded 10.

The TV station is the mouthpiece of the Iraqi Islamic Party, a Sunni political party participating in the government.

Guerrillas shot dead two Iraqi contractors working with the Iraqi military on Wednesday in Diwaniya, 180 km (112 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

April 6, 1712: Honorable Anniversary: The First Major Slave Rebellion In North American British Colonies

Carl Bunin Peace History April 2-8:

New York: The Revolt of 1712

PBS.Org

The stage was set for an uprising.

First, the city had a large population of black slaves -- the result of many years of trade with the West Indies.

Secondly, communication and meeting among enslaved persons was relatively easy, since the New York City's inhabitants lived in a small area on the southern tip of Manhattan.

Thirdly, living in such a densely populated area also meant that slaves worked in close proximity to free men, a far cry from the situation on the plantations to the south.

Perhaps after meeting in a tavern, twenty-three blacks gathered on the night of April 6, 1712. It was midnight. Armed with guns, hatchets, and swords, the men set fire to a building in the middle of town. The fire spread.

While white colonists gathered to extinguish the blaze, the slaves attacked, then ran off. At least nine whites had been shot, stabbed, or beaten to death; another six were wounded.

Militia units from New York and Westchester were mustered, as were soldiers from a nearby fort.

Twenty-seven slaves were soon captured. Of these, six committed suicide. The rest were executed, some by being burned alive.

White New Yorkers had been apprehensive before the revolt of April 6; now they were spurred into action. Strict laws were soon enacted, and more would come, over the next thirty years.

No longer could more than three black slaves meet.

A master could punish his slaves as he saw fit (even for no reason at all), as long as the slave did not lose his or her life or limb. Any slave handling a firearm would receive twenty lashes. Anyone caught gambling would be whipped in public.

Involvement in a conspiracy to kill would result in execution, as would a rape.

There was even a law that discouraged masters from freeing a slave: The master could free a slave, but only after posting a bond of 200 (pounds). This money would be paid to the freed slave if that slave couldn't support himself or herself.

These laws would, in the end, prove to be futile. In 1741, New York would see another uprising.

“There Is No Sunni Against Shi’ite” “The Solution For Iraq Is ‘The Americans Out, All Foreign Troops Out’”

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

Apr 5, 2007 By Pepe Escobar, Asia Times [Excerpt]

Ammar is emphatic: "There is no Sunni against Shi'ite. The Americans provoked it. Since the beginning they started talking about separate areas. In Baghdad most marriages are mixed." That's exactly his case. He is Shi'ite, his wife is Sunni.

The solution for Iraq is "the Americans out, all foreign troops out."

Correction Received Re Article On Bay Of Pigs, GI Special 5D4

From: David Honish
To: GI Special
Sent: April 05, 2007
Subject: corrections to issue 5D4

The person who wrote in about the Bay of Pigs in Cuba better take a class in aircraft identification.

The Hawker Sea Fury was not a "British fighter jet" as claimed. It was in fact Britain's pinnacle of propeller driven piston engined aircraft, developed late in WWII and used in Korea. It had a unique five bladed prop, and was a rough performance equivalent of the US Navy's F-8 Bearcat, also developed too late for use in WWII.

The Sea Fury was a variant of the Fury optimized for naval use. The Fury became the first prop plane to ever shoot down a jet fighter in combat in Korea.

While the writer is correct that "B-26's" were used in the Bay of Pigs invasion, these were not the Martin Marauder B-26 medium bomber he describes. Most such aircraft had been melted down for scrap aluminum shortly after WWII, with none surviving today.

The correct aircraft was the Douglas A-26 Invader, a twin engine ground attack aircraft.

The confusion arises from this aircraft being redesignated the B-26 for use in the Korean War.

The aircraft was again switched back to it's original designation of A-26 when it once again did service in the very early days of the Viet Nam War as a counter insurgency aircraft.

OCCUPATION REPORT

**U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING
DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR;
RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED
RESISTANCE THAT IS**



Children trying to put their home back together after it was wrecked during a raid in Baghdad's Sadr City March 10, 2007. 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. (AP Photo/Samir Mizban)

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

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

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

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

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

U.S. Soldiers Do Have A Cause To Fight And Die In Iraq: So Local and U.S. Thieves Can Stuff Their Pockets With Billions Of \$ In Stolen Money

A quarterly audit released Jan. 31 by Stuart Bowen Jr., the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, found the \$300 billion U.S. war and reconstruction effort continues to be plagued with waste and corruption.

April 4, 2007 By BASSEM MROUE and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA -- Associated Press Writers

Iraq's top corruption fighter said Wednesday that \$8 billion in government money was wasted or stolen over the past three years and claimed he was threatened with death after opening an investigation into scores of Oil Ministry employees.

In the chaos and lawlessness of Iraq, such threats are not taken lightly. Radi al-Radhi, who runs the Public Integrity Commission, leads one of the more dangerous missions in the country.

In perhaps the most publicized recent case, an estimated \$2 billion disappeared from funds to rebuild the electricity infrastructure.

Former Electricity Minister Ayham al-Samaraie, who holds both U.S. and Iraqi citizenship, was convicted in that case and sentenced to two years in prison.

He escaped from an Iraqi-run jail in the Green Zone on Dec. 17 and turned up in Chicago on Jan. 15. Al-Samaraie has said the Americans helped him escape.

Corruption in the country, while traditionally rampant, is encouraged by constitutional clause 136 B, al-Radhi said. It gives Cabinet ministers the power to block his investigations.

So far, he said, ministers have blocked probes into the theft or misspending of an estimated additional \$55 million in public funds.

Two years ago he asked the Constitutional Court to strike the clause, but the panel has never issued a ruling.

In October, parliament removed immunity from lawmaker Mishan al-Jabouri, opening the door for prosecutors to charge him with siphoning off some \$7 million a month intended to pay for food for three units of the pipeline protection force. Al-Jabouri's whereabouts are unknown; he has not been arrested.

A quarterly audit released Jan. 31 by Stuart Bowen Jr., the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, found the \$300 billion U.S. war and reconstruction effort continues to be plagued with waste and corruption.

According to Bowen's report, the State Department paid \$43.8 million to contractor DynCorp International for a residential camp for police training personnel outside of Baghdad's Adnan Palace grounds. The camp has been empty for months.

U.S. officials spent an additional \$36.4 million for weapons such as armored vehicles, body armor and communications equipment that cannot be accounted for.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

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