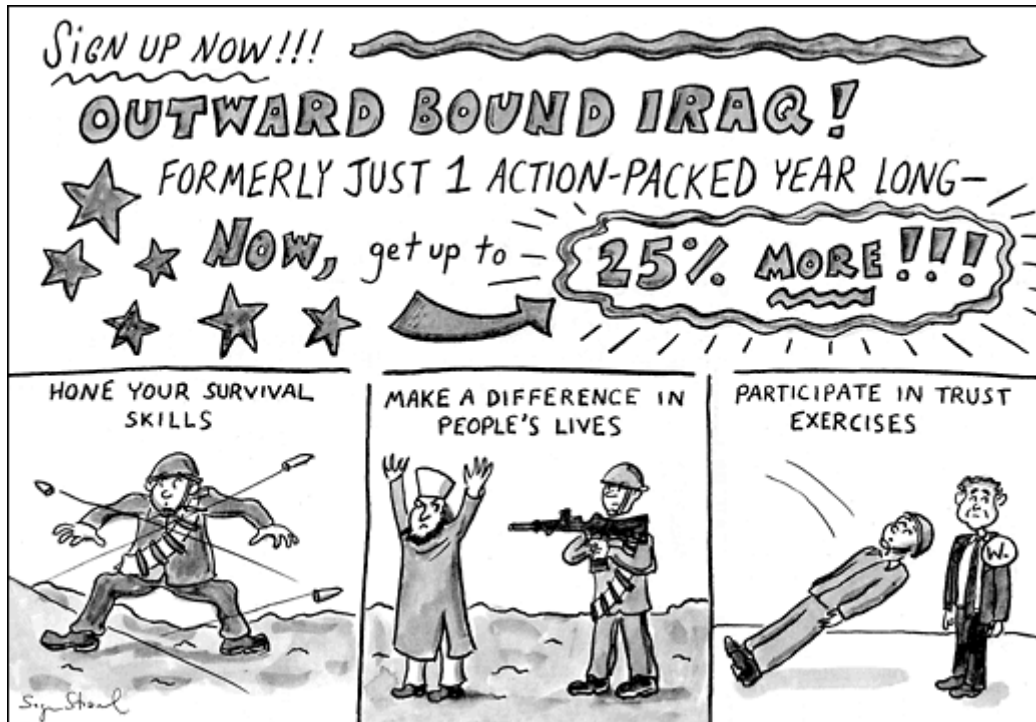


GI SPECIAL 5E10:



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

“A Word Is Worth A Thousand Pictures”



[Thanks to Alberto Jaccoma, Vietnam Veteran, The Military Project, who sent this in and to Mark Shapiro for the graphic.]

April 27 2007 by Cpl Cloy Richards, USMC, Bellacio.org

6 Marines

**3 standing tall and proud in the foreground
3 crouching in the foreground**

**6 Marines posing in Fallujah, supposedly the "Graveyard of Americans"
6 young, strong men with battle hardened countenances
6 marines in great health posing with rifles, deep in enemy territory
How brave they look, how American**

**They can go to any country in the world, kick ass and take pictures to show the
folks back home what their tax dollars are paying for**

That picture of my buddies and I, is forever in my mind, yet slightly changed

**Private Perez was killed by a car bomber at a vehicle check point
There's only 5 Marines in the picture now**

**Sergeant Silva lost the use of his left leg after a rocket attack and now is addicted
to painkillers and booze
There's only 4 Marines in the picture now**

**Lance Corporal Dubois joined the Marines to help conquer his heroin addiction
After 3 years clean and sober, he came home from Iraq a broken man
and turned back to heroin
He overdosed two months after we got back
There's only 3 Marines in the picture now**

**Corporal Allen's stress and emotional problems got the better of him
and he started beating his wife and children
2 years after Iraq he's in prison, without a family
There's only 2 Marines in the picture now**

**Private First Class Anderson got dishonorably discharged
for drug use 5 months after we came home
Rather than turn to his family for help, he wanders the streets
of southern California begging for money, food, work**

There's one Marine left in the picture now, and it's me.

Am I still alive?

I might be physically breathing, but I'm dying inside

**So really there aren't any Marines in that picture
and without those Marines
it's just a picture of a shattered city in a devastated country.**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed In Diyala; Four Wounded

5/9/2007 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Casualty Reports
07-01-03C

TIKRIT, Iraq - A Task Force Lightning Soldier was killed by gunfire in Diyala Province, Tuesday.

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

Another Minneapolis Soldier Killed In Iraq

5.9.07 The Associated Press

A soldier from Minneapolis was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq, his widow said Tuesday.

Army Private First Class Robert Dixon, 28, was just three months into his tour in Iraq, said his wife, Rusty Rose-Dixon. He was the gunner on top of a Humvee when it was hit by an improvised explosive device Sunday, she said.

"He was such a nice guy but he drove people, just by his charm. He was so charming," she said.

Rose-Dixon said the last word she got from him was a text message he sent Sunday morning before he went out on patrol. She said she's saving it because it's the last one she'll get from him.

She said she knew his job as a cavalry scout was dangerous, and that they had spoken openly about what would happen if he was hurt or killed.

"They do scary things. They raid. They're what goes in before the infantry gets called," she said.

The Dixons were married about eighteen months ago. She said their last conversation was Saturday night, when they spoke about their future. She just graduated from business school, while he wanted to stay in the Army.

“He found his niche in life,” she said. “He truly found what he was good at, what he enjoyed, what he wanted to do.”

Dixon was the 59th person with strong Minnesota ties to die in connection with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Local Soldier Killed In Combat



May 03 2007 Kansas City Star

WICHITA: Before Army Sgt. Alex Funcheon was deployed to Iraq, he went to see his old third-grade teacher.

He posed for pictures in October with Linn Bertog — who now teaches fifth grade — and her Bostic Elementary School students, who had “adopted” him before the school year.

On Tuesday, Bertog had to tell her 25 students that Funcheon, 21, was killed by a roadside bomb on Sunday. She learned of his death from his parents, who live in nearby Bel Aire.

“My heart just bleeds for the family,” said Bertog, whose class did not meet Monday because school was not in session.

Funcheon was a hero to her students, Bertog said, and the class’ relationship with him helped connect them to world events.

E-mailing Funcheon was a prized perk, given to those who helped out or performed well in class. The students sent him several care packages in the Middle East and had planned to send another this month.

Now, Bertog said, the students must deal with his death.

“The war is real,” she said.

Funcheon last e-mailed his parents about a week ago, writing that he was looking forward to some R&R time in Germany.

“He ended with, ‘I’ll be home before you know it,’ “said his mother, Karen.

Alex Funcheon, who enlisted in 2004, had a positive attitude about serving in Iraq.

“He never got down, and he knew that he was doing a good job,” his mother said. “He knew what was expected of him, and he was going to do it.”

After his military obligations were over, he planned to go to college and become a firefighter.

“He was starting to figure out what he wanted to do,” said his father, Bob Funcheon. “And that’s the sad part of this, is the life that (he) will never live out.”

Funeral services are pending for Funcheon, who is survived by his parents and his sister, Gloria.

Staff Sgt. Jay E. Martin, 29, of Baltimore; and Pfc. Brian A. Botello, 19, of Alta, Iowa, also were killed in the attack, according to the Department of Defense.

They were assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, based at Fort Carson, Colo.

Ione Mourns Soldier Killed In Iraq

May 02, 2007 By Dana M. Nichols, Record Staff Writer

IONE - Jay-D Ornsby-Adkins wasn’t born an American, but he died one.

“My son and I came over here to America when Jay was 5 years old,” Robyn Ornsby, the soldier’s mother and Australian immigrant, said Tuesday night as mourners bearing lighted candles filled the street in front of the beauty salon she owns.

Army Pfc. Ornsby-Adkins died Saturday in Salman Pak, Iraq, when a bomb went off near his Army Humvee and gunfire erupted.

He was 21 years old and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division based in Fort Benning, Ga. “He did this with a lot of admiration and love for this country,” his mother said of her son’s ultimate sacrifice.

The slain soldier’s wife, Ashley Ornsby-Adkins, also spoke briefly about the man she married on Dec. 17.

“Jay-D was the most beautiful husband,” she said, before a family friend escorted the grieving mother and daughter-in-law away from TV cameras to join the vigil.

Heartbreak was everywhere in this small town Tuesday, a place with about 3,000 residents - small enough that everyone from the mayor to schoolchildren recall the Army private simply as "Jay-D."

"I met him briefly, because I patronize the shop his mom has in town here," lone Mayor Jerry Sherman said. Sherman and the rest of the City Council devoted part of Tuesday's City Council meeting to agreeing that they would cooperate with veterans groups seeking to create a memorial downtown to honor Ornsby-Adkins and other local soldiers.

Sherman and other officials say he is the first person who grew up in lone to be killed in the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And they somberly noted that he might not be the last.

"I know we've got several other young men and women over in Iraq," City Concilman Jeff Barnhart said.

Barnhart's son, Brad Ferguson Barnhart, 20, was a friend of Ornsby-Adkins'. And he recently followed in Ornsby-Adkins' footsteps, signing up for Army service. The younger Barnhart will leave soon for basic training, his father said.

Those who knew Ornsby-Adkins described him as well-liked.

That was evident in the hundreds of bouquets, handwritten cards, photographs, flags and other tokens of love and sorrow on the window, sidewalk and planter box in front of The Robyn's Nest, Robyn Ornsby's beauty salon.

Friends said that Ornsby-Adkins was a horseman and participated in junior rodeo contests as a young man.

"I used to work with him at MP Associates," a firm that makes explosive special effects for movies, said Seth Tuttle, 20. "He was a tester. He would set up pyrotechnics and explosives and set them off. He quit that job to join the Army."

A mass for Ornsby-Adkins is scheduled for 5 p.m. Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 20 W. Washington St., lone.

U.S. Soldier Shot, Humvee Blown Up In Hawija

5.8.07 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers

Yesterday evening , an American armored car (Humvee) was a target of a roadside bomb in Hawija (45 km west of Kirkuk) and it was damaged as Iraqi police said. Early morning , an American soldier was shot by a sniper fire in Hawija (west of Kirkuk).

“Thunderous Explosion” Shakes Baghdad During Cheney Visit

5.9.07 By Sameer N. Yacoub, Associated Press Writer

A thunderous explosion struck Baghdad Wednesday, coinciding with a visit by Vice President Dick Cheney to discuss efforts to reduce the violence in Iraq.

The blast, which occurred about 6:25 p.m., appeared to strike in the vicinity of the heavily fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad, but that could not immediately be confirmed.

Witnesses said it appeared to have been fired from the mostly Shiite areas on the east side of the Tigris River.

**LIAR
TRAITOR
TROOP-KILLER
CORNERED RAT**



(Photo : AFP)

**May 8: Total U.S. Casualties:
54,811**

May 08, 2007 Michael Munk via David McCreynolds

US military occupation forces in Iraq suffered at least 181 combat casualties in the week ending May 8, as total casualties reached at least 54,811.

The total includes 28,002 killed or wounded by what the Pentagon classifies as “hostile” causes and 26,809 (as of six weeks ago, March 24) more casualties from “non-hostile” causes such as accidents, suicides and illness serious enough to require medical evacuation.

US media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by routinely reporting only the total killed (3,378) as of May 8 and rarely mentioning the 25,245 wounded in combat.

To further minimize public perception of the cost, they cover for the Pentagon by ignoring the 26,188 military victims who suffered “non-hostile” injuries and illness (only through March 24), although the 3,378 reported deaths include 621 (up one from last week) who died from those same causes.

Great Moments In U.S. Military History:

The Slaughter Of Seven School Children In Al-Nida

5.8.07 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & Independent Online

Around 10.30 am, an American helicopter opened fire on a primary school at Al-Nida (9 km north west of Mendli) killing 7 pupils and injuring 3 other pupils with huge damage to the school building .

“When we went to ask the Americans in the region, they told us that the helicopter came under fire from regions near the school,” Sheikh Mohammed Saab al-Naddawi of the Nida tribe told AFP.

“But later, a US patrol came to the region and apologised saying that it was a mistake made by the pilot,” he added.

Eyewitnesses confirmed this report while the American side said that they opened fire on the building after being fired from it. **[The murderers who attacked the World Trade Center 9/11 missed out. They could have used that one. “We’re going to hit the World Trade Center buildings because we’re being fired on from them.” Yeah, right.]**

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



Iraqi citizens look at U.S. soldiers of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion of the 8th Cavalry Regiment (1/8 Cavalry) out of Fort Hood, Texas as they patrol a market in Baghdad January 26, 2007. REUTERS/Erik de Castro

TROOP NEWS

**120 From Fort Drum,
200 From Wisconsin National Guard
Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse**

5.14.07 Army Times

Fort Drum, N.Y. Air Cav Deployment:

About 120 air cavalry soldiers will join others from their unit already in Iraq when they deploy May 4, according to a press release from 10th Mountain Division.

Third Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, is flying in support of 3rd Infantry Division.

Wisconsin Guard Units Mobilize

Two units of the Wisconsin Army National Guard have received mobilization orders for Iraq, the Guard said.

About 30 soldiers from 332nd Rear Operations Center are expected to enter active duty June 17, then train at Fort Hood, Texas, for about two months before they deploy overseas. The center will run a forward operating base.

About 170 soldiers with E Troop, 105th Cavalry, will be mobilized June 1 to eventually provide convoy security. They will train at Camp Shelby, Miss.

As of May 2, there were 63,170 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 80,345.

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



The casket of Army Spc. Aaron Michael Genevie, 22, of Chambersburg, Pa., during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery, April 30, 2007. Genevie was killed April 16 when his vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Baghdad. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Serving Soldiers “Joined The Campaign”

**“We Should Pull Out And Call It
Quits.” -- Private Paul Barton
Staffordshire Regiment;
“Blokes Are Dying For No Cause
At All” -- Corporal Richard
Bradley, Staffordshire Regiment:
Military Families Campaign Day
[UK]
Saturday 12 May**

April saw the highest number of British soldiers killed since the invasion of Iraq.

Soldiers returning from Iraq have said they are “sitting ducks”.

Last week two members of the Staffordshire Regiment bravely spoke out to the media:

**“We have overstayed our welcome now. We should speed up the withdrawal. It’s a lost battle. We should pull out and call it quits.” Private Paul Barton
Staffordshire Regiment**

**“I believe they should pull every single British troop out of Iraq, because at the end of the day we’re not achieving nothing out there. Blokes are dying for no cause at all and blokes getting injured for no cause at all” Corporal Richard
Bradley, Staffordshire Regiment**

Military Families Against the War call on all our members and supporters to show their support for the stand that these soldiers have taken by organising public stalls in towns and cities across the country on Saturday May 12th.

We can use these stalls to:

- * Collect signatures for our Troops Out petition
- * Distribute MFAW campaign materials [we will be producing some new materials]
- * Recruit more supporters for our campaign.
- * Collect money for Military Families Against the War

Lynda Holmes, mother of a soldier serving in Afghanistan organised a public stall in Birmingham last Saturday. She got a great deal of support from members of the public, military families and serving soldiers - some of who joined the campaign.

We'd like to repeat Lynda's example throughout the UK on Saturday May 12th.

Nearly 1,000 members of military families have now backed our campaign for troops out now. If we all act together we can increase the pressure on the next prime minister to break with Blair's foreign policy and withdraw British troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

If you would like to help organise or attend a stall in your area please contact us urgently at: campaign@mfaw.org.uk Or call 07930536519

We will publish a list of towns and cities taking part in the campaign day on the MFAW website: <http://www.mfaw.org.uk>

“Citizens Across This Country Have A Real Concern When They Begin To Consider That The Military Could Enter Their Communities Without Invitation”

[The Sheriff who worries can relax. If any traitor commanding officer ordered our troops to invade an American home town and open fire on us, that officer would be a dead officer. Our troops will never obey traitor officers. They have sworn to protect us against all enemies, foreign and domestic. A traitor officer is an armed enemy combatant and is to be treated as such. T]

May 14, 2007 By Rick Maze, Militarytimes.com [Excerpt]

An expansion of presidential authority approved last year to federalize the National Guard for domestic missions ranging from riot control to disaster relief is under fire in Congress.

Sheriff Ted Kamatchus, of Marshall County, Iowa, president of the National Sheriff's Association, said he is not sure what the Bush administration was trying to accomplish when it asked for the change in law, but he worries about leaving a question hovering over whether the Guard is operating under state or federal authority.

“Citizens across this country have a real concern when they begin to consider that the military could enter their communities without invitation,” Kamatchus said. “They hold a deep inner fear that one day someone may utilize the power of the military for the wrong purpose.”

Dishonorable Rats In Command At Ft. Lewis Fucking Over The War Wounded:

**“It’s Our Own People That Are
Spitting On Us, The U.S. Army”
“Generally, Most People Are Not Getting
Retirement Disability. They’re Getting
The Cash Out,” He Said. “And The
Reason Is Because It’s Cheaper”**

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn’t care less. To repeat for the 3,500th time, there is no enemy in Iraq. Iraqis and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started this war of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn’t tell the truth: this war was about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

May 4, 2007 By Michelle Esteban KOMO 4 [Excerpts]

On October 9, 2006 a bomb blast tossed a five-ton Humvee into the air on a road somewhere in Iraq.

A soldier had a camera rolling when they were hit without warning. “You want to say anything Bruce?” asks a soldier off camera. Stunned and looking into the lens, the soldier says, “Thank God we’re still alive.”

They are pictures we don’t normally see, taken by soldiers moments after surviving a roadside bomb blast last October. “As you can see not a good day,” says an unidentified soldier on the tape. “We’re all alive, that’s what matters.”

Alive, but broken, said Army National Guard Sergeant Chad Miller.

He was in the Humvee’s gun turret when the blast hit.

“I’m leaning down the turret and telling the guys ‘Get out. It’s gonna blow! It’s gonna blow!’ “

Miller said his head injuries are so bad that the Army deemed him disabled and unfit for duty.

He got an honorable discharge and a lump sum of cash -- about \$45,000 to retire on, and no health insurance for his family.

“I fought two wars for you, I put 20 years of my life on the line and that’s all I’m gonna get?” asks a incensed Miller.

Miller insists he should have earned a medical retirement, which would come with full health benefits for him and his family and a percentage of his base pay for life.

And we found that Miller isn’t the only Fort Lewis soldier who feels short changed.

War wounds put Sgt. Jane Sullivan in a wheelchair. Like Miller, Army doctors said Sullivan’s injuries made her unfit for duty. The Army tried to give her a lump payment of \$21,000, after taxes.

And, like Miller, she believes her injuries -- surviving an IED blast -- qualify her for much more.

“About \$21,000, that’s like a slap in the face, what they’re telling me is that’s all you’re worth. No I’m not! I’m a human being,” said Sullivan.

We contacted Brigadier General Reuben Jones, who oversees the Army’s medical retirements for disabled soldiers, and asked if he thinks the compensation for soldiers deemed unfit for duty is fair.

“When I talk to soldiers who finish up their processing, they say to me, ‘Sir, the process was fair and unbiased, I got a fair shake,’ “ Jones said.

Try telling that to Chad Miller’s wife.

“We’re getting nothing, we’re living off my income,” said Chris Miller, “and probably won’t be able to make our house payment.”

And it’s not just about the money. Miller says he husband has long-term neurological damage. He has daily headaches, trouble with his short term memory, and is often confused and irritable.

She feels he’s not the same man. “He’s not really back. I lost him on that last blast. I lost the person I knew that last blast,” Chris said through tears. She thinks her husband has post traumatic stress disorder, a condition that would qualify him for full pay and benefits.

“It hurts,” she said.

National Guard Major Bill Morisette says it only gets worse. “I feel I’ve been shamed, I feel I’ve been spit on,” said Morisette.

For 17 months, Morisette thought he had multiple sclerosis. We examined his lengthy medical file and it shows the Army diagnosed him with demyelinating disease, which is a common form of multiple sclerosis.

“It took so long to accept MS, it took over a year for him to say this is what I have, I accept it,” said Bill’s wife, Katie.

The condition guaranteed Morisette that full medical retirement.

But, a year later, Morisette claims the Army downgraded his diagnosis to Fibromyalgia, a less serious disease that comes with a one-time cash buyout.

Morisette believes the Army did a deliberate about face. “Generally, most people are not getting retirement disability. They’re getting the cash out,” he said. And the reason is because it’s cheaper.”

The Morisettes say they’re now caught in an endless cycle of appeals. It’s been a three-year ordeal -- the longest of any Army reservist at Fort Lewis.

They know they won’t be able to survive financially if they lose their appeal.

Bill’s disease and scores of medication make it difficult to hold down a job. “This affects not today, but the rest of our lives,” he said.

“It’s our own people that are spitting on us, the U.S. Army.”

MORE:

Fort Carson Soldiers Accuse Army Officials “Deploying Them To Iraq With Brain Injuries To Punishing Them For Behavior Related To Their Combat Injuries”

May 14, 2007 By Kelly Kennedy, Militarytimes.com [Excerpts]

After several soldiers came forward claiming they were discharged for personality disorders but diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries, officials at Fort Carson, Colo., say statistics show 56 of the 276 soldiers discharged with personality disorders in fact had PTSD.

Fort Carson soldiers have accused Army officials of everything from deploying them to Iraq with brain injuries to punishing them for behavior related to their combat injuries.

The soldiers also say that after Veterans for America asked for an investigation by the Army inspector general, no one from the IG's office talked to them before submitting a report that essentially said no problems had been found.

Army Times talked with two soldiers who accuse the Army of ill treatment.

Spc. Paul Thurman said he was shipped to Southwest Asia with a traumatic brain injury, even though his profile said he could not deploy.

In Kuwait, he injured his head again when a mock explosive device went off near him. When he returned, his rear detachment commander gave him an Article 15 for refusing to follow an order.

But the write-up doesn't say Thurman felt a seizure — a symptom of his brain injury — coming on, had asked to get his medication, was told no, and then left formation to get it anyway.

He has requested a court-martial.

Spc. Jon Town was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury after a rocket blew up 21/2 feet above his head, but the Army diagnosed him with a pre-existing personality disorder and discharged him with no medical benefits or retirement pay.

Town's former platoon leader told Army Times that Town had been a great soldier with no history of bad conduct or a personality disorder.

Part of the reason, [Steve Robinson, director of veterans' affairs for Veterans for America] said, may come from the PTSD training that leaders at Fort Carson receive.

Army Times obtained a series of slides dated April 2007 used for training Fort Carson commanders about PTSD.

The presentation states that it is the opinion of Lt. Col. Carl Castro, chief of military psychiatry at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, based on personal observation and research findings. Castro did not respond to a request for an interview.

At first glance, the slides promote just what psychiatrists say needs to be done: recognizing and treating PTSD, not ignoring warning signs such as alcohol or drug abuse, and working to decrease the stigma of mental health issues.

Then the briefing goes into how to address "extensive media and congressional interest regarding unsubstantiated claims."

One slide states: "Fact: Lots of soldiers may have PTSD and never go AWOL, use crystal meth, etc. PTSD is not an excuse for bad behavior."

Yet, according to the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, people who don't get treatment for PTSD often try to self-medicate with drugs or alcohol in a

“misguided attempt to reduce stress.” In fact, the center considers that a PTSD symptom.

Robinson and Pogany said soldiers have been dishonorably discharged for bad behavior based on their use of drugs or alcohol, even if they had never had such issues before going into combat.

Those bad-conduct discharges leave the service members with no health benefits from the Defense Department or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Soldiers have told [Andrew Pogany, a former soldier who investigates cases for Veterans for America] and Robinson that even if they get a mental health appointment, that doesn't necessarily mean they're being treated.

In 30 minutes, they might get, “How are you today?” and “Make sure you take your meds” and “Don't go ballistic on your family,” Pogany said.

Soldiers tell him counselors aren't specifically addressing the reintegration needs of someone dealing with PTSD, he said.

Castro's slide briefing states that if training conflicts with a mental-health appointment, soldiers should reschedule. Unfortunately, they often must be rescheduled for a couple of weeks out, Pogany said.

Pogany said the same names come up when soldiers talk about people who are doing an “awesome” job — and four or five other names always appear when soldiers complain they're being treated poorly.

“I had a senior leader tell me the other day he cannot put himself in a soldier's shoes to get what he's going through,” Pogany said.

“There seems to be this ... large inability to step up to the plate and say, ‘Let's fix it.’”

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to 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.

War Veteran Arrested For Saying “Don’t Recruit In The Library”

**The Phone Number Of The Rotten
Piece Of Shit Responsible Is
Below:**

**Have A Word With Him;
Teach Him Obedience To The First
Amendment To The Constitution Of
The United States Of America**

[The nasty little weasel who thinks he’s God of the public library would be a dishonor to any city stupid enough to employ him. That he chose a veteran to pull his petty game on is odious beyond all measure. If he’s so brave, ship his ass to Ramadi. Old, young, sick, well, it don’t matter. He doesn’t even have to be a soldier. Unless he’s just a coward, he’ll pay his own way over there and buy his own AK. Right? I mean, a rat who gets this brave with a veteran surely has no fear of fighting in Iraq, right? T]

From: Veterans Against Iraq War
To: GI Special
Sent: May 09, 2007
Subject: Gulf War Veteran/Conscientious Objector arrested in public library for counter recruiting

8 May 2007 From: Yvette Coil

What happened was we went to the Stow Monroe Falls library in Stow, Ohio.

I went to study and prepare for a workshop I was giving in DC about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Tim was reading books. An hour after we arrived two uniformed recruiters came in and met with a guy who was being recruited.

I put messages on 3X5 note cards and put them in the outside of the window of the room that the recruiters were in. They said things such as “There is no honor in fighting for a lying President,” and “Recruiters you are ‘fighting’ for my Freedom of Speech too.”

The recruiters became angry and one of them took my cards off of the window. He then asked me who put them up there. I said I did.

He asked me for my name.

My husband asked him if he was trying to deny us our First Amendment rights. The recruiter became angry and took our cards to the director of the library.

The director of the library came over to us and verbally harassed us.

Said it was his library and we weren’t allowed to do that.

We asked him if he was trying to keep us from using our First Amendment rights.

He said again that it was his library and it was his rules. We reminded him that we are tax payers and pay his salary. That the library is funded by the tax payers.

He said that we couldn’t put anything anywhere in the library where it would upset anyone, and I questioned him about the books in the library and asked if that applied to them as well. He didn’t answer me. Then he asked us not to put any more up and we did not. He walked away.

Twenty minutes later, he came back with the police.

The police questioned us about putting the cards in the window. I said that I did.

They asked for our ID’s, we asked if we were being arrested. They said no and we said we wouldn’t give our ID’s unless we were being arrested.

They said they wanted our SSN and we asked if we were being arrested, they said no.

We asked them if they were trying to keep us from using our First Amendment rights, they didn’t answer.

They asked us to leave. We left.

On our way out my husband said “don’t recruit in the library.”

The police officers then came out and arrested my husband.

He was charged with Disorderly Conduct Misdemeanor 4, which carries a 30 day jail sentence and a fine.

My husband has PTSD, going to jail would not be good for him but he is willing to go based on principle alone - that no one should deny any citizen, especially a law abiding veteran, their First Amendment rights.

We went to pre-trial on April 30, 2007, the prosecutor would not drop the charges or lower them. So we have a court date of June 5, 2007.

We are asking for help.

We do have a lawyer, we have spoken with the ACLU.

The help we are looking for is for people to write to the Stow Monroe Falls Library.

This is our letter to you, please share it with your friends, family and any veteran you know.

Dear Concerned Patriot:

My husband, Tim Coil, was arrested in March, 2007 for counter-recruiting at the Stow Monroe Falls Public Library in Stow, Ohio.

I am on to the next phase of the process of keeping Tim from going to jail for the crime of exercising his right to freely and appropriately speak to victims of the predatory recruitment tactics of the US Army. See below for details on how you can continue to support Tim and myself.

I will work tirelessly until the city of Stow, Ohio drops the charges against my husband, Tim, and ceases in their attempts to force us to pay for the court costs of all parties involved.

Tim, a Gulf War Veteran diagnosed with PTSD, has made clear that he can not be expected to pay money he and I do not have for the "privilege" of being victimized, yet once again, by the machinations of a Pentagon gone completely off the rails.

Here's how you can help Tim and I further:

Call Mr. Dotterer, the library director who called the Stow, Ohio police, at 330-688-3295, or email him at ghostrider44224@yahoo.com. Remind Mr. Dotterer that the public library is a taxpayer funded institution established for the public good.

Suggest strongly that the vast majority of the American public sees no good coming out of predatory recruitment activities taking place at a public library to staff a war that is at best dubious, and, at worst, a criminal enterprise.

Regardless of his loyalties to any particular political party or partisan philosophy, while on duty as the library's director, Mr. Dotterer has an obligation not to inflame the passions on either side of the contentious issues of preemptive wars of aggression, criminal violations of the UN charter signed into law as a treaty by the US Senate, or recruiting personnel to participate in either of these two illegal and immoral activities.

The public library is not an appropriate place to offer an unchallenged forum for propaganda, and certainly not for propaganda that advocates individual citizens break international, or domestic, laws or treaties.

A reasonable and lawful reconciliation of this issue would be for the city of Stow, Ohio to drop all charges and court costs against Tim Coil immediately, and for the library's director to issue a sincere public apology to the people of Stow, Ohio and the citizens of the United States of America.

Thank you,
Yvette and Tim Coil
coilptsd@gmail.com

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

Recruiters Take Notice: Here Are Some Politicians & Rich Citizens That Want To Go TO War!

May 14, 2007 Army Times

A group of Russian artillery officers are under investigation for charging money for members of the public to fire weapons.

For about \$1,400, officers at the Yekaterinburg artillery school were offering a chance to experience military life on their training range, according to an article in Izvestia. To help pave the way for the enterprise, all the local political bigwigs were given a free visit.

Officers involved in the scheme were caught in a sting by criminal investigators, including representatives of an organized crime task force. A commission is now investigating because there are laws against handing a military weapon over to a civilian.

In the interim, the major in charge of the training range and a warrant officer at the artillery school have been arrested, along with two clients who were at the base when the raid occurred.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Majority Of Iraqi Lawmakers Now Reject Occupation

May 9, 2007 By Raed Jarrar and Joshua Holland, AlterNet [Excerpts]

More than half of the members of Iraq's parliament rejected for the first time on Tuesday the continuing occupation of their country. The U.S. media ignored the story.

Reached by phone last week, nationalist leader Saleh Al-Mutlaq, of the National Dialogue Front, said, "We're doing our best to form this united front and announce it within the next few weeks."

The faction would have sufficient votes to block any measure proposed by the Maliki government.

They are the only significant political force focused on rebuilding a sovereign, united and independent Iraq without sectarian and ethnic tensions or foreign meddling -- from either the West or Iran.

Hassan Al-Shammari, the head of Al-Fadhila bloc in the Iraqi parliament, said this week, "We have a peace plan, and we're trying to work with other nationalist Iraqis to end the U.S. and Iranian interventions, but we're under daily attacks and there's huge pressure to destroy our peace mission."

The nationalists in parliament will now press their demands for withdrawal.

The coming weeks and months will be crucial to Iraq's future. The United States, in pushing for more aggressive moves against Iraqi nationalists and the passage of a final oil law, is playing a dangerous game.

Iraqi nationalists reached in Baghdad this week say they are beginning to lose hope of achieving anything through the political process because both the Iraqi government and the occupation authorities are systematically bypassing the Iraqi parliament where they're in the majority.

If they end up quitting the political process entirely, that will leave little choice but to oppose the occupation by violent means.

Assorted Resistance Action

08 May 2007 Hassan Abdel Zahra, AFP & Reuters & By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & May 9, 2007 The Associated Press & Reuters

A truck bomb ripped through the Interior Ministry in the relatively peaceful Kurdish city of Irbil on Wednesday, killing 14 people and wounding dozens, officials said.

The Interior Ministry building was badly damaged. Kurdish TV showed piles of rubble and twisted metal beams. Rescue workers reached into the wreckage to pull out one of the victims of the blast. Windows were blown out down the street and wreckage was scattered nearly 100 yards away.

The nearby security headquarters was also damaged.

The regional minister for the interior, Karim Sinjari, said 14 people were killed and 87 were wounded.

Guerrillas attacked workers who were setting up concrete barriers in the district of Adhamiya in Baghdad, killing one and wounding two others, police said.

At dawn, the two main British bases (inside the Basra international airport 25km north west Basra and the Residential Palaces downtown the city) had been attacked by indirect fire without casualties recorded.

Around 7.30 am, a bomber exploded himself in front of Jalwla(North of Diyala) police station killing two policemen and injuring 20 .

An attack on a police station in Jalawlah killed two.

A car bomb also exploded near an Iraqi military checkpoint in Baghdad, killing a civilian and wounding two soldiers, police said.

A bomber killed two policemen and wounded 13 when he targeted a police station in the town of Khanaqin, north of Baghdad, police said.

The bodies of three personal guards of Iraq's minister of Higher Education were found shot dead in Baghdad, an official in the ministry said.

Baghdad: Around 8am, Major Ibrahim A. Al-Nabi an officer of interior ministry was assassinated by guerrillas on the high motor way near the ministry as he was going to his work.

Baghdad: Around 2 pm, a police traffic was killed near Al-Waziriya traffic lights.

Two policemen were injured when guerrillas opened fire on them on the high way of Baghdad - Tikrit near Ishaqi village as they were going back home from Baghdad.

Guerrillas killed a general director in the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction in northern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting police commandos wounded three policemen in Palestine Street in northeastern Baghdad, police said.

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



An Iraqi citizen is forced at gunpoint to sit on the floor of his own home with his hands tied after a home invasion by foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in Mosul, Iraq May 3, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

[U.S. sponsored polls reported recently that 60% of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops. It would take a complete fool not to understand why. 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]

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

So How's That 'Surge' Going? **U.S. Embassy Staff To Wear Armor** **“Following An Increase In Mortar And** **Rocket Attacks”**

May 9, 2007 By ROBERT H. REID -- Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD The U.S. Embassy has ordered its staff to wear flak jackets and helmets while outdoors or in unprotected buildings following an increase in mortar and rocket attacks against the heavily protected Green Zone.

U.S. government employees who work outside of a “hardened structure” such as the current embassy building or travel “a substantial distance outdoors” must wear “personal protective equipment,” meaning flak jackets and helmets, the order said.

The Great Iraqi Collaborator Cop ***Training Fiasco Rolls On:*** **“An Almost Total Lack Of** **Preparedness”** **“A Lot Of Their Supply Systems Are** **Broken And Corrupt”** **“What They Do Have, They Don't Care** **For”**

May 14, 2007 By Sean D. Naylor, Military Times [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — Maj. Qussim was scared, too scared to give his full name to a reporter.

As the police officer shifted uneasily in the vinyl chair behind his desk, his fear was palpable but not irrational. His boss, the chief of the Khadra police station in western Baghdad, a Sunni officer like himself, had been killed the previous week, joining three other Sunni officers from the station who had fallen in the line of duty since the demise of Saddam Hussein.

By providing a daily presence on streets where they were raised, police officers can identify someone who seems out of place earlier than can troops from out of town, while acting as a trusted conduit through which locals can pass along information.

That, at least, is the theory. But the Iraqi police — “IPs” — have been hobbled by a tarnished history, perceptions of sectarian bias and an almost total lack of preparedness for the tough fight into which they have been thrust.

[W]hen the IPs head out onto the streets, they do so in regular police cars and soft-skinned Chevrolet pickup trucks that are vulnerable to small-arms fire, let alone the powerful improvised explosive devices that can destroy much more heavily armored vehicles.

But the Iraqis don't do a good job of maintaining the equipment they get, according to [Staff Sgt. Eddie Romero, 2nd Squad leader in Sama's 1st Platoon].

“Since we gave control back to the Iraqis, it's been very difficult ... a lot of their supply systems are broken and corrupt,” he said.

“Every one of my (five) stations has changed commanders more than once” since December, [1st Lt. Megan Williams, Sama's 2nd Platoon leader] said.

“We don't track the turnover piece of it,” [Capt. Jason Sama, commander of the brigade's 410th Military Police Company]. “I don't have any accurate numbers for the turnover rate for the IPs.” Nor, he added, does he track recruiting.

The Mansour and Abu Ghraib districts together are authorized about 2,200 IPs but have only about 1,800, according to Sama.

Only 900 to 1,200 are on hand at any given time, he said, because IPs are allowed a day off for every day they work.

“(It's) a continual struggle ... to get their manpower situation worked out,” Williams said.

What is clear is that for some IPs, fighting crime takes a back seat to staying alive. An April 28 visit to the Khadra station by Romero, his squad and two Army Times journalists showed how far some IPs have yet to travel before they can play an effective role in securing their communities.

The station chief was away, leaving Qussim, the shift supervisor, in charge. When talk turned to manning issues, it became clear that those in charge at every level — PTT chief, shift supervisor, station chief and district chief — used different sets of numbers to evaluate the station's personnel levels.

The previous day, Rahim, the district chief, said 135 police were on the books at Khadra. But Romero said 100 were assigned to the station.

Qussim's boss, the station chief, had told Romero that 30 police were assigned to Qussim's shift, but papers Romero held in his hand said the shift had 20 men. Qussim said there were 35 police on his shift but that only 18 were on duty that

afternoon. Five were on leave, and none of the 11 police on his shift who live outside the area had shown up for work.

A general air of listlessness pervaded the building. Unlike other stations in Mansour and Ghazaliyah that were reasonably clean and tidy, the Khadra station had small piles of trash and garbage in the corridors that no one seemed to have any interest in cleaning up.

Romero decided to visit two checkpoints on the road leading to the police station. Qussim had assured him he had three IPs at each checkpoint alongside the Iraqi National Police.

Romero stepped outside and encountered the lone policeman at the guard post at the station parking lot entrance. When Romero asked him why he was wearing neither body armor nor a helmet, the IP said the temperature of about 75 or 80 degrees was “too hot” for the life-saving gear.

The MP sergeant moved on to the first checkpoint, about 100 meters down the road, where he found only the National Police.

Within a few minutes, a pickup truck raced out of the station carrying the three missing IPs. When they got out, none were wearing body armor or helmets.

Asked why they had left their posts, they explained that they had all headed back to the station to replace a battery in their single hand-held radio.

The scenario was almost repeated at the next checkpoint, but this time the three IPs, two of whom were wearing body armor and helmets, made it back to the checkpoint just ahead of Romero.

They also used the “just going back to the station to get a radio battery” excuse. The pickup trucks the IPs used to race to the checkpoints were two of only four vehicles — out of 18 assigned to the station — that were operational, Romero said.

“What they do have, they don’t care for, and the logistical system to get these vehicles fixed is not there,” he said.

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/)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

CLASS WAR REPORTS



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

“A Cold Blooded Scheme To Permanently Dislocate Thousands Of The City’s Working Class, African-American Families”

May 01 [NOLA Discussion]

Letter to Washington Post
By Mike Howells

Dear Editor;

HUD’s so-called redevelopment plan for public housing in post-Katrina New Orleans is, in reality, a cold blooded scheme to permanently dislocate thousands of the city’s working class, African-American families.

To assert, as the Washington Post does, that the forced expulsion of thousands of New Orleans families from their pre-Katrina homes in public housing will somehow benefit them demonstrates, to put it mildly, a callous disregard for human suffering. Twenty months after Katrina it should be evident to even the most casual observer that denying hurricane survivors who want to return home the opportunity to do so inflicts severe emotional hardship on them.

Returning home is an integral part of the healing process for most Katrina survivors. HUD’s plan to demolish 5,000 units of desperately needed public housing effectively slams the door on the opportunity of the residents of these apartments to ever return home.

The Post attempts to justify the demolition of public housing in New Orleans by identifying it as a source of criminal activity that undermines the effort to rebuild the city.

What its editorial fails to note is that violent crime in the Crescent City has spiked since the closure of local public housing. So much for the contention that the closure of public housing is an act that advances the common good of public safety.

As a Katrina survivor and a New Orleanian who loves his home I wish exiled public housing residents every success in the struggle to reoccupy their homes.

The right of return isn’t exclusive to homeowners.

It is the right of every Katrina survivor, public housing residents included.

It is disappointing that the paper of record in the nation’s capitol refuses to acknowledge this elementary human right.

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