

GI SPECIAL 5E33:

ENOUGH: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



U.S. soldiers carry a wounded soldier to a helicopter, following a blast at a road between Fallujah and Baghdad May 19, 2007. A U.S. soldier died following the roadside bomb attack south of Baghdad. Five other soldiers including two Iraqis were also wounded. (Eduardo Munoz/Reuters)

FROM: SPC Freeman, Milo; US Army, Iraq [Get The Message?]

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

May 25, 2007 [xxxxxx] blogspot

Memorandum for Record: Military Spending Concerns
FROM: SPC Freeman, Milo; US Army, Iraq

TO: Senate Democrats, Republicans, and "American Idol" viewers across the nation.

1. You. Punk. Ass. Pantywaisted. Bitches.

2. You had a chance. You could have put your money where your mouth is--could have put some ass behind all those claims of "favoring an end to war."

3. And you fucking choked.

4. Let me explain something to you. Your children; your spouses; your lovers and friends and parents and CONSTITUENTS are hostages to this war.

They're dying for a conflict with no concrete objective.

They're losing marriages and childhood moments to a neverending cycle of extended tours.

Their equipment, their morale, is stretched thin.

And some of them--those of us smart enough not to buy the fucking hype--were counting on you to find your fucking testicles and put an end to this shit.

We were counting on you to save us from ourselves; to find a way to put us to use serving our country in ways perhaps more effective in rebuilding our nation.

5. And you. Fucking. Choked.

6. I haven't gotten a current edition of the paper in months. It's always a day behind. I don't get to check the news--I barely have the time.

So what am I to think when I read yesterday's Stars and Stripes, and hear about this shit?

Is that supposed to tell me that my leaders, my countrymen give a flying FUCK about what happens to me or my wife?

Is that the message I'm supposed to glean from this STUNNING lack of cojones?

Because I gotta tell you, America, I'm not seeing it.

7. I'm so sick of hearing this wretched war talked about in terms of Victory or Defeat.

"If we leave, the terrorists will win."

8. Fuck that.

9. Today it's Terrorists. Yesterday it was Blacks/Gays/Jews/Hippies. Before that it was Communists. Before that, it was Uppity Colonials with Secondhand Muskets and Pitchforks.

It's always fucking something with you people, isn't it?

10. You just need your little wars to feel good about yourselves, don't you?

Something to make you feel threatened; something to make you feel heroic;
ANYTHING to make you feel like your pathetic lives are more than just you against
the Big, Black, Scary Infinite. Well, obviously, it's working.

11. You don't magically "win" an occupation.

It's an inevitable bleed-out.

We're stuck in a situation beyond our powers to fix, in a country that WE voted to
destroy, whose history and people we neither understand nor care to try.

We bought the hype, hook-line-and-sinker.

12. Fuck Victory. Fuck Defeat. Any way you slice it, This. War. Is. Wrong.

13. You don't keep trying to win the game after it turns out you bribed the refs.

You fire the coaches and/or players responsible, and you hand over the Title.

You take your lumps like a fucking man and try to rebuild.

Accept it.

13. Hope you're happy, America. Clutch your pearls about all those dirty liberals
who voted against the proposal ("They didn't Support The Troops!").

Whine about all the evil elderly schoolteachers and librarians protesting the war
on a Saturday morning outside your courthouse.

14. But when your son or daughter or spouse or first lay comes home airfreight,
mangled into a closed-casket service by a daisy-chain of 155s buried under Route
Tampa, remember this:

15. It won't be the dirty liberals who put them there.

16. Hoo-ah.

//

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Milo Freeman, SPC
United States Army, Iraq

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

Texas Soldier Killed In Salah Ad Din



Spc. Michael J. Jaurigue, 82nd Airborne Division, 20, of Texas City, Texas, died May 26, 2007, from injuries sustained when a bomb detonated while he patrolled in Iraq's Salah ad Din province. (AP Photo/Fort Bragg's 82nd Airborne Division public affairs office)

California Soldier Killed In Salah Ad Din



Spc. Clayton G. Dunn II, 82nd Airborne Division, 22, of Moreno Valley, Calif., died May 26, 2007, from injuries sustained when a bomb detonated while he patrolled in Iraq's Salah ad Din province. (AP Photo/Fort Bragg's 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs Office)

IED Kills Two U.S. Soldiers

May 30, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070530-11

BAGHDAD — Two Multi-National Division-Center Soldiers were killed while on dismounted patrol when a roadside bomb exploded today.

Baghdad Soldier Dies Of Non-Battle Cause

May 30, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070530-13

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldier died from a non-battle related cause May 29.

Camden Co. Native Killed In Iraq

May 30, 2007 (CBS 3)

AUDUBON A Camden County community is in mourning after a soldier who grew up there was killed while fighting in Iraq.

Army Staff Sergeant Joseph Weiglein died in a roadside bomb explosion.

He went to Iraq last August and was scheduled to come home in November.

Sergeant Weiglein was married and was a graduate of Audubon High School.

Sergeant Weiglein would have been 32-years-old next week.

Area Man Dies In Iraq; Fort Riley Loses 100th Soldier

May 25, 2007 Kansas City Star

When he was 5, Benjamin Ashley told his parents he wanted to grow up and be GI Joe.

Ashley got to live his childhood dream.

On Thursday, he died doing so.

Ashley, 22, of Independence, was killed in Iraq when a bomb exploded near the vehicle he was driving in Balad. His death was a somber milestone -- he was the 100th soldier from Fort Riley killed in four years of war.

But the significance of that was not mentioned Friday, on the eve of Memorial Day weekend, as family members gathered in his sister's yard in Independence.

'Ben' wasn't the 100th to them.

He was just their one. 'I'm so proud of Ben,' said his father, Ken Ashley. 'He volunteered. He knew what he was doing.'

Donna Ashley said her son felt that the Army was his calling. 'He is our hero,' she said. 'He was a fantastic child, and we're going to miss him. We're going to miss him a lot.'

While family members told stories about Ashley, including how they sent him baseballs and Double Stuf Oreos to remind him of home, the fallen soldier's 2-year-old-son, Alex, peeked through the front porch railing. Ashley's widow, Cassandra, with tears on her cheeks, said the toddler would pull the family together.

Benjamin Ashley, a tactical data systems specialist, joined the Army in March 2004 and began serving with the 1st Infantry Division in September 2005. His unit deployed in September to Iraq.

'He told me that if something happened over there, he wanted me to be proud of him, and I am,' Cassandra Ashley said of her husband.

Ashley was the second soldier from the Kansas City area to be killed this week in Iraq.

Ashley was a 2002 graduate of Truman High School, where he was a band member for four years. He played the baritone saxophone.

The death of his former student saddened Todd Reinhardt, band director at Truman. 'It hits close to home when it is someone you know,' he said.

Ashley was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

More than 6,000 soldiers from Fort Riley are deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, with several thousand slated to go later this year for 15 months. Many are making their second or third trips to Iraq.

'Our pride and our joy'

From the day you were born, you have been our pride and our joy. We have been proud of what you've accomplished: years of soccer, becoming an Eagle Scout, and years of

band. But most of all, we are proud of your love for your family and friends. We know how much you love God, and our prayer is that you will continue to seek His guidance as you graduate.

Love, Mom & Dad

-- From a note Benjamin Ashley's parents wrote to him in Truman High School's yearbook, Heritage 2002

Minnesota Town Recalls Soldier Killed In Iraq

May 23, 2007 By The Associated Press

HAWLEY, Minn. — Jason Schumann is remembered by his high school principal as a delightful young man who always had a smile on his face.

The 23-year-old Army sergeant was killed Saturday when a bomb exploded near his vehicle in Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq, about 100 miles west of Baghdad, the Defense Department said Tuesday.

Schumann, of Hawley, was the 60th person with strong Minnesota ties who have died in connection with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hawley High School Principal Mike Martin called his former student a “delightful young man in every regard,” known by some as “Tuba” for the instrument he played in the high school band.

“He was an extremely happy student, kind of a free spirit of sorts, but in a very good sort of way,” Martin said. “We just thoroughly enjoyed him as a student.”

His family's pastor, the Rev. Tom Olson of Solem Lutheran Church, said Schumann's unit was escorting a convoy to the Baghdad airport when it was attacked. Schumann was on his second tour of duty in Iraq, Olson said.

Schumann's wife, Laura, and son, Joe, who will be 2 years old next month, were staying in her native England while he was deployed. They are expected in Hawley on Thursday, Olson said.

His father and stepmother, Jim and Sherry Schumann, live in Rollag, 13 miles south of Hawley. His mother and stepfather, Candie Glisson and Russell Toth live in Fargo, N.D., about 20 miles west of Hawley. They did not want to be interviewed, the pastor said.

Schumann was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Polk, La.

Schumann, a native of Tucson, Ariz., moved to Hawley in 1999 and graduated from Hawley High School in 2002. He joined the Army soon after graduation.

Martin said Schumann sent an e-mail to his high school band director three months ago “thanking him for all he’d done for Tuba. He talked about learning dedication and discipline. For a 23-year-old to take time to reflect and convey that message, that says a lot about the kind of guy Tuba was.”

In addition to playing in band, Martin said Schumann was the school’s mascot during his senior year.

“We’re the ‘Nuggets’ and nobody knew what the mascot should look like,” Martin said. “But they put together an outfit with a Styrofoam pick ax, making him up like a gold miner or something, and he was out there at all the games when the cheerleaders were on the floor.”

Pastor Olson said Schumann was very talented, and read part of Schumann’s obituary that will be published next week in the Hawley Herald:

“He was a selfless leader, always putting his fellow soldiers’ needs before his own. ... He liked to sail and also built sailboats and enjoyed cross-country running. He was a talented artist and enjoyed writing historical fiction.”

Funeral arrangements were pending, Olson said. Schumann will be buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Former Hager City Soldier Killed By Roadside Bomb

May 22, 2007 Beloit Daily News

MILWAUKEE: - Jesse B. Albrecht had built a house in Alaska with his new wife, picked up a new hobby in Iraq and planned to become an Army recruiter.

He had smart, well-laid-out plans, according to his mother, Denise Albrecht, and he’d sit around at night with his fellow soldiers chatting about golf and what courses they’d play when they returned from military service.

Albrecht, born in River Falls and raised in Hager City, was killed Thursday when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Iraq. The Army confirmed his death Monday.

He leaves behind his wife, Crystal, whom he married last July, and an 11-year-old daughter, Salena, from his first marriage.

“They already built a new home and he was going to come back and settle in and be a recruiter,” his mother said. “Crystal is going to school to be a doctor. He had really good plans for the future.”

Sgt. 1st Class Albrecht, 31, served as a motor transport operator with the 725th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. He joined the Army in June 1993 as a high school junior and was assigned to a base in Fort Richardson, Alaska in September 2005. He was less than eight years from retirement.

Denise Albrecht said that her son last came through rural western Wisconsin on his way to Alaska.

“He had switched from living in Laurel, Maryland, and he was going up to Alaska, so he stopped by for a couple of weeks,” Albrecht said by telephone from New Richmond, where the family had gathered to mourn his death.

“Then, once he got up there, they were so busy doing training missions and everything (and never came back).”

Notes From A Lost War:

“Personally I Don’t Think We Should Be In Either (Iraq Or Afghanistan),” Says Spc. Devon Walker, Of Amarillo, Texas

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

May 30 By Howard LaFranchi, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

The A/C is finally up and running again in the large tents of the 3rd Brigade 25th Infantry Division’s Doria outpost – and not a moment too soon.

At the end of a long day patrolling the simmering Rashad Valley southwest of Kirkuk, the soldiers just want to sink onto a cool cot and watch a movie on a laptop – pirated copies of “Spider-Man 3” are a current favorite. Or play a game of cards. Or sleep.

In the summer of this US counterinsurgency effort, 110-degree Iraqi heat is one of the more predictable foes the troops face. “It is one of those things that can hurt morale, and we are getting H-O-T,” says Staff Sgt. Kreskin Smith of Auburn, Ala. as he chug-a-lugs Gatorade.

Sergeant Smith is in Doria on a six-day rotation. This is one of dozens of outposts the US is setting up across Iraq to get more troops out among the Iraqi people.

And it’s a big reason why US casualties in Iraq are ratcheting up; May is now the deadliest month in 2007, with 112 fatalities.

That reality is not lost on the soldiers of Doria on this May evening.

Just this afternoon a patrol was hit by an IED, or improvised explosive device. With soldierly humor the guys who were on the patrol are called “virgins,” because no one was killed or even injured. The IED misfired.

In some cases the US military’s new outposts are no more than a house in an urban neighborhood or a tribal village.

No Taco Bell at ‘Fort Doria.’ In others cases like Doria – named after Staff Sgt. Richwell Doria, who was killed in action here last November as US soldiers battled to clear the area of insurgents – the outposts are more reminiscent of a fort in the Old West. A few tents, a command post, and a fleet of Humvees and provisioning trucks are enclosed by high, thick walls of sandbags.

Since February, platoons of soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division’s 3rd Brigade have been rotating into Doria for six-day stints from the large US Army and Air Force base “Warrior” 30 miles up the highway in Kirkuk.

Life at Warrior can resemble life on any US military base: there are large dining halls with Baskin- Robbins ice cream, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, and Internet cafes.

Doria’s different. The chow wagon is a trailer with two cooks. The dining hall consists of a few metal picnic tables under a camouflage net. Water is trucked in. There are no showers.

The outpost’s dual mission: Keep the Rashad Valley from returning to the insurgents who controlled it just six months ago, and help the new local Iraqi officials – a mayor and city council, a post of the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi police – establish legitimacy [translation: keep them from getting killed as traitors helping a foreign military dictatorship].

On some days, Doria’s soldiers carry out joint patrols with counterparts from the Iraqi Army and police. Their patrol-base commander, Capt. Jonathan Graebner, meets weekly with the mayor of Rashad, leaders of the security forces, and village leaders to help them persuade a reluctant population that the new Iraqi authorities are working for them. **[That’s about the most idiotic line in the news story. If he gets tired of that, maybe he can try to convince Palestinians that the Israelis are “working for them.”]**

As three US Humvees leave Doria on an afternoon patrol, they pass Rashad’s modest high school, its classrooms silent and its windows shattered, abandoned after “terrorists” threatened teachers to either leave or be killed. They left.

The Humvees also pass under a giant elevated “wanted” poster with the images of three men sought for carrying out local terrorist acts.

But the billboard also stands as an unintended symbol of the dangers facing Iraqis and foreign soldiers alike.

Earlier this month, the four men from Kirkuk hired by the US military to hang the antiterror ad were ambushed and killed shortly after completing the job. Members

of the Rashad police had tipped off insurgent friends that the billboard hangers had finished and were heading north on the highway, setting in motion the attack.

A three-hour tour of a few villages stretches into a seven-hour patrol after an IED misfires beneath the middle truck of the convoy.

No one is hurt, no visible damage is done, and the initial assessment is that it was a small device.

But the tension is suddenly palpable after an explosives disposal team arrives and reveals the IED was in fact a large, multiheaded device buried within many pounds of fuel and accelerant. It simply failed to function as designed.

“Once again, we missed our ticket home,” jokes 1st Lt. Frank Walkup of Woodbury, Tenn., the patrol leader, initiating a round of tension-releasing black humor among his crew.

But the incident also sets eyes scanning the arid, deserted fields. Are the hands that planted these explosives in the ground now wrapped around a hoe or a shepherd’s staff?

“It’s like fighting ghosts out here,” says Lieutenant Walkup. “We have a huge area to cover, and you may not see that much going on, but we have proof enough that they’re out there.”

Spotting a group of men and boys working on a field pump, Walkup’s Humvee stops to investigate. “Is this where you came after you planted that IED in the ground?” Walkup demands. The farmers insist they know nothing.

The patrol’s interpreter tells them that if they plant IEDs, they will be turned over to the Iraqi Army, “and they will torture you.” The youngest of the farmers begins to cry. Lest the American soldiers see that as an admission of guilt, one of the older farmers hastens to explain: The boy is crying because his brother was recently killed by insurgents simply for selling bootleg gasoline on the highway. The farmers are allowed to resume their field work.

The patrol returns to Doria. Cumbersome body armor is stripped off, and the chow wagon beckons; The evening’s fare of chicken burritos earns the cooks a little extra praise. Nightfall brings little relief from the heat, so the tents fill quickly.

The soldier’s new best friend, the laptop computer, is illuminated on beds, across chests. The laptops run games, movies, old TV series (“M*A*S*H” is one favorite). An Iraqi card game, 51, taught by the Iraqi “terps,” or interpreters, occupies a few cots. Doria has a modest array of weights and benches spread out under the water tower, so some conversations run to how much one can bench-press, and bulking up.

“I was skinny when I got” to Iraq, “but I changed that,” says Pfc. Alex Franjul, from Homestead, Fla. “I hit the weights, but I also put away some serious chicken quesadillas” at the Kirkuk-base Taco Bell, he says.

Doria has no Internet access, but a few clever soldiers find ways to get online and talk to family: They buy international Iraqi cellphones from the platoon's "terps."

"The lack of communications can be, you know, kind of depressing when something like this comes up," says Pfc. Christopher Bursh, of Syracuse, N.Y., who was just informed by the Red Cross that his grandfather has died. His mother is "disappointed I won't be with her at this time," he says, "but I have a job here.... We're restoring Iraq."

"Personally I don't think we should be in either (Iraq or Afghanistan)," says Spc. Devon Walker, of Amarillo, Texas, referring to the two places he's served. "We took out Saddam and stood up a government. Now it should be up to them," he says. "But that said, we are doing good work every day we're out here."

Spc. Andrew Rindfleisch from Vermilion, Ohio, also says that he doesn't think the US military should be in Iraq. "But I'm serving my country, and if that's what my country wants me to do, then I'll do my job," says the Humvee gunner.

"We're moving in on the bad guys, but that's never going to be enough. We're more concerned with building up the Iraqi people right now, and that's important," he adds. "If you just go out and kill the insurgents, there will always be more insurgents."

[Nicely done. The truth followed by careful CYA for the reporter.]

45 % Of Junior Enlisted Army Soldiers In Iraq Rated Their Unit's Morale As Low Or Very Low:

"Convoy Stopped In Dangerous Areas Due To Incompetent Commanders"

"Many Resent Senior Leaders For What They Say Are Harassing Rules"

Soldiers also said those who went off-base to do the most dangerous duty had to wait in long lines to use phones or e-mail, could rarely take the afternoon off to

attend concerts or other events, and found it harder to take R&R because they are needed in the fight.

May 30, 2007 By Pauline Jelinek and Todd Pitman, (AP) [Excerpts]

Life for U.S. troops in Iraq can be boring and commanders can sometimes seem petty.

Morale for each Army soldier and Marine in the war depends foremost on how much combat they have seen. But it also is about the trivial and mundane - a lack of privacy or a resented rule that dictates the color of T-shirts they must wear.

A recently released Pentagon mental health study of troops in Iraq found 45 percent of junior enlisted Army soldiers rated their unit's morale as low or very low.

Researchers found both depend partly on how long each person has been there, how many tours of duty they've served and what their personal experiences have been.

About two-thirds of those surveyed said they knew someone who had been killed or injured. More than three-quarters of soldiers and Marines said they had been in situations where they could have been killed or seriously injured.

Events that made them feel "intense fear, helplessness or horror," were described by nearly 40 percent.

Reported anonymously in the publicly released version of the study, the events included:

"My sergeant's leg getting blown off."

"A huge ... bomb blew my friend's head off like 50 meters from me."

"Doing raids on houses with bad intel."

"Working to clean out body parts from a blown up tank."

"Convoy stopped in dangerous areas due to incompetent commanders."

"A Bradley (tank) blew up. We got two guys out, three were still inside. I was the medic."

The report, released May 4, was based on data collected from some 1,300 soldiers and nearly 450 Marines in Iraq last fall. When it was released, most attention focused on the study's first-ever survey of ethics among troops at the front.

The report also found:

Fifty-six percent of soldiers were highly concerned about the long tours.

Lack of privacy was a major concern among 39 percent of soldiers, whose housing ranges from two-person trailers to 20-person tents.

Boring and repetitive work was a main concern for 39 percent of soldiers and 33 percent of Marines.

Many resent senior leaders for what they say are harassing rules - like the one on the T-shirt rules.

When asked in focus group interviews specifically what affected morale, troops consistently mentioned two things: base rules they disliked and what they saw as an unfair system on morale-boosting programs, the study said.

In some places, soldiers were not allowed to wear tan Army T-shirts with black Army shorts - they could only wear gray T-shirts with the black shorts.

In one unit, it was ordered that when two or more soldiers were walking together, they had to be dressed alike.

Such rules can be aimed at maintaining order and discipline, but troops felt “they had no other practical purpose other than to harass” them, said the report.

Soldiers also said those who went off-base to do the most dangerous duty had to wait in long lines to use phones or e-mail, could rarely take the afternoon off to attend concerts or other events, and found it harder to take R&R because they are needed in the fight.

Those who rarely, if ever left base had unfettered access to those morale-boosting programs - not to mention got “first dibs” on new items coming into the post commissary.

**FUTILE EXERCISE:
ONLY 6 MILLION MORE TO SEARCH:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



An elderly Iraqi woman photographed in her room as a foreign occupation soldier from U.S. Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment searches her home in Mosul, 23 April 2007. (AFP/Mauricio Lima)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

CH-47 Shot Down In Helmand; Seven Soldiers Killed, 5 From U.S.

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

5.30.07 AP

KABUL, Afghanistan - Five U.S. soldiers were among seven people killed when a Chinook helicopter was apparently shot down Wednesday evening in Afghanistan's most volatile province, a U.S. military official said. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

Initial reports suggested the helicopter was hit with a rocket-propelled grenade, the U.S. military official said on condition of anonymity because the crash was being investigated.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force said seven ISAF soldiers were killed after the CH-47 Chinook went down in Helmand province near Kajaki, the site of a major hydroelectric dam and scene of fierce battles in recent months.

The crew of five and two military passengers died, NATO said. It did not release nationalities, but a U.S. official said the two passengers were not American. There were no survivors.

A purported Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousef Ahmadi, claimed in a phone call to The Associated Press that militants had shot the helicopter down near Kajaki. He did not offer any proof of the claim, but Ahmadi did specify that the helicopter went down in Kajaki hours before NATO released that information.

"We have weapons that we have used to target helicopters before," he said.

ISAF said troops responding to the crash site were ambushed by enemy fighters and that the unit called in an airstrike "to eliminate the enemy threat." It did not specify if the troops were from the U.S.-led coalition, ISAF or Afghan forces.

The CH-47 Chinook, a heavy transport helicopter with twin rotors, can carry up to around 40 troops plus a small crew. The fact it was flying at night suggests the helicopter may have been carrying troops on a nighttime air assault.

Kajaki is the site of a large U.S.-funded hydroelectric dam now being repaired so it can provide electricity to the southern city of Kandahar. British troops, who make up the bulk of the forces in Helmand province, have been engaged in fierce fighting around the dam to protect it.

Assorted Resistance Action

May 30 (Xinhua)

A roadside bombing killed three Afghan guards working for a U.S. security company in Helmand province of southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, an official from the company Rahmatullah told Xinhua.

The incident took place in Gereshk district at noon, killing three guards of the private U.S. Protection and Investigation (USPI), Rahmatullah said.

Four highway policemen were killed in the south when a bomb exploded underneath their vehicle, the Uruzgan province police chief said.

Another policeman was wounded, Mohammad Qassem told AFP.

Four policemen and an Iraqi soldier were killed on Wednesday in gunfights that erupted in a small town north of Baghdad during a raid to arrest suspected Sunni Arab insurgents, police said.

Police imposed an indefinite curfew in Khalis, 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad, in volatile Diyala province, after the clashes broke out.

Three policemen were wounded. Mortar rounds were being fired in the fighting, police said. "The situation now in the town is very dangerous," a police source told Reuters.

TROOP NEWS

German Soldiers' Union Questions Afghan Deployment

From: John Catalinotto

To: GI Special

Sent: May 21, 2007

Subject: Re: 70521.1Fw: (SPIEGEL) KUNDUZ-ANSCHLAG: Soldatengewerkschaft stellt Afghanistan-Einsatz in Frage

Below is a machine translation that I tweaked a little--you have to edit it if you want to publish it. But for the non-German readers here, you'll get the gist.

John C

20. May 2007

KUNDUZ NOTICE

Soldier trade union questions Afghanistan employment.

Substantial criticism at the German employment in Afghanistan: The German Federal Armed Forces federation has doubts about the sense and about the total strategy after the deadly attack in Kunduz.

Germany and the world community run the risk, "to fail" in the country.

Berlin - the chairman of the German Federal Armed Forces federation, Bernhard Gertz, demanded after the notice about the death of German soldiers in Kunduz that there be a re-discussion of the reasons for the military commitment in Afghanistan.

"The incident provides an appropriate opportunity to begin a discussion in Germany whether the soldier himself can see reasonableness of this action and whether one can take further responsibility for having the soldiers risk their life for something whose success is doubtful", he told the "Central German newspaper".

Soldiers' Federation Chairman Gertz: "Radical change of the total strategy"

GERMAN PRESS AGENCY

Federation Chairman Gertz: "Radical change of the total strategy"

The German Federal Armed Forces federation is a kind of trade union for soldiers.

With the notice three German soldiers had been killed yesterday and five further had been hurt in the Afghan city Kunduz, Gertz said if there is no "radical change of the total strategy, then we run the risk, in Afghanistan to fail."

Continued to say Gertz. "Except the fact that elections were accomplished, one did not achieve a substantial goal."

He does not go so far as to demand a departure of the soldiers. Said Gertz, "That would surely be too abrupt, which would not be effective. But the discussion must be held. One must question about the employment in Afghanistan still more clearly - so clearly that it is not any longer ignored."

Also in the SPD voices had become loud yesterday, which questioned the employment.

The defense experts of the SPD fraction in the lower house, Hans-Peter Bartels and Jörn Thießen, today insisted that the Afghanistan deployment must go on.

The Bundestag must decide in the autumn on the extension of the mandate.

However, Bartels supported the removal of the Bundeswehr out of the U.S.-led Afghanistan Mission “Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF),” in which the German Special Forces are operating in all of Afghanistan.

“It appears that one will let the Afghanistan part of OEF run out”, explained he.

MORE:

On 5/21/07, Max Watts wrote:

**COMMENT FROM MAX AND ONE SENTENCE FOR THE NON-GERMAN READERS:
THE - SO OFTEN CRITICISED AS AN ESTABLISHMENT FRONT -
BUNDESWEHRVERBAND = (GERMAN FEDERAL ARMY LEAGUE) IS NOW
CATCHING UP WITH THE ASU (1968): “OUT OF AFGHANISTAN?”**

(WELL, THEY ARE COMING TO IT..)

**MAX POINT: IF THERE IS A UNION WHO KNOWS WHERE IT WILL GO WHEN THE
NITTY BECOMES GRITTY?**

THE BUNDESWEHR VERBAND - WHERE TO? TOMORROW?

AH: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

“SOLDIERS’ UNION QUESTIONS AFGHANISTAN DEPLOYMENT!”

Iraq Veteran Says War “Unneeded, Useless, Tragic, Horrific”

May 28, 2007 By Deborah Horan and Liam Ford, Chicago Tribune [Excerpts]

In Chicago, veterans from the wars in Iraq and Vietnam assembled at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Chicago River to call for an end to U.S. involvement in Iraq.

Several veterans of the Iraq war said the war betrays the American ideals that they joined the military to uphold.

Aaron Hughes, who served in Iraq as a sergeant in the Illinois Army National Guard, said he went to the Middle East believing that he would help the Iraqi people.

But when he got overseas, he was given orders that shattered that belief.

“I went in with values. I went in with a belief in America, and a dream,” said Hughes, head of the Chicago chapter of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

His duties included ferrying supplies to U.S. bases in Iraq, but he was told never to stop along the way. “I was ordered to never give food or water to any of the kids that are starving in Iraq.”

Vince Emanuele, who served at Al Asad Air Base in Iraq, has been coping with the loss of his best friend in his platoon and with the knowledge that he killed an Iraqi insurgent who was planting a roadside bomb.

“There are a million ways to describe a war — unneeded, useless, tragic, horrific. I would also say missing and sad,” Emanuele said.

“Missing is a piece of me that I will never get back. Sad is the state of affairs of the world which we live in today.”

After speeches by the Iraq war veterans and Barry Romo, a coordinator of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, a few dozen veterans and more than 100 other people lined up to throw red carnations into the Chicago River and pause to remember U.S. war dead.

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



Funeral services Marine Lance Cpl. Walter O'Haire at a cemetery in Duxbury, Massachusetts May 15, 2007. O'Haire was killed May 9 while on duty in Iraq. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

Iraq Veterans Threatened With Legal Action For Opposing The War

**“I Wasn’t Going To Shut Up. You’ve
Got To Take A Stand”
“It’s So Petty And Stupid”**

Kokesh doesn’t deny he was disrespectful in an e-mail to the officer who informed him of the potential action against him, telling him to perform an anatomically impossible act before calling himself a PFC or “Proud Fucking Civilian.”

May 26 By BOB AUDETTE, Reformer Staff

BRATTLEBORO -- A local son turned U.S. Marine turned anti-war activist has been threatened by military authorities for activities related to his opposition of the Iraq war.

Liam Madden, 22, formerly of Bellows Falls and a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War confirmed he received a letter from the Marine Corps earlier this month informing them he was being recommended for discharge from the individual ready reserves.

Madden, who now lives in Boston, declined to speak further on the advise of his attorney.

But Adam Kokesh, 25, of Washington, D.C., shared a similar letter in which he was recommended for a dishonorable discharge from the Marine reserves.

The first step for Kokesh is a hearing on June 4 in Kansas City to answer the charges in the letter.

“It’s so petty and stupid,” Kokesh told the Reformer Friday afternoon.

“Certainly it seems that they have been targeted because of their anti-war activities,” said Amadee Braxton, the director of organizational development for Iraq Veterans Against the War, about Madden and Kokesh.

When Kokesh received the letter from the Corps, at first he was scared, wondering what kind of trouble he had gotten himself in to.

But as a veteran of the war, he feels he has “a moral imperative to speak out.”

“You’ve got to take a stand,” he said, adding “I wasn’t going to shut up.”

A Bellows Falls Union High School graduate, Madden was a co-founder of the Appeal for Redress, in which active-duty service members appealed to Congress for an immediate withdrawal from Iraq.

In June, he, Kokesh and a dozen other veterans are embarking on a bus tour of 20 military installations on the East Coast to talk to soldiers, airmen, marines and sailors about why they oppose the war.

One of the first stops of the bus trip will be Kokesh's Kansas City hearing at Marine Corps Mobilization Command.

His threatened bad discharge -- under other than honorable conditions in military parlance -- was a result of Operation First Casualty, a "mock combat patrol" he and eleven other war veterans, including Madden, participated in during a protest in Washington, D.C., on March 19, and an e-mail exchange between Kokesh and the officer recommending his bad conduct discharge.

Kokesh doesn't deny he was disrespectful in an e-mail to the officer who informed him of the potential action against him, telling him to perform an anatomically impossible act before calling himself a PFC or "Proud Fucking Civilian."

Nor does he deny that he participated in the mock combat patrol in a military style uniform. He insisted he wore no markings or insignia on his camos, but according to the letter he received, he could be charged with commission of a serious offense for appearing "at a political event or activity in the Washington, D.C., area in your Marine Corps uniform which violated (regulations)."

Eugene R. Fidell, the president of the National Institute of Military Justice, said that Kokesh's discharge classification from the reserves would not impact the level of benefits he has been promised as a result of his active duty.

Both men received honorable discharges -- Madden in January and Kokesh last November -- from active duty service that included tours in Iraq.

As a member of the inactive reserves, Madden is subject to recall for another three years. Kokesh's obligation is due to expire June 18, 14 days after his Kansas City hearing.

Fidell was baffled by the Marine Corps action.

"It's a highly dubious business to go after someone in the ready reserves for exercising their First Amendment rights," he said. "It's a very doubtful action on the government's part."

He and Braxton both expressed concerns that the military might initiate other similar actions as a way to stifle dissent within the ranks.

"We are concerned about the outcome of these two cases because it will send a message to other veterans who justifiably want to speak out about their experiences in the war," said Braxton. "This could have a chilling effect."

Despite the letter recommending his discharge, Kokesh plans to participate in another mock combat patrol this weekend, this time in New York City.

“I still love the Marine Corps,” he said, despite the action levied against him.

WELCOME TO OCCUPIED NEW YORK CITY

May 28, 2007 By Stanley W. Rogouski, nyc.indymedia.org

The Iraqi and Afghanistan Vets Against the War staged street theater [May 26] all over Manhattan designed to show New Yorkers what it was like living under a military occupation.





Sometimes Theater Just Doesn't Trump Reality



Appendix I: The Military Occupation of NYC: The Reality:

“On Memorial Day, Protesting The War, A Veteran Gets Arrested” Cop Cowards Lie About What Happened, As Usual

Harold Trainer said his wife did struggle some, but only after the sergeant and another officer who came to assist put their hands on her roughly.

May 30, 2007 By Jessie Halladay, The Courier-Journal

A woman protesting the war in Iraq was arrested Monday during the Abbey Road on the River festivities on the Belvedere.

Carol Rawert Trainer, 60, of Louisville, has been charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer.

During the event, Trainer, an Air Force veteran, had been holding up a sign that said “End the War.”

Jefferson County Sheriff Sgt. Ted Mitchell, who was working off-duty as event security, approached Trainer after hearing her yelling at a person in the crowd, said Lt. Col. Carl Yates, a sheriff’s department spokesman.

Mitchell asked Trainer to follow him in an attempt to defuse the situation but did not intend to arrest her, Yates said.

The arrest report said Trainer punched Mitchell in the chest and continued to resist as she was yelling and cursing.

Trainer could not be reached for comment.

But her husband, Harold Trainer, who said he witnessed the incident, denied that his wife acted inappropriately and said she was exercising her right to free speech.

Harold Trainer said his wife did struggle some, but only after the sergeant and another officer who came to assist put their hands on her roughly.

“They were very aggressive,” Harold Trainer, an Army veteran who served in Vietnam, said. “It was really scary.”

Carol Trainer had been among a handful of members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War who had come to the event to show their support for ending the Iraq war.

By the time she was arrested, the other protesters had dispersed, her husband said.

“It’s ironic on Memorial Day, protesting the war, a veteran gets arrested,” Harold Trainer said.

Yates said Mitchell only became involved when it seemed that there might be a heated exchange between Trainer and some other members of the crowd.

Yates said the sheriff’s office has gotten several e-mails from people protesting Trainer’s arrest. The office will review the incident, but Yates said it appears that Mitchell followed proper procedure.

[Right. Proper procedure is arresting veterans who protest the war. Of course. Makes sense. In a stinking asshole cop’s alleged mind. They really do hate our freedom. Payback is overdue.]

Carol Trainer, who was released from jail yesterday morning, faces arraignment on the charges this morning.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

GET THE MESSAGE?



An Iraqi resistance fighter celebrates in front of a burning SUV after a roadside bomb exploded in central Basra, May 25, 2007 injuring 3 mercenaries. (AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani)

2 Iraqi Employees Of U.S. Embassy Believed Captured

May 30, 2007 BAGHDAD (AP)

The US has confirmed that two Iraqi employees of the American Embassy in Baghdad are believed to have been captured.

A State Department spokesman could not say when the pair went missing, and has not been able to confirm reports that they are a married couple who have been killed by insurgents.

Assorted Resistance Action

28 May 2007 Reuters & 5.29 AP & Reuters & May 30, 2007 By BUSHRA JUHI, The Associated Press & Reuters

Guerrillas in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, set up fake checkpoints on the outskirts of the city and abducted more than 40 people, most of them soldiers, police officers and members of two tribes that had banded together against local insurgents, a police official in the city said on condition of anonymity because he feared retribution.

Four policemen were killed by a car bomb in Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed two policemen and wounded three others on Monday in Shirqat, police said.

At least nine in Fallujah were killed on Wednesday morning by a mortar Attack that Sent Mortar Rounds Into the Courthouse. Most of the casualties came from the courthouse.

Abdul-Rahman al-Essawi was killed Monday when guerrillas broke into his home about 10 miles west of Fallujah, a former insurgent stronghold in Anbar province.

Al-Essawi was shot to death along with his wife, son, parents and three other relatives, said Dr. Anas al-Rawi of Fallujah General Hospital where they bodies were taken.

Other family members told an Associated Press reporter in Fallujah that al-Essawi was working as a reporter the online NINA news agency and as the media representative of Anbar Salvation Council. The council was formed recently among Sunni tribes in Anbar to fight insurgents.

HAMZA - A roadside bomb targeting a police intelligence officer's convoy killed two of his bodyguards and wounded three others, including the officer, police and medical sources said.

Two policemen were wounded in clashes between guerrillas and police in Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting police commandos wounded four policemen on Tuesday in Madaen, 45 km south of Baghdad, police said.

Armed militants wounded three policemen when they attacked a checkpoint on Tuesday in the town of Iskandariya, 40 km south of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents attacked the convoy of a member of the Hawija city council, killing one bodyguard and injuring two others.

Gunmen killed police Colonel Mohammed Shakir in a drive-by shooting in west-central Baghdad, police said.

Gunmen killed police Brigadier Alla Abdul Razaq with two of his bodyguards in southeastern Baghdad, police said.

One soldier was killed and three others were wounded by a roadside bomb targeting their vehicle in the Jamiaa district of western Baghdad, police said.

Four policemen and an Iraqi soldier were killed in gunfights that broke out when police tried to arrest suspected insurgents in Khalis, 50 km (30 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Good News! Iraqi And Afghan Resistance Block Bush Plans To Bring Invasion & Mass Death To Darfur

5.30.07 By Yochi Dreazen, Wall St. Journal [Excerpt]

Washington: The Bush administration's new sanctions against the Sudanese government highlight how few options the U.S. has for ending the violence [translation: invading and escalating the mass death] wracking the war-torn African nation's Dafur region.

The administration also believes that there would be little public support for sending American military personnel to Darfur on an open-ended and high-risk peacekeeping mission [translation: war of occupation] given growing public anger over the long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



An Iraqi boy watches a foreign occupation soldier from U.S. Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division search his family's home near Youssifiyah, Iraq May 21, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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

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

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Welcome To The Occupied USA

Part 2:

**“For Black And Hispanic Youngsters,
Grieving Can Be A Criminal Offense”
Cowardly Scum-Bag Cops Act Real
Brave When Tormenting Children**



Appendix I: The Military Occupation of NYC: The Reality:

May 28, 2007 06:27AM EDT Stanley W. Rogouski
[nyc.indymedia.org]

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

May 29, 2007 By BOB HERBERT, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

These are small incidents, but they are accumulating by the tens of thousands, and someday New Yorkers are going to be shocked by the power of the anger that these seemingly insignificant incidents have generated.

The principal of Bushwick Community High School in Brooklyn told me about a student who was gratuitously insulted by a police officer at a subway station the other day.

The girl had lost her MetroCard and was carrying a note on the school's letterhead asking that she be allowed to ride the train. This was fine with the token clerk, but the clerk told the girl to show the note to a cop on duty at the station.

The cop, in front of several onlookers, told the girl she was the oldest-looking high school student he had ever seen. He demanded that she tell him the square root of 12. He loudly declared that she was stupid and refused to let her board a train.

The girl left the station devastated and in tears. No big deal. Certainly not newsworthy. Just another case of cops being cops.

Several students from Bushwick Community High were among the three dozen or so who were swept up by the cops last week as they were walking toward a subway station, on their way to a wake for a teenage friend who had been murdered.

For black and Hispanic youngsters, grieving can be a criminal offense.

One of those arrested was 16-year-old Lamel Carter, the son of a police detective. I interviewed him after he had spent a night in jail.

"It was pretty nasty," he said. "There were five of us in each cell. One of my friends was throwing up, and another had an asthma attack. The police said they got us for unlawful assembly."

(I asked the police captain who ordered the arrests, Scott Henderson, to explain the offense of unlawful assembly. He couldn't. "If you would like the exact definition," he said, "I would have to look that up.")

Fifteen minutes after I interviewed Lamel, he was stopped again by two police officers. They asked him where he was going, ordered him to spread-eagle himself against a patrol car, searched him and then him let go.

He was just another black kid (now with a brand-new arrest record) on the streets of Brooklyn. No big deal. Just one of hundreds of similar stops each day.

One of the youngsters arrested while trying to attend the wake was Aliek Robinson, a 17-year-old who had come up from Baltimore. He had known the slain youth, Donnell McFarland, whose nickname was Freshh, since he was 6 years old.

When I interviewed him, Aliek told me how one of the cops had gone out of his way to mock his dead friend.

“After we got arrested, the cops were questioning us one-by-one,” he said. “This one cop had a smile on his face and he said, ‘Your man, Freshh, he was babbling like a little girl when he died.’ And then he started giggling. I don’t know why he said that. He didn’t have to say that.”

Just cops being cops.

The important thing to remember here is that this behavior, in neighborhoods where the majority of the residents are black and Hispanic, is often the norm.

This is not unusual police behavior. There is a huge percentage of cops on patrol whose knee-jerk approach to policing is to treat all young blacks and Hispanics as potential criminals.

All high-ranking public officials in the city are aware of what is going on.

I asked a black official, who asked not to be identified, why more minority officeholders aren’t objecting publicly to the way minority youth are treated by the police. He said no one wants to be responsible for challenging the cops and then being blamed if crime statistics start to go back up.

The two individuals most responsible for this sorry state of affairs are Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly. All it would take is a directive from them to bring the ugly harassment under control.

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