

GI SPECIAL 5F14:



Flags are bits of colored cloth
that governments use first
to shrink-wrap people's brains
and then as ceremonial shrouds
to bury the dead.

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

**“He Said To Us, ‘I Don’t
Understand Why We’re
Fighting. No One Was In
Favor Of It’”**

Jun. 03, 2007 By ANA MENENDEZ, Miami Herald

Junior Cedeño Sánchez was killed in Iraq on Memorial Day. The Dominican-born soldier had lived briefly in Miami, in a home in Country Walk. He was 20 years old and had wanted to be a pilot.

Cedeño had been in Iraq for only a few weeks when a roadside bomb exploded, killing him and his staff sergeant. He was (exact counts are difficult to come by) about the

115th soldier killed out of Fort Lewis in Washington state and the 3,400-something killed since the invasion of Iraq.

I spent most of Friday talking to public affairs officers from Washington state to New Jersey. They were polite, efficient, and thoroughly unhelpful.

Within the military bureaucracy, as within the larger unaffected America, Junior Cedeño was just another soldier, one of thousands of young men and women killed since the United States invaded Iraq in the spring of 2003.

None of the public relations officers knew or could talk about the strikingly handsome young man pictured in the story that was published Thursday in the Dominican El Diario La Prensa New York.

The reporter, José Acosta, interviewed Junior's father, Ramón Cedeño Jiménez, in the Bronx who told him that he still could not believe that the son he had celebrated New Year's with just a few months ago was gone forever.

“My son told me that in the military base, soldiers questioned among themselves about the war, what was the reason they were fighting,” Ramón told the El Diario reporter.

It was the same thing Junior's stepmother Mary Caraballo told me Thursday afternoon in a phone interview from New York City: “He said to us, ‘I don't understand why we're fighting. No one was in favor of it.’”

Caraballo was home with her husband on Memorial Day when the doorbell rang. She looked out the window and saw two men in military uniform.

“I have seen enough television to know that's how they do it,” she said. “And that's how it was. Such a cold announcement.”

The men didn't speak Spanish, but she and Cedeño's father understood enough to know that their son was dead.

Just the night before, a Sunday, Junior had e-mailed his family a bunch of photographs. Then he had signed off:

“He said, I need to go now because I have to wake up at 4 in the morning to go on a mission,” remembers Caraballo.

It was that mission that took his life, briefly lived and ended at age 20. He will be buried in the city of La Romana, Dominican Republic.

“It was the early morning when we took him to the airport to go to Iraq,” said Caraballo. ‘I said to him, ‘Take care of yourself.’ And he said, ‘Don't worry, I'll be back soon.’ “

MORE:

**“‘His Statement To Me Was That
There Was No Mission,’ Said
His Father”**

**“His Mother Said There Was ‘No
Purpose At All’ To Her Son’s
Death”**

**“He Didn’t Feel That The People
Wanted Them There Anymore”**

June 2, 2007 BY CARL MACGOWAN, Newsday

Growing up in Oakdale, Matthew Baylis dreamed of being a soldier.

He watched the Military Channel and the History Channel. He was fascinated by swords. He joined the Army two years ago, after graduating from Connetquot High School, his family said.

“Even when he was a little boy, he always played Army,” said his mother, Laurie Baylis. “We couldn’t convince him to do anything else.”

On Thursday, 10 days after his 20th birthday, Army Pfc. Matthew Baylis died from injuries he received a day before in Baghdad. He had been wounded when his dismounted patrol encountered small arms fire, the Pentagon said Friday.

Baylis is the 26th Long Islander killed in the Iraq war. He was one of 125 American service members killed in May - the third-deadliest month for U.S. soldiers, according to Iraq Coalition Casualty Count.

Baylis had sent his family photos of himself with his Army buddies and Iraqi children. But the gung-ho soldier’s perspective changed shortly after arriving in Iraq in October.

“He wanted to go there and do his job, but once he got there, his statement to me was that there was no mission,” said his father, Richard Baylis, 56, of Holtsville, a dealership acquisitions manager for Long Island Auto Group.

“There was no defined mission, and that bothered him and everyone in his unit. Sometimes they would get fired at before they got their orders for the day.”

His mother said there was “no purpose at all” to her son’s death.

“Things changed once he got over there,” said Laurie Baylis, 55, of Holtsville, who works in human resources at Stony Brook University Medical Center.

“He didn’t feel that the people wanted them there anymore.”

The family on Friday seemed torn between disillusionment and pride in their son and his dedication to the military. They talked of a handsome, fun-loving boy who was admired by his cousins and beloved by children.

“He was not only gorgeous, he was a heartthrob with the girls,” said his aunt, Wendy Farrell Mele, 43, of Pound Ridge in Westchester County.

His girlfriend, Lisa Laura, 20, of Holbrook, shared a birthday with the man she had been dating for more than three years. Baylis had sent her a ring for their birthday on May 21.

“It was a promise ring,” Laura said, adding that they had discussed getting married when Baylis came home.

Baylis was reluctant to tell her about his work, said Laura, a student at the University of Central Florida. “I didn’t really want to hear it, anyway,” she said. “He said, ‘I’m going to be doing some bad things, but don’t worry about me.’”

His cousin, Cheryl Lehmann, of Holtsville, noticed a change in the “normal, everyday kid” who was the ring-bearer at her wedding. Baylis enjoyed the camaraderie of the military but detested life in the combat zone, Lehmann said.

In an online profile, Baylis said of life in Iraq: “Over here nothing but getting blown up and shot at.”

To help Baylis and his fellow soldiers augment their supplies, his family initiated fundraising efforts.

His father hung posters soliciting donations to the United Service Organizations at his office and the New Idle Hour Deli in Oakdale. The posters featured a color photo of Baylis with six Iraqi children and a message from the hometown hero:

“I lived here in Oakdale 19 years,” said the message, written in capital letters. “Now I live in Baghdad.” The poster listed the USO Web site, uso.com.

“I was just hoping people would look at it and give money to the USO,” Richard Baylis said. He said he doesn’t know how much money was raised.

Mele said her two daughters, Olivia, 12, and Hannah, 9, raised \$30 on Memorial Day weekend by selling painted seashells on Fire Island. The money was meant to help buy supplies for Baylis’ unit.

“My children adored him,” Mele said. “I thought my family was going to be spared, but it didn’t happen.”

MORE:

**“‘We’re Going To Make Sure To
Join Some Group That Is
Opposing The War To Help To End
This Slaughter,’ Said Ed Horner”
“We Should’ve Learned From
Vietnam”
Former King Grad Killed In Iraq**



Sgt. Bruce Horner

06/03/2007 By: JENNIFER BRACKEN, Morning Journal Writer

Army Sgt. Bruce Horner, 43, was a member of the 127th Military Police Company based out of Germany. He was stationed in Al Iskandariah, in southern Baghdad, and was recently called to join thousands of troops in the search for three soldiers who went missing after an ambush on May 12 outside of Baghdad.

“When those guys got lost they pulled every living body to search for them in unknown territory, out in the fields. He was with the patrol when he was killed,” said Ed Horner, a former Lorain resident and former associate director of the Lorain Branch of the Lorain County Family Y from 1973 to 1990.

Two soldiers showed up on the doorstep of Ed and Betty Horner at their Cleveland home on Friday to deliver the news of their son’s death. Two soldiers also reported the death to Bruce Horner’s wife, Erin, at their apartment in Germany.

Initial reports say Bruce Horner was shot and killed by a sniper, according to his father. It has not been confirmed where he was killed or on what day, but his father believes it was on Friday from the little information he has received from his son's wife Erin.

Bruce Horner completed nearly 18 years of service in the U.S. Army.

"He told me about a week ago that he was going to give it up," Ed Horner said. "He said it was just so bad over there and it was driving his family life apart."

The Army has not released any more details about Bruce Horner's death to the family, however Ed Horner and his wife Betty, continue to be in contact with their daughter-in-law.

After high school, Bruce became a emergency medical technician in Lorain and his training led him to the army. He often rode with patrol units and worked at power stations doing emergency medical work.

During his current tour, Bruce Horner worked at a power station in Al Iskandariah, working with the Iraqi police on a daily basis, his father said. Prior to the Iraq invasion the power station had manufactured ammunition. The 127th MPs monitored the Iraqi police and trained them as part of their mission, according to the father.

"That has been a hotbed since they pushed a lot of the bad guys out of Baghdad," Ed Horner said. "Those guys are on duty 14 to 16 hours a day. I don't think the average American understands that.

"I don't think from talking with him, and other people I know, that people have any concept of how bad the situation is over there that we're putting the troops in."

Ed Horner said his family has a strong military background.

"This is really strange," Ed Horner said. "I had a feeling awhile ago, if I had to make the sacrifice of losing a son, I wanted to make sure it was for something. There's been a military tradition in our family."

Ed Horner and his wife have previously been active in opposing the war, and the death of their son has inspired them to further their anti-war movement.

"We're going to make sure to join some group that is opposing the war to help to end this slaughter," said Ed Horner, who is also an activist against the death penalty.

"The hardest part is when you reach that point in life that you don't expect to bury your kids," he said.

"If you could ask the president, 'Why?' Why are we sending the kids in an area where we're involved in another civil war? We should've learned from Vietnam. There doesn't seem to be a military solution. We need to talk with our enemies."

Ed Horner, who is a 30-year member of the Lorain Kiwanis Club, said his family is strong and as they await word on when their son's body will return to the United States he said the family will unite and be OK.

On April 28, Army Sgt. Norman Lane Tollett, of Elyria, was killed while on foot patrol in Baghdad. Tollett, 30, was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

MORE:

Friend Says Slain Hayward Soldier's Faith In Iraq War Was Waning; The War "Was Only Fermenting The Insurgency And Creating Needless Deaths Of Both Americans And Iraqis"

06/08/2007 By Martin Ricard, MediaNews

Army Sgt. Andrew Higgins, a Hayward soldier who died Tuesday while fighting in Iraq, was considered patriotic, but he had begun to lose faith in the war, according to his family and friends.

"He's somebody who truly believed in being in the military and supporting America," said Arnie Becker, a longtime friend of the family who knew Higgins since birth.

Higgins, 28, died in Baquba of wounds suffered from small-arms fire when his Ranger unit battled insurgents, the Department of Defense reported. He was in the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Wash.

Higgins' death is the second Bay Area war casualty in a week's time.

On May 28, Army Spec. Doonewey White was killed by a roadside bomb that exploded near his vehicle in Baghdad. White, who grew up in Milpitas and attended Andrew Hill High School in San Jose, was fatally wounded and died the following day.

Becker said Higgins fully supported the invasion of Iraq during the beginning of the war.

But as time went on, he became deeply concerned that the war “was only fermenting the insurgency and creating needless deaths of both Americans and Iraqis,” Becker said Higgins told family and friends.

Still, he never lost confidence in the country’s reason for being in Iraq and never lost allegiance to the Army and his fellow soldiers, Becker said.

Higgins’ family initially disagreed with his decision to join the military, but they later came around.

“He was one of these perfect kids,” Becker said. “He did everything right except for getting into college, which was what his parents had hoped for.”

With parental permission, he took Army basic training during the summer between his junior and senior years at Kennedy High School in Fremont.

He spent two years in the U.S. Army Reserves after graduating from high school, then he signed up for the regular Army, eventually becoming a paratrooper and joining the elite Ranger corps. He was married in 2001.

Higgins was deployed to Afghanistan with the first contingent of troops sent to fight the Taliban as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was on his second tour when he was killed.

Higgins is survived by his parents, Jerry and Cheryl Higgins of Hayward, and his wife, Rachel Higgins of Fremont.

MORE:

**JONATHAN MARKHAM 1985-2007
“He Also Had Asked His Wife To Ask
President Bush To Attend His Funeral”
“He Wanted The President To See The
Cost Of War”**

Jun. 05, 2007 By CHRIS VAUGHN, Star-Telegram staff writer

BURLESON — Late in the afternoon Monday, Stacey Markham answered the door to a woman delivering flowers.

Markham read the card and dissolved into tears and the embrace of her family.

The little card read, “I love you with all my heart. Jonathan.”

Monday was Stacey Markham's 22nd birthday. The man who sent the flowers was Jonathan A. Markham, her husband.

Cpl. Markham, 22, died last Tuesday in Abu Sayda, Iraq, one of six men killed when their Bradley fighting vehicle blew up from a powerful roadside bomb while they were racing to a helicopter crash.

Ordering flowers for his wife's birthday was one of his last acts of love.

"He always ordered flowers early," she said. "He was frugal. Anything to save money."

Cpl. Markham – he was in the process of being promoted to sergeant – returns to North Texas today on a flight into Dallas/Fort Worth Airport.

After his funeral Wednesday morning, he will be buried in the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, just down the hill from Dallas Baptist University, where his wife graduated only three weeks ago.

Cpl. Markham served on a burial detail at the D-FW National Cemetery last year before deploying to Iraq and knew that he wanted to be there if he died.

He also had asked his wife to ask President Bush to attend his funeral.

"He wanted the president to see the cost of war, to know that the men are not just numbers, that there's a face and a family behind that number," she said.

Born on March 2, 1985, in Wisconsin, Cpl. Markham's family moved to Arlington when he was in middle school. He graduated from Sam Houston High School in 2003 and joined the Army a year later as a cavalry scout.

Shortly after basic training, he was sent to Iraq for six months in the middle of the 1st Cavalry Division's deployment. When he came home in 2005, he married Stacey, a friend since high school.

Last October, Cpl. Markham deployed again, this time in Apache Troop, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment. Before he left, he re-enlisted in the Army so he could continue putting his wife through college, and he saw his child Daniel born.

"When he got out of the Army, his dream was to be a stay-at-home daddy for a while," Stacey Markham said. "He spent so much time at work that he really just wanted to be at home with us."

He loved being a soldier, she said, and felt a bond with other soldiers that she could never share.

"They have such a brotherhood," she said. "They have seen things that we will never understand."

The 1st Cavalry Division has sustained so many casualties in recent months that Stacey Markham is certain it had affected her husband's outlook. Maybe he just sensed

something, his wife said, because she learned that he told his two best friends that he loved them on the way out on his last mission.

The day before he'd sent his wife an e-mail.

"He never sent e-mails," she said. "When I got one, I cherished it. The last one he sent just summed up so perfectly our lives."

In addition to his wife and son, Cpl. Markham is survived by his mother, Dawn Markham; father Steve Bryan and stepmother Kelly Bryan; a sister, Alesha Bryan; and stepsisters Heather Bluebird, Amber Pederson and Tayler Akins.

Funeral 11 a.m. Wednesday at Beacon Baptist Church in Haltom City. Burial will follow at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery

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

Palau Soldier Killed In Karbala



Army Cpl. Meresebang Ngiraked, 21, of Koror, Palau, died on June 10, 2007 in Karbala, Iraq. He is the second casualty of Palauan descent since 2001 and is the eighth casualty from the Micronesia region this year. (AP Photo/Pacific Daily News)

Three U.S. Soldiers Killed In Kirkuk Province, Another Wounded

June 15, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070615-08

TIKRIT, Iraq – Three Task Force Lightning Soldiers were killed as a result of injuries sustained from an explosion near their vehicle while conducting operations in Kirkuk Province, Thursday.

One Soldier was also wounded and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

Maine Soldier Killed In Iraq

June 15, 2007 By News 8 WMTW

AUGUSTA, Maine -- A Maine Army National Guard soldier has been killed in Iraq.

Gov. John Baldacci on Friday announced the death of Sgt. Richard K. Parker, 26, of Phillips, who was killed in action on June 13.

According to the governor's office, Parker was a member of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 152nd Field Artillery Regiment from Waterville serving with the Security Force II element in Iraq.

Flags will be ordered flown at half-staff on the day of Sgt. Parker's funeral.

Remembering 'Bozzy'

June 2, 2007 BY CASEY FORAN, Odessa American

Only a few days after the devastating news, family and friends are mourning the loss of the one they affectionately called "Bozzy."

"I still can't believe Bozzy is gone," Lori Cuellar, the 24-year-old slain soldier's mother, said. "It's been tough, but I'm hanging in there though."

Bozzy's dad, Rafael Cuellar Jr., said the loss is hard, especially because of his son's outgoing personality.

“Bozzy was a people person,” Rafael Cuellar said. “That boy didn’t know no enemies and would do his best to help out anybody — he was a good man.”

According to a Department of Defense release, U.S. Army Sgt. “Bozzy” Cuellar was among three soldiers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, who died Wednesday in Baghdad, Iraq.

All three died of wounds suffered when the vehicle they were in struck an improvised explosive device. All three were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in Schweinfurt, Germany.

In the mean time, Bozzy’s mother said funeral plans have not been set yet — the soldier’s body has not yet been returned from Iraq.

“We don’t have anything definite yet, but we’re for sure he will be buried at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio,” she said. “These things are a long-drawn out process.”

That long drawn-out process has given Bozzy’s parents some restless nights.

Despite the lack of sleep, Lori Cuellar said the person who’s taking the loss the hardest is Bozzy’s wife, Nicole Cuellar.

“She’s not doing well right now,” Lori Cuellar said. “She doesn’t want to talk since she’s taking it pretty bad. She’s still in complete shock.”

For friends and teachers, they remember him as the musician whose life ended too early.

“He loved played to play the drums,” Dobie Harris, one of Bozzy’s friends, said. “He loved just jamming on the drums. Man — this shouldn’t have happened. He had too much going for himself.”

His love of percussion brought him to the Permian High drum line — something assistant band director John Carroll has fond memories of.

“I remember Bozzy being a relatively soft-spoken young man, respectful and a cooperative team player,” Carroll said. “He didn’t say too much.”

Carroll said he believes that attitude served Bozzy well when he went into the military.

“He was willing to cooperate and do what he was asked without complaining — evidently that helped him out when he got into the Army,” Carroll said.

FALLEN ARIZONA SERGEANT KNOWN FOR HIS OPTIMISM

Jun. 3, 2007 Lynh Bui, The Arizona Republic

Anthony D. Ewing said all he wanted to do was “go home and relax.”

Described as “optimistic” by his friends and himself, the 22-year-old had promised that “I’ll come home soon damnit!” according to a post on his MySpace profile.

But the army sergeant won’t return to the United States the way friends and family had hoped.

Ewing was one of five soldiers killed on Memorial Day in Abu Savda, Iraq, when a bomb struck their vehicle, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Ewing, who was on his second tour in Iraq, according to friends, was supposed to return to the United States soon, but his tour had been extended another 90 days.

Ewing and four other soldiers in the 1st Cavalry Division, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, were killed in the vehicle explosion.

Ewing was a 2003 graduate of Westview High School in Avondale.

His father still lives in the Valley, and his mother lives in Texas.

“He was always an outgoing, optimistic person,” said Ashley Logan, who has known Ewing since fifth grade. The pair went to Sundance Elementary School in Peoria.

“He always made people smile no matter what,” Logan said.

Ewing had planed to start college in February, she said.

As of Saturday, 3,479 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq since the start of the war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Of those casualties, 86 were troops from Arizona.

U.S. F-16 Fighter Plane Crashes In Iraq

15 Jun 2007 (Reuters)

A U.S. Air Force F-16 plane crashed during a mission in Iraq on Friday, the Air Force said in a statement.

The plane, which carried one crew member, “was flying on a close air support mission”, the statement said without clarifying his fate. The cause of the crash is under investigation, it said.

**POINTLESS EXERCISE:
NO MISSION;**

HOPELESS WAR: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. soldier aboard an armored vehicle helps provide security to a convoy of U.S. vehicles January 15, 2007. (Atef Hassan/Reuters)

“It Appeared That Militant Rocket And Mortar Teams Were Getting Information On High-Level Visits And Schedules From Inside Sources”

June 15, 2007 (AP)

The Green Zone was repeatedly locked down as U.S. radar picked up incoming rocket fire into the area, which contains the U.S. and British embassies and many key Iraqi government buildings. Workers darted between U.S. occupied buildings in the sprawling region wearing flak jackets and helmets.

Officially, the U.S. military said its radar detected five rockets aimed at the Green Zone.

But a U.S. soldier, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information, said at least a dozen rockets or mortars slammed into the zone.

An Associated Press reporter, traveling in a military convoy behind Negroponte, saw the impact zone where one of the rockets slammed to earth at the edge of the roadway. It had fallen about 25 minutes before [Deputy Secretary of State John] Negroponte drove past.

Workers in and out of uniform wore rubber gloves as they picked through the debris from the rocket, which fell near a checkpoint about 200 yards from the Iraqi parliament.

Senior U.S. officials, who spoke anonymously because of the sensitive nature of the information, said it appeared that militant rocket and mortar teams were getting information on high-level visits and schedules from inside sources.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

WELCOME TO SOMALIA: HAVE A NICE DAY



An insurgent fighting the government installed by the USA holds a surface to air missile launcher in a video from an insurgent group in Somalia June 15, 2007. (AP Photo/Mujaadinta Al Shabaab, Via AP Television)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Paktika; Nationality Not Announced

15 June 2007 AFP & Reuters

A U.S. military spokesman said a soldier killed in the eastern province of Paktika on Friday had died from wounds sustained in combat. He declined to give any details or the name or nationality of the soldier.

The death took to 82 the number of foreign troops killed in Afghanistan this year, most of them in combat.

Dutch Soldier Killed, Three Wounded In Tirin Kot

15 June 2007 By (AFP) & Ministry of Defence [Netherlands] & Reuters

A Dutch soldier was killed this morning in a bombing in Tarin Kowt.

Afghan officials say a bomber attacked a NATO convoy in Uruzgan province.

The Dutch Defence Ministry said the attack killed a 20-year-old from the Dutch Army's 42nd Battalion and wounded three other Dutch troops.

The blast that ripped through a residential area in the town of Tirin Kot, the capital of Uruzgan province, a deputy provincial governor said.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force said it was aware of an incident in the south of the country involving ISAF casualties but had no details.

"An attacker detonated explosives in his vehicle close to a NATO convoy in Tirin Kot."

New Lenox Man Killed In Afghanistan

June 4, 2007 NBC5

CHICAGO -- Nearly a month after his 22nd birthday, New Lenox native Jacob Lowell made the ultimate sacrifice for his country -- dying while serving in Afghanistan. A private first class in the U.S. Army, 173rd Airborne, Lowell was a gunner on a Humvee.

"He was a gunner. He was shot in the leg first. They were ambushed," a neighbor serving as the family's representative said, asking to remain anonymous. "He started shooting and he just continued shooting and he was the only one that was killed."

He also saved other people in his unit, the family representative said.

Jacob Lowell's parents, Raymond and Bernadine Lowell, learned of their son's death Saturday night. It was the visit that every military family member dreads.

“It was 9:30 p.m. and two people came. It was a woman and a man, and they confirmed who they were and they told them he was killed,” the neighbor said. “(Bernadine) was hoping they were going to say he was injured.”

Jacob Lowell turned 22 on May 4. He was a 2003 graduate of Lincoln-Way Central High School and was an offensive lineman on the school’s football team.

Although no one in his family was in the military, he heard a call to join because he wanted to make a difference.

“He wanted to do it. I know he was airborne, he parachuted,” the neighbor said.

Funeral arrangements have not been finalized. Jacob is survived by his sister Jennifer and brother Joseph.

TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DEATH! NOT ANOTHER
DOLLAR!
NOT ANOTHER DAY!**



The coffin of Filipino-American U.S. Army Sgt. Richard Valiant Correa at his funeral June 15, 2007 at his hometown of Lingayen, Pangasinan province in northern Philippines. Sgt. Correa, 25, who served in Iraq with the U.S. Army’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division based in Fort Drum, New York, was killed in action when he

encountered an improvised explosive device May 29, 2007 near Ilbu, Falris, Iraq. (AP Photo/Vic Alhambra)

Despicable, Lying General Betrayus Kisses Bush's Ass Again [As Usual]

Petraeus told USA Today this week that there are “astonishing signs of normalcy” throughout the majority of Baghdad. Petraeus was quoted as saying, “I’m talking about professional soccer leagues with real grass field stadiums, several amusement parks, big ones, markets that are very vibrant.” Quoted by Anne Flaherty, The Associated Press, 15 June 2007

[The resistance mortars hitting the Green Zone are pretty “vibrant” too. The soldiers daily KIA, however, are not “vibrant” at all. No amusement parks or soccer league games for them. T]

“The Next Marine Who Faces Harassment And Intimidation Will Have Something To Stand On”



Jun. 13, 2007 By DAVE HELLING, The Kansas City Star

Marine commander Lt. Gen. John Bergman today announced he had endorsed a review board recommendation that Cpl. Adam Kokesh get a “general discharge under honorable conditions.”

Bergman levied the penalty on Kokesh for his actions in a March war protest and his subsequent obscene communication with a superior officer. With the sanction, Kokesh will keep his veterans' benefits.

But the corporal, who is now a student at George Washington University, said he'll appeal.

“We can't drop this,” he said. “No precedent has been established. The Marine Corps got away with something in this case.”

His attorney, Michael Lebowitz, said he'll take the case to the Navy Discharge Board, and then to federal court if necessary.

Kokesh is a member of the Individual Ready Reserve, a commitment that was set to end next Monday. Bergman's decision means his separation from the Corps will come just days before his service was to end anyway.

The final decision was Bergman's to make because Brig. Gen. Darrell Moore, who would have normally decided the case, instead sent it up the chain of command. In a statement, the Corps said Moore made that decision “to ensure no questions of objectivity and impartiality.”

Moore, the head of the Marine Mobilization Command, received an e-mail from Kokesh containing an obscenity earlier this year. Kokesh sent a similar email to Maj. John Whyte, who was investigating Kokesh's use of a stripped-down Marine uniform in a “street theater” protest last March in Washington.

That protest, and Kokesh's e-mail to Whyte, prompted an attempt by the Marine Corps to reduce Kokesh's original active duty honorable discharge to other-than-honorable. The general discharge splits the difference – it's a tougher sanction than an honorable characterization, but less punitive than an other-than-honorable discharge.

Lebowitz said even though the appeal will continue, the general discharge was a good outcome for his client: “I want to stress that we did beat them back on the other-than-honorable (discharge).”

Kokesh said he wanted to continue to argue the case for other servicemen and women; that way, he said, “the next Marine who faces harassment and intimidation will have something to stand on.”

Straws In The Wind; Arrowsic, Maine Has Had Enough

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

June 14, 2007 By Craig Brown, Common Dreams [Excerpt]

Last night, residents of the small, Maine coastal town Arrowsic came together for their annual town meeting.

Among other town business, they voted 71-17 in favor of a resolution asking President Bush and Congress to immediately stop all war funding, to end American occupation in Iraq and to bring the troops home now.

No equivocating there.

Arrowsic is just across Casco Bay, about 30 miles from our offices in the Old Port neighborhood in Portland. I know Arrowsic. And believe me, it's a typical, rural small town.

And yet.

No mention of 'benchmarks'. No 'we broke it, we have to stay and fix it'. No 'we have to keep funding flowing for the troops.'

The Warrior Writers Project Presents: **Intrusive Thoughts: Photographs, Writings And Performances From The War Abroad, At Home, And In Our Minds**

[Thanks to Katherine GY, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Monday, June 18, 7-10pm
National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum
1801 S. Indiana Ave. - Chicago, IL
312-326-0270

info@nvvam.org www.nvvam.org
Free and open to the public

The Warrior Writers Project provides tools and space for community building, healing and redefinition to Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW). Through writing/artistic workshops that are based on experiences in the military and Iraq, veterans unbury their experiences and connect with each other on a personal and artistic level. The writing from the workshops is compiled into books, performances and exhibits that provide a lens into the hearts of people who have a deep and intimate relationship with the Iraq war. Furthermore, it gives the veterans a sense of ownership over their stories and strength in their voice, perspective and power.

We invite you to join us for our first presentation in the mid-west!

At this show we will share writing that reflects on the day's earlier action entitled, Operation First Casualty (OFC).

The first casualty of war is truth! OFC is guerilla street theatre with the purpose of showing the public the true reality of the occupation of Iraq.

Warrior Writers' first book "Move, Shoot and Communicate" will be available for sale.

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www.nvvam.org
www.opensource.boxwith.com
www.drawingforpeace.org

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

GET THE MESSAGE? "Thousands Demanded The End Of The Occupation Of Iraq"



Iraqis took to the streets in Sadr City in Baghdad, June 15, 2007. Thousands demanded the end of the occupation of Iraq. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



An Iraqi family is forced to sit on the floor of their own home after foreign occupation soldiers from the USA break into their house in the middle of the night in the town of Al-Meshahda, 50 km (32 miles) north of Baghdad, June 11, 2007. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

[U.S. sponsored polls reported recently that 60% of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops. It would take a drooling idiot 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]

“My sons and wife were very terrified,” complained Muhannad Mihbas, 30, who said his brother and six cousins were taken in the sweeps. “Does the security

plan mean arresting innocent people and scaring civilians at night?" BRIAN MURPHY, AP, Feb. 27, 2007

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

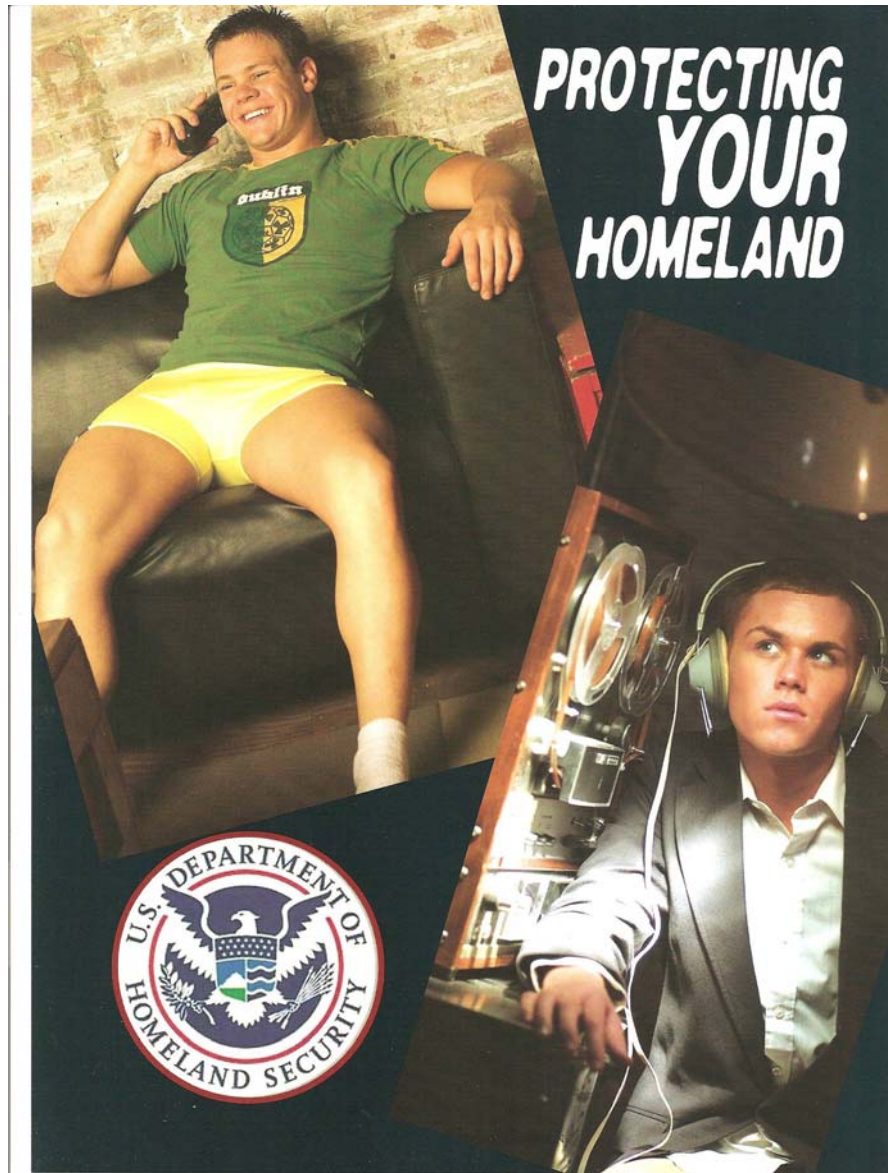
Prayer Meeting is Surprisingly Well Attended



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

Troops Invited:

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



[Photo by James Patrick Dawson, XY Magazine]

FBI Broke Law & Rules More Than 1,000 Times In Spying On Americans

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

Jun 14 By James Vicini, (Reuters)

The FBI possibly violated the law or its rules more than 1,000 times since 2002 in collecting data about phone calls, e-mails and financial records while investigating terrorism or espionage suspects, FBI officials said on Thursday.

The potential violations found by an FBI audit were far greater than the approximately two dozen previously documented violations in a U.S. Justice Department report released in March that was based on a much smaller sampling, they said.

The ongoing audit concerned the use of national security letters, which allow the FBI to compel the release of private information such as communications or financial records without getting court approval.

Their use has grown dramatically, mainly as a result of powers granted to the FBI under the USA Patriot Act, an anti-terrorism law Congress approved after the September 11 attacks.

Caroline Fredrickson of the American Civil Liberties Union said the new guidelines were not enough. "Congress must go back to the legislative drawing board and rein in the broad ... authorities expanded by the Patriot Act," she said.

Justice Department inspector general Glenn Fine in the March report sharply criticized the FBI for how it demanded and received records such as customer information from telephone companies, Internet service providers, banks and credit card firms.

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 to contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

“A Protest Against The U.S. Occupation Of Iraq In Srinagar”



A Kashmiri protester holds a placard during a protest against the U.S. occupation of Iraq in Srinagar, Indian occupied Kashmir, June 15, 2007. Kashmiri protesters burnt American flags and effigies of US president George W. Bush. REUTERS/Fayaz Kabli

Mass Strike Shakes South Africa



JUNE 13, 2007 Aljazeera

Thousands of South African workers have marched in sympathy with striking civil servants, highlighting the divide between the ruling African National Congress and its trade union allies.

Central Johannesburg came to a standstill as about 15,000 union supporters chanted slogans denouncing the government of Thabo Mbeki, the president.

Marchers thronged the streets of other major cities, including Cape Town, on Wednesday.

Durban, a major port, was all but shut down as buses and taxis stopped operating. Activity was paralysed in hospitals, schools and public offices.

However, transport was still normal in Johannesburg, the country's economic centre, and a number of other cities.

Workers in essential services, such as police, healthcare and emergency services, are barred from joining the strike, and some Cosatu unions, including the influential National Union of Mineworkers, did not join the boycott.

Many did, however, including those representing municipal workers. Mounds of refuse lay in city centres as rubbish collectors stayed off the job.

Unions are pushing for a left-wing government when a new president takes office in 2009 - reflecting criticism that Mbeki's market-friendly policies have not done enough to help the black majority.

Jovial Rantao, a commentator for the Star newspaper, said on Wednesday: "This is the one strike aimed at Mbeki and his supporters."

"Once the strike is over, the unions would have demonstrated that they can, if they want to, bring the government and indeed the rest of the country to its knees."

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

<http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://gi-special.iraq-news.de>;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>;

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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