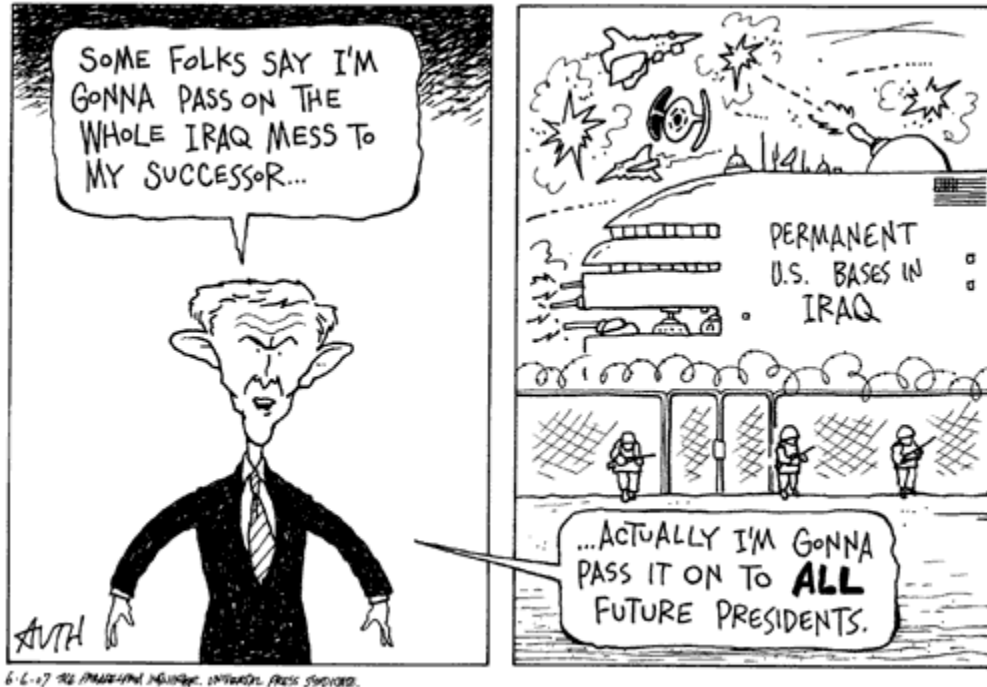


GI SPECIAL 5F18:



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

**“My Heart Finally Broke
For The Iraqi People”**
**“We Burst Into Homes, Frighten
The Hell Out Of Families, And
Destroy Their Homes Looking
For An Elusive Enemy”**

“I Wanted To Just Sit Down And Cry While Saying I’m So, So Sorry For What We Had Done”



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

05/14/2007 Iraqslogger.com

"Philosophy has kept me grounded in conjunction with the things that I have seen in my life that have changed me drastically," Army Staff Sgt. Darrell Griffin Jr. told US News and World Report's Alex Kingsbury on March 3, 2007.

Eighteen days later, a sniper in Sadr City killed the 36-year-old squad leader of Charger Company's 3rd platoon, 2-3 Stryker Brigade.

In his original story about the Stryker Brigade, Kingsbury used just one quote from his interview with Griffin. But this week, he has published a heartbreaking and detailed profile of the man using that original interview, along with e-mails, photos, and other materials and interviews provided by Griffin's family. What emerges is a complex portrait of a thoughtful and sensitive man, one confident in his sense of duty, but not without concern for the effect the war has had on ordinary Iraqis.

Kingsbury writes of one March 5 raid he accompanied Charger Company on while embedded, reporting that the platoon entered the home of a family whose only crime was having names similar to those of wanted insurgents.

Griffin recounted the revelation he experienced during the raid later in his journal:

"I noticed the mother attempting to breast feed her little baby and yet the baby continued to cry. who is a certified and well educated doctor of internal medicine educated in Iraq, told me that the mother, because she was very frightened by our presence, was not able to breast feed her baby because the glands in the breast close up due to sympathetic responses to fear and stressful situations.

"I then tried to reassure the mother by allowing her to leave the room and attain some privacy so that she could relax and feed her child.

"I felt something that had been brooding under the attained callousness of my heart for some time.

"My heart finally broke for the Iraqi people.

"I wanted to just sit down and cry while saying I'm so, so sorry for what we had done.

"I had the acute sense that we had failed these people. It was at this time, and after an entire year of being deployed and well into the next deployment that I realized something.

"We burst into homes, frighten the hell out of families, and destroy their homes looking for an elusive enemy.

"We do this out of fear of the unseen and attempt to compensate for our inability to capture insurgents by swatting mosquitoes with a sledge-hammer in glass houses.

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

IED Kills U.S. Soldier In Baghdad

June 18, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070618-09

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near a foot patrol in the southern part of the city.

Beach City Soldier Killed By Roadside Bomb In Iraq

June 18, 2007 The Associated Press

BEACH CITY, Ohio -- The father of a soldier from the Canton area said his son was killed in Iraq on Saturday. Frank Grass said his 22-year-old son, Zachary, was inside a vehicle that was hit by a roadside bomb.

To console one another, relatives gathered Sunday in the family home about 15 miles south of Canton near Beach City.

Zachary Grass was a 2003 graduate of Navarre Fairless High School, where he played basketball and baseball. He visited his former teachers and coaches at the school while on leave from the Army earlier this year.

California Soldier Killed In Iraq



U.S. Army, Spc. Romel Catalan, 21, of Los Angeles, Calif., died on June 2, 2007, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Iraq. He was member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment at Fort Lewis, Wash. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Chandler Soldier Killed In Iraq Was Preparing For Marriage



Jun 11, 2007 By Nicole Beyer, ABC15

Wedding bells were supposed to ring for Sgt. Caleb Christopher when he returned from his tour of duty in Iraq.

Instead, this 25-year-old Chandler soldier died after he was hit by an improvised explosive device June 3rd.

The day before he died, Christopher called his fiancé, Rebecca Cadro. "He was just about to take a shower and go to sleep, he just wanted to tell me he loved me, that he was ok for that one day."

One of the reasons Christopher joined the Army in May 2002 was the terrorist attacks of 9/11. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas. "Caleb desired for the American troops to finish what was started in Iraq, he believed that there was no such thing as quitting," said his sister, Sarah Christopher.

That courage was recognized on the battlefield, earning him 6 medals during his three tours of duty in the Middle East. His father, Edward Christopher, wants to remember his son "as a true soldier fighting for his country and fighting for our freedom."

"The last thing he said before he always said goodbye was I love you always and forever and I think he feels that way about all of us and we feel the same way back," said his fiancé.

Inland Man Killed In Iraq; Had Just Been Home For Birth Of Daughter



June 13, 2007 By LAURA RICO, The Press-Enterprise

When Cameron Payne enlisted in the Army, it was not necessarily to fulfill a lifelong dream but out of a sense of duty toward his growing family.

"He did not join the Army to be G.I. Joe, he did not join the Army to be anyone's hero," said his mother, Denise Jackson. "The reason he joined the Army was to support his family."

Payne, a private first class, was killed Monday in Iraq when a vehicle he was traveling in struck an improvised explosive device during combat operations in Baghdad, the Defense Department said Wednesday.

Payne, 22, was the proud father of an 18-month-old daughter and a 4-week-old girl. Just last month, Payne witnessed the birth of his daughter Kylee in Corona while home on leave.

His wife, Julie, 22, recalled her husband as a family man. She said their elder daughter, Annaleese, bears a striking resemblance to her father.

"They look like twins," she said. "She's got his personality, his humor."

Payne met his future wife, who described him as "the funniest guy anyone could meet," while the two were students at Buena Vista High School.

"He was actually my secret admirer in high school," she said. The couple married in October 2005 after a courtship that included trips to amusement parks and surprise flower deliveries.

Jackson, Payne's mother, said that "falling in love" made her son more responsible and goal-oriented.

One of his first goals was to join the Army to support his family. The transformation became apparent after basic training, his mother said.

"After he went through his course he was a totally different person," she said. "He had goals and he knew what he wanted."

Payne enlisted in the Army in 2005 and began basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., that November, said Army spokeswoman Alison Kohler.

In March 2006, Payne went to Fort Riley, Kan., where he spent the rest of the year preparing for deployment to Iraq.

Payne and his unit arrived in Iraq in February, Kohler said.

Many corrections officers at the California Rehabilitation Center, the medium-security prison in Norco where Payne's mother works, have known Payne since he was a child, and news of his death hit many prison staffers hard, said Lt. Mike Brownell, prison spokesman.

"Folks are pretty upset, but we've banded together to offer her our support," he said.

Payne's death has been especially difficult for his younger brother, Cody Gowens, their mother said.

Whether it was camping trips or visits to the beach, "we did everything together, that's how we rolled, we rolled the three of us," she said. Payne's father died when he was a boy, and the siblings were raised by their mom.

Payne's mother said she tried to steer her son toward a career in law enforcement or corrections, but he found certain aspects of the Army more attractive.

For instance, when he re-enlisted in May, he was told he could eventually relocate to any base he chose. Payne had his sights set on the Seattle area, his mother said. He thought the Pacific Northwest offered a more "pure and clean" environment for his family than the Inland Empire, she said.

Local Soldier Seriously Hurt In Iraq

June 18, 2007 The Daily Press

ESCANABA — PFC Robert G. Lamarche was seriously wounded on patrol in Iraq Friday.

Lamarche, serving with A TRP/1-73 CAV, is the son of Bob and Toni Lamarche of Escanaba. He is now being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., said Robert's grandfather, Bob Mcghee, in an e-mail today. Lamarche is on a breathing machine there, Mcghee said.

Lamarche was in critical condition Friday and underwent surgery in Medical Treatment Facility in Balad, according to a letter issued by Lamarche's squadron commander Ross E. Davidson Jr. He was then moved to Landstuhl, Germany, before returning to the United States.

Lamarche was wounded Friday around 3:30 a.m. EST in a region south of Baghdad, well known as an insurgent stronghold and terrorist base of operations, Davidson said. The squadron had been operational in the area for about 48 hours when the attack occurred.

Lamarche was struck by an enemy bullet during an engagement with enemy personnel, said Davidson. The bullet entered the left side of his neck and exited his right shoulder.

The family is requesting prayers.

Lamarche is a 2005 graduate of Escanaba High School, said Mary French, EHS secretary.

His parents are with him today in Washington, according to Mcghee.

Notes From A Lost War:

**“Iraqi Soldiers Manning A Nearby
Checkpoint Later Said They Had
Received A Tip That The Bomb Was
Being Placed”**

**“The Iraqi Soldiers Said They Had Been
Unable To Reach The American Troops
To Tell Them”**

[And the Associated Press won't give the reporter who wrote this a byline! What a pack of chiseling rats.]

June 15, 2007 The Associated Press

BAGHDAD: Men packed on a sidewalk outside a Sunni mosque for Friday prayers glared as we passed. The Humvee driver said he had an ominous feeling.

Less than a minute later: an explosion. The armored vehicle shook. It was swallowed by dust. We had been hit by a roadside bomb.

Nobody was wounded, but the vehicle was out of commission — leaking gas and oil.

The soldiers of the 12th Infantry Regiment spent the morning patrolling one of the most dangerous sections of Dora, the district in south Baghdad known as a staging ground for Sunni insurgents. The day started with a rocket-propelled grenade attack and gunfire.

The bombing is a vivid reminder of what the Pentagon warns: that U.S. troops face increased vulnerability as they spend more time on the streets as part of the four-month-old security crackdown in Baghdad.

Before the blast, Company B soldiers visited homes to seek help from residents in tracking down insurgents and handed out cards with tip line information.

Battalion commander Lt. Col. Stephen Michael had just begun interviewing one family in their well-furnished green living room when explosions rang out nearby. Another U.S. unit was under fire from rocket-propelled grenades and small arms. He and his men dashed to lend support.

The gunbattle ended five minutes later, and the mission continued. Officers instructed Iraqi interpreters to broadcast a message over loudspeakers. It said insurgents were

trying to make the neighborhood unsafe, that their attack on the U.S. soldiers failed and anybody who was wounded should go to an Iraqi army checkpoint for help.

The convoy then headed back to base after the five-hour patrol.

Local men were packed two abreast on the sidewalk outside a mosque as the sermon was broadcast over loudspeakers on a blue-tipped minaret. Several in the crowd glowered as the U.S. vehicles passed and turned a corner.

"I just had an ominous feeling going past those guys," said Pfc. John W. Needham, a 23-year-old who was driving the Humvee.

The thunderous blast shook the brown vehicle and shrapnel peppered the underside, flattening all four tires and apparently puncturing the gas line and oil pan.

I was stunned and coughing after breathing the swirling dust that had filled the interior. The soldiers cursed, then made quick queries to make sure there were no injuries. Some of the men temporarily lost hearing.

The Iraqi interpreter, a 22-year-old Shiite from northern Baghdad who uses the pseudonym Renaldo, calmly asked me if it was my first improvised explosive device, military jargon for a roadside bomb.

"Yes," I answered as the smell of leaking oil grew overwhelming.

"Was it yours?" I asked.

"Seven," he said, then corrected himself. "Eight, seven in vehicles and one during a dismount (foot patrol)."

Pfc. Bryan Quick, the gunner, looked down from the turret and shook his head.

"It was my first, too. I was hoping to go 15 months without one," he said.

As we waited to be towed, Needham said it was his second. For 2nd Lt. Scott Flanigan, it was his third.

The bomb, a mortar shell wrapped in a white plastic bag, was the size of a football. It was hidden in a shallow manhole in the middle of the road.

Needham had not driven over it. That was fortunate. We avoided the full force of the blast.

Iraqi soldiers manning a nearby checkpoint later said they had received a tip that the bomb was being placed and insurgents had told storeowners to close their doors. The Iraqi soldiers said they had been unable to reach the American troops to tell them.

At their checkpoint, the Iraqis served us plates of rice. As I raised my fork, my hand was shaking.

The unit's medic insisted we all go straight to the first aid station when we returned to base — a requirement for everyone who comes under a roadside bomb attack, regardless of severity.

We all got a clean bill of health and had a story to tell.

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.] Photograph: Sean Smith, Guardian Unlimited

Guardian photographer Sean Smith spent two weeks with the US army's rapid reaction Stryker units witnessing the daily horror of life on Baghdad's frontline. The specialised units operate in the most dangerous parts of the capital and face daily battles with insurgents.

The unit responded to reports of an explosion at a suspected bomb factory in the Amiriya area in west Baghdad. Shortly after they arrived there was a secondary explosion which killed one Iraqi soldier, seriously injured two others and left several US servicemen and civilians with minor wounds. The pictures show the immediate aftermath of the second explosion.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. Staff Sgt. Killed In Tarin Kowt

June 18, 2007 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 761-07

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

Staff Sgt. Roy P. Lewsader, Jr., 36, of Belleville, Ill., died June 16, in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, from wounds suffered when his vehicle was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade. He was assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.

Dutch Sergeant Major Killed Near Chora, Three More Wounded As Resistance Attacks In Company Strength

June 18, 2007 The Associated Press & Noor Khan, Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands: A Dutch soldier was killed and three others wounded Monday in heavy fighting with Taliban insurgents in southern Afghanistan, the chief of the Dutch defense forces announced.

The 44-year-old sergeant major, Jos Leunissen, was the second Dutch soldier killed in action in four days in Afghanistan and the eighth fatality among the 2,000-strong Dutch contingent in the NATO-led force in Afghanistan.

Defense chief Gen. Dick Berlijn told reporters Leunissen was killed in a battle that started over the weekend with Taliban fighters near the town of Chora in the southern province of Uruzgan and was continuing Monday. "At the moment, it looks like it was an accident that happened during the fighting," Berlijn said, without elaborating.

Dutch troops had been providing backup to local forces in and around Chora since Saturday, when several hundred Taliban fighters began launching attacks, particularly targeting police posts, he said.

"The town is considered of strategic importance by the Taliban," Berlijn said.

In Uruzgan province, Mullah Ahmidullah Khan, the head of the provincial council, said the clashes in the Chora district had killed 16 Afghan police.

An official close to the Uruzgan governor said more than 35 police had been killed.

Assorted Resistance Action

June 16, 2007 The Sydney Morning Herald & By Abdul Saboor and Tahir Qadir,
(Reuters) & 6.18.07 Noor Khan, Associated Press

In Nad Ali district of southern Helmand province a remote-controlled bomb exploded near a police vehicle on patrol on Saturday, wounding five police, said Bahram Aka, who was among those hurt. He spoke from his hospital bed in the provincial capital Lashkar Gah.

Two bombers riding a motorcycle attacked a Swiss military reconstruction team in Mazar-i-Sharif.

TROOP NEWS

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



The hearse bearing Filipino-American U.S. Army Sgt. Richard Valiant Correa during 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 Jr.)

“If We Can Approve \$100 Billion To Run This War In Its Fifth Year, It Is Hard To Conceive That We Do Not Have The Money It Takes To Tend To The Needs Of Immediate Family Of Our Military’s Most Injured And Vulnerable Souls”

[No, it’s not “hard to conceive” at all. And the “we” is bullshit. “We” had nothing to say about spending the money on the war. And the money is there. There’s no shortage of money. The war profiteers get all they want. It’s the mom of this wounded soldier that doesn’t have the money, and the predators who run the government will make sure she doesn’t get it. More for the politicians and their friends that way. Let the soldier’s family go bankrupt trying to be with him and help nurse him back to health. The Imperial class that controls the government don’t give a shit: never have, never will.

[Here it is again. Same old story. One more soldier used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn’t care less whether he lives or dies, because if they did, they’d make sure his mom could stay with him. Everybody in the field of medicine knows that the presence of a close, loving relative can make all the difference in whether a badly wounded solidier keeps the will to live, or dies.

[To repeat for the 3,505th 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]

While in support of her son at the trauma center, the U.S. military provides a “per diem” stipend for immediate family, a stipend that amounts to \$1,600 a month -- or, about \$400 a week. Her expenses are about average, which is to say that the \$1,600 covers a little less than half the ordinary living expenses. There is her home and its payments.

Jun 12, 2007 By Dennis Anderson, Editor And Publisher

When a local service member dies in Iraq newspapers cover the family and community reaction.

But what happens -- or should happen -- when the victim is horribly injured but survives?

A former embed, editor, and father of an Iraq war veteran, reflects.

(June 10, 2007) -- A week ago a Lancaster mother -- one of the soldier-mothers in my hometown in Southern California -- left to tend to her wounded son at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. How much the world has changed for Stacie Tscherny in the span of that one week.

Days earlier, she learned that her son, Army Spc. Jerral Steele Hancock, was seriously wounded in the fighting around Baghdad.

It was Memorial Day. It was his 21st birthday.

This birthday, this crossing of the bridge into formal adulthood with the privilege to drink a legal beer would herald the last time Spc. Hancock would have two arms. And it would be the last time he would take a normal step or experience physical comfort or ease.

Serving as a tanker with the 1st Squadron, 8th Cavalry, Spc. Hancock was catastrophically wounded in an explosion that hit his armored vehicle. The vast majority of traumatic injuries inflicted in the Iraq war are not from gunfire, but from explosives.

In January the military marked the 500th American surviving with wounds that involved amputation.

In the past six months to a year, increasingly, a powerful new kind of explosive is inflicting more damage and more grievous injury. The evolution has been an evolution from the Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) to increasing use of the Explosively Formed Penetrators (EPFs).

"They can take out a Stryker, a Bradley, even an Abrams tank," said Sgt. Travis Strong of Palmdale in a recent interview with me at his home at Balboa Naval Medical Center in San Diego.

Strong was wounded severely enough both legs were amputated above the knee from the EPF explosion that destroyed his Stryker armored infantry carrier last year.

Sgt. Strong is another hometown soldier from the coverage area of the paper I edit, the Antelope Valley Press, a resident of Palmdale, a community of 130,000 on the edge of the Mojave Desert an hours drive from Ft. Irwin, the Army National Training Center.

In the past year or so when soldiers from our communities sustain traumatic injuries, as the newspaper's editor -- and as a "Blue Star Father" of a serving Marine -- I usually get

the informal notification call from Blue Star Mothers, a support group for parents of serving military.

Sgt. John E. Allen of Palmdale was killed on St. Patrick's Day. It has been axiomatic that death and traumatic injury take no holidays.

Customarily, in coverage of the traumatic injury of local troops, it's been my practice as a journalist with contacts in the military extended family network community to also be ready to move forward, or, if the family needs their zone of privacy borne from anguish, to back off.

People who have been badly hurt may want to tell their story.

They usually do not want to tell it when every nerve ending in their battered body is in agony. But for the most part, they have been willing to share accounts of their extraordinary ordeal. It may take weeks or months to get ready to share that story, but the story is always compelling, always worth telling.

These wounded soldiers and Marines, these troops hurt in this continuing war that is fought by ambush with devastating explosives are the heralds that tell us what the cost of this war ultimately will be.

They also are the "canaries in the coal mine," in that their care and their needs require all the scrutiny that an activist press can provide. God knows most of our profession was not diligent enough, probing enough, or demanding truth from power enough in the run-up to war. See Thomas Ricks in "Fiasco."

Absent a devastating attack on the American homeland, it is to be hoped national media will engage in greater diligence before another foreign war gets a push from the White House and a pass from Congress, and the American people.

The lessons of military and congressional blind-spotting on Walter Reed Army Medical Center are all too fresh at the moment.

Accounts of care at the urgent-immediate post combat injury stage are that the care is first-rate. But the strains and burdens that families of the wounded will undergo are urgent also. And those needs need to be reported, by national media, by local media -- by anyone with the means to see and the megaphone of communication to use.

In one case recently our newspaper covered the story of a National Guard soldier whose military insurance was canceled before final surgery to remove steel rods emplaced to repair his mangled legs, which were fractured in an IED blast that destroyed his Humvee.

It only was after news of the incident surfaced that the military and its insurance overseer effected a quick about-face and remedied the situation.

This has got to be the first war waged by Americans where after-care for troops is handled through health maintenance organizations and insurance.

"You cannot believe what these young guys have gone through," Stacie Tscherny, the mother of trooper Hancock, said. "Arms, legs, burns. They've lost eyes, they have burns to their faces."

And she related that our country's wounded are unbelievably strong-willed and strong-minded, the young men in the beds at Brooke, the catastrophically wounded from this war.

On departure for Texas last week, Tscherny was relieved that her employers extended her two weeks on short notice to go be with her son. Now she has been there a week.

He has lost much. An arm to amputation. Skin to burn injuries. Other injuries that may impact mobility. Toosoon to tell. For trooper Hancock, life will never take a more serious or devastating course short of mortality.

"We communicate by blinking," his mother told me. "His first sergeant was home on leave, and he came in to see him, and he was happy about that."

The military is putting up Hancock's mother in apartment-style housing on the medical campus. Suddenly, two weeks does not seem like enough time to tend to the needs of her son.

"We asked -- I asked -- does he want his mother to stay there with him, and he blinked 'Yes.'"

Spc. Jerral Steele Hancock -- 21 years old -- is heavily medicated for pain. But severe pain is unavoidable with the fragility of his wounded body because too much pain medication impacts blood pressure, circulation and the heart.

"I think he understands what happened now with his arm," the amputation, she said. "He cried tears, and I said 'Don't worry, honey. There's lots of these young men who are coming back.'"

Lots of these young men are coming back.

And how we, as a nation, treat them, and how we as a nation honor them, and how we -- as a nation -- see to their effective care and rehabilitation will define the kind of nation that we are, in war or peace.

Spc. Hancock's mother recounted in a telephone interview from Brooke, "I think how is it that he survived moves through two hospitals in Iraq, then on to Germany, then here to Texas, and I wonder with these young men how they maintain the spirit to not just die."

She does not want to leave her son's bedside.

She does not want to leave the side of the son who communicates with her by blinking "yes" or "no" for understanding his needs, his feelings, his responses to questions.

While in support of her son at the trauma center, the U.S. military provides a "per diem" stipend for immediate family, a stipend that amounts to \$1,600 a month -- or, about \$400 a week.

On leaving Lancaster where she resided for about a year, Tscherny had a new job that she commuted to in the San Fernando Valley.

Her expenses are about average, which is to say that the \$1,600 covers a little less than half the ordinary living expenses.

There is her home and its payments. Her son, and his young wife (who also is a mother) also has a house.

How to do it? What to do?

"I am going to try and do anything I can to be with my son while he needs me," his mother said.

She said she has had conversations with great young soldiers, remarkable people. She said she has formed a friendship with a young G.I. who lost his eye, and part of his face, and who knows the ground of recovery.

Is there any way you can imagine that Spc. Hancock will not need his mother, and anyone close to him, for all time to come?

Is there any way you can imagine that handling of the treatment, and support for immediate family in such circumstance should fall short of actual need?

If we can approve \$100 billion to run this war in its fifth year, it is hard to conceive that we do not have the money it takes to tend to the needs of immediate family of our military's most injured and vulnerable souls.

Injured British Troops Face Treatment Delay

6/18/2007 AFP

LONDON: A senior British Army surgeon said troops injured in the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan faced delays of several hours before being transported to field hospitals, newspapers reported yesterday.

American troops fighting in the Vietnam War 40-odd years ago were treated far more quickly than British soldiers nowadays, The Sunday Telegraph and the Sunday Mirror reported Lieutenant Colonel Paul Parker as saying.

Parker cited a lack of dedicated helicopter ambulances and too many layers of decision-making for the delays which meant that it could take several hours to transport casualties even short distances to a field hospital.

Parker, writing in the Royal Army Medical Corps Journal after completing a tour of duty last year with 16 Air Assault Brigade in Afghanistan, wrote that in Vietnam

between October 1968 and July 1969, wounded soldiers arrived in hospital within 45 minutes-most within 25 minutes, the Sunday Mirror said.

"On Operation Herrick IV (Afghanistan 2006) the average pre-hospital time was seven hours," Parker was quoted as writing.

"A Casevac (casualty evacuation) request has to go through too many layers of command. "There seems little point in providing high technology in-hospital care when our patients still take several hours to travel a few miles to us.

"We use support or anti-tank helicopters that are re-roled on an ad hoc basis for the critical care and transport of our sickest patients.

"We still do not have a dedicated all-weather military helicopter evacuation fleet. Should we not be asking why?

"We have gone backwards in terms of our evacuation time-lines."

At The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Louis Valbracht, Head Of Mental Health, Said "There's No Such Thing As PTSD"

[Thanks to James Starowicz, Veteran, who sent this in.]

17 June 2007 By Dana Priest and Anne Hull, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

The disability process has come to symbolize the bureaucratic confusion over PTSD. To qualify for compensation, troops and veterans are required to prove that they witnessed at least one traumatic event, such as the death of a fellow soldier or an attack from a roadside bomb, or IED. That standard has been used to deny thousands of claims. But many experts now say that debilitating stress can result from accumulated trauma as well as from one significant event.

In an interview, even VA's chief of mental health questioned whether the single-event standard is a valid way to measure PTSD. "One of the things I puzzle about is, what if someone hasn't been exposed to an IED but lives in dread of exposure to one for a month?" said Ira R. Katz, a psychiatrist. "According to the formal definition, they don't qualify."

For the past 2 1/2 years, the counseling center at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., was a difficult place for Marines seeking help for post-traumatic stress. Navy Cmdr.

Louis Valbracht, head of mental health at the center's outpatient hospital, often refused to accept counselors' views that some Marines who were drinking heavily or using drugs had PTSD, according to three counselors and another staff member who worked with him.

"Valbracht didn't believe in it. He'd say there's no such thing as PTSD," said David Roman, who was a substance abuse counselor at Twentynine Palms until he quit six months ago.

"We were all appalled," said Mary Jo Thornton, another counselor who left last year.

A third counselor estimated that perhaps half of the 3,000 Marines he has counseled in the past five years showed symptoms of post-traumatic stress.

"They would change the diagnosis right in front of you, put a line through it," said the counselor, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he still works there.

"I want to see my Marines being taken care of," said Roman, who is now a substance-abuse counselor at the Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, N.C.

Valbracht retired recently because, he said, he "was burned out" after working seven days a week as the only psychiatrist available to about 10,000 Marines in his 180-mile territory.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

Jun 18, 2007 CBS News & (Reuters) & By DAMIEN CAVE, NY Times

Guerrillas killed eight policemen when they attacked their convoy on Sunday on a road in the town of Mishahda, north of Baghdad, police at a Baghdad hospital where the bodies were brought said. Another police source said four policemen were killed and four wounded.

More than 100 people were injured in the fighting in Amarah, the officials said. At least three of those killed were Iraqi policemen, they said.

Guerrillas attacked the office of Mohammed Abid, a manager in the Diyala electricity station, and shot him dead in the city of Baquba, police said.

In Kirkuk, a spray of bullets fired at a police checkpoint south of the city killed a policeman and gravely wounded two others, said Brigadier Burhan Habeeb Tayeb, the city's chief of police.

In northern Baghdad, a roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi military convoy killed three soldiers and wounded two, an interior ministry official said.

In Adhamiya, guerrillas opened fire on a civilian minibus filled with employees of the government. One person was killed and two were injured, an interior ministry official said.

A car bomb targeting a communication center in downtown Falluja, in Anbar province, killed at least two people and wounded 10, according to a Falluja police official.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Elitists Vs. Reality

[The quotes just below are typical of a whole class of endlessly self-referential public commentators who wallow in their own elitism. They can be found everywhere, including in the movement against the war. By their filthy slanders, they illuminate nothing more clearly than their own ignorance of what is happening among America's working class majority. T]

#1: The Ugly, Lying Bullshit

11-jun-2007 posted on Thomas Paine's Corner [Excerpt],

How did we become a statistical aberration to the extent that we are a nation of resource-rich, technologically-advanced, mean-spirited, intellectually-stunted moral barbarians where a significant percentage of the population behaves as sociopaths by directly supporting or apathetically ignoring the evils in which they are complicit?

Nearly unshakeable illusions and delusions enable a relative handful of ruthless corporations and plutocrats to manipulate nearly 300 million people into helping them pursue their objective of world domination and exploitation, as out-lined in the Project for the New American Century.

[Here is another]

Jun 13 2007 posted on dailyscare.com [Excerpt]

For the Enemy Within knows that the American people will voluntarily remain ignorant of whatever enemy is chosen for them, never wanting to use reason and logic and critical thinking or common sense, always believing the lies and deceptions of the state and its vast propaganda machine, always eager to believe the myths and fictions spouted by criminals and murderers.

Indeed, manipulating the American mind is like taking candy from a baby.

At no time has the American mind been more fragile, ignorant and ripe for the picking.

[And one more:]

May 30th, 2007, Posted on democracynow.org

“And I am just really devastated and frustrated with an American population, you know, not counting the people who listen to your show or who watch your show, an American population that doesn’t give the Iraq war one, you know, bit of attention, doesn’t think about it, doesn’t have to think about it.

“They don’t want to think about the death and destruction and the pain that’s being caused by the government that they’re giving their tacit support to by their silence.

“You know, we care more about who’s the next American idol, what was in Anna Nicole’s refrigerator when she died, than the hundreds of thousands of innocent lives that have been sacrificed for the greed for power and money that this country is always on the prowl for.”

#2: Reality

June 13, 2007 By Eric Lotke, Tompaine.com [Excerpts]

The notion of America as a “conservative nation” was always more fiction than fact, but the nation’s rejection of President Bush’s brand of “you’re-on-your-own” conservatism and wedge-issue divisiveness is so broad that today the façade is simply unsustainable.

An exhaustive review released today of decades of public opinion research by the Campaign for America’s Future and Media Matters for America, using the most reputable, nonpartisan sources, leads to a simple conclusion: America is more progressive than people think—or, more precisely, than the conventional wisdom would lead them to believe.

Start with the economy. Polling by the Pew Research Center shows 84 percent support to increase the minimum wage. Gallup shows that more Americans sympathize with unions than with companies in labor disputes (52 to 34 percent).

For people caught on the wrong side of the economy, research by the University of Michigan National Election Studies reveals that 69 percent of Americans believe government should care for those who can't care for themselves.

Twice as many people want "government to provide many more services even if it means an increase in spending" (43 percent) as want government to provide fewer services "in order to reduce spending" (20 percent).

Pew research shows a 56 percent majority oppose making it more difficult for a woman to get an abortion, a proportion that has hardly changed in the past 20 years. Only 29 percent want to see Roe v. Wade overturned.

And 67 percent, according to polls by Kaiser and Harvard, want sex education in schools to include information about contraception, not just abstinence.

Gallup polls in March 2007 reveal that twice as many Americans want to solve energy problems with more conservation instead of more production (64 percent compared to 26 percent). Polls by CBS and the New York Times in April 2007 show 64 percent are willing to pay higher fuel taxes if the money were used for research into renewable energy sources, and 75 percent would be willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated by renewable sources like wind or energy.

On health care, Gallup's latest poll reveals that 69 percent of Americans think it's the government responsibility to make sure all Americans have health coverage. Only 28 percent disagreed.

Polls by CBS/New York Times in February 2007 reveal that 76 percent of Americans would give up the Bush tax cuts to make sure all Americans have access to health care.

The war in Iraq is a disaster. 63 percent of Americans want to set deadlines for withdrawal. Four times as many Americans (48 percent to 12 percent) think the war in Iraq has made the threat of terrorism against the United States worse rather than better.

Sixty-seven percent of Americans told Gallup that "on the whole," immigration is a "good thing for this country today."

The same May 2007 CBS News/New York Times poll revealed that twice as many Americans said that "most recent immigrants to the United States contribute to this country" (57 percent) as said they "cause problems" (28 percent).

Even the impact of illegal immigration on U.S. jobs is tempered by the widespread belief that illegal immigrants "take jobs Americans don't want" (59 percent) rather than "take jobs away from American citizens" (30 percent).

The buzzword "amnesty" for illegal immigrants has political weight, but Americans are more tolerant than the media coverage often suggests.

Sixty-two percent of Americans in the CBS News/New York Times poll said undocumented immigrants should be given a chance to "keep their jobs and eventually apply for legal status."

Only 33 percent said they should be "deported." Polls by Gallup and CNN show even higher levels of support for integrating people who entered illegally but worked while they were here.

In short, while there is certainly great concern about the issue, the conservative positions on immigration -- deportation of undocumented immigrants, no path to citizenship, building more fences on the border -- enjoy less support than does a more progressive approach.

OCCUPATION REPORT

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

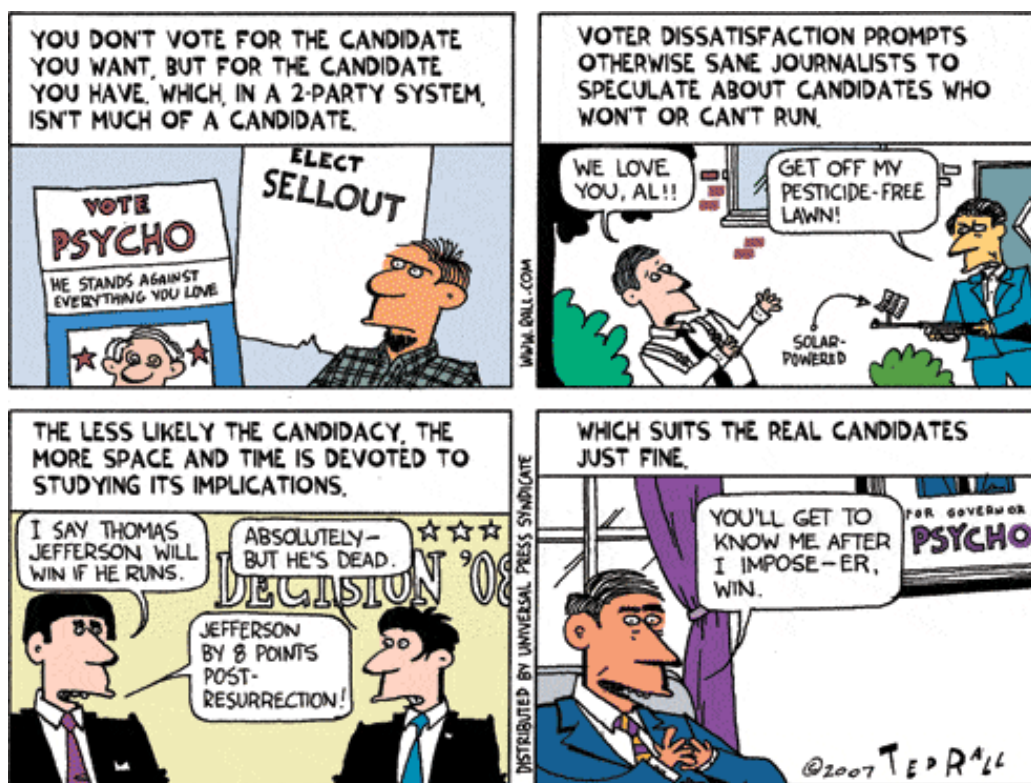


An Iraqi woman protests as foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. 1st Battalion 28th Infantry Regiment, Delta Company invade her home without her consent to search her belongings in the southwestern Bayaa neighbourhood of Baghdad. (AFP/Roslan Rahman)

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

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in. He writes: Luv the solar powered rifle, but didn't know they require electricity?]

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.

***They Hate Our Liberties:
TSA Rats At Work Terrorizing
Woman And Baby;
“I Was Detained Against My Will By
The Police Officer And Threatened To
Be Arrested For Endangering Other
Passengers With The Spilled 3 To 4
Ounces Of Water”
"I Was Ordered To Apologize For The
Spilled Water, And Again Threatened
With Arrest”***



Monica Emmerson, her son, and the sippy cup.

June 14, 2007 by Bill Adler, Nowpublic.com

If you travel enough, you've seen it all -- and possibly some of the awful things that can happen while traveling will have actually happened to you.

But nothing I've read about or experienced comes close to what Monica Emmerson experienced while at Reagan National Airport on June 11th while traveling with her 19-month-old toddler.

This isn't one of those Catch-22 bureaucratic snafus; this isn't about rules being applied to the letter.

This story is mostly about what can happen simply because the authorities in charge decide that they're going to exercise their authority because they can, regardless of whether it's legal or right or makes any sense at all.

And if this can happen to a former law enforcement officer with the United States Secret Service, it can happen to anyone.

The incident started when Monica, who left the Secret Service to raise a family, was stopped while going through airport security because there was water in her son's sippy cup.

The sippy cup was seized by TSA.

Monica wanted the cup back because the sippy cup was the only way her son would drink -- and it was a long flight between Washington, DC and Reno, Nevada where she was going for a family reunion. If you've ever had a toddler you understand about sippy cups.

So she was willing to spill the water out. Drink the water. Anything -- all that she wanted was to be able to have a cup that her 19-month-old toddler could drink from.

Here's what happened in Monica's words:

"I demanded to speak to a TSA (Transportation Security Administration) supervisor who asked me if the water in the sippy cup was 'nursery water or other bottled water.'

I explained that the sippy cup water was filtered tap water. The sippy cup was seized as my son was pointing and crying for his cup.

I asked if I could drink the water to get the cup back, and was advised that I would have to leave security and come back through with an empty cup in order to retain the cup.

As I was escorted out of security by TSA and a police officer, I unscrewed the cup to drink the water, which accidentally spilled because I was so upset with the situation.

"At this point, I was detained against my will by the police officer and threatened to be arrested for endangering other passengers with the spilled 3 to 4 ounces of water.

"I was ordered to clean the water, so I got on my hands and knees while my son sat in his stroller with no shoes on since they were also screened and I had no time to put them back on his feet.

"I asked to call back my fiancé, who I could still see from afar, waiting for us to clear security, to watch my son while I was being detained, and the officer threatened to arrest me if I moved.

"So I yelled past security to get the attention of my fiancé.

"I was ordered to apologize for the spilled water, and again threatened with arrest.

"I was threatened several times with arrest while detained, and while three other police officers were called to the scene of the mother with the 19 month old. A total of four police officers and three TSA officers reported to the scene where I was being held against my will.

"I was also told that I should not disrespect the officer and could be arrested for this too.

"I apologized to the officer and she continued to detain me despite me telling her that I would miss my flight. The officer advised me that I should have thought about this before I 'intentionally spilled the water!'"

Monica said that the incident ended this way: "I missed my flight, needless to say after being detained for over 40 minutes. After the officer was done humiliating me, I was advised that I could go through the security check point in an attempt to catch my flight.

"The officer insisted that my son and I be rescreened despite us both being detained and under her control the entire time."

During the weeks and months after 9/11 some passengers who were caught with unidentified fluids while going through airport security were told to drink the liquid (including breast milk) to prove that it wasn't an explosive.

In one incident, a fourteen year old boy was ordered to drink water that he was carrying, and it turned out that this was unclean pond water he was carrying for a science project.

Monica was more than happy to drink her child's tap water --all three or four ounces of it - and tried, in fact. But it was the trying and spilling that seems to have escalated this into a situation that required the presence of four TSA officers and three police officers.

TSA found no other security problems with Monica Emmerson. Not even a nail clipper. Just the water and the sippy cup.

TSA's rules allow passengers to take up to three ounces of liquid on board; they also allow parents to take milk or baby formula on board in larger quantities than that, if declared to TSA.

But the question that she was asked by TSA --was this "nursery water" in the sippy cup?-- was an unanswerable one, since there's no such thing as nursery water in the TSA regulations, and it's not a generic term.

Monica Emmerson was detained for 45 minutes.

She wasn't questioned about possible ties to terrorists. Her carry-on items weren't rigorously searched -- or even searched again.

Neither the police nor TSA took any action that indicated that they thought she might be a security risk.

She was just detained, harassed and threatened with arrest. All because of a sippy cup with water in it.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

“Heaven Help The Senior Citizens Who Dare To Buy Their Prescription Drugs From A Canadian Or Mexican Pharmacy”

5 Jun 2007 Via New Jersey Veterans For Peace

A car company can move it's factories to Mexico and claim it's a free market.

A toy company can out source to a Chinese subcontractor and claim it's a free market.

A shoe company can produce its shoes in south east Asia and claim it's a free market.

A major bank can incorporate in Bermuda to avoid taxes and claim it's a free market.

We can buy HP Printers made in Mexico.

We can buy shirts made in Bangladesh.

We can purchase almost anything we want from 20 different countries.

BUT, heaven help the senior citizens who dare to buy their prescription drugs from a Canadian or Mexican pharmacy.

That's called un-American!

And you think the pharmaceutical companies don't have a powerful lobby?

Think again!

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://qi-special.iraq-news.de>;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>;
<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/qi-special.htm>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.