

GI SPECIAL 5F20:

HOW MANY MORE FOR BUSH'S WARS? BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The coffin of Filipino-American U.S. Army Sgt. Richard Valiant Correa June 15, 2007 at his hometown of Lingayen, Pangasinan province, 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.)

29,028 Killed Or Wounded

June 20, 2007 By Michael Munk Via David McReynolds

US military occupation forces in Iraq suffered at least 198 combat casualties in the week ending June 19, as total casualties reached at least 56,682.

The total includes 29,028 killed or wounded by what the Pentagon classifies as "hostile" causes and 27,654 (as of May 15) more dead and injured from "non-hostile" causes such as accidents, suicides (111) and illness serious enough to require medical evacuation.

US media divert attention from the actual cost in American life and limb by routinely reporting only the total killed (3,531 as of June 19) and rarely mentioning the 26,129 wounded in combat.

To further minimize public perception of the cost, they cover for the Pentagon by ignoring the 27,022 military victims who suffered “non-hostile” injuries and illness (through May 15), although the 3,531 reported deaths include 632 (up five from last week) who died from those same causes.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Five U.S. Soldiers & Terp Killed, One Soldier Wounded By Baghdad IED

June 21, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070621-15

BAGHDAD — Five Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers, three Iraqi civilians and one Iraqi interpreter were killed when a roadside bomb detonated near a Coalition vehicle during combat operations in a northeastern section of Baghdad June 21. One other Soldier and two Iraq civilians were also wounded in the attack.

Four More U.S. Soldiers Killed, One Wounded By Another Baghdad IED

June 21, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070621-17

Four Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers were killed when their convoy was struck by a roadside bomb in a western Baghdad neighborhood June 20. One other Soldier was wounded in the attack.

Two Marines Killed In Anbar

June 21, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070621-16

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Two Marines assigned to Multi National Force-West were killed June 20 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province.

Two Task Force Marne Soldiers Killed, Four Wounded

06/20/07 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070621-04

Two Task Force Marne Soldiers were killed and four were wounded when improvised explosive devices exploded near their vehicle southwest of Baghdad June 20.

U.S. Soldier Killed, Three Wounded By Baghdad RPG

June 21, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070621-18

BAGHDAD – One MNC-I Soldier was killed and three Soldiers were wounded when their vehicle was attacked by a rocket propelled grenade at approximately 12:30 p.m. June 21 in northern Baghdad.

The Traitor Pace Says Ignore All Those Dead U.S. Troops

21 June 2007 By Al Pessin, VOA [Excerpts]

General [Peter] Pace says the level of violence is not what people should measure when they try to evaluate the situation in Iraq because the insurgents can affect that too easily.

The general says insurgents are trying to affect U.S. public opinion by inflicting high casualty rates through dramatic bomb attacks.

“It’s not about levels of violence,” said General Pace.

British Soldier Killed In Basra

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

20 Jun 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from the 4th Battalion The Rifles in Basra City today, Wednesday 20 June 2007.

The soldier died as a result of an indirect fire attack on the Provincial Joint Coordination Centre in Basra in the early hours of the morning, local time.

Palau Soldier Killed In Iraq

June 14, 2007 By Eric Palacios, Pacific Daily News

Another son of Micronesia has made the ultimate sacrifice and his death now makes this year the deadliest for the region since 2001.

U.S. Army Cpl. Meresebang Ngiraked, 21, of Koror, Republic of Palau, was killed June 10 in Karbala, Iraq, of wounds he suffered from a vehicle-based improvised explosive device, the Army's Public Affairs Office in Fort Lewis, Wash., said.

Ngiraked was assigned to Battery B, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, which deployed to Iraq in February. Two other soldiers were killed with Ngiraked in the blast.

Ngiraked is the 22nd son from the Micronesia region to give his life while fighting the war, and the second from the Republic of Palau, joining U.S. Marine Cpl. JayGee Meluat, 24, who was killed on Sept. 13, 2004.

His death marks the eighth from the region this year and comes less than a month after Army Sgt. Iosiwo Uruo was killed defending freedom in Iraq.

Both Ngiraked and Uruo were last stationed at Fort Lewis.

Ngiraked joined the Army in September 2004, a Fort Lewis Public Affairs Office release stated, adding that he was stationed in Korea in 2005 and relocated to Fort Lewis with his unit in April 2006.

Ngiraked's awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon, said Catherine Caruso, Fort Lewis spokeswoman.

His military education includes the military occupational specialty 14S, or Avenger Air and Missile Defense Crewmember, qualification course, Caruso added.

Farmville Family Grieves Soldier's Loss

June 09, 2007 By Cassandra Lampkin, The Daily Reflector

FARMVILLE — The hardest part of a soldier's death is not being able to see his face again, said one Farmville woman.

About 4 p.m. Friday, Evette Connor received a telephone call telling her it's not possible to have an open casket funeral for her brother, Sgt. 1st Class Greg Sutton. The 38-year-old U.S. Army soldier was killed Wednesday in Iraq, the victim of a roadside bomb. A funeral service is being planned for Arlington National Cemetery, outside of Washington, D.C., Connor said.

"I wanted to see his face," she said. "Kiss his face one last time."

Hearing about the casualties of war on television is one thing, but experiencing it firsthand is unreal, said Carolyn Ward, Sutton's aunt.

The family suspected a closed casket service would be necessary, she said, "but it's still hard to know it's confirmed. It's unreal."

This was Sutton's second tour in Iraq; he deployed in January. Sutton was based at Fort Sill, Okla., and had served in the Army for nearly 15 years, Connor said.

Sutton married his wife, Joanne, in 2005 and was a father of two children, ages 2 and 3.

Sutton's nephew talked about the lessons he learned from his uncle, saying they are even more important for him to heed.

"It's time for me to step up; he leaves a legacy," said Shaimal Sutton, 20, of Greenville.

Soldier-like qualities — discipline and hard work — have rubbed off on him, the younger Sutton said. "You have to earn what you get," he recalled his uncle saying. "Put your education first."

Sgt. Sutton believed in authority and didn't tolerate foolishness, Ward said. His presence commanded respect, Connor said.

"I would still listen to him even as old as I am," she said.

Connor, however, said she wouldn't encourage her son to serve in the military.

"If they even did a draft, I'd send him (Shaimal Sutton) to Canada somewhere," Connor said.

The family is grieving but is proud of his success in the military and his commitment to family, Ward said.

He was "the life of the party, cookout, or any other event," Ward said. "He was stern but would cut up at the drop of a hat."

Iraq War Claims Another Son Of NE Ohio

June 12, 2007 John Caniglia, Plain Dealer Reporter

As a boy, Eric Barnes respected the Air Force uniform and what it represented.

On Sunday, he died in Iraq, fighting in the service he loved. Airman 1st Class Barnes, 20, of Lorain, was killed when his truck struck a roadside bomb in Diwaniyah, about 120 miles south of Baghdad, the military said Monday.

"It was like the Air Force was made for Eric, and Eric was made for the Air Force," Barnes' father, Tom, said. "He was very upbeat about what he was doing. In e-mails and phone calls, he told us that he believed that we should be there and that we were making things better for the people there."

Barnes is the third Lorain County resident to die in the war in recent weeks. Bruce Horner, 43, a 1982 graduate of Admiral King High School, died June 1.

The U.S. Department of Defense lists 149 Ohio soldiers killed fighting in Iraq.

Barnes graduated from Admiral King in 2004 and joined the Air Force a year later. He was assigned to the 90th Logistics Readiness Squadron, F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyo. He was in his second tour in Iraq, and his father said he planned to make the service his career.

His father said he was a passenger in the lead truck of a convoy when it struck a bomb. The driver was seriously injured. "He really thought he was making a difference there," Tom Barnes said. "He volunteered to go back."

That didn't surprise those who knew Barnes growing up in Lorain.

"He was just a phenomenal kid," said Dan Ransom, Barnes' baseball coach at Admiral King. "He would do anything that you asked. He would do anything to make a situation better."

Barnes caught and roamed the outfield for Ransom. He earned an Eagle Scout Award in the Boy Scouts for building a ramp for the disabled and was an accomplished bowler, lighting up the lanes at Rebman's Recreation in Lorain.

"I was here when he bowled his 300 game," Rick Rebman, an owner, said. "He was a very conscientious kid. He was just one of those people that you really liked. He was a good kid from a really nice family."

Barnes' death also affected Russell Toth, one of his former teammates at Admiral King who spent years playing baseball with him.

"I see the war much differently now," he said. "It's now close. This came as a complete shock."

Don Kaspar watched Barnes grow into a man as the leader of Barnes' Boy Scout troop. Kaspar will remember the 6-foot-6 youth who went out of his way to make younger Scouts feel welcome and secure.

"He was one of those kids who you hope your son grows up to be like," Kaspar said. "He was very outgoing, and he was a leader."

Funeral service plans have not been completed.

Selma High Grad Wounded In Iraq

June 21, 2007 By Bettina Adragna, Selma Enterprise

A 2001 Selma High graduate who serves in the U.S. Army in Iraq has been injured.

Thankfully, he's back in the States and his injuries will not disable him permanently.

"There's a lot of people a lot worse off," said his father, Selma High Principal Mark Babiarz. "We're fortunate that he only got hit that bad."

Matt Babiarz, who is a platoon commander in the southwestern part of Iraq, was checking on a house when two hand grenades rolled off a roof and exploded in front of him. They were probably placed there by insurgents, said Mark Babiarz.

The platoon left the area, and Army medics put a tourniquet on Babiarz's injured leg. They also treated the platoon's private, who had a small piece of shrapnel in his biceps.

No other platoon members were injured.

Babiarz was taken to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, a military hospital in Germany. He had no artery or bone damage, but had some vein damage and a quarter-sized hole in the back of his leg by the knee.

He left on June 18 for Fort Riley, Kan., which is where he is stationed when he's in the United States. It was still unclear at press time whether he would be able to return to Selma to recover.

His foot is still numb, and he has an eight-inch incision in his leg where doctors operated to repair his vein. But it looks good, his father says, and he's walking on only one crutch now.

After he recovers, he'll go back to Iraq. He still has 11 months left in deployment.

Mark Babiarz said he felt fortunate his son's injuries weren't serious. He urged the community not to forget other local servicemen and women, including Matt Wilson, Justin Cox and others.

"We can't forget that there's young men and women out there all the time," said Babiarz. "It's just important to remember that, no matter what your politics are."

Notes From A Lost War:

"Particularly Worrisome"

“The Loss Of The Bradley Occurred In A Heavily Trafficked Area That American Forces Had Considered Successfully Cleared”

June 20, 2007 By MICHAEL R. GORDON, The New York Times Company

BAQUBA, Iraq, June 19: In the first hours of the American military assault, after midnight early Monday, helicopters flew two teams of American troops and a platoon of Iraqi scouts so they could block the southern escape routes from the city. Stryker armored vehicles moved along the western outskirts of Baquba and then down a main north-south route that cuts through the center of the city.

By the time dawn broke on Tuesday, the insurgent sanctuary in western Baquba had been cordoned off. Then, the American forces established footholds on the periphery of the section and slowly pressed in. “Rather than let the problem export to some other place and then have to fight them again, my goal is to isolate this thing and cordon it off,” said Col. Steve Townsend, the commander of the Third Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Second Infantry Division.

Backing the insurgents into a corner may mean that the Stryker units that are edging their way into the city — the Fifth Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment and the Third Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment — are in for much tougher fighting ahead.

An indication of what may be in store for those units came Tuesday when a Bradley fighting vehicle was upended by a large, buried bomb, which killed an American crew member.

The insurgents have fortified their position by burying many such bombs and laying wires that can be triggered from safe houses.

What made the loss of the Bradley particularly worrisome is that the explosion occurred in a heavily trafficked area that American forces had considered successfully cleared.

The Green Zone Turns Red; Cowards In Command Afraid To Say How Many Attacks Launched [As If The Resistance Doesn't Know]

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

Jun 20 By LAUREN FRAYER, Associated Press Writer & Reuters

A series of mortars or rockets slammed into the U.S.-controlled Green Zone on Thursday, and an official said at least one round struck a parking lot used by the Iraqi prime minister and his security detail.

A huge plume of black smoke billowed into the sky and helicopters buzzed overhead after about nine blasts occurred in quick succession around 10 a.m.

At least one mortar round struck a parking lot used by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and his security detail, an official from the prime minister's office said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information.

The U.S. military acknowledged "an increasing pattern of attacks" against the Green Zone, a day after a mortar barrage against the heavily fortified area sent soldiers and contractors scrambling for cover.

Rear Adm. Mark Fox, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad, declined to provide details on the number of attacks against the Green Zone, which is also known as the International Zone, but said they were increasing.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. soldier runs by a bridge destroyed by a vehicle bomber June 10, 2007 outside Mahmoudiya, Iraq. American soldiers were buried and killed in the rubble. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris).

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

3 Canadian Soldiers Killed In Panjwayi

Jun 20 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

The Canadian troops died when their vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb while on a supply mission between two checkpoints in Kandahar's Panjwayi district, said Brig. Gen. Tim Grant, the head of Canadian forces in the country.

Mine Kills Foreign Occupation Soldier In Afghanistan; Four More Wounded: Nationality Not Announced

06/21/07 AP

A land mine explosion killed a NATO soldier and wounded four more Thursday in eastern Afghanistan, where fighting between U.S.-led troops and suspected Taliban left seven militants dead, officials said.

Arkansan Says Paratrooper Son Loved Family, Country

Jun 8, 2007 (AP)

JONESBORO, Ark.: The father of one of five U.S. Army paratroopers killed last month in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan says his son was an excellent father and husband who died defending his country.

Chief Warrant Officer Joshua R. Rodgers, 29, of Carson City, Nev., was killed in the May 30 crash. His father, Dan Rodgers of Jonesboro, told The Sun newspaper that he had heard from his son May 26, and they had planned a trip to the Smoky Mountains in the near future.

"He was a daddy's boy. He loved to hunt," Dan Rodgers said.

Rodgers said his son spent summers with him in Jonesboro, was personable and understood his mission in Afghanistan.

“He was real outgoing and was real good with kids,” Dan Rodgers said. “He did believe in what he was doing and had 100 percent faith in our government.”

Also killed were Chief Warrant Officer Christopher M. Allgaier, 33, of Omaha, Neb.; Staff Sgt. Charlie L. Bagwell, 28, of Lake Toxaway, N.C.; Sgt. Jesse A. Blamires, 25, of West Jordan, Utah; and Sgt. Brandon E. Hadaway, 25, of Valley, Ala., according to the 82nd Airborne Division.

All five were members of the 3rd General Aviation Support Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, and were based at Fort Bragg. A Briton and a Canadian were killed along with the five Americans.

Allgaier and Rodgers were piloting the helicopter when it crashed, said 82nd Airborne Division spokesman Maj. Tom Earnhardt.

Dan Rodgers said that he has spoken with officials at Fort Bragg about what happened with the helicopter that night.

“They said it was a textbook flight. They were flying in a sandy area and went in high moonlight. There were about 400 feet off the ground and were shot down with a rocket-propelled grenade,” Dan Rodgers said.

Joshua Rodgers is survived by his wife Casey Rodgers and three daughters.

“Josh always talked about his three princesses. He strove to provide them everything they ever needed, and even more,” said Chief Warrant Officer Heath Barrett.

Rodgers joined the Army in 2000, Barrett said.

“He died protecting those he loved most in this world. Josh died being the best soldier he knew how to be,” Barrett said.

Assorted Resistance Action

Jun 20 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

Assailants ambushed a convoy belonging to U.N.'s Office for Project Services on the main Kabul-Kandahar highway, killing two Afghan guards and wounding another, said Jailani Khan, highway police chief for Zabul province.

In Khost, a roadside bomb hit the vehicle of the Qalandar Khel district chief, killing him and his driver, said provincial police chief Gen. Mohammad Ayub.

Resistance Captures Ghorak District

June 20, 2007 Alisa Tang, Canadian Press

Taliban militants overran another southern district.

Police forces lost Ghorak district.

“Goodwill Toward Foreign Forces Has Faded”

June 20, 2007 Alisa Tang, Canadian Press

Assailants ambushed a convoy belonging to U.N.'s Office for Project Services on the main Kabul-Kandahar highway, killing two Afghan guards, wounding another and damaging two vehicles, said Jailani Khan, highway police chief for Zabul province.

Aid agencies warned Tuesday that goodwill toward foreign forces has faded since the fall of the Taliban five years ago because of airstrikes and botched raids by U.S. and NATO troops.

The aid agencies laid much of the blame on U.S. actions, alleging that indiscriminate use of force had resulted in the death of innocents.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



June 21, 2007: A truck bomber rammed his vehicle into the municipal headquarters of Sulaiman Bek. REUTERS/Slahaldeen Rasheed

20 Jun 2007 Reuters & STEVEN R. HURST, Associated Press Writer & June 21, 2007 By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press Writer & VOA News & Reuters & (Xinhua)

Iraqi authorities say a truck bomber set off his explosives near a group of government buildings in Sulaiman Bek, south of Kirkuk. The blast caused one building to collapse, destroyed at least four vehicles at the site, killed at least 18 people and wounded 75.

The attack reportedly killed the mayor, head of the city council and several of the council's members, along with destroying the compound, which includes the government buildings and the town's police headquarters, they said. The blast heavily damaged the city hall.

A car bomber killed five policemen and wounded 13 other officers in Ramadi, 110 km (68 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

At least two policemen were killed and 12 others wounded when a truck bomb struck a police commando base in a town southeast of Baghdad on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

"A suicide bomber driving a booby-trapped truck at about 5:15 p.m. (1315 GMT) struck a police commando base at a building in the town of Madain, some 30 km southeast of Baghdad," the source said on condition of anonymity.

Despite the concrete barriers, the powerful explosion of the truck bomb damaged parts of the building, killing at least two commando members and wounding 12 others, the source said.

Four soldiers were killed and a Humvee was burned in nearly two hours of clashes in the Shiite town of Numaniyah, 77 miles southeast of Baghdad, police said.

The fighting erupted hours after five other Iraqi soldiers were killed and three were wounded by a roadside bomb in the mainly Sunni town of Madain, on the southeastern outskirts of Baghdad.

Guerrillas killed a police major in the town of Aziziya, 80 km (50 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A truck bomber blew up near a building housing police commandos in Madaen, 45 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, killing two policemen and wounding 12, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

**“There Is Something Happening
Today In America”
“Those Responsible Should Rightly
Tremble Before The Looming
Possibilities Of What May Come To Be
Unleashed”**

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

20 June 2007 By William Rivers Pitt, Truthout Columnist [Excerpts]

There is something happening today in America.

With the right kind of ears, you can hear it in the sound of millions of brows slowly furrowing in anger and disgust.

It feels like those tense moments just before the eruption of a summer thunderstorm, those moments when the air is electric, the ozone reek of spent lightning fills the world, and you know something very loud is about to happen.

What is happening, what can be heard and smelled and sensed all across the land, is the cresting wave of rage, betrayal and fury that is, finally, roaring across the shores of our collective American heart.

After more than six years of lies, theft, graft, corruption, manipulation and misconduct, just about every living person within these borders finds themselves today gripped by the slow seethe, directed inward as much as outward, of one who has come around to see just how much of a fool they've been played for.

There are numbers to argue the reality of what is happening:

The latest NBC/Wall Street Journal poll has 81% of Americans believing this country to be very much on the wrong track.

Put simply, four out of every five people nowadays have that furrowed brow, that sense of betrayal, that slow seethe.

It is a Becoming, this thing, or perhaps an Awakening.

It is very real, and is all around us, and it feels like something very loud is about to happen.

The Iraq debacle, along with myriad examples of corruption and malfeasance, gives voice to a larger sense of outrage felt by nearly all of us today, an outrage so vast that naming it or describing the totality of it beggars vocabulary.

When joined in this by another citizen and another and another again, when the unrest of the one becomes a massed and overwhelming majority, those responsible should rightly tremble before the looming possibilities of what may come to be unleashed.

Partisan sensibilities and the your-team/my-team nonsense of modern politics is being replaced by the broad belief that we have all been screwed, that what is most important has been discarded by those in power.

The poll numbers charting low approval for Bush and the GOP are matched by similarly low numbers approving of the new Democratic majority in congress. The former bears most of the responsibility for what has happened, as far as the citizenry is concerned, but the latter's failure to stop or reverse the trend is equally shameful.

The seeds of this Becoming have been planted, and have grown, and the time has come to reap.

The American people are weary of Becoming, weary of watching everything they hold dear getting cast into gutters.

The midterm elections last November heralded their peaked frustration, and the power invested in this new Democratic Congress came with an invested trust, a hope that this wrong track would be righted.

The American people are tired of waiting, tired of revealed wrongs continuing without consequence or punishment, tired of anticipation.

This frustration smells of ozone, and feels electric, and means something very loud is indeed about to happen.

Matters have progressed beyond the pettiness of parties, because the problems before us can no longer be deflected with spin and blather. Enough of talk.

Something is happening today in America, and it involves each and every one of us, and it is going to get very loud if matters continue as they have been.

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

Things You Can And Can't Do In A Military Uniform

From: Diane Rejman

To: GI Special

Sent: June 20, 2007

Subject: (rather gross - in more than one way) - things you can and can't do in a military uniform

Rather gross, in more than one way, but unfortunately true.

Things you can and can't do in a military uniform.

Who should have been disciplined?

THE CASES

In 2004, Army Major General Antonio M. Taguba investigated the Abu Ghraib scandal. He prepared a CD with photos and video of some of the abuses he found there. He said he saw "a video of a male American soldier in uniform sodomizing a female detainee." <http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/06/17/1937/>

Marine Corporal Adam Kokesh had received an Honorable discharge from his active duty service, which included a tour in Iraq. In May, 2007, while a member of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), he presented himself as an American citizen and participated in an anti-war rally in Washington, DC. He wore part of his uniform, but had removed his name tag and all military insignia from it.

THE VERDICT

We don't even know the name of the active duty soldier who sodomized the Iraqi woman. This apparently wasn't worthy of an investigation by the US government.

But Adam faced charges. He was offered a downgraded discharge. He is appealing this. <http://www.ivaw.org/kokeshhearinglatest>.

Others are facing similar disciplinary action.

The implications of these cases against Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) members may be far reaching, as the prosecution of an IRR military member under these circumstances is unprecedented.

“At stake is the right of freedom of speech for the hundreds of thousands of members of the IRR, as well as the nation's right to get the unbiased truth about Iraq,” stated Garrett Reppenhagen, chair of IVAW Board of Directors.

Troops Invited:

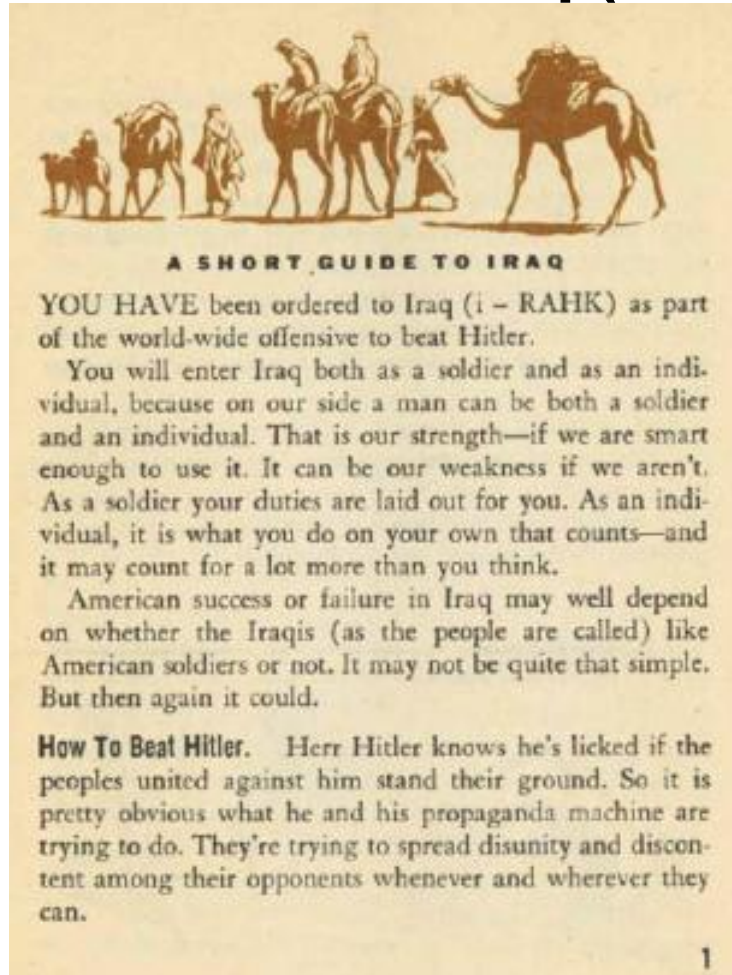
What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

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/)

They Can't Say They Didn't Know: G.I.s' Guide to Iraq (1943)



[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veteran, who sent this in. He writes: "They" didn't even make an attempt to win the hearts and minds this go-around: All Iraqi's Out Of Their Oil Fields NOW! Peace from George Fucking Bush-Cheney]

June 12, 2007, By Noah Shachtman

In 1943, some American troops were stationed in Iraq. Here is a War Department handbook introducing them to the country ('i-RAHK'), and providing some do's and don'ts when interacting with the Iraqi people.

Some highlights:

“NEVER discuss religion or politics or women with Moslems.

“Don’t stare at anyone. Remember the fear of the “evil eye”.

“Knock before entering a private house. If a woman answers, wait until she has had time to retire.

“If you see grown men walking hand in hand, ignore it. They are not queer.

“You can usually tell a mosque by its high tower. **Keep away from mosques.**
(Emphasis in the original) If you try to enter one, you will be thrown out, probably with a severe beating.

“There are four towns in Iraq which are particularly sacred to the Iraq Moslems: Kerbala, Najaf, Samarra, and Kadhiman. Unless you are ordered to these towns it is advisable to stay away from them.

“Moslems here are divided into two factions something like our division into Catholic and Protestant denominations -- so don’t put in your two cents when Iraqis argue about religion.

“There are also political differences in Iraq that have puzzled diplomats and statesmen. “You won’t help matters any by getting mixed up in them.’

And then there’s this:

“American success or failure in Iraq may well depend on whether the Iraqis (as the people are called) like American soldiers or not. It may not be quite that simple. But then again it could.”

Amen, brother!

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR;

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



An Iraqi home owner protests after foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment broke into and invaded her home in the middle of the night in western Baghdad's neighborhood of Ghazaliyah March 21, 2007. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

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

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

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

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

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



6-13-07 THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER. UNIVERSAL PICTURE SERVICE.

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

***Welcome To Occupied New
York City:
They Truly Hate Our Liberties:
Despicable NYC Cowards In Blue
Terrorize Harmless Citizens At The
Puerto Rican Day Parade;
Out Of Control Scum Bring On Their
Police State In New York City***

[June 12, 2007 Via Alex Vitale, who writes: “It appears that the preemptive arrest tactics used during the RNC have become a mainstay of public order policing by the NYPD. This is a very disturbing development. So much for probable cause. More later.” Someday we’ll have all our troops home, and they’ll clean this filth off our streets, once and for all. T]

June 12, 2007 By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS and THOMAS J. LUECK, The New York Times [Excerpts]

The police disclosed yesterday that 208 people were arrested at the Puerto Rican Day Parade on Sunday — more than in previous years — after reports that members of the Latin Kings gang planned to join the parade.

But several of those arrested said they had simply been swept up with the crowd and denied having any gang associations.

Among the paradegoers arrested were a 55-year-old postal worker from Paterson, N.J., and the college-bound nephew of a New Jersey police officer.

The police, however, said that all but 10 of those arrested were gang members. **[Like sociopaths everywhere, they lie and lie and lie and lie and lie. It’s a requirement for the job.]**

Many of those arrested spent a night in jail before being arraigned yesterday in Manhattan Criminal Court. Their friends and relatives filled the wooden benches on the first floor of the courthouse at 100 Centre Street in Lower Manhattan yesterday, waiting for them to be released.

During the arraignments, prosecutors provided few details of what had led to the arrests, for the most part reciting the boilerplate charges.

Edward McCarthy, a lawyer for the Legal Aid Society who was representing many of those arrested, said he was struck by the incongruity of people being charged with unlawful assembly at a parade.

He said that many defendants contended that they had been swept up as part of a crowd.

“People said they were being told by the police that they needed this group to turn the corner; then when they obeyed, the police were waiting around the corner,” Mr. McCarthy said.

The New Jersey police officer, dressed in plainclothes with a gun at his hip, waited all day for his nephew to be released. He said his nephew was an 18-year-old high school senior who would be going to Alabama State University on a football scholarship in the fall.

“I’m concerned because he has a final exam tomorrow,” said the officer, who declined to give his name to avoid embarrassing his nephew. He said his nephew was not a gang member.

The postal worker, wearing jean shorts and a blue T-shirt, looked shaken and exhausted as he was led out of court by his 22-year-old son. He said he had been swept up in a large group of people around 47th Street and Fifth Avenue.

Showing a skinned elbow, he said he was knocked to the street by officers while being arrested.

The son said his father was a peaceful man. "He comes home, he works, cooks, that's my father," he said.

They also said they were too embarrassed to give their names.

Marilyn Gonzalez waited in the courthouse hallway yesterday for her son Stephen, a student at Automotive High School in Brooklyn, to be arraigned. "He's not a gang member," she said. "He's a good kid who goes to school. He was wearing a white T-shirt, black dress pants and dress shoes. He was presentable."

Another parent, Paul Brown, a pharmacist from Brooklyn, was waiting for his son. He said he was puzzled by the arrest.

"If he was arrested because he's 20 years old and he's Latino, there's a problem," Mr. Brown said.

Several young men and women from Yonkers said they had been arrested because they were wearing yellow T-shirts with black lettering. They said the police had misconstrued their T-shirts, given to them by a friend to advertise his rap album, as Latin Kings shirts.

"We were bum rushed by a bunch of cops," said Samantha Santiago, one of the Yonkers contingent. Ms. Santiago, a saleswoman at a sneaker store, was arrested along with her boyfriend. She was wearing a pink shirt, and her boyfriend was wearing one of the yellow shirts.

Welcome To The Occupied USA: "A Middle School Student In Palm Beach County Who Was Caught Throwing Rocks At A Soda Can Was Arrested And Charged With A Felony - Hurling A 'Deadly Missile'"

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

09 June 2007 By Bob Herbert, The New York Times [Excerpts]

In March, police in Baltimore handcuffed a 7-year-old boy and took him into custody for riding a dirt bike on the sidewalk. The boy tearfully told The Baltimore Examiner, "They scared me." Mayor Sheila Dixon later apologized for the arrest.

Children, including some who are emotionally disturbed, are often arrested for acting out. Some are arrested for carrying sharp instruments that they had planned to use in art classes, and for mouthing off.

This is a problem that has gotten out of control. Behavior that was once considered a normal part of growing up is now resulting in arrest and incarceration.

Kids who find themselves caught in this unnecessary tour of the criminal justice system very quickly develop malignant attitudes toward law enforcement. **[Meaning they understand perfectly well that cops are not there to protect them, but to protect the wealthy and powerful from them. Our own homegrown Army of Occupation. T]**

Many drop out - or are forced out - of school. In the worst cases, the experience serves as an introductory course in behavior that is, in fact, criminal.

There is a big difference between a child or teenager who brings a gun to school or commits some other serious offense and someone who swears at another student or gets into a wrestling match or a fistfight in the playground.

Increasingly, especially as zero-tolerance policies proliferate, children are being treated like criminals for the most minor offenses.

There should be no obligation to call the police if a couple of kids get into a fight and teachers are able to bring it under control. But now, in many cases, youngsters caught fighting are arrested and charged with assault.

A 2006 report on disciplinary practices in Florida schools showed that a middle school student in Palm Beach County who was caught throwing rocks at a soda can was arrested and charged with a felony - hurling a "deadly missile."

We need to get a grip.

The Racial Justice Program at the American Civil Liberties Union has been studying this issue. "What we see routinely," said Dennis Parker, the program's director, "is that behavior that in my time would have resulted in a trip to the principal's office is now resulting in a trip to the police station."

He added that the evidence seems to show that white kids are significantly less likely to be arrested for minor infractions than black or Latino kids.

The 6-year-old arrested in Florida was black. The 7-year-old arrested in Baltimore was black.

This issue deserves much more attention. Sending young people into the criminal justice system unnecessarily is a brutal form of abuse with consequences, for the child and for society as a whole, that can last a lifetime.

The Rich Keep Grabbing More And More: “The Huge Concentration Of Wealth At The Top Is Routinely Used To Tilt The Political Process In Favor Of The Wealthy”

“It’s as if every household in that bottom 80 percent is writing a check for \$7,000 every year and sending it to the top 1 percent.”

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

June 13, 2007 By Barbara Ehrenreich, The Nation [Excerpts]

In Sunday’s New York Times magazine we learn that Larry Summers, the centrist Democratic economist and former Harvard president, is now obsessed with the statistic that, since 1979, the share of pretax income going to the top 1 percent of American households has risen by 7 percentage points, to 16 percent.

At the same time, the share of income going to the bottom 80 percent has fallen by 7 percentage points.

As the Times puts it: “It’s as if every household in that bottom 80 percent is writing a check for \$7,000 every year and sending it to the top 1 percent.” Summers now admits that his former cheerleading for the corporate-dominated global economy feels like “pretty thin gruel.”

Well, there is a problem with the super-rich, several of them in fact. A bloated overclass can drag down a society as surely as a swelling underclass.

First, the Clemens example distracts from the reality that a great deal of the wealth at the top is built on the low-wage labor of the poor. Take Wal-Mart, our largest private employer and premiere exploiter of the working class: Every year, 4 or 5 of the people on Forbes magazine’s list of the ten richest Americans carry the surname Walton, meaning they are the children, nieces, and nephews of Wal-Mart’s founder.

You think it’s a coincidence that this union-busting low-wage retail empire happens to have generated a \$200 billion family fortune?

Gentrification is dispersing the urban poor into overcrowded suburban ranch houses, while billionaires' horse farms displace the rural poor and middle class. Similarly, the rich can swallow tuitions of \$40,000 and up, making a college education increasingly a privilege of the upper classes.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the huge concentration of wealth at the top is routinely used to tilt the political process in favor of the wealthy.

But if we don't end up with universal health insurance in the next few years, it won't be because the average American isn't pining for relief from escalating medical costs.

It may well turn out to be because Hillary Clinton is, as The Nation reports, "the number-one Congressional recipient of donations from the healthcare industry." And who do you think demanded those Bush tax cuts for the wealthy -- the AFL-CIO.

Lowenstein notes, that "if the very upper crust were banished to a Caribbean island, the America that remained would be a lot more egalitarian."

Well, duh. The point is that it would also be more prosperous, at the individual level, and democratic.

In fact, why give the upper crust an island in the Caribbean?

After all they've done for us recently, I think the Aleutians should be more than adequate.

U.S. Health Care System A \$2 Trillion Disaster; "We Are By Far The Most Expensive And Inefficient" "Lack Of Insurance Is Responsible For 18,000 U.S. Deaths Annually"

06/15/2007 By David Kerns, M.D., San Jose Mercury News

"America has the best health care system in the world, pure and simple." This ringing endorsement was served up by President Bush in the spring of 2006.

It is an expression of national confidence and pride, and has long been an article of faith for many, regardless of political affiliation. "We're No. 1!" is our American mantra.

In the arena of health care, however, this gold medal image is shattered by the facts.

Compared to other industrialized nations, we are not the best - or even close - when it comes to basic standards of wellness and life expectancy.

Despite that, we are by far the most expensive and inefficient.

Let's look at a few accepted measures of public health.

A country's infant mortality rate is a reflection of the health of its pregnant women and of the quality of care provided for both the women and their infants.

While the United States has improved over the past 40 years, it still ranks only 27th among large industrialized nations. Shockingly, the infant mortality rate is climbing for the first time in decades in our Southeastern states.

Average life expectancy is arguably the most reliable way to measure the health of a country's citizens.

According to the World Health Organization, the average American lives until age 78, only 25th-best among nations.

Our average number of years in good health is 69, also 25th among nations - and worse than Slovenia.

So repeat after me, "We're No. 25!"

One might guess that these other industrialized countries, to get their superior results, spend a lot more money than we do. In fact, they spend substantially less.

The United States spends more than \$2 trillion annually on health care, the most per capita of any country in the world.

Germany, the United Kingdom and Canada, each with lower infant mortality and longer life expectancy, and each with universal coverage, spend roughly half of the U.S. total per citizen.

The evidence of a failing U.S. health care system is dramatic. In 2005, despite Medicare for seniors and Medicaid for the poor, 47 million Americans were uninsured the entire year and an additional 35 million for part of the year.

The federal Institute of Medicine has determined that lack of insurance is responsible for 18,000 U.S. deaths annually.

The National Committee on Quality Assurance estimates that an additional 57,000 Americans die each year because of "inappropriate" care - for example, inadequate treatment of hypertension or elevated cholesterol.

If you combine the estimated annual deaths from lack of insurance, medical errors and inappropriate treatment, they are equivalent to a Sept. 11, 2001, disaster every nine days.

While not as wrenching as the flesh-and-blood consequences of our health care crisis, the financial impact is profound.

Uninsured and under-insured middle-class families often experience crushing hospital bills, which are responsible for half the country's personal bankruptcies.

There is one bankruptcy filing due to medical debt every 30 seconds.

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