

GI SPECIAL 5F22:

Never



**A Traitor In Command:
Odierno Defies The Secretary Of
Defense And The American
People;
He Announces His Decision
That No Troop Reductions Will
Be Made Until Spring**

“I think if everything goes the way it’s going now, there’s a potential that by the spring we would be able to reduce forces, and Iraqi security forces could take over,” Odierno said, adding that only after such transitions would a decision be made on reducing U.S. troop levels.

June 23, 2007 By Peter Spiegel and Tina Susman, L.A. Times Staff Writers [Excerpts]

Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno said the new offensive differed from previous operations in the capital.

He said the additional troops would allow U.S. and Iraqi forces to occupy neighborhoods once they are cleared of insurgents and to protect civilians as the areas are rebuilt. “With the amount of forces that we have now, we will be able to stay in these areas ... where we’ve had either no or very little capability to do this previously,” he said from Iraq in a video conference with reporters at the Pentagon.

[Just another stupid Odierno lie: From a news story below: “A senior commander in Iraq, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said that U.S. plans do not call for holding cleared areas.]

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has expressed hope that a planned September evaluation of the plan will show sufficient progress to allow troops to begin returning home before the end of the year.

Odierno is known to think differently.

On Friday, he again suggested that extension of the buildup might be needed until spring.

He said that key to the operation’s success would be the ability of Iraqi forces to take over the task of securing and rebuilding Baghdad neighborhoods, and that he did not believe they would be fully capable of those duties for several months.

“I think if everything goes the way it’s going now, there’s a potential that by the spring we would be able to reduce forces, and Iraqi security forces could take over,” Odierno said, adding that only after such transitions would a decision be made on reducing U.S. troop levels.

[These are the words of a traitor. He has told the press that he does not care what the Secretary of Defense or the American people want. He has told the press that only when he pleases will a decision be made on reducing U.S. troop levels.

[Every day this traitor remains in command, he kills more American troops with his deadly surge. He has now publicly announced his decision to kill them indefinitely, and that the war will go on as long as he wishes. Were there any justice in the world, Odierno would now be placed under arrest, subject to court martial, and receive the punishment reserved for traitors in time of war.

[Well, here's a message concerning the would-be war policy dictator Odierno from Thomas Jefferson that our soldiers and civilians would be well advised to think upon and act upon when the crisis comes: "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.]

MORE:

Out-Of-Control Odierno Insinuates General Petraeus & Other Commanders Broke OpSec And Let Resistance Leaders Escape

June 23, 2007 By JOHN F. BURNS, The New York Times [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD, June 22 — The operational commander of troops battling to drive fighters with Al Qaeda from Baquba said Friday that 80 percent of the top Qaeda leaders in the city fled before the American-led offensive began earlier this week. He compared their flight with the escape of Qaeda leaders from Falluja ahead of an American offensive that recaptured that city in 2004.

In an otherwise upbeat assessment, Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, the second-ranking American commander in Iraq, told reporters that leaders of Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia had been alerted to the Baquba offensive by widespread public discussion of the American plan to clear the city before the attack began.

Some American officers in Baquba have placed blame for the Qaeda leaders' flight on public remarks about the offensive in the days before it began by top American commanders, including Gen. David H. Petraeus, the overall commander in Iraq.

"Frankly, I think they knew an operation was coming in Baquba," General Odierno said in a teleconference briefing with Pentagon reporters from the American military headquarters in Baghdad.

Still, he implied American commanders may have played a part by flagging the offensive in advance. "I think they were tipped off by us talking about the surge, the fact that we have a problem in Diyala Province," he said.

MORE:

Odierno Babbles More Bullshit:

“Other Officers” Says He’s Lying Through His Rotten Teeth

June 23, 2007 By Thomas E. Ricks, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

“The Iraqi security forces will be able to sustain and continue to improve their ability to maintain security,” [Lt. Gen. Raymond T.] Odierno predicted. “They are staying and fighting. They are taking casualties.”

But other officers report that the Iraqi forces themselves are not big enough and also have a mixed record in combat. Army Lt. Gen. Martin Dempsey, who oversaw training and advising efforts there until this month, said in recent congressional testimony that Iraqi units are improving but “do not have tactical staying power.”

“For the control and retain phases, we will need reliable Iraqi security forces in sufficient numbers,” said Lt. Col. Douglas A. Ollivant, a senior Army planner in Baghdad.

“There are clearly not yet enough reliable forces.”

Iraqi security forces are “the weak link,” said counterinsurgency expert [Andrew F.] Krepinevich Jr., the director of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments].

The Iraqi government is so factionalized that Iraqi forces remain largely ineffective, he explained: “This is the principal weak spot in our strategy -- and I’m afraid it may be fatal.”

“This is about interdicting the accelerants of al-Qaeda,” Odierno said yesterday. “I mean the truck bombs, the car bombs, the chlorine bombs that they try to do in order to harass the population and try to affect the confidence in the government of Iraq. These are the attacks that we are trying to prevent.”

In their first week, the new operations have resulted in the capture of more than 700 detainees, the killing of 160 insurgents, and the uncovering of hundreds of weapons caches and bombs, Odierno said. **[The twisted freak is so far out of it he’s puking up meaningless body count stats again. They teach in Counterinsurgency 101 that the higher the body count, the worse your occupation is going, but why expect a power-mad delusional piece of shit showboat to know anything about counterinsurgency war? He’s an expert on sending his own troops to their deaths and dictating war policy to the American people; that’s enough, isn’t it? T]**

MORE:

[2003]

“Another Psychopathic Shithead In Command: Odious Odierno In Kirkuk”

From GI SPECIAL #23 5.18.03

By LOUIS MEIXLER, Associated Press Writer

KIRKUK, Iraq - Leading citizens of Iraq's primary northern oil town will select a city council next week, the top U.S. commander in the region said Saturday.

Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division, met with nearly 100 residents of Kirkuk and outlined a plan similar to that carried out earlier this month in Mosul, the region's biggest city.

“You must throw off the chains of a brutal dictatorship and the choke hold of a socialist command economy,” Odierno said. “The message: You must embrace democracy and a market economy.”

Under the plan, the U.S. army will choose 300 city leaders who will in turn elect 24 delegates to the council. Odierno will round out the body by choosing six prominent citizens to represent different business communities on the body.

The council will then choose a mayor and deputy mayor, though both face approval by Odierno.

He added: “This is your opportunity to prove to the world that you are a tolerant and forgiving people. The old regime is dead. They will not come back to Kirkuk.”

Moments later, as Odierno continued speaking, gunfire echoed outside, underscoring the tenuous security situation still prevalent in Kirkuk and much of Iraq.

“We will not allow a few people to stop the progress of this great city,” Odierno said, responding to the shooting.

(THANKS TO P WHO E MAILED THIS IN: PB WRITES:
HIGHLIGHTS (MANY STUPID QUOTES HERE):

“You must throw off the chains of a brutal dictatorship and the choke hold of a socialist command economy, Odierno said. The message: You must embrace democracy and a market economy.”

COMMENT:

Or else you will be shot like your brothers and sisters and Mosul and Fallujah! When Major Means you wrote about embraced democracy by refusing to censor the radio station she got canned by Gen. Petraeus...

“Under the plan, the U.S. army will choose 300 city leaders who will in turn elect 24 delegates to the council. Odierno will round out the body by choosing six prominent citizens to represent different business communities on the body. The council will then choose a mayor and deputy mayor, though both face approval by Odierno.”

COMMENT: What a farce.

MORE:

[2003]

Odious Odierno Says Dead U.S. Soldiers “Insignificant” Says “American Forces Are Making Progress Against Iraqi Resistance”

From GI Special #48: 6.19.03

(Thanks to B who sent in this story, with clear, hard-hitting comments on General Odierno’s lies and utter disregard for the lives of his troops.)

(We begin with Odierno quotes, followed by B’s comments. The full story is below.)

QUOTE:

“The raids ... have put a lot of pressure on them, and I think they’re feeling the pressure ... which is causing them to come out and maybe increase their attacks. So I think they’re desperate, Odierno said.”

COMMENT:

Actually the resistance picks and chooses when, where, and who to attack. They attack you at their convenience, not yours - which is why the people who shoot at you seem to always get away. You don’t have them, they have you.

QUOTE:

“The more money we seize, the more individuals we take into custody, we continue to really ... have an impact on the medium to senior level of the individuals that remain, he said.”

COMMENT:

But the more innocent people you beat up, the more relatives you detain, and the more money of theirs you steal, the more you fill the ranks of the resistance with eager recruits. DUH!

QUOTE:

“We are seeing military activity throughout our zone, but I really qualify it as militarily insignificant, he said. I will never downplay Americans being killed in combat. It is a very significant sacrifice, especially for their families, he said.

But from a military perspective, it is insignificant. They’re having no impact on the way we conduct business on a day-to-day basis in Iraq.”

COMMENT:

If it’s so insignificant, why is Ops Desert Scorpion and Peninsula strike the biggest operations since Bush declared the war over? Why did you need 4,000 troops, and why did you extend the 3rd Infantry’s stay INDEFINITELY?

This lying isn’t just Odierno, it comes straight from the top - Bush, Rumsfeld and the rest of the gang sold the war and the occupation as a WMD hunt and as liberation.

Instead of admitting that the Iraqis’ war of liberation from the Americans is beginning, the lifers, brass, and politicians keep saying it’s getting better every day even as oil pipelines get blown up, more Iraqi protestors get shot, and more GIs get killed.

The reason they keep repeating this crap is because they don’t know how to deal with the fact that NO ONE wants them in Iraq.

They can’t stay, the Iraqis won’t let them. And they can’t leave - because that would destroy their credibility as top-dog in world politics and they would be allowing the Iraqis to control the world’s 2nd largest oil reserves, defeating the point of the war/occupation in the first place.

But the U.S. leaving Iraq is not inevitable. It will take organized resistance - in Iraq, in the U.S., and in the military itself. The sooner we start, the sooner Iraqis run Iraq, and GIs get to come home.

THE STORY:

By PAULINE JELINEK, Associated Press Writer June 16, 2003

WASHINGTON - American forces are making progress against Iraqi resistance, a ground commander said Wednesday, asserting that the recent increase in U.S. casualties is “militarily insignificant.”

As an example of progress, troops on Wednesday rounded up another 50 people tied to Saddam Hussein’s security or paramilitary groups — groups that are the main suspects in a recent increase in attacks on Americans, said Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno.

Odierno is commander of the Army’s 4th Infantry Division, which is operating in a particularly volatile part of Iraq, in an area ranging north of Baghdad to Saddam’s hometown of Tikrit and east to the Iranian border.

The troops have been taking part in Desert Scorpion, a series of raids since Sunday aimed at rounding up resistance fighters. On Wednesday, raids at two farmhouses near Tikrit found \$8.5 million in American cash, 300 million to 400 million Iraqi dinars and an undetermined amount of British pounds and Euros, said Odierno.

The troops captured one of Saddam's bodyguards and up to 50 other people believed to be tied to Saddam's security or intelligence forces or paramilitary groups, Odierno told Pentagon reporters in a video news conference from his headquarters in Tikrit. The troops also found Russian-made night-vision goggles and other military equipment, as well as a large amount of Saddam paraphernalia.

Odierno said he did not know whether the cash was meant to pay bounties for attacks on American troops or to provide the Saddam loyalists with luxuries while they were in hiding.

“The raids ... have put a lot of pressure on them, and I think they're feeling the pressure ... which is causing them to come out and maybe increase their attacks. So I think they're desperate,” Odierno said.

“The more money we seize, the more individuals we take into custody, we continue to really ... have an impact on the medium to senior level of the individuals that remain,” he said.

Attacks and accidents have killed about 50 American troops — including about a dozen from hostile fire — since major combat was officially declared over on May 1. Between March 20, when the war started, and May 1, 138 Americans died from accidents or hostile fire.

“We are seeing military activity throughout our zone, but I really qualify it is as militarily insignificant,” he said.

“I will never downplay Americans being killed in combat. It is a very significant sacrifice, especially for their families,” he said. “But from a military perspective, it is insignificant. They're having no impact on the way we conduct business on a day-today basis in Iraq.”

MORE:

[2006]

Odious Odierno's Brutal, Stupid Tactics Built The Iraqi Resistance Movement;

Now The Worthless Piece Of Shit Goes Back To Iraq As Second In Command

“‘The Former Regime Elements We’ve Been Combating Have Been Brought To Their Knees,’ Odierno Declared Two And A Half Years Ago”

The general is a particular and deserving target of Ricks’s book, which is perhaps the most exhaustive account to date of all that went wrong with Iraq.

From GI SPECIAL 4H1: 1/8/06

July 26, 2006 By Michael Hirsh, Newsweek [Excerpts]

Reading “Fiasco,” Thomas Ricks’s devastating new book about the Iraq war, brought back memories for me.

Memories of going on night raids in Samarra in January 2004, in the heart of the Sunni Triangle, with the Fourth Infantry Division units that Ricks describes.

During these raids, confused young Americans would burst into Iraqi homes, overturn beds, dump out drawers, and summarily arrest all military-age men—actions that made them unwitting recruits for the insurgency.

For American soldiers battling the resistance throughout Iraq, the unspoken rule was that all Iraqis were guilty until proven innocent.

Arrests, beatings and sometimes killings were arbitrary, often based on the flimsiest intelligence, and Iraqis had no recourse whatever to justice.

Imagine the sense of helpless rage that emerges from this sort of treatment. Apply three years of it and you have one furious, traumatized population. And a country out of control.

As most U.S. military experts now acknowledge, these tactics violated the most basic principles of counterinsurgency, which require winning over the local population, thus depriving the bad guys of a base of support within which to hide.

Such rules were apparently unknown to the 4th ID commander, Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno.

The general is a particular and deserving target of Ricks's book, which is perhaps the most exhaustive account to date of all that went wrong with Iraq.

Nonetheless—according to that iron law of the Bush administration under which incompetence is rewarded with promotion, as long as it is accompanied by loyalty—Odierno will soon be returning to Iraq as America's No. 2 commander there, the man who will oversee day-to-day military operations.

Like Ricks, The Washington Post's first-rate Pentagon correspondent, I don't really fault the soldiers on the ground for the mistakes made. These young men and women were in a hellish situation, and as warriors they performed superbly.

But once they began breaking into Iraqi homes, cool and competent GIs turned into Keystone Kops, pressed into a counterinsurgency role they'd never been taught.

So the soldiers improvised, often amateurishly, apparently, according to Ricks, directed by Odierno to kick down doors.

The American soldiers themselves were aware of how inane many of their night raids were.

Back in January 2004, the unit I was with jokingly called their raids "Jerry Springers." Why? Because the intelligence was often based on unreliable sources who had agendas of their own. "Lots of times it turns out to be some guy who wants us to arrest another guy who's interested in the same girl," one soldier told me.

They were more wild goose chases than military operations.

During one raid someone spotted a picture of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian revolutionary leader, lying in a pile of paper. "Who is that?" asked Capt. Andy Depanais, a young tank commander who would have been in grade school at the time of the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. None of the soldiers seemed to know, but Khomeini did look suspicious to them.

Never mind that the insurgency, even then, was mostly Sunni, while the Iranians and Khomeini were Shiite.

"I usually just round up all the military-age men," Ben Tomlinson, the lieutenant in command of the platoon, told me.

As Ricks writes, this had become doctrine for all of Odierno's 4th ID.

At one point we burst into a small hotel, or hostel, whose guests were said to be Iranian-influenced insurgent sympathizers. Finding none, we moved onto a house supposedly occupied by the Iraqi hostel owner, arresting him and his three sons.

One son, I remember, protested that he was a medical student, and the soldiers riffled through what were clearly English-language medical textbooks surrounding his bed. No matter, the youth was shoved to the floor.

Another, by appearance the youngest, was hyperventilating and coughing incessantly, obviously feverish and ill with some respiratory ailment. On the floor he went, an American boot to his back.

On the ride back to base, I sat next to one detainee in a Bradley fighting vehicle. Blood was oozing from his nose, which appeared to be broken, but he could not wipe it away because his hands were tied. He was whimpering. Many like him ended up at Abu Ghraib prison.

And there, even if they weren't insurgents before—most weren't—many became supporters of the insurgency.

Back home meanwhile, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was still denying there was an insurgency at all.

Bush was pretending that angry Iraqis who might be sympathetic to the insurgency were terrorists of the same ilk as Al Qaeda.

Odierno, who allowed credit for Saddam's capture to accrue to him though Special Forces had led the operation, was suggesting that he was close to defeating the insurgency.

"The former regime elements we've been combating have been brought to their knees," Odierno declared two and a half years ago.

Today, despite these disastrous misjudgments, not only do all these men still have their jobs, some, like Odierno, are destined to run the future U.S. Army.

But inexorably, month by month, the Bush administration broadened the war on terror to include ever more peoples and countries, especially Saddam's Iraq, relying on thinner and thinner evidence to do so.

And what began as a hunt for a relatively contained group of self-declared murderers like bin Laden became a feckless dragnet of tens of thousands of hapless Arab victims like the sons of the hostel owner in Samarra, the vast majority of whom had nothing to do with Al Qaeda or terror, just as Saddam had little to do with Al Qaeda, just as the Iraqi insurgency had little to do with Al Qaeda (at least at the start), just as Hizbullah has nothing to do with Al Qaeda.

And as the war broadened beyond reason, and the world questioned the legitimacy of the enterprise, our friends dropped away.

Worse, we have found ourselves making enemies in the Islamic world faster than we could round them up or kill them.

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

Four U.S. Soldiers Killed By Baghdad IED

June 23, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070623-12

BAGHDAD — Four Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb detonated near a Coalition vehicle during combat operations northwest of Baghdad June 23. An Iraqi interpreter was also wounded in the attack.

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed, Three Wounded In Complex Baghdad Ambush

June 23, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070623-09

BAGHDAD — Two Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers were killed and three others were wounded when their unit was struck by a roadside bomb, then received small arms fire in eastern Baghdad early June 23.

IED Kills Airman In Tikrit

June 23, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070623-10

BAGHDAD – An MNC-I Airman died of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle Saturday in Tikrit.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad

June 23, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070623-14

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldier was killed when a patrol was attacked with small arms fire during combat operations in a southern section of the Iraqi capital June 23. No other Soldiers were wounded during the attack.

Iraq Blast Kills Iowa Soldier



June 14, 2007 BY PERRY BEEMAN AND ABBY SIMONS, REGISTER STAFF WRITERS

The war in Iraq has brought more tears to Iowa.

An Army soldier from Onawa who was remembered for his magnetic personality was killed Sunday in a roadside bombing in Karbala, Iraq.

Cpl. Llythaniele Fender, 21, had enlisted in the Army several months after graduating from West Monona High School in 2004.

He was assigned to Battery B of the 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, which is based at Fort Lewis, Wash. He had been living in Medical Lake, Wash., before his unit left for Iraq in February.

Before the Fender family moved to Onawa in 2002, Llythaniele and a younger sister attended Julesburg High School in Julesburg, Colo.

The shock of his death resonated throughout the northeastern Colorado city of 1,500 people, with residents remembering Fender as a practical joker who occasionally engaged in good-natured bickering with his sister, said Fender's former Julesburg principal and superintendent, Shawn Ehnes.

"The community was deeply saddened; there's a lot of sorrow," Ehnes said. "Teachers and students alike took it very hard to know such a fine young person like himself had sacrificed his life."

Fender is the 57th person with ties to Iowa to die in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He is the second soldier from Fort Lewis with Iowa ties to die in Iraq. In March 2005, Staff Sgt. Donald Griffith Jr., 29, of Mechanicsville was killed in Tal Afar, Iraq.

Fender died Sunday from the wounds he suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated along a road, the military reported. Two other members of his unit, Spc. Adam Herold, 23, of Omaha, and Cpl. Meresebang Ngiraked, 21, of Koror, Palau, also died in the attack.

Fender's mother, Ellen, said in a statement released by Fort Lewis, "He was a wonderful son and brother with a huge heart who served his country with great pride, and we send our hearts out to the men and women who have served and are serving this great country, both stateside and overseas."

Harold Groves, an industrial technology teacher and athletic director at West Monona High School, said, "He was really a quiet kid. He kept to himself."

Shannon Paseka graduated with Fender in 2004, and said their "familyish" class of 40 was slowly passing word of Fender's death.

"He was never a negative person," Paseka said.

Fender would offer encouragement to fellow students in art class, Paseka said, especially on difficult murals, and was always willing to lend a hand when it was time to clean up.

In Julesburg, Fender was known and respected, Ehnes said.

"Everyone I've talked to has a tremendous amount of admiration and respect for the young people that have that kind of courage to go over there and do that, and I guess nobody was surprised that he would be involved in that," Ehnes said. Ehnes paused and added, "Anytime you have a person that great as a kid, you can only imagine as an adult on a battlefield that he was doing great things."

Fender's parents posted this statement on their son's MySpace page: "To anyone who knew Llythaniele, he was killed in Iraq on June 10, 2007. It's a sad day for anyone who knew him. He had so much heart! He will be missed by his family and friends. To his fellow soldiers serving in Iraq and afar, we love you all and support you. To quote him 'Rock on to the end!' We are so proud of you, our son."

Spc. Matthew Weyant left this remembrance on Fender's MySpace page:

"What can I say, you were more than a fellow soldier to me, and more than a friend, you were my brother. I was always thinking about you since the last time I saw you in Kuwait. Now I will think of you for the rest of my life. I will miss you more than words can say."

And Patricia, a classmate from Onawa, wrote: "We will miss you so much here. ... You have done a great thing serving for our country, and growing up across the street from you was awesome. ... You will be missed by so many!"

Late Soldier Dreamed Of Better Life For Family

June 9, 2007 By Hector Gutierrez, Rocky Mountain News

Army Pfc. Justin Verdeja was tired of his mother and younger brothers living in rental homes throughout East Los Angeles.

He vowed he was going to help his family capture the American dream by purchasing a new home for his mother, Gina Gonzalez.

To do that, Verdeja, who had been attending Cerritos Community College, enlisted in the Army in 2006, hoping to earn study money and enough to make a down payment on a house.

Verdeja, who was based at Fort Carson, was also proud to serve his country.

"He wanted to help his little brothers, and he loved his mother dearly. He was a mama's boy," said Jonathan Guerra, 17, one of Verdeja's brothers. "He always wanted something better for us. We were always renting."

Verdeja, 20, was killed Tuesday in Baghdad, Iraq, after insurgents attacked his unit with small-arms fire, the Department of Defense said Friday.

The second-oldest of six brothers, Verdeja was born and raised in East Los Angeles and attended Garfield High School, where he played wide receiver on the football team, his brother said. He graduated from high school in 2005.

"He was just a great man overall," his brother said.

The Surge? "It's A Fool's Errand" "U.S. Plans Do Not Call For Holding Cleared Areas"

“We Have Lost The Fight For Public And Political Support, So No Matter How Successful We Are Militarily, We Are Being Led To Failure”

“There isn’t much more land power available for use in Iraq and Afghanistan,” retired Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, a former Army chief of staff, recently commented. “We are now ‘all in’ “ -- that is, in poker terms, the U.S. armed forces have put all their chips on the table.

June 23, 2007 By Thomas E. Ricks, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

The major U.S. offensive launched last weekend against insurgents in and around Baghdad has significantly expanded the military’s battleground in Iraq -- “a surge of operations,” and no longer just of troops, as the second-ranking U.S. commander there said yesterday -- but it has renewed concerns about whether even the bigger U.S. troop presence there is large enough.

Retired Army Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, who in 2003 was among the first to call public attention to the relatively small size of the U.S. invasion force, said that the new operation shows how outnumbered U.S. troops remain.

“Why would we think that a temporary presence of 30,000 additional combat troops in a giant city would change the dynamics of a bitter civil war?” he said in an interview yesterday.

“It’s a fool’s errand.”

An officer working in Arrowhead Ripper, the subsidiary offensive in Diyala province, said wearily, “We just do not have the forces in country right now to have the appropriate level of presence across the country.”

Many counterinsurgency experts agree. Andrew F. Krepinevich Jr., the director of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a national security think tank, said flatly that Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, does not have enough troops.

“I suspect General Petraeus is taking a risk here, but that’s what commanders do,” he said. [Wrong. General Betrayus takes no risks at all. He’s too precious for that. He sits on his scrawny ass safely in the Green Zone, ordering his troops to die in vain in a hopeless, lost war he pretends he can turn around. He’s too twisted, or too stupid, to face reality. He’s nothing but a lying traitor and a soldier-killing rat. His “fool’s errand” kills his soldiers, as if he gives a shit.]

In terms of the fighting, the question may be academic.

“There isn’t much more land power available for use in Iraq and Afghanistan,” retired Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, a former Army chief of staff, recently commented.

“We are now ‘all in’ “ -- that is, in poker terms, the U.S. armed forces have put all their chips on the table.

A senior commander in Iraq, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said that U.S. plans do not call for holding cleared areas.

Rather he said, the “Battle of the Baghdad Belts,” as some in the military call the new offensive, is a series of raids designed to reduce attacks on the capital and thus support the main effort, which is to improve the security of Baghdad’s population.

“We have lost the fight for public and political support, so no matter how successful we are militarily, we are being led to failure,” said one U.S. intelligence expert involved in Iraqi operations.

**REALLY BAD IDEA:
NO MISSION;
COME ON HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers patrolling the streets in the centre of Baghdad May 21, 2007. REUTERS/
Eduardo Munoz

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

2 Estonian Soldiers Killed In Missile Attack In Helmand

June 23, 2007 The Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonian: Two Estonian soldiers were killed Saturday in a NATO-led mission in southern Afghanistan, the Estonian military said in a statement.

The soldiers — identified as 24-year-old Sgt. Kalle Torn and 33-year-old Jnr. Sgt. Jako Karuks — were killed in a morning missile attack while taking part in a mine clearance mission in the Helmand Province, it said.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Langar, Two Wounded; Nationality Not Announced

June 23, 2007 Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan -- The U.S.-led coalition says one soldier is dead and two wounded during a clash in southern Afghanistan.

It says the soldier died this morning during combat operations near the village of Langar in Helmand Province.

Coalition forces came under small-arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire around 5:45 a.m. and immediately returned fire.

U.S. Commander Of Occupation Forces In Afghanistan Says State Dept. Full Of Shit About Iran [Again]

Jun 20 By Gareth Porter (IPS)

In a development that underlines the tensions between the anti-Iran agenda of the George W. Bush administration and the preoccupation of its military command in Afghanistan with militant activism, a State Department official publicly accused Iran for the first time of arming the Taliban forces last week, but the U.S. commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan rejected that charge for the second time in less than two weeks.

Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns declared in Paris Jun. 12 that Iran was “transferring arms to the Taliban in Afghanistan”, putting it in the context of a larger alleged Iranian role of funding “extremists” in the Palestinian territories, Lebanon and Iraq. The following day he asserted that there was “irrefutable evidence” of such Iranian arms supply to the Taliban.

The use of the phrase “irrefutable evidence” suggested that the Burns statement was scripted by the office of Vice President Dick Cheney. The same phrase had been used by Cheney himself on Sep. 20, 2002, in referring to the administration’s accusation that Saddam Hussein had a programme to enrich uranium as the basis for a nuclear weapon.

But the NATO commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Dan McNeill, pointed to other possible explanations, particularly the link between drug smuggling and weapons smuggling between Iran and Afghanistan.

Gen. McNeill repeated in an interview with U.S. News and World Report last week a previous statement to Reuters that he did not agree with the charge.

McNeill minimised the scope of the arms coming from Iran, saying: “What we’ve found so far hasn’t been militarily significant on the battlefield.”

He speculated that the arms could have come from black market dealers, drug traffickers, or al Qaeda backers and could have been sold by low-level Iranian military personnel.

McNeill further appeared to suggest in the interview with U.S. News that not all the arms coming from the Iranian side of the border were necessarily Iranian-made. Munitions in one convoy, he said, “were without a whole lot of doubt in my mind Iranian made,” implying that the origins of the arms was not clear in other cases.

The clash between key civilian officials and the command in Afghanistan over the explanation for the arms entering Afghanistan from Iran followed a series of news stories in late May and early June quoting an anonymous administration official as claiming proof of a change in Iranian policy to one of military support for the Taliban.

These anonymous statements of certainty about such a policy shift, for which no intelligence has ever been claimed, pointed to Cheney’s office as the orchestrator of the campaign.

Given the very small scale of the arms in question, Cheney’s interest in the issue appears to have much less to do with Afghanistan than his aim of ensuring that President Bush goes along with the neoconservative desire to attack Iran before the end of his term.

The U.S. military command in Afghanistan, on the other hand, sees the external threat in Afghanistan coming from Pakistan rather than from Iran. U.S. commanders there are very concerned about the increase in Taliban attacks launched from Pakistan’s North Waziristan and South Waziristan following Pakistani Prime Minister Pervez Musharraf’s truce with Islamic separatists in those border provinces last year.

Asked by reporters to explain the categorical language used by Burns, McCormack offered the rather awkward explanation that Burns was merely expressing the “concerns and suspicions” that everyone in the administration had about Iran’s intentions.

That remark effectively undercut the use of the headline-grabbing language by Burns, but was buried in media coverage of Burns’ remarks.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Army Sgt. 1st Class Greg Lamonte Sutton, during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery June 20, 2007. Sutton of Spring Lake, N.C., died June 6 after the vehicle in which he was riding struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

June 23, 2007 By LAUREN FRAYER, Associated Press Writer & Reuters

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed one policeman and wounded two others in Mussayab, about 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas stormed a school building being used by commandos sent to reinforce security in the northern Sunni city of Samarra, killing three officers and wounding one, in a 45 minute gunbattle, police and hospital officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of security concerns.

The attackers, some masked and armed with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns, were targeting Iraqi special forces sent to Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, following the most recent bombing that brought down the twin minarets of the revered Shiite shrine there, the officials said.

Guerrillas killed a police officer and his wife in a drive-by shooting in Kufa, 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb killed one policeman and wounded two others when it exploded near a police convoy in Iskandariya, 40 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed a police officer and wounded two of his bodyguards on the road between Najaf and the nearby town of Kufa on Friday. Najaf is 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**By Their Blind, Stupid Moralizing,
Civilians Who Tell Soldiers To
Refuse To Obey Orders Serve
George Bush And The Empire**

Comment: T

The comments below from Monica Benderman have to do with a reports of a soldier in Iraq who intended to disobey a direct order to participate further in the war.

It's easy to sit safely home in civilian life telling soldiers they should defy orders to participate in the war, while risking nothing at all.

That kind of cheap moralizing infests various parts of the movement against Bush's wars.

Armed forces members who pay attention to the despicable cowards who engage in preaching it can easily land in deep shit in a heartbeat.

Even worse, this civilian propaganda campaign works to remove from the armed forces people who could potentially organize from within to stop the war. Instead, if they listen to these moralizers, the soldier ends up in prison and thrown out of the armed forces.

Civilians who tell soldiers to refuse to obey orders serve George Bush by prolonging the war and killing more American troops and Iraqis.

The war in Vietnam was stopped by active duty members of the armed forces when they rebelled against it and refused to fight that evil war for Empire any longer, not by people who listened to civilian activists telling them not to obey orders and ended up in prison.

Of course the movement must defend each and every member of the armed forces who simply finds one more day unendurable, and goes AWOL, deserts or refuses orders. These sisters and brothers deserve our wholehearted care, attention, protection, organized defense, respect and support.

That said, the question is: whether or not those in civilian life who preach refusal of orders to active duty troops serve a useful purpose.

They certainly do.

The Pentagon should put them on salary.

Or maybe the White House.

That is who they serve with their moralistic, dangerous, destructive stupidity.

T

“The Price Is Very Heavy”
**“The Resources Are Not Yet Ready To Help
Someone Like This Who Reads All The Talk Of
Resistance, But Reacts To It Without Knowing
The Full Ramifications Until It Is Too Late”**

June 18, 2007 By Monica Benderman

I will contact this soldier's congressman as well and let him know what this soldier faces, in no uncertain terms. I will also contact his Senator with the same comments. We have been in contact with a CPT from another unit in Iraq who might have some ideas on how to help -- I will get in touch with him as well.

This situation is why Kevin and I caution on pushing soldiers too hard -- because the resources are not yet ready to help someone like this who reads all the talk of resistance, but reacts to it without knowing the full ramifications until it is too late.

I wish people would hear more of what Kevin faced -- Kevin is strong and he took it all -- but you need to be aware of what the Army did, and continues to do to him.

They are huge, and no matter how many people are there to try to support the soldier, it is the soldier who faces the intimidation, threats and further by the command -- and in Iraq it can only be worse.

Just as kids need to know the truth behind the promises recruiters make -- soldiers need to know, in full detail, the truth of what the command will do to them if they break with regulations such as this -- [Refusing a direct order. T]

Kevin knew what he was getting into - he anticipated that while he followed regulations, his command would not, and from the onset they lied, manipulated facts -- and they rally around each other.

In prison -- you cannot imagine the HELL -- (and for me to even use that word should tell you the severity of their actions against him) -- why did we have a \$9000.00 phone bill??? because if Kevin did not have that one outlet, they would have destroyed him.

Kevin spoke out - I spoke out. Primarily because it would have been even worse if we hadn't - but then because Kevin's command lied on the stand and continues to get away with it.

Some of the command is now taking the heat for corrupt activities of their own - but they blame Kevin for what is happening to them because of investigations our persistence sparked. They hate him and have no conscience.

If Kevin had not gone to prison - he would be dead -- back in Iraq and shot in the back because he was telling the truth about the corrupt activities of his command.

After he went to prison, his command threatened his entire unit with very serious consequences for even considering supporting Kevin.

They had no character- they are capable of anything.

His 1SGT has since lost his unit for sexual harrassment charges - thanks to an investigation conducted because of documentation we were able to present.

This command thought nothing of stealing body armor and re-selling it, they refused treatment for their seriously ill soldiers, sent two to Iraq only days after they had attempted suicide - gave one a year's supply of anti-depressants and left

him alone in a TOC unit - then badgered the kid every 4 hours just to make things worse.

It took 3 months to get him transferred to a new unit.

In prison - Kevin witnessed a soldier who questioned the command's use of regulations being tied to a restraint chair for 4 days straight - released just once, long enough to put on a new prison uniform - he was fed trail mix bars, and was forced to relieve himself on himself -- his head, hands, arms and legs were tied to the chair, all because he questioned why commanders broke regulations and allowed females to sit on desks and watch the male soldiers shower, when the regs at the time strictly forbade that action.

Because of Kevin's situation we had been very forceful in getting congressional contacts and confidential communications between Kevin and these contacts. Kevin was the only one who was assured of these communications -- most others never made it out.

Getting this done, and ensuring that it was followed through on was a 24 hr. a day job here.

We were fortunate to have an incredible congressional liason who would not let up with the military liasons in any of these situations.

They were aware of everything Kevin and other inmates faced -- it would have been far worse if we didn't.

I established a very good relationship with the LTC in command at the IG's office at Ft. Lewis, where Kevin was incarcerated -- and he helped with the other inmates' situations as well -- even took my calls while he was on vacation. The COL in command of the military defense appellate division was also another great contact - and stepped in to help Kevin and other inmates whenever I called.

Kevin and I were prepared--

I think it's important for all of us to be very aware of our actions in the context of their ramifications for other soldiers -- because without their knowing all the facts, they may make choices they are not ready to deal with --

and the price is very heavy.

Monica Benderman

MORE:

The Chicken Factory

March-April, 2005 - Issue 10: Traveling Soldier

Once upon a time there was a chicken factory, where, let us suppose, 1000 men and women work.

Live chickens come in one end of the factory complex, and cut up chicken parts and whole chickens come out the other end.

The people who cut up the chickens make about \$3 an hour, work in cold, wet rooms, get sick a lot, and frequently lose body parts during the chicken cutting process. The managers are cold assholes interested in profits, and don't give a shit how dangerous the equipment is. The supervisors are petty tyrants and frequently sexual predators.

If you get too sick or hurt to work, too fucking bad, you get put out the door.

This is not a desirable state of affairs.

You think maybe there should be some kind of organization of the work force to resist this shit. Maybe you can get more money, or insist that you have decent protection from being maimed or killed.

At that point you are alone, and powerless. So you have to very carefully find somebody else that agrees, and then somebody else, and all unnoticed by the assholes in command of the chicken factory, you slowly but surely build an organization.

You need meetings to talk over plans. Off company territory. You need security. You need some kind of way of communicating, maybe a newsletter, but you're careful about that too.

You can take it from there.

But it is obvious that you do not want anybody to stand up in the middle of the third shift and loudly tell management, "I refuse to participate any further in your immoral enterprise and will defy all your orders."

He or she is immediately gotten rid of, and is lost to organizing inside your chicken factory because he or she is gone. And the management is delighted, because they've just ID'd and fired somebody who could give them trouble in the future.

So, if you're alone, organize. People who act together can have an effect.

And if somebody snaps and does an individual refusal, and gets arrested, in trouble, or whatever, your organization does not leave them behind; they've been hurt, and let no one judge them, because anybody can snap, anytime.

A soldier from the 1st ID summed up his job situation like this:

"Before any soldier risks going to prison he should realize that his ability to communicate with other troops will be limited.

"We choose our battles and continue to speak out in our underground action.

“There has to be a point when we reach a high enough number of troops in our peace effort that a unified boycott of all military action will have a desired effect.”

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands’ Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



An Iraqi family forced at gunpoint to line up in a room of their house by foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S., who invaded their home in the middle of the night in the town of Al-Meshahda, north of Baghdad, June 11, 2007. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

[Fair is fair. Let’s bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it “sovereign,” and “detain” anybody who doesn’t like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

Blood For No Oil:
**“Increasing Instability And Violence
Are Scaring Off Most Western Oil
Companies, Which Don't Want To
Send Their Employees Into A War
Zone”**

[All kinds of stupid babblers keep churning out lying bullshit about how U.S. oil companies are ready and eager to grab Iraq's oil, instead of pointing out reality: Fighting against occupation and for national liberation, the incessant resistance attacks on the Iraqi oil industry and oil pipelines have put those greedy Imperial schemes in the crapper.

[But lying comes easy to windbags who think people are too dumb to learn from reality. So they drone on and on and on about how close the oil companies are to grabbing Iraq's oil, as if that will increase opposition to the war. They churn out long articles about nasty production sharing agreements and what the Iraqi Parliament is or is not doing about this or that oil law.

[They disgrace the movement against the war with their tired, lame, pathetic boring obsession with their own fantasies.

[And in their blind stupidity, they ignore one of the most damning indictments of this evil war for Empire: *there is no oil for all that blood.* T]

June 20, 2007 By SHAI OSTER, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

BEIJING -- Iraq's leaders face major challenges in fixing the nation's ailing oil-production system, a necessary part of any effort to fund its rebuilding. For help, they are turning to one of the world's most voracious oil consumers: China.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, set today to begin a weeklong trip to China, is expected to ask Beijing to revive a \$1.2 billion oil-exploration deal it established with Iraq during Saddam Hussein's rule. He is coming to Beijing with a delegation that includes his oil minister.

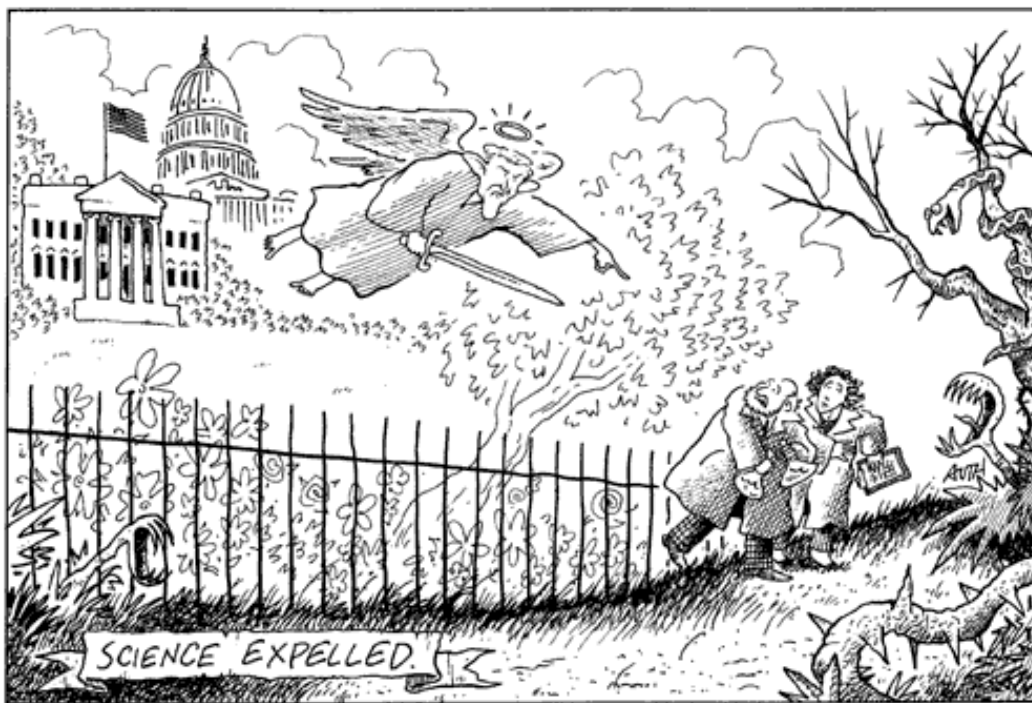
But Beijing is likely to move cautiously in Iraq, some analysts say. Chinese oil operations in Africa have suffered killings and kidnappings in recent months.

"Iraq's internal situation is still very tense, and all parties differ widely on how to allocate the country's natural resources," says Zhang Xiaodong, a researcher from the Institute of West Asian and African Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"Under this situation, how would any company dare enter Iraq?"

Increasing instability and violence are scaring off most Western oil companies, which don't want to send their employees into a war zone.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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/)

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