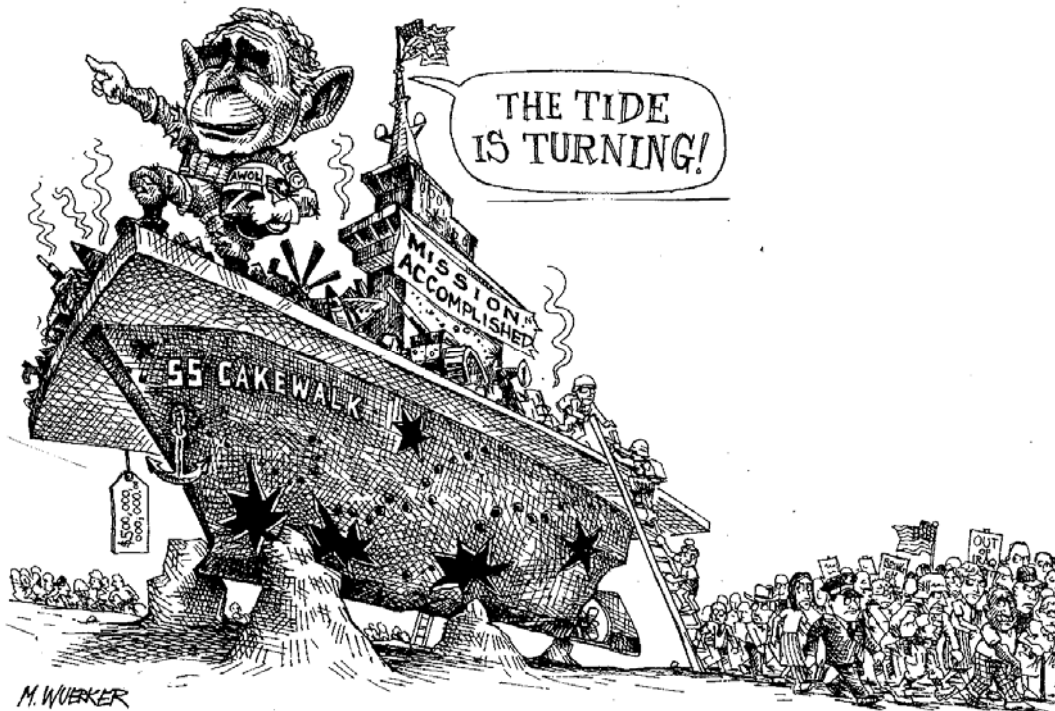


GI SPECIAL 5F4:



Hightower Lowdown May 2007

Don't Whine: Organize!

**The Military Project In Action:
This Is Not Rocket Science;
You Can Do This Where You Live,
If You Give A Shit About Stopping
The War That Is**

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

Marines Say “Fuck The Politicians!” Or “Fuck The War!”

New York City Fleet Week Outreach And Actions

The sad thing is they love the Navy and the Corps., but cannot believe how they have been fucked over by this government.

If I could figure out a way to harness that energy, the war would be over tomorrow!

By Elaine Brower, The Military Project

Starting on Thursday night with my son. He dressed up in his Marine Corp. “Blues” with his new Sgt. stripes, and ribbons.

Him and his “marine buddies” landed in downtown Manhattan about 5:30 PM, and I headed over to the bar The Blarney Stone to meet them. What a handsome bunch, but very loud!

From there we headed, on foot, up to the Village and I do not remember the names of the bars, but they were many!

We started out with 8 marines, guys from his platoon. I had Appeal for Redress' with me and lots of GI Specials, the latest issue with the information about the 2 marines who are being recalled for hearings [threatened with dishonorable discharges for opposing the war], and

My son and his buddies couldn't believe that and started out by saying “What a bunch of shit!”

After a few more bars and drinks, they started handing out what I gave to them telling any sailor or marine, actually anyone in the room, what a piece of shit this government is!

Every toast was either to “Fuck the politicians!” or “Fuck the war!” Sorry for the bad language, but keeping it real.

They ranted on about how they were willing to die for people who really didn't give a "Shit" about them anyway.

They got sent home from the war zone and all people could say to them was "Thank you for your service". My son particularly hates that and tells people to "Fuck off" when they approach him.

He said if they really cared about them they would all be set financially for life and have lifetime medical coverage, no questions asked.

Every single marine we met up with agreed and were a real angry bunch. Of course after many, many, many drinks (between beer, Jack Daniels, and Vodka) they only got louder and wilder.

I had to leave them somewhere midtown (maybe PJ O'Roukes) because I could keep up with them.

I had about 50 copies of each of the Appeal and GI Special, and they were gone by midtown.

Sailors took them, and put them in their pockets or bags, and marines also.

The sad thing is they love the Navy and the Corps., but cannot believe how they have been fucked over by this government.

If I could figure out a way to harness that energy, the war would be over tomorrow!

Fleetweek Outreach: More #1

From: Alan Stolzer, Navy Veteran, Military Project
Sent: May 28, 2007
Subject: Fleetweek Outreach

The Fleetweek Outreach continues in midtown.

Last night ZM and I hit the bars in midtown distributing our Fleetweek packets and GI Specials to Navy and Marine personnel.

The reception ranged from good to excellent.

THIS IS WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR!

Please contact me if you can come tonight or tomorrow night.

Remember, you don't have to drink alcohol. Other toxins such as Coca-Cola and Ginger Ale are available!

#2

From: Alan Stolzer [Navy Veteran, Military Project]
Sent: May 29, 2007
Subject: Fleetweek Outreach

Last night (Memorial Day) two members of the Military Project and two of Iraq Veterans Against The War passed through midtown Manhattan distributing handouts welcoming the Fleet for Fleet Week (that included a copy of the Appeal for Redress).

Also distributed (depending on interest of sailor/Marine) were GI Specials and copies of an IVAW e-mail relating attempts by the Marine Corps to punish Marines opposing the war(s).

Servicemembers who showed specific anti-war interest were given free DVDs of "Sir No Sir."

Reception to those outreaching remained good to excellent with very few handouts returned or even refused.

We are assembling again tonight and intend to cover the same area where most of the sailors/marines are concentrated.

They may sail tomorrow but they'll know who supports their anti-war sentiments again tonight.

#3

From: Alan Stolzer [Navy Veteran, Military Project]
Sent: May 30, 2007
Subject: Operation Fleet Week - Final Installment

Mission Objective: Encountering as many friendly forces as possible on or near Midtown Manhattan (8th Ave. and thereabouts) and distributing as much informational material as possible during final evening of Fleet Week (5/29/07).

Mission Accomplished:

Numerous Fleet Week handouts, 14 GI Specials and 5 "Sir No Sir" DVDs provided Naval and Marine personnel. A total of 9 DVDs were distributed during last two days of outreach.

General Reception: Good to excellent.

General agreement as to futility of war and indications that others (not present) are in agreement.



West Point May 26: “The Reaction In This Sleepy Military Town Was Outstandingly And Totally Against This Administration And The War In Iraq”

By Elaine Brower, The Military Project

On Saturday I traveled up to West Point with T. Barton and my friend Laurie Arbeiter. It was a beautiful day, and the rally in Veterans Park started about 9:00 AM.

I didn't spend anytime in the park because of what I call “Motorized Resistance”. We covered my 2004 Chrysler Sebring Convertible with posters and signs. “ARREST BUSH”, “ARREST CHENEY”, and pictures of fallen soldiers and Iraqis were all over my white car.

Laurie and I dropped off Tom so he could speak, and we took off at about 8:30 AM and drove the entire town of West Point blaring “America the Beautiful” on my car radio with the top down and hanging out of the car with signs saying “Arrest Bush and Cheney.”

As the time went by we circled the rally of anti-war protesters, and also the counter-protesters “The Eagles” or whatever they are called. Well, they did not like us at all! Let us say those Eagles became apoplectic over our Motorized Resistance and some of the men nearly had strokes screaming obscenities at us. We just responded by singing America the Beautiful at the top of our lungs.

As we drove into the streets, off the beaten path to West Point Academy, we met many residents who gave us either a thumbs up, peace sign or fists in the air!

Some of them yelled at us “Love the signs” “Thanks for doing this”.

Cars that passed us did the same thing.

We even went on the highway for about 30 minutes and every single car blew their horn or waved and smiled at us.

The reaction in this sleepy military town was outstandingly and totally against this Administration and the war in Iraq.

Even the Police smiled at us. I thought we were going to get completely hassled, but they just let us drive everywhere totally unchecked.

The absolute best reaction came from a West Pointer who was a female, jogging right past the Eagles and upon seeing us she stuck her arm up in the air and gave us a peace sign with a big smile!

I will never forget that moment.

The Eagles did a crash landing!

PS From T.: The Military Project:

Walking back to Elaine Brower's car at the end of the action, we met a woman on the sidewalk with a small child. She asked "How did it go." We said "Real good." She said she was pleased to hear that.

I stopped to talk with her.

She lives in West Point, has a daughter in the Army in Kuwait, thinks the war is for shit, and said she is for protesting it in every way possible and getting out of Iraq right now.

She said lots of people at West Point, in the Army, feel that way.

She took with her a GI Special, a copy of the Appeal For Redress, and an information sheet about Iraq Veterans Against The War members being harassed by command for opposing the war and said, "I'll get them around."

+

**New London:
Groton Submarine Base:
Educating The Educators;
Building For The Future**



Left to right: Fabian Bouthillette, Liam Madden & Jonathan Hutto, Iraq Veterans, at New London. [Photo: Katherine GY, The Military Project]

By Fabian B., Veteran, United States Navy; Iraq Veterans Against The War & The Military Project

In December of 2006 Military Project was contacted by a woman named Johanna from Connecticut. Johanna lives near the Groton Submarine Base, and wanted to let MP know of her outreach efforts to sailors at the local mall that she works at.

MP decided to send representatives to Groton to meet Johanna, and see what assistance could be provided to her and other potential civilian organizers in the area.

MP's goal was to have an organizing meeting in Groton focused on outreach to submarine sailors.

Katherine and Fabi represented MP, and traveled to Groton several times between December and May in order to gauge anti-war sentiment among the sailors, and to organize civilian support.

At first, the anti-war sentiment was not apparent, but as Katherine and Fabi made return trips to Groton, it was clear that plenty of sailors are against the war, however shy they appeared to be in talking about it.

With the help of Johanna and Marco, a Persian Gulf veteran and native of Groton who Fabi met in March, a meeting was organized for Sunday May 20th.

The meeting, titled "Dissent Within the Ranks," featured a panel of Fabi, Jon Hutto, and Liam Madden. The three discussed their own experiences in the military and as anti-war organizers, but more importantly, helped facilitate a discussion amongst the 30 civilians present at the meeting about outreach.

The meeting had been specifically planned as outreach to service members (mostly sailors). In the days and weeks leading up to the meeting, fliers were handed out to service members to promote the meeting to them and encourage their attendance.

No sailors showed up.

As the meeting began, even though the New London resident who provided the meeting space expressed shock and awe that so many local people had come, we were totally bummed out: all this for nothing?

Our initial plan about what we were doing had been linear and simplistic; hold a meeting, get sailors to come, then they organize within the Navy for Iraq Veterans Against The War, and the local civilians are their back up and support.

We didn't see the obvious.

The success of the meeting was that Military Project was able to bring together and organize a group of civilians in the Groton area who will continue ongoing outreach efforts to the sailors at the base nearby.

Our plan had ignored the obvious: sailors in Groton can't be reached and organized from New York City, where we are based. Our plan skipped the most important piece of the work: bring together people who live next to the base to continue the work, because nobody else can do that.

And that's what came out of the meeting. Not direct contact with sailors, but bringing into being a formation that can make direct contact with the sailors.

Marco has already submitted his application to become a member of MP, and plans on starting a chapter in Groton.

Most of the civilians at the meeting have expressed interest in outreach, and their contact information has been passed on to Marco and Johanna.

And the meeting did attract a national guardsman from Rhode Island who has been active in organizing against the war.

Meeting him was a great bonus, and he will surely be a great contact for help in further organizing in New England.

The May 20th meeting has turned out to be a great model for what MP can continue to do in other cities: help jumpstart civilian outreach.

With continued outreach efforts in Groton, future meetings should be able to attract active duty members who are interested in organizing against the war.

Katherine and Fabi have already started a dialogue with Geoff Millard from the D.C. chapter of IVAW and Aaron Hughes from Chicago IVAW about potential organizing meetings. Other IVAW members have also shown great support for MP's meeting in Groton.

MP went into Groton with the goal of directly organizing sailors, but came away with a great model of how to build a local formation that can organize sailors.

The educators were educated. And all the terrific people from the New London area made it happen.



In Case You Still Don't Get It: "A Traveler's Tale"

From: Alan Stolzer
To: GI Special
Sent: May 29, 2007
Subject: A Traveler's Tale

A friend, JP, was traveling recently and sat next to a clean cut young man.

After a while JP found herself talking politics and said strongly "I hate this war!" Others around them perked up, some with anger at her remark.

However, the young man said he hated the war too and he was a Marine and headed back to Iraq for a second tour.

He then told JP his buddy was allowed home for a week or so before being shipped back to Iraq.

Love the troops and hate the war!

<p>"The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops." Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War</p>
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Why We Are Here

The Military Project is an organizing committee of activists focused on encouraging participants in the anti-war movement to reach out to active duty, reserve and National Guard troops.

Our mission is to support and provide aid to soldiers opposed to continuing the war in Iraq.

All troops—including members of the National Guard and Reserves—have every right to question and oppose the war and occupation.

No one has more of a right.

Every time you speak out, it gives a voice to the soldiers in Iraq who don't want to be there. It gives others the courage to resist and openly dissent inside the military.

A soldier's voice, when it's raised, carries authority. People will listen.

During Viet Nam, the anti-war movement within the armed forces was the decisive factor in ending the war.

Now we're at a decisive moment in history. The majority of the American people want the troops to come home now. But it is clear that the Bush administration has no intention of ending the war.

GI resistance will stop this war.

No one has a bigger stake.

If you would like to organize with other dissenting soldiers, receive support in distributing and replacing materials, attend one of our meetings or speak to us with any questions you may have:

We are here to help you.

**Contact us:
contact@militaryproject.org**

**The Military Project
Box 126,
2576 Broadway,
New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**



MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY PROJECT

- 1. Do not "support the troops" in the abstract. We focus on support for Armed Forces resistance, giving aid and comfort to those who are against the war.**
- 2. Are for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all occupation troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.**

3. Believe that oppressed peoples and nations have the right to self-determination and the right to resist Imperial invasion and occupation.
4. Do not require others to be in complete agreement to work together with them towards common objectives.
5. Reject the idea that organizations working together on a common project must not debate differences about the best way forward for the movement. On the contrary, we encourage debate and discussion as the most useful method to arrive at the best course of action.
6. May choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Iraq, but do not support candidates opposed to bringing our troops home now.
7. Are committed to organizational democracy. This means control of our organization by the membership, through freely elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels. Any member in good standing may run for any position, with or without a slate. Coordinating bodies must report their actions, decisions and votes to the membership who elected them for approval or rejection.
8. Are committed to putting in time taking action in an organized way to reach out to members of the armed forces, including local community Reserve and National Guard units.
9. Are not commissioned officers, active duty or drilling reserve, or present or former members of the military police or any law enforcement agency.

I understand and am in agreement with the above statement, and pledge to defend my brothers and sisters against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

(Signed)

(Date)

(Application taken by)

THE MILITARY PROJECT: Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
Contact@militaryproject.org



“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”

**THE MILITARY PROJECT: Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
Contact@militaryproject.org**

[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]

In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.

The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.

The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

The Military Project



**Want To REALLY Show Your
Support For The Troops And
Help End The War?**

**Visit Your Local Armory Or Base
And Help Them Organize!**

**Download Organizing Tools Here:
<http://www.militaryproject.org/resources/>**

+

**Nothing Is More Important
Today Than Forging New Links
With The Troops Turning
Against This War:
They Have The Power To Stop It**

[Thanks to Katherine G. Y., Military Project, who contributed a key part of the remarks below. T]

Remarks on behalf of the Military Project at the “Exposing the Empire” panel, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester NY, 3.24.06, presented by RIT Antiwar:

Introduction by the Chair: Thomas Barton compiles the GI Special newsletter, lives in New York City, and is a hospital worker and union member.

During the American war on Vietnam, Barton helped distribute on Vietnam GI, a monthly newspaper for troops opposed to that war edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet. Ten thousand copies monthly were sent to anti-war troops.

Today, Barton is a member of the Military Project, an organization of veterans and antiwar activists who focus on providing aid and comfort to service personnel who question, oppose or resist U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Good evening brothers and sisters,

It's an honor to be allowed to speak here today in Rochester.

Things are pretty messed up these days, but that's not new.

The Biblical prophet Isaiah had this to say to the traitors who ran the government of his day:

"Ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor,

"Ye have eaten up the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses.

"Thy prices loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards, they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

"How is the faithful city become a harlot,

"It was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it,

"But now murderers."

Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

The good news is how far we have come in a year.

Every day more and more Americans are turning against the war.

Most importantly, resistance is growing inside the armed services as well. Where it really counts.

But you don't have to take my word that's where it really counts.

Let's look at some history.

During the Vietnam War, the anti-war movement at home was necessary to stop the war, but it was not sufficient.

The resistance in Vietnam was necessary to stop the war, but it was not sufficient.

But the rebellion against the war in the armed forces was both necessary and sufficient to stop the war.

And the war stopped.

It was the greatest insurrection against an Imperial war since the rebellion of the Russian army in 1917.

But you don't have to believe me about that, and you shouldn't.

**Check out: Heintz, Jr. Col. Robert D.
THE COLLAPSE OF THE ARMED FORCES
Armed Forces Journal, 1971**

But you don't have to believe Col. Heintz about this, and you shouldn't.

There's a new documentary film, Sir No Sir, opening next month in theaters across America that shows us the war in Vietnam didn't end because the politicians or the rich or the commanders or even the anti-war movement wanted it to end.

The war in Vietnam ended because the troops there rebelled against it wholesale. There were "search and evade missions," arranging private truces with people they didn't see as "the enemy" anymore.

There were flat-out refusals of combat missions. There were more lethal expressions of opposition to those in command as well.

And the rebellion spread to the Air Force: pilots refused to bomb. And it spread to the Navy: sailors disabled their ships so they couldn't engage in combat.

In Sir, No Sir, you will meet the Vietnam troops up close and personal, and you will see them with your own eyes, wrecking the war machine until it breaks down completely.

Lots of soldiers can fight in wars.

It takes something very special in soldiers to stop one. Honor and respect to them all.

Respect also to the civilians who forged the links to the anti-war troops, gave them aid and comfort, and helped make that rebellion possible.

**Now it is time for us to follow the instruction of the prophet:
Go thou and do likewise.**

Today, the anti war movement is necessary to stop the war in Iraq, but it is not sufficient.

Today, the Iraqi resistance to Imperial invasion and occupation is necessary to stop the war, but it is not sufficient.

But the coming rebellion in the armed forces will be both necessary and sufficient. It may not come as soon as we might wish, but it will come. And this war will stop.

But you don't have to take my word for that, and you shouldn't.

Here is what one soldier in the 1st ID wrote to GI Special on behalf of a group of anti-war soldiers in Baquaba Iraq:

“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.”

“A unified boycott of all military action will have a desired effect.”

Think about that.

But you don't have to take his word for it, and you shouldn't.

Thanks to a Zogby poll released this month, you don't have to:

Today we know that 72% of the troops in Iraq say “get out this year,” and 29% are for *immediate withdrawal*.

What's more important is that because of the publicity about that poll, now those troops know it too.

Think about that.

Now they know there is a new political majority among men and women in arms in Iraq, which may be summarized as follow: this bullshit has gone on too long and it has to stop.

It's only a matter of time before this dawning consciousness finds expression in ways that are unmistakable, and will shake the world.

The Imperial politicians, Republican and Democrat, always knew what Iraq was really about.

They thought they would win an empire of oil.

They have ended by losing their army.

But those troops are not lost to us.

Let all of us opposed to this evil war open our arms to them and say Brothers and Sisters, welcome home.

Welcome home to sanity, decency and honor.

It's time now for Veterans, military family members and responsible civilians to act.

Not talk, act.

Specifically:

To give aid and comfort to members of the regular armed forces, reserves and Guard who are turning against the war.

In New York City, members of Veterans For Peace, Military Families Speak Out, and the Military Project are reaching out to make contact with National Guard soldiers.

Many of them have served in Iraq, some expect to be sent soon. They thank us for coming, for the publications against the war we offer, and so far, not a harsh word spoken.

This can be done anywhere there is a military presence: National Guard, Reserves or regular armed forces, like right here, and a small, or large, group of allies.

Think about that, and where that can lead.

***Nothing* is more important today than forging new links with the troops turning against this war. They have the power to stop it.**

Please, let us all now most solemnly pledge to our brothers and sisters in arms:

We will not turn our back on you.

We will help you do what is necessary to stop this war.

Together, we can end forever the power of the predators who rule America. They have betrayed us all.

If we act together to take back our lives and our futures from those who would steal both, there is no force on earth that can stop us.

We need you by our side.

When you enlisted, you took an oath to defend our liberties.

The time has come.

We must have your protection from the enemies domestic, the Imperial politicians, Republican and Democrat, who hate our liberties.

Without you we are truly lost.

With you, everything is possible.

Now let's get to work.

Thank you for your attention.

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

MND-B Patrol Targeted By IED Northwest Of Baghdad: 4 Killed

June 3, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

While conducting a combined cordon and search operation, four Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers died when an improvised explosive device struck their vehicle northwest of the Iraqi capital June 3.

Ninewah IED Kills Two U.S. Soldiers; Three Wounded

June 3, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070603-13

TIKRIT, Iraq – Two Task Force Lightning Soldiers were killed when their patrol was attacked with an IED while conducting operations in Ninewah Province, Saturday.

Three Soldiers were also wounded and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

U. S. Soldier Killed In Diyala, Two Wounded

June 3, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070603-05

TIKRIT, Iraq – One Task Force Lightning Soldier died of wounds sustained from an explosion that occurred near his vehicle while conducting operations in Diyala Province, Saturday.

Two Soldiers were also wounded and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Diyala, Four Wounded

June 3, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory Release No.
20070603-07

TIKRIT, Iraq – One Task Force Lightning Soldier was killed by an explosion that occurred near his vehicle while conducting operations in Diyala Province, Saturday.

Four Soldiers were also wounded in the attack and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

West Baghdad IED Kills One U.S. Soldier, Two Wounded

June 3, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070603-08

BAGHDAD – While conducting combat operations in the western section of the Iraqi capital, a Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated Saturday. Two other Soldiers were also wounded in the attack.

Eastern Baghdad IED Strikes MND-B Patrol; 1 Killed, 2 Wounded

June 3, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

A Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed when a roadside bomb detonated during combat operations in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital June 3. Two other Soldiers were wounded in the attack.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad

June 3, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070603-12

BAGHDAD — A Task Force Marne Soldier was killed by small arms fire while patrolling south of Baghdad Saturday.

Baghdad Soldier Killed By Bomber

June 3, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070603-15

BAGHDAD – A Task Force Marine Soldier was killed while on a dismounted patrol by a bomber Saturday southwest of Baghdad. The patrol attempted to question two suspicious people near a mosque.

When Soldiers approached the two men, one person detonated himself, killing one Soldier.

IED Kills U.S. Soldier In Baghdad; Eight Wounded

June 3, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070603-22

BAGHDAD — While conducting combat operations in the western section of the Iraqi capital, a Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated June 2. Eight other Soldiers were also wounded in the attack, six of them have been returned to duty.

IED Kills Baghdad Soldier; Three More Wounded

June 3, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070603-23

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldier was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated June 3. Three other Soldiers were also wounded in the attack along with one Iraqi interpreter. Two of the Soldiers were returned to duty.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. armoured vehicles patrol a road in Baghdad January 16, 2007. REUTERS/Ceerwan Aziz

Notes From A Lost War:

**Attacks On U.S. Troops In Iraq
Grow In Lethality, Complexity;
“Clearly The Trend Is Going In The
Wrong Direction”**

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

June 3, 2007 By Ann Scott Tyson and John Ward Anderson, Washington Post Staff Writers [Excerpts]

As U.S. troops push more deeply into Baghdad and its volatile outskirts, Iraqi insurgents are using increasingly sophisticated and lethal means of attack, including bigger roadside bombs that are resulting in greater numbers of American fatalities relative to the number of wounded.

Insurgents are deploying huge, deeply buried munitions set up to protect their territory and mounting complex ambushes that demonstrate their ability to respond rapidly to U.S. tactics.

A new counterinsurgency strategy has resulted in decreased civilian deaths in Baghdad but has placed thousands of additional American troops at greater risk in small outposts in the capital and other parts of the country.

"It is very clear that the number of attacks against U.S. forces is up" and that they have grown more effective in Baghdad, especially in recent weeks, said Maj. Gen. James E. Simmons, deputy commander for operations in Iraq.

"The attacks are being directed at us and not against other people," he said.

May, with 127 American fatalities, was the third-deadliest month for U.S. troops since the 2003 invasion. As in the conflict's two deadliest months for U.S. troops -- 137 died in November 2004 and 135 in April of that year -- the overarching cause of May's toll is the ongoing, large-scale U.S. military operations.

The intensity of combat and the greater lethality of attacks on U.S. troops is underscored by the lower ratio of wounded to killed for May, which fell to about 4.8 to 1 -- compared with an average of 8 to 1 in the Iraq conflict, according to Pentagon data.

U.S. deaths have risen sharply in some of Baghdad's outlying regions, such as Diyala province....

The overall percentage of U.S. military fatalities caused by roadside bombs had dipped from more than 60 percent late last year to 35 percent in February. It then rose again to 70.9 percent in May, according to research by the independent Web site icasualties.org.

Insurgents are also staging carefully planned, complex ambushes and retaliatory attacks as they target U.S. troops, the officials said.

While few in number, these include direct assaults on U.S. military outposts, ambushes in which American troops have been captured, and complex attacks that use multiple weapons to strike more than one U.S. target.

For example, attackers will bomb a patrol and then target ground forces or aircraft that come to its aid.

"We are starting to see more sophistication and training in their attacks," said a senior military official in Baghdad.

While the vast majority of attacks are still relatively simple and involve a single type of weapon, “clearly the trend is going in the wrong direction,” he said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters.

In an attack Monday in Diyala, for example, an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter carrying two U.S. soldiers took heavy enemy fire during combat and crashed in farmland southwest of the town of Abu Saydah, about 40 miles north of Baghdad in a region where the Sunni extremist group al-Qaeda in Iraq is trying to establish a new stronghold.

The U.S. military scrambled Bradley Fighting Vehicles at Forward Operating Base Normandy, 19 miles from the crash, for an urgent rescue. But as the Quick Reaction Force rumbled through the rural terrain just a mile and a half from the crash site, a huge roadside bomb hit a Bradley, killing four soldiers and wounding another four, one mortally.

Suddenly, the rescue mission itself was in peril, and helicopters rushed to evacuate the injured.

Other units pushed forward to the copter crash, recovering the bodies of the pilots and killing three insurgents. But back at the Bradley bomb site, where soldiers were clearing the wreckage, a second bomb exploded, killing another U.S. soldier.

In all, eight U.S. troops died and three were wounded in the Memorial Day incident, which contributed to May's toll.

Simmons said helicopter downings such as the one in Diyala reflect a “thinking and adaptive enemy” that is refining its skills.

“There is a greater degree of training,” he said. Moreover, he said that as in past cases, insurgents may have placed the bombs that killed the ground troops deliberately along routes leading to the copter, but said military investigators have not confirmed that.

In a complex attack in Babil on May 12, a small, two-Humvee U.S. patrol that was watching an area where insurgents often buried roadside bombs came under insurgent observation.

Insurgents got through a perimeter of concertina wire, attacked the patrol with grenades, hustled captured soldiers into a getaway car, then used bombs pre-positioned on both sides of the approaching road to delay for about an hour other U.S. forces coming to the patrol's rescue.

Four soldiers were killed in the assault, the body of another was found later, and two remain missing.

U.S. commanders have long warned that more casualties would probably result from the increase of about 25,800 U.S. troops ordered by President Bush in January. The increase has placed the troops in the Baghdad region and Anbar province. These forces

have been stationed since February at small patrol bases in Baghdad neighborhoods under a counterinsurgency strategy intended to pacify the capital.

The 2004 spikes in American deaths resulted from major U.S. ground offensives, such as the November 2004 campaign to retake the stronghold of Fallujah. Today, the losses are occurring as large numbers of U.S. troops disperse into Baghdad and other areas

But after lying low to a degree and watching U.S. tactics, fighters are now responding and retaliating. "In February, all sides -- including al-Qaeda in Iraq, Jaish al-Mahdi -- stepped back to take the measure of the surge, and by late April and May, they stepped forward again and are aggressively testing the resolve of U.S. forces," said Toby Dodge, an Iraq expert at Queen Mary College University of London, using the Arabic name of the Shiite Mahdi Army.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed, 7 Wounded

June 3, 2007 AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

Suspected militants ambushed a NATO convoy in eastern Afghanistan, killing two members of the alliance and wounding seven troops.

The convoy was attacked Saturday with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades, NATO's International Security Assistance Force said. It said a service member and a translator were killed.

TROOP NEWS

***Bye Bye Bullshit:* Denmark Withdrawing All Troops From Iraq This Summer**

1 June 2007 FOCUS News Agency

A majority of 107 lawmakers in Denmark's Parliament approved to withdraw Denmark's 460-member contingent in southern Iraq by August.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

06/03/07 (AP) & Reuters

Clashes in Diwaniyah erupted Saturday evening after Iraqi soldiers and police cordoned off a market in search of two senior Mahdi Army figures wanted by U.S.-led coalition forces in connection with sectarian killings.

Maj. Gen. Othman Ali, commander of the Iraq army's 8th Division, said his forces captured one of the men, but he escaped when fellow militiamen came to his aid.

Ali said his forces raided two locations in "fierce" fighting that lasted three hours. They didn't find their target suspects,

Police and medical sources said 20 wounded Iraqis, including five policemen, were brought to the local hospital from Sunday morning's fighting. The clashes erupted anew around 1:30 p.m. and one soldier and two other people were killed, and three civilians wounded, an army officer said on condition of anonymity, since he was not authorized to speak with the media.

Ayad Shahab Ahmed, a director of the Iraqi Central Bank, and his brother were killed in a drive-by shooting in the Amil district of southwestern Baghdad, police said.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

An Urgent Message From 1775 [To Our Troops In Iraq]

From: Z
To: GI Special
Sent: June 03, 2007
Subject: an urgent message from 1775

“The country at this time took ye Alarm and were immediately in Arms, and had taken their different stations behind Walls, on our Flanks, and thus we were harassed in our Front, Flanks, and Rear ... it not being possible for us to meet a man otherwise than behind a Bush, Stone hedge or Tree, who immediately gave his fire and went off.”

~ A British officer at Lexington, 1775

Well, the Redcoats bravely bled on for eight more years, but it did them no good.

The Soviets bled in Afghanistan for eight years too, with the same results.

As the Spanish-born American philosopher George Santayana writes, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

The moral: time to come home is right now.

MORE:

The Insurgents Of 1776

6.1.07

Letters To The Editor

Socialist Worker

Heading for an imperial defeat?

THANKS FOR the excellent editorial, “Heads buried in the sand” (May 11).

There is one part of the article that is extremely interesting: “But instead of showing off Washington’s overwhelming strength, the war has exposed its weakness. The best-armed war machine in the history of the world has been unable to defeat a poorly equipped guerrilla force.”

Is history repeating itself?

Back in the latter part of the 18th century, the world’s mightiest war machine was Great Britain.

When the “insurgents” in the colonies tired of that occupation, they banded together in a form of guerrilla warfare that not only kept the Brits off balance, but managed to send Britain home, defeated by a rag-tag army of farmers and shopkeepers. Sounds familiar, doesn’t it?

I agree that both Bush and his enabler, Cheney, have their heads buried--but not in sand.

No, these two have chosen to bury their heads closer to home.

Anatomically speaking, they are both suffering from the classic “cranial-rectum” inversion.

By Greg Bacon,
Ava, Mo.,

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.

Fresh Start

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: May 31, 2007
Subject: Fresh Start

Fresh Start

Bush is now using the analogy of the Korean War, as a goal in turning Iraq into another free democratic South Korea.

The Vietnam War never happened in American history. Southeast Asia, the most bombed area in the world, brought to you by American tax dollars--never happened. The genocide death of millions of Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians--never happened.

58,000 American soldiers never died in Vietnam.
300,000 American soldiers were never wounded in Vietnam.
Over 50,000 Vietnam veterans did not commit suicide when they came home after the war.

Tens of thousands of American soldiers did not die from Agent Orange exposure.

Hundreds of thousands of Vietnam veterans did not drop out of mainstream America after they came home.

The United States of America is destroying the country of Iraq.

The United States of America is destroying the country of Afghanistan.

The United States of America will probably bomb Iran.

The United States of America is the number one terrorist country in the world.

And,
the reason the U.S. Government is committing military murder
in so many Third world countries,
is because Americans are experiencing the death of reasoning.
Americans are like lemmings going over a cliff,
and the reason that is happening is because the death of
memory gives them no reason not to.
The Vietnam War never happened,
because America has no history.
"Operation Iraqi Freedom "
is
an
illusion.
And, this war will also be forgotten,
so the next generation can have
a fresh start.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
May 31, 2007

From the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US
Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at:
hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

THE GEORGIE W. SAPRANO'S **Woke Up Today And Bought Myself A** **Gun (Episode 5)**

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: June 01, 2007
Subject: (Episode 5) "Woke Up Today And Bought Myself A Gun"

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade,
purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War,
United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

THE GEORGIE W. SAPRANO'S
by Dennis

Woke Up Today And Bought Myself A Gun (Episode 5)

Georgie W:

OK, I wanted all youse at the White House here because it's safe to talk here. Nixon's tape machine and Karl Rove's emails are in da garbage like Jimmy Hoffa's body never to be seen again.

The Others:

Youse know how to cover us Organized War Criminals Georgie! You betcha!

Georgie W:

Dis War Racketeering is making us millionaires and billionaires. Right?

The Others:

Never tought I could make dis much money Georgie. We gotta keep this War Racket going. Yeah, once you're in, you can't get out. You got it, there's no gettin' out.

Cheney:

Youse all gotta remember, dat we are in da Gasoline Racket too. Da oiles da same price but we got da Refineries slowed down so we can squeeze da American people like a Jew would squeeze a gentile.

Karl Rove:

Have youse anyting to eat Georgie? I'm hungry all da time, I eat food all da time, i never get full, you know.

Georgie W:

Yeah, ders food in the frig over dere. Hey, get me some beef jerky.

The Others:

Hey, I'm hungry too. Me too. I'm as hungry as a pig. Me too.

Condi Rice:

I think we should get in on Food Racketeering too, da Americans always need gas, but dey always need food too.

Cheney:

Yeah, but what if da Americans are squeezed too much and grab der guns and come after us?

Karl Rove:

We'll have our Soldiers wack em.

Georgie W:

Yeah, well, do ya think they would wack members of their own families?

Cheney:

I'd like ta wack my lesbian daughter, but Id have ta have a Soldier ta do it.

Join Us Next Week For An All New Episode Of
The Georgie W. Saprano's

It's The Writing, That's What Makes It So Good

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