

GI SPECIAL 5F5:

**NO MORE;
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. Marine on his prosthetic limbs at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington June 1, 2007. He lost his legs to an improvised explosive device (IED) during a foot patrol in Iraq in July 2006. REUTERS/Jason Reed

**Iraq Veteran Begins
Weeklong Tower Guard
Vigil in Bellingham,
Washington;
Speaking Out “In The Way Of A Soldier,
Using Tower Guard Duty He Did In Iraq
As Vigil To Call Attention To
Conscription Using Stop Loss And IRR”**



www.towerguard.org/

[Thanks to Lietta Ruger, Military Families Speak Out, Washington state chapter coordinator, who sent this in.

[She writes: Would want the troops reading GI Special to know of another returning Iraq vet here at home in Washington state trying to speak out in the way of a soldier, using tower guard duty he did in Iraq as vigil to call attention to conscription using Stop Loss and IRR.]

WHERE: Federal Building 104 E. Magnolia Street, Bellingham, WA

WHEN: 24-hrs. a day, June 1-7

Standing Tower Guard on a 6' scaffold at the Federal Building in downtown Bellingham, Iraq Veteran Evan Knappenberger, 1st BDE, 4th Infantry Division, started a week-long vigil on June 1st to draw attention to the US military's STOP-LOSS and INACTIVE RESERVE policies, which he submits are being used as a substitute for conscription in a political war.

"I spent a year in Iraq. I pulled 97 nights on tower guard," explained Knappenberger.

"Many of the friends I served with have completed their contractual obligations to Active Duty. Now, they're being sent back to Iraq for their third or fourth tours.

"Some soldiers are getting called up after living years of civilian life.

"Stop-loss is an unethical policy."

The Whatcom Peace & Justice Center, a non-profit organization in Bellingham, is supporting Knappenberger's week-long action. "This is a powerful, highly-visible action," said Executive Director Marie Marchand. "It's a nonviolent, creative way of educating the public about this widespread exploitation and abuse of our soldiers.

"Evan has seen this injustice perpetrated against his friends and comrades. We will do everything we can to help him get his message out."

Community members have shown an outpouring of support for Knappenberger, including help with night security, media outreach, meals, and solidarity. A new website has been set up: www.TowerGuard.org.

"People come out of the woodwork to support courageous leadership like this," stated Marchand. "This is huge; and the news is spreading across the nation like wild fire."

Western WA University students are also hyped-up by this action. Student group, Western Against War, has made a statement of support for Knappenberger.

"For those who take notice, this sobering demonstration will bring the hardships our soldiers have been forced to endure a little closer to home," stated Michael Biesheuvel, WAW president.

"Western Against War wholeheartedly supports Evan."

Knappenberger invites the public to talk with him while he is on Tower Guard, and to learn more about the unethical stop-loss policy.

CONTACT: Iraq Veteran Evan Knappenberger: (434) 249-5956

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MORE:

From: www.towerguard.org/

We've received more word of veteran organizations contacting Whatcom Peace & Justice Center to officially endorse Evan's actions. Squadron 13 and Veterans Against Torture emailed to express solidarity yesterday, and today Iraq Veterans Against the War called to sign on.

This kind of support from fellow veterans means a lot to Evan, who is occasionally heckled about his patriotism.

For some reason, certain people seem to forget that the US is founded on a principle of vigorously protecting the right to dissent, and that this nation was born out of dissent in the first place. The idea that a person loses the right to dissent just because they went to battle for the US would seem to be the ultimate hypocrisy.



www.towerguard.org/

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

Another Local Soldier Has Been Killed In Iraq

6/3/2007 Caitlin Kollar, WKYC

LORAIN -- Another local soldier has been killed in Iraq. 43-year-old Bruce Horner from Lorain died while stationed in southern Baghdad.

Family members tell us the Army Sergeant was one of thousands of troops searching for three missing soldiers, who disappeared May 12.

An Admiral King graduate, Horner was known for his humor and his ability to turn people's lives around.

"People that didn't even know him that well here in town at my son's church today talked about him. He made really made an influence. I don't know, some people have that capacity," says Ed Horner, Bruce's father.

The soldier leaves behind a wife from Virginia, both his parents in Cleveland and a brother who is head minister at St. Paul's Community Church in west Cleveland.

Funeral services have not been arranged yet.

Funeral Arrangements Made For Texas City Soldier Killed In Iraq

June 3, 2007 11 News

The body of a Texas City soldier killed in Iraq is being returned to Texas this week for burial.

Michael Jarigue, a 20-year-old Army specialist died May 26th of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near him.

Visitation for the Dickinson High School graduate is planned at Cannes Funeral Home in Texas City.

Jarigue's funeral will be at Saint Mary of the Miraculous Medal Catholic Church.

Mom Says She Doesn't Know Much About Son's Death In Iraq

June 4, 2007 The Associated Press

NEW PHILADELPHIA, Ohio -- A soldier from New Philadelphia was killed in Iraq when the vehicle he was riding in drove over an explosive device, his mother said.

The military didn't disclose much about Army Pfc. Keith Nepsa's death Saturday, his mother, Michele Nepsa, said late Sunday.

"They told me he had been in a convoy," she said. "The vehicle he was in ran over an explosive device. That's all they still can tell me."

Keith Nepesa, 21, enlisted after he graduated from New Philadelphia High School in 2003 so he could earn money for college, where he wanted to study computers, his mother said.

"He was really big into computers," she said. "He could take a computer apart and put it back together. He could do just about anything on a computer."

She said her son enjoyed playing games online, working on cars, paintball and spending time with family and friends. He had spent two weeks at home in September to celebrate his birthday and returned to Iraq in October on his second tour.

New Philadelphia is 70 miles south of Cleveland.

Twenty Ft. Lewis Soldiers Killed In May; Individual Memorial Services To Be Cancelled: Too Many Dead

June 2nd, 2007 Michael Gilbert, The News Tribune

The bloodiest month for Fort Lewis since the Iraq war began grew even more grim late Friday, as news of the post's 20th casualty in May was released by the Pentagon.

Spc. Chadrick O. Domino, 23, of Ennis, Texas, died Thursday, the last day of the month, in Baghdad from wounds inflicted by enemy small arms fire while on foot patrol, the Defense Department announced.

Domino was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division – one of two Stryker brigades from Fort Lewis fighting in Iraq.

Third Brigade has been in the war zone for about a year and is scheduled to return home in October. The other, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division arrived in Iraq in April.

Domino was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment – one of the Stryker infantry battalions trying to secure the capital. No other information about the soldier was available late Friday.

May was the deadliest month for Washington's service members since the Iraq war began in March 2003, with 23 deaths reported as of Friday. All but three of those killed were based at Fort Lewis.

The state's death toll nearly doubled the previous worst month of December 2004, when 12 were killed.

Fort Lewis, which this month has suffered its worst losses of the war, will no longer conduct individual memorial ceremonies for soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Instead, the post will hold one ceremony for all soldiers killed each month, the Fort Lewis acting commanding general, Brig. Gen. William Troy, wrote in a memo to commanders and staff last week.

"As much as we would like to think otherwise, I am afraid that with the number of soldiers we now have in harm's way, our losses will preclude us from continuing to do individual memorial ceremonies," Troy wrote in the memo, according to a copy obtained by United for Peace Pierce County and posted on the group's Web site.

Post spokesman Joseph Piek said each ceremony requires significant planning and coordination by the rear detachments of the deployed units, particularly if a soldier's family comes to the post for the event.

Fort Lewis is the third-largest Army post in the country and has about 10,000 soldiers in Iraq, including the 3rd and 4th brigades with about 4,000 soldiers each, as well as smaller units.

Another Ft. Lewis Soldier Dead: Zachary Native Killed In Iraq

6.4.07 ZACHARY, La. (AP)

A Zachary native who joined the Army his senior year in high school was killed Saturday in Iraq, his family said.

Jared Crouch, 21, a cavalry scout with a Stryker brigade out of Fort Lewis, Wash., had only been stationed in Iraq for a little more than a month, his mother, Kathy Rushing, said.

She said casualty assistance soldiers from Fort Polk told her Saturday night that he had been killed by a bomb while on patrol.

Kathy Rushing said her younger son, John Crouch, a reservist with a maintenance company stationed in Iraq, would try to join his brother's body on the flight back to the U.S.

"We're hoping he'll be able to bring his brother home," said Rushing.

She said both sons had always felt the need to serve. Jared Crouch, who graduated from Starkey Academy in Central in 2004, wanted to be "in the thick of things ... on the front lines," his mother said.

She said he got his desire to serve from his father, James Crouch, a Baton Rouge policeman who died of natural causes when Crouch was 13. James Crouch, had wanted to serve in the military but never got the opportunity, Rushing said.

Austin Soldier Killed During War After Only Three Weeks In Iraq

5.26.07 KXAN-TV

Family and friends are mourning the death of an Austin soldier Tuesday, the latest casualty of the Iraq war. Twenty-one-year-old Army Spc. Mathew LaForest died Friday in Taji, Iraq, during a firefight.

"I can't get out of my head his smile, and just how sweet it looks," said friend Nicci Avey. With his dark eyes, and famous gap-toothed smile, LaForest was, to so many, irresistible.

"Matt was so proud to be from Austin, and he was so proud to want to go to UT," said Avey.

Avey last saw LaForest when he was home for Christmas and said he was not afraid to go to war. "He wasn't afraid, he went over to Iraq, and I know, I know, that he was fearless," said Avey.

"First love, and I could never love anyone the same," said friend Aly Navarro. Everyone has a first love, for Navarro it was LaForest. "Now I'm gonna treasure every single little memory that I have of him for the rest of my life," said Navarro.

Now, years of memories sit on a tiny table in her apartment. Photos from their time together in JROTC at Bowie High School and letters LaForest wrote to Navarro from basic training.

"He made everybody proud, just, just being him," said Navarro.

He joined the military, following in his father's footsteps and hoped to attend the University of Texas when he came home.

Like so many soldiers these days, LaForest kept in touch with friends through MySpace. The messages they're leaving for him now are heartbreaking.

"The world's missing out on one of the best people that it ever could have," said Navarro. "It kills me to know that somebody so innocent, somebody that has all the love in the world for everyone, is gone," said Avey.

This is the second Central Texas soldier killed in less than a week.

Last Monday, Spc. Michael Davis of San Marcos died in Baghdad.

There's a memorial scheduled for him at 6:30 p.m. Friday, at the Hays County Veterans Memorial.

The Defense Department announced Tuesday the death of a soldier from Texas City, which is near Houston.

Twenty-year-old Spc. Michael Jaurigue was one of three soldiers killed Saturday when a makeshift bomb blew near their vehicle.

Soldier With Ties To Q-C Is Killed In Iraq

May 30, 2007 By Barb Ickes, The Quad-City Times

The weekend death of a Nebraska National Guardsman in Iraq is sending ripples of grief through the Quad-Cities.

Spc. William Lee Bailey III, a 29-year-old Bellevue, Neb., soldier and firefighter was killed Saturday during a roadside-bomb attack on his security convoy.

He was married to Deanna "Dee" Gibson, 39, who graduated from Davenport West High School in 1987. Her parents and two brothers still live in the Quad-Cities.

Her father, Jack Gibson, of Davenport, said William Bailey was scheduled to return to the United States in three weeks for a two-week leave and was planning to visit his in-laws in the Quad-Cities.

"He was a super hero, and that's all I can say," Gibson said Tuesday. "We aren't supposed to know what happened, but we do."

The Associated Press is reporting that three other Nebraska soldiers were injured by the roadside bomb, but no further details were available Tuesday.

Gibson said his daughter and Bailey met at an Omaha bank, where both worked. They married almost five years ago.

"They have an almost-4-year-old son who is daddyless now," he said. "I'd like to say Dee's doing good, but she's not."

Gibson said his wife, Dee's mother, already has gone to Nebraska to await the return of Bailey's body. Jack Gibson said he will join his family in coming days.

"I saw him board the bus before he shipped out (in December)," he said. "I didn't get to see him off at the airport. By God, I'm gonna see him come back."

He said he met Bailey about 10 years ago.

"I lost a hell of a good friend," he said, adding, "It's going to be an awesome funeral — at least 30 fire trucks lining the streets. The other firefighters in Bellevue are making the plans."

Bailey was a volunteer firefighter in Bellevue for five years. His National Guard unit, the 755th Chemical Company, provided security for military convoys, the AP reported. He died near Taji.

In addition to her parents, Dee Gibson's two brothers, Joseph and Jeff, also remain in the Quad-Cities.

Iraq Bomb Blast Kills Iowa Soldier



May 22, 2007 By WILLIAM PETROSKI, REGISTER STAFF WRITER

The war in Iraq has struck Tipton for a second time.

U.S. Army Spc. David Behrle, 20, who was Tipton High School's senior class president and commencement speaker two years ago, was killed Saturday while serving with the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq, school officials confirmed Monday.

Tipton is an eastern Iowa community of 3,155 people in Cedar County. The town's first Iraq war death occurred on Nov. 29, 2003, when Spc. Aaron J. Sissel, 22, an Iowa National Guard soldier, was killed in Haditha when his vehicle was hit by enemy fire.

Word of Behrle's death spread through the community after Masses on Sunday morning at St. Mary's Catholic Church, where members of his family are parishioners. He was the son of Dixie Pelzer of Tipton and John Behrle, who lives in Nebraska. His family was notified Saturday night.

"This is very sad. David was such a good kid, as Aaron was. We are just kind of like, 'Why Tipton?'" said Richard Grimoskas, superintendent of the Tipton Community School District.

Mark Weaver, a Vietnam veteran who is commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2537 in Tipton, said people in town were stunned to learn of the young soldier's death. Behrle's grandfather, Kenny Jedlicka, is active in the local American Legion post. "It's a great loss to the community. It's a big shock for a town as small as this one to have lost our second soldier," Weaver said. He noted that a third area soldier, Staff Sgt. Don Griffith Jr., 29, of nearby Mechanicsville, was killed in Iraq in March 2005.

Behrle participated in football, golf and wrestling for the Tipton High School Tigers. He had just visited the school a month or two ago while he was home on leave and had chatted with some former teachers, school officials said.

"David was a great kid, an absolutely wonderful kid. Your typical Iowa kid - very involved and everybody liked him," Grimoskas said.

Mike Wade, Tipton's football coach, said Behrle had been an offensive lineman and a defensive end for the football team. He'd also helped Wade with his eighth grade American history class, working on the computer and assisting with classroom projects.

"David was a kid who worked hard all the time. It was just, 'There is a job to do and here I am,'" Wade said.

The U.S. Department of Defense confirmed Behrle's death this morning.

Military officials said Behrle was among six soldiers who died Saturday when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle in Baghdad. They were serving with the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas.

The bomb could not be detected by the Army's equipment because it was hidden under a manhole, in sewer water, fellow soldiers said. All six soldiers were being transported in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

Behrle is the 56th person with Iowa ties to have died in the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan since March 2003.

Mike Droll, a counselor at Tipton High School, said Behrle was well regarded by his fellow students. That's why they selected him as senior class president and as commencement speaker in 2005, even though he didn't graduate at the top of his class academically, he said.

"I think it said a lot about what everybody thought about him as a person," Droll added.

Residents of Tipton have varying political views about the Iraq war, but the entire community is proud of the sacrifices made by Behrle and other soldiers who have died, Weaver said.

"We are sorry that we have lost them. It's a big tragedy," said Weaver, a Marine Corps veteran.

Tipton-area soldiers who have died in combat are honored by having their names placed on a monument at the library in the middle of town.

"Now we will be putting another name on it. Don Griffith Jr.'s name is there, and Aaron's is there. Now David's will be there," Weaver said.

Complex Attack Wounds 8 U.S. Soldiers

June 4, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20070604-01

BAGHDAD — A complex attack wounded eight U.S. Soldiers at a patrol base southeast of Baghdad June 3.

The attack, involving a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, small arms fire, and mortar fire, was countered with attack aviation, ground forces and unmanned aerial vehicles.

Two U.S. Vehicles Destroyed In Samarra: Casualties Not Announced



A U.S. truck carrying generators as it burns in Samarra, Iraq, June 4, 2007. Two roadside bombs exploded Monday morning on the American forces in two different locations near Samarra, hitting two American vehicles including a truck carrying generators and a bomb sweeper, police said. (AP Photo/Hameed Rasheed)

How Do You Know Your War Is Lost? When Your Command Attacks The Railway System In The Country You're Supposed To Have Won [Air Attacks On The Green Zone Next?]



The ruins of a train station building after a U.S. air strike on the al-Abbasiya railway, about six kilometers northwest of Samarra June 4, 2007. The American warplanes and helicopters shelled al-Abbasiya railway, and later the land forces attacked the station, killing four people including two women and detaining 20 people, some wounded, police said. (AP Photo/Hameed Rasheed)

U.S. Baqouba Base Attacked

June 4, 2007 By KIM GAMEL, Associated Press Writer

A car bomb exploded outside a U.S. base near the volatile city of Baqouba, leaving a number of troops gasping for air and suffering from eye irritations, the military said. It did not confirm a report in the Los Angeles Times that the car was carrying chlorine

canisters and said the soldiers who were sickened had been treated and returned to duty.

Notes From A Lost War:

U.S. Forces Control Of Fewer Than One-Third Of Baghdad's Neighborhoods Despite Thousands Of Extra Troops; "When Planners Devised The Baghdad Security Plan Late Last Year, They Had Assumed Most Baghdad Neighborhoods Would Be Under Control Around July"

When Colonel Frank went to the Ameel police station recently accompanied by a reporter and asked for help in capturing a local Shiite sheik believed to be behind the bombings, the police official he was meeting with spoke in a whisper. "They listen to us," he said, pointing to a ventilation grill on his wall. "I am in danger just by meeting with you."

[Thanks to Katherine GY, The Military Project & Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

June 3, 2007 By DAVID S. CLOUD and DAMIEN CAVE, The New York Times & June 4, KIM GAMEL, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

U.S.-led forces have control of fewer than one-third of Baghdad's neighborhoods despite thousands of extra troops nearly four months into a security crackdown, a newspaper reported Monday - an assessment that came as the U.S. casualty toll soared.

The New York Times said an American assessment of the security plan through late May found that American and Iraqi forces were able to "protect the population" and "maintain physical influence over" only 146 of the 457 Baghdad neighborhoods.

Troops have either not begun operations aimed at rooting out insurgents or still face "resistance" in the remaining 311 neighborhoods, according to the report, which cited a

one-page assessment along with summaries from brigade and battalion commanders in Baghdad.

U.S. military leaders in charge of the Baghdad drive, now nearing the end of its fourth month, have repeatedly complained that both the Iraqi army and police units that were sent to Baghdad for the operation are often at only 60 percent full strength, if that.

Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., commander of the 1st Cavalry Division which runs the security operation in Baghdad, expressed particular disappointment with Iraqi police performance during a recent visit to his troops in the capital's Karradah neighborhood. "The (Iraqi) Army is coming along pretty well, but the police really still need some work," the soft-spoken and understated Fil said at the Cobra Joint Security Station along a bend in the Tigris River. "You'll have to be very careful with them."

Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, the deputy commander of the First Cavalry Division, which has responsibility for Baghdad, said that while military planners had expected to make greater gains by now, that has not been possible in large part because Iraqi police and army units, which were expected to handle basic security tasks, like manning checkpoints and conducting patrols, have not provided all the forces promised, and in some cases have performed poorly.

That is forcing American commanders to conduct operations to remove insurgents from some areas multiple times.

When planners devised the Baghdad security plan late last year, they had assumed most Baghdad neighborhoods would be under control around July, according to a senior American military officer, so the emphasis could shift into restoring services and rebuilding the neighborhoods as the summer progressed.

"We were way too optimistic," said the officer, adding that September is now the goal for establishing basic security in most neighborhoods, the same month that Bush administration officials have said they plan to review the progress of the plan.

The last of the five combat brigades ordered to Iraq as reinforcements as part of the security plan will increase the number of American troops in the city to around 30,000, up from 21,000 before the operation, an American officer said. **[The fool who devised a plan that relies on 30,000 troops to hold down an area with 6 million pissed off Iraqis merits summary court martial. T]**

In addition, around 30,000 Iraqi Army and national police forces and another 21,000 policemen have been deployed in Baghdad. Many of the Iraqi units have turned up at less than full strength and other units have been redeployed from the capital, General Brooks said, leaving fewer than expected.

American commanders have also had to send troops outside the capital, to deal with a sharp rise in violence in Diyala Province and to search for American soldiers kidnapped south of the capital.

In some parts of the city, commanders have yet to attempt large-scale clearing operations. For example, American forces have moved into only a small portion of Sadr City, the vast slum on the city's east side that is a Shiite stronghold.

The problems facing American troops are illustrated in troubled western Baghdad. In the Rashid district there, the First Battalion, Fourth Brigade of the First Infantry Division has been working since March to carry out the security push.

When the battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Patrick Frank, moved in, it was replacing a lone American Army company of 125 soldiers.

Yet even with three times as many soldiers patrolling the area, violence has worsened. Last month, 249 bodies were found in the sector, up from 98 the month Colonel Frank arrived, according to statistics compiled by the battalion.

Lately, his troops have been hit by a wave of roadside bomb attacks that have killed five of them and wounded 13 others.

The district includes Ameel, Baya, Jihad and Furat, mostly mixed Sunni-Shiite neighborhoods abutting the road to the Baghdad airport where his troops have established three patrol bases. Before the new strategy, there were none.

The sectarian violence was especially disheartening to some American officers because it occurred in May, the same month that they were undertaking the centerpiece of the Baghdad security plan: a neighborhood clearing operation.

The battalion's troops, augmented by more than 2,000 soldiers in armored Stryker vehicles, went block by block through the neighborhood, arresting suspected insurgents and destroying arms caches.

American patrols have been attacked in a wave of deadly bombings recently, sometimes within sight of police checkpoints, officers said.

Ten soldiers under Colonel Frank's command have been killed since March. At least eight of the recent attacks in the area have used explosively formed penetrators, or E.F.P.'s, powerful bombs able to pierce armored Humvees.

When Colonel Frank went to the Ameel police station recently accompanied by a reporter and asked for help in capturing a local Shiite sheik believed to be behind the bombings, the police official he was meeting with spoke in a whisper. "They listen to us," he said, pointing to a ventilation grill on his wall. "I am in danger just by meeting with you."

A few weeks earlier, angered by the attacks on his soldiers, Colonel Frank ordered a video camera hidden near an abandoned swimming pool along a main road in Ameel, near a police checkpoint, where patrols had been hit repeatedly.

When the video was examined after another attack, it showed two Iraqi policemen talking with companions, who were heard off-camera, apparently laying an explosive device. Minutes after the policemen were seen driving away, the camera showed a powerful bomb detonating as an American Humvee came into view.

The video of the attack, which just missed the vehicle and caused no casualties, was shown to a reporter from The New York Times.

But the episode has not been forgotten. At a weekly meeting where military commanders and police chiefs sit around a horseshoe-shaped conference table at one of the American bases, Capt. Adel Fakry, the Ameel police commander, complained that American soldiers on patrol were showing “distrust” toward his officers.

“The reason there is distrust,” Colonel Frank responded, his voice rising, “is because I have a video of six Iraqi officers placing a bomb against my soldiers, and they came from your station.”

There had been “some mistakes,” Captain Fakry responded, looking taken aback by the confrontation. Not all of the six officers were from his station, he added before ending the conversation by flipping open his cellphone and making a call while the meeting continued.

The same distrust has hampered relations throughout Baghdad since the strategy began.

In Shula, a neighborhood just east of Kadhimiya, north of Rashid, American troops in March discovered a group of Iraqis in police uniforms setting up an E.F.P. near a bridge. They were using police vehicles to provide cover.

The American soldiers killed two of the bomb planters. They later discovered that one had a badge granting him wide access to the Green Zone, the fortified area in central Baghdad where the American Embassy and most Iraqi government buildings are situated.

“That’s the level of penetration that these guys have,” said Lt. Col. Steven M. Miska, deputy commander of the Second Brigade, First Infantry Division, which is charged with controlling northwestern Baghdad.

MORE:

Mercenary Says More In Fewer Words: Baghdad Is Fucked

[Thanks to J, who sent this in.]

May 31, 2007 Anonymous British mercenary interviewed by Audrey Gillan, The Guardian [Excerpt]

I will probably bin it fairly soon.

I think the writing is on the wall for Baghdad. I think it is about to go ballistic.

The Baghdad security plan is not going to work.

Other people will no doubt stay because they want the money but I think there comes a time when you need to ask, is this sustainable?

NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME



A soldier of Bravo Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, rests in the afternoon heat in Quarghuli village, Iraq May 29, 2007. (AP Photo/ Maya Alleruzzo)

TROOP NEWS

“This Totally Stinks. We Shouldn’t Even Be In Iraq”

#1:

**“Why Should Our Dwell Time Be Considered Less
Important?”**

June 04, 2007

Letters To The Editor
Army Times

“Stretched thin: Deployments to leave only 4 stateside BCTs combat ready” (May 21) quoted Col. Edge Gibbons saying, “All of the brigades slated to deploy this fall will have had 12 months of dwell time. It’s not a surprise to any of these brigades that they were going to deploy.”

This is not entirely true.

My husband is part of 3rd Battalion, 89th Cavalry, which is part of 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division.

They left for Iraq in March to augment another unit there, will be home in August, and are set to deploy with the whole brigade not even three months later.

I understand the move to extend tours to 15 months so the troops who were slated to go can have their full time at home, but why should our dwell time be considered less important?

Our husbands will have been gone for five months and barely get two months home before they have to leave again — this time for 15 months.

Hopefully those in charge will look at little things like this before making the decisions on who goes and who stays.

Roya Lorge
Fort Polk, La.

MORE:

#2:

“This Totally Stinks. We Shouldn’t Even Be In Iraq”

June 04, 2007
Letters To The Editor
Army Times

This totally stinks. We shouldn’t even be in Iraq.

People should be only sent once, if at all.

To send troops two and three times is totally ridiculous.

My son is going back for the second time now.

Again, totally stinks.

Janet Duggins, Army mom
San Bernardino, Calif.

190 From Nebraska National Guard Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse



In Lincoln, Neb., May 31, 2007 about 190 soldiers assigned to the Nebraska Army National Guard's 600th Transportation Company took leave of their families as they left for Fort Bragg to train for their Iraq deployment. (AP Photo/Nati Harnik)

Odious Odierno: **Plays Big-Mouth Wise-Ass Cute With** **The American People Over** **September Deadline On War**

May 31 By PAULINE JELINEK, Associated Press Writer

On the assessment of operations that is due in September, he [Lt. Gen. Raymond] Odierno said he thinks it will take longer to tell whether the increase of nearly 30,000 troops will work as intended - that is, to quell violence enough to give Iraqi officials breathing space to work on reconciliation and development issues.

"The way I understand it, is we're going to be required to provide an assessment in September. So I will provide my assessment," Odierno said, adding it might not be complete.

"Right now if you asked me, I would tell you I'll probably need a little bit more time to do a true assessment," he said.

"If I think I might need a little bit more time, I will give an assessment saying, 'But I'd like to have more time'," Odierno said.

[So sorry, piece of shit. Neither you nor any of the rest of the traitors pushing the war have any more time. None at all.]

Go Ahead, Fuck With This Marine: Help Bring On The Firestorm



(AP Photo/Ed Zurga)

Cpl. Adam Kokesh, right, shakes hands with Iraq War veteran Tomas Young as he meets with supporters during Kokesh's hearing at the Marine Corps Mobilization Command Monday, June 4, 2007, in Kansas City, Mo.

Kokesh, who is a member of the Individual Ready Reserve which consists of those who have left active duty but still have time remaining on their eight-year military obligation, is facing administrative action for opposing the war in Iraq.

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



The casket of Cpl. Joseph Anzack is carried from Rice Mortuary to a horse-drawn carriage for a funeral procession to South High School's football stadium in Torrance, Calif., June 1, 2007. Anzack, who graduated from South High School in 2005, will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. His unit was ambushed while patrolling south of Baghdad. (AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Iraqi Oil Workers On Strike; “Strike Leaders Say, If The Government Does Not Implement The Agreement, The 48" Crude Pipeline To Baghdad Will Be Shut”

4 June 2007 Handsoffiraqoil.org/

Workers from the Iraqi Pipelines Company in Basra are on strike today.

Workers began the strike at 6.30 this morning by shutting two 14" pipelines carrying oil and gas products inside Iraq.

The strike is over unfulfilled demands tabled by the Iraqi Federation of Oil Unions (IFOU) - of which the Iraqi Pipelines Union is a member – to Prime Minister Maliki on May 16th

2007. The 16 demands focus on improved working conditions, pay, land for homes, a reduction in the national price of fuel and crucially, inclusion in the Oil Law drafting process.

Prime Minister Maliki agreed to the Federation's demands and established a committee comprised of Ministry of Oil, IFOU and Southern Oil Company representatives to implement the demands.

Strike leaders say, if the government does not implement the agreement, the 48" crude pipeline to Baghdad will be shut.

Assorted Resistance Action

June 04, 2007 Xinhua & Reuters

A truck bomber struck the house of police chief of a town in Iraq's northern Nineveh province Monday, wounding two policemen, a provincial police source said.

"The suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden truck into the house of Brigadier Ali Attallah Mallouh, police chief of Qaiyarra town, 60 km south of Mosul, and blew it up, wounding two of his guards," the source from Nineveh police told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The powerful blast damaged Mallouh's house and several nearby houses, the source added.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed one policeman and wounded three others near the town of Yusufiya, 15 km (10 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb exploded near a fuel truck, wounding the driver and setting the truck on fire in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A car bomber killed three Iraqi soldiers and wounded three at a checkpoint near Taji, 20 km (9 miles) north of Baghdad, on Sunday, an Iraqi military source said.

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

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

June 4, 1989 Dishonorable Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace History June 4-10

Hundreds of civilians were shot dead by China's People's Liberation Army during a bloody military operation in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Students and workers had become part of a growing pro-democracy movement, gathering there continuously for weeks. The Chinese government still officially denies any deaths occurred; thousands arrested "disappeared" and remain unaccounted for.

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/)

Vietnam Veteran Says “The Tillman Incident Is One More Example Of A Culture Of Deceit Promoted By The Current Administration”



Vietnam Veteran Steve Vargo AKA Comrade Pishta with Cindy Sheehan at the 37th Remembrance of the Kent State Massacre, 5.4.2007. “NEVER Forget.”

[Thanks to Steve Vargo, who sent in the article below with the photo above.]

MAY 5, 2007

Letters To The Editor

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

I was in Vietnam in 1967-68, was wounded on two occasions, received the Purple Heart, etc.

I was almost killed or wounded by "friendly fire" several times. The mother of a soldier killed by friendly fire wrote a book, Friendly Fire, which I recommend.

A couple of times, when I was with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in the Central Highlands (think Platoon or Full Metal Jacket), we were returning to the camp area after an all-night ambush detail.

Once, one of our own soldiers lobbed a hand grenade at us, which knocked us down from the blast. Another time, we approached an M:60 machine gun and the gunner told us later that he nearly opened up on us before calling out the password.

After four months as a line doggie, I transferred to a long-range patrol unit (think DeerHunter) and operated in six- man recon teams and 12-man ambush teams deep in the bush.

Like former NFL player Pat Tillman, I was Ranger-trained. We monitored trails during Tet 1. We got hit by both ground artillery and naval guns many times.

There was one episode where the shells were set to explode at treetop level and were shearing off the tops of the trees around us. Someone did not get the word that we were there, or got it wrong. Another bombardment lasted a long time as we clutched the ground and were lifted up by the explosions.

We all received concussions from the impact. We had blood coming out of our ears and noses.

One time we hit a hot landing zone; the Viet Cong were on us and opened fire.

We were in a world of serious hurt and had to call in the Air Force jets; the jets were firing rockets so close to us that you could hear them whistle and scream over our heads.

I am sure any Iraqi vet will tell you that everyday, GIs are killed by friendly fire. There is nothing disgraceful about that. The soldier is awarded a Purple Heart, but the heart is slightly different from that awarded for wounds received from opposing forces fire.

I recently visited the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton. A wing there is for pro football players who served in the armed forces. Tillman has a special section just for him.

Rather than just report what happened to Tillman; the government felt it was justified in manipulating public opinion through deception.

The government, on the basis of outrageous lies, is waging a murderous and utterly illegitimate war in Iraq, with other countries in its sights.

There is no justification for lies told to Tillman's family. How many people enlisted in the military after being inspired by the Tillman story spun to the media?

The Tillman incident is one more example of a culture of deceit promoted by the current administration.

In Washington, at Operation Ceasefire, I heard Cindy Sheehan speak. At one point in her talk, she paused, looked over her shoulder toward the White House and yelled, "Shame on you!"

**Steve Vargo
Columbus [Ohio]**

OCCUPATION REPORT

JUST ANOTHER HAPPY LIBERATED IRAQI RIPPED OUT OF HIS HOME AND THROWN IN PRISON



A foreign occupation soldier from U.S. Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division arrests a man during a search of homes in the Rashid neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq May 15, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Zionist Troops Butcher More Palestinian Kids:

“Anything That Moves In These Areas, Even If It’s A Three-Year Old, Must Be Killed”



The boys were reportedly searching for scrap metal when they were shot by Israeli soldiers [AFP]

June 01, 2007 by Saed Bannoura, IMEMC Editorial Group & Aljazeera

Israeli and Palestinian sources have confirmed the killing of two children near the former Israeli settlement of Dugit, in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. The two were identified as Ahmad Abu Zubeida and Zaher Al-Majdalawi, both aged 12.

The children were scavenging building materials and scrap metal from the site when they were fired upon by Israeli forces stationed at the nearby border with Israel, eyewitnesses reported.

Palestinians often scavenge materials from the former sites of Israeli settlements, evacuated two years ago as part of the ‘disengagement plan’ from Gaza, and completely demolished by Israeli forces at that time. The ruins are generally near Israeli military bases, and are thus dangerous for Palestinians to enter.

Due to the desperate economic situation in the Gaza Strip, which has been under full closure since the democratic election of the Hamas party in January 2006, Palestinians living in Gaza are willing to take risks in order to survive.

The children killed today were likely gathering scrap metal to sell for food for their families.

Suleiman Abu Zeibaida, a brother of one of the boys, said they had gone to the beach to go swimming.

An aide to Ismail Haniya, the Palestinian prime minister, said the boys were not were not involved with any armed group.

"The children were in a Palestinian area, close to the beach and they posed no danger to anyone. They were shot and killed without mercy," Mohammed al-Madhoun said.

"Our children are very dear to us and we urge the international community to compel the occupation to stop its crimes against children and innocent Palestinians."

The two boys were buried later on Friday evening with hundreds of Gazans marching in the funeral procession

Israeli commanders have previously made public their 'shoot-to-kill' policy for areas near the border fences and abandoned Israeli settlements. In one such pronouncement, an Israeli general stated, "Anything that moves in these areas, even if it's a three-year old, must be killed."

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

Received:

Solidarity with Irish Activists: War Protestors On Trial June 5

June 02, 2007 From Shaun Harkin

By Shaun Harkin and Sandy Boyer

Raytheon Company, based in Waltham, Massachusetts is a leading US military contractor. With annual revenues of over \$20 billion a year, 90 percent obtained from defense contracts, Raytheon is the world's third largest missile manufacturer.

Among the company's deadly production arsenal are the Tomahawk, Sidewinder, Patriot and 'bunkerbuster' bombs - all weapons being used to devastate Iraq and Afghanistan by the US and Great Britain today. Additionally, Raytheon supplies guidance systems for many of the missiles and bombs used by US and Israeli forces in the Middle East.

In 1999 Raytheon opened an office in Derry City, Northern Ireland. Ironically, Raytheon was brought to Derry during the Northern Ireland 'peace process' by Nationalist and Unionist politicians and paraded as an example of what the 'peace dividend' would gain for a population with some of the highest unemployment rates in Europe.

In the event, Raytheon created only around 40 jobs. Local politicians—despite Raytheon's complicity in Bush and Blair's war crimes---have balked at forcing the company out for fear that US investors would be sent the wrong message.

In August, 2006, disgusted by Israel's US backed invasion of Lebanon, antiwar activists in Derry protested, occupied and 'decommissioned' the Raytheon facility there. Now, nine members of the Derry Anti-war Coalition (DAWC) who participated in the occupation face possible jail sentences.

Supporters of the Raytheon 9 are calling for all charges to be dropped. A rally is planned on June 5th at the preliminary enquiry of their trial at the Derry Court House.

Eamonn McCann, one of the Raytheon 9, is a founder of the 1960s civil rights movement in Northern Ireland and is the author of several books, including *War and an Irish Town*; writes regularly for numerous publications in Ireland; and is chairman of the Bloody Sunday Trust, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, and was a candidate for the Socialist Environmental Alliance in Northern Ireland's recent National Assembly elections. Eamonn explains why Raytheon was targeted:

"Every day brought reports of Israeli attacks, allegedly on Hizbollah positions but, as was clear from the news footage, bringing death and agony to terrified civilians."

Eamonn says a DAWC meeting "voted to picket the Raytheon plant on August 9th and, if possible, to occupy and try to 'decommission' the premises.

"In the event, nine of us managed to gain entry. Computers and papers were hurled from the windows. The mainframe was disabled.

Last month came evidence that Raytheon product had indeed been used in the Qana killings.

The evidence can be viewed at www.tyros.leb.net/qana2, which displays a close-up photograph of the fuselage of a bomb retrieved from the Qana carnage. The markings identify a Raytheon bomb: MK-84 guided bomb unit BSU-37/B."

Eamonn adds:

<p>"If the Raytheon 9 are branded criminals then we are being asked to accept that it is a crime to occupy the office of an arms company, but not a crime to occupy a country; that it is a crime to drop computers from an office window, but not a crime to drop missiles on innocent people.</p>
--

The Raytheon 9 will face the court as the accusers of Raytheon not the accused, and will use the trial to highlight the war crimes of the US and UK governments."

Colm Bryce, also of the Raytheon 9 and the Derry Antiwar Coalition tells us:

"We've been protesting Raytheon since it came here in 1999. They said they weren't doing any military work. However, former employees have told us they were doing military work.

“At the height of the Lebanese war we found out that US cargo planes were rushing bombs to Israel. We felt this sort of thing is happening all the time. Just like the US military uses Shannon airport here in Ireland to transport troops to Iraq all the time. It felt unbearable.

“This is not about us. This is about what’s going on in Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan day in and day out. We want to put Raytheon and the war on trial.”

"Black 47 has spoken out against the War in Iraq since it was a mere gleam in the eyes of Messrs. Bush and Cheney. Many of our fans in the Service are now suffering the consequences of this ill-advised invasion. The Raytheon 9 are not criminals; they are merely focusing attention on this current administration’s failed Middle Eastern policies. Had the millions of us in the US who saw through Bush/Cheney’s lies engaged in similar non-violent activities, we would not be in dire position we find ourselves in Iraq today."

- Larry Kirwan, leader of Black 47

The Raytheon 9 have received support from throughout Ireland and across the world. Among those who have signed the statement of support are Noam Chomsky, Mark Thomas, Christy Moore, George Galloway MP, Salma Yaqoob (Stop the War Coalition UK) Ibrahim Mousawi (Lebanon), Caoimhe Butterly, Richard Boyd Barrett (Irish Anti-War Movement) and many others.

What you can do to support the Raytheon 9:

Send messages of support to the Derry Antiwar Coalition at colmbryce@googlemail.com / 44- 7771 781958

Sign onto the statement of support at: www.petitiononline.com/dawc/petition.html

Visit the Raytheon 9 website - www.raytheon9.org

See Eamonn McCann speaking on Raytheon action:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmTJbEYsN4A>

Sandy Boyer is co-host of WBAI’s Radio Free Eireann and has led campaigns to free Irish political prisoners including the Guildford 4, Birmingham 6, and Roisin McAliskey. Boyer has contributed articles on the Irish struggle to publications in Ireland and the US including New Politics, The Irish People, Fortnight, Fourthwrite and The Blanket. He can be reached at: abyer3@nyc.rr.com

Shaun Harkin, originally from Derry, is a regular contributor to Socialist Worker and the International Socialist Review. He can be reached at: shaunharkin@gmail.com

Received:

Comment On How The Deaths In Darfur Were Made In The US.

From: J
To: GI Special
Sent: May 31, 2007
Subject: Comment on how the deaths in Darfur were made in the US.

Oil is very likely the reason for the way Bush, and some other groups, are pushing the genocide idea but another factor is involved.

Another reason why America is responsible for the deaths. Africa is experiencing drought in terrible proportions. Dafur is severely hit by it and the fighting is mainly a war for survival between herders and small farmers.

Both need the fast diminishing supply of water and the fear of death due to starvation, and dehydration, is the driving force.

The Sudan government has been unable to cope and although it's a bad one, miscalculating everything, it's not wanting genocide. The African nations can understand and generally want to keep the matter confined to their own continent with A.U. peace keepers trying to minimise the killing. Unfortunately finance is the big problem with this idea. If the rich countries want to help they should shut their mouths and try doing something practical, like financing A.U. activities.

The U.S. is one of the main contributors to the global warming that is causing the drought. Because of this it should assume blame and start working out ways to get water into the worst drought areas. Other countries like Kenya and Niger have the same problem. They haven't reached the stage of open war yet but thousands are facing almost certain death. The rich should stop fomenting the problem, in order to satisfy their thirst for oil, and start imagining a death caused by thirst for water.

This situation needs drastic action but unfortunately the rich will never accept a decrease in their standard of living in order to reduce the need for oil.

This is what will destroy this plant much faster than anyone now realises.

Ignorance is bliss and greed is international. "To hell with the future as long as we are getting richer now."

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