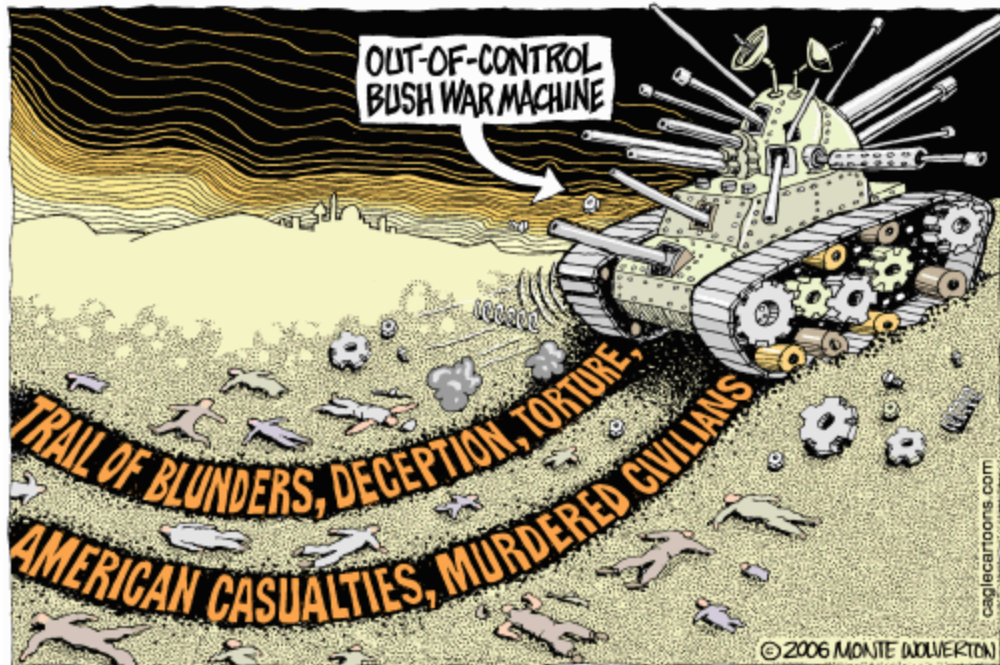


GI SPECIAL 5F7:



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

**“We’re Waiting To Get
Blown Up”**

**“It’s Just More Troops, More
Targets”**

**“When Are We Going To Get Out
Of Here?”**

In Iraq, Loathsome Stupid Piece Of Shit Lieberman Lied About What Soldiers Think About The War; But - Oops - A Reporter Was There!

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veteran, who sent this in.]

“We’re not making any progress,” Hedin said, as he recalled a comrade who was shot by a sniper last week. “It just seems like we drive around and wait to get shot at.”

May. 30, 2007 By Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Spc. David Williams, 22, of Boston, Mass., had two note cards in his pocket Wednesday afternoon as he waited for Sen. Joseph Lieberman. Williams serves in the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, N.C., the first of the five “surge” brigades to arrive in Iraq, and he was chosen to join the Independent from Connecticut for lunch at a U.S. field base in Baghdad.

The night before, 30 other soldiers crowded around him with questions for the senator.

He wrote them all down. At the top of his note card was the question he got from nearly every one of his fellow soldiers:

“When are we going to get out of here?”

The rest was a laundry list. When would they have upgraded Humvees that could withstand the armor-penetrating weapons that U.S. officials claim are from Iran? When could they have body armor that was better in hot weather?

Williams missed six months of his girlfriend's pregnancy when he was given six days' notice to return to Iraq for his second tour. He also missed his baby boy's birth. Three weeks ago, he went home and saw his first child.

“He looks just like me,” he said.

“I didn’t want to come back. . . . We’re waiting to get blown up.”

Williams wasn't sure if he'd say how he really felt. But if he could, he'd ask about body armor.

“I don't want him to snap his fingers to get things fixed,” Williams said, referring to Lieberman. “But he has influence.”

Next to him, Spc. Will Hedin, 21, of Chester, Conn., thought about what he was going to say.

“We’re not making any progress,” Hedin said, as he recalled a comrade who was shot by a sniper last week. “It just seems like we drive around and wait to get shot at.”

But as he waited two chairs down from where Lieberman would sit, Hedin said he’d never voice his true feelings to the senator.

“I think I’d be a private if I did,” he joked. “It’s just more troops, more targets.”

In the past two months, the unit has lost two men. In May alone, at least 120 U.S. troops died in Iraq, the bloodiest month in 2007 and the highest number since the battles of Fallujah in 2004.

Spc. Kevin Krasco, 20, of Medford, Mass., and Spc. Kevin Adams, 20, of Moosup, Conn., chimed in with their dismay before turning the conversation to baseball.

“It’s like everything else in this war,” Adams said, referring to Baghdad. “It hasn’t changed.”

Then Lieberman walked in, wearing a pair of sunglasses newly purchased from an Iraqi market that the military had taken him to in southeast Baghdad. He’d been equipped with a helmet and flak vest when he toured the market, which he described as bustling.

Earlier, Lieberman had met briefly with Iraqi soldiers and Iraqi police at a Joint Security Station; there are 31 throughout the city now. The senator, who’s steadfastly supported the Iraq war along with the current surge of more than 28,000 additional American troops, said things were better.

“I think it’s important we don’t lose our will,” he said.

“To pull out would be a disaster.” [He said just before leaving Iraq for the safety of Washington DC.]

The soldiers smiled and greeted him, stood with him for pictures and sat down to a lunch of roast beef and turkey sandwiches.

It was unclear if they ever asked their questions.

As Lieberman walked out, he said that congressionally mandated withdrawal would be a “victory for al-Qaida and a victory for Iran.”

“They’re not Pollyannaish about this,” he said referring to the young soldiers he ate lunch with. “They know it’s not going to be solved in a day or a month.”

It isn’t clear whether Williams mentioned the last line on his note card, the one that had a star next to it.

“We don’t feel like we’re making any progress,” it said.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

New Mexico Sgt. Killed In Iraq



Sgt. James C. Akin, of Albuquerque and stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., was killed when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle in Iraq June 3, 2007. (AP Photo/Akin Family via Victor Raigoza)

U.S. Soldier Killed By Baghdad IED, Two Wounded

June 7, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070607-09

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldier was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated during combat operations in a southwestern section of Baghdad June 6. Two other Soldiers were also wounded in the attack and evacuated to a Coalition medical facility for medical treatment.

Jackson Soldier’s Family Told Of His Death In Iraq

June 07, 2007 Associated Press

JACKSON -- A 26-year-old Michigan Army National Guard sergeant who regularly assured his family in e-mail messages that he believed in what he was doing in Iraq has been killed, the family says.

Matthew Soper of Jackson died this week, the military told his family Wednesday. "He told me, 'If I die there, don't think I didn't die doing what I love,'" sister Amy Ciokajlo, 36, told the Jackson Citizen Patriot.

Soper returned from his first Iraq tour in February 2005 and took classes at Kalamazoo Valley Community College until he was called up again in June 2006, his sister said. Soper was to have returned in August.

"He was just counting down the days until he could come home," said aunt Sandy Cannons of Jackson.

Soper quit Jackson Lumen Christi High School but later earned a high school equivalency degree.

"The military really did turn him around," Ciokajlo said.

Fallen Hanford Soldier Mourned



Maria Gaspar of Kettleman City holds a photo of her son, Victor H. Toledo Pulido, on Monday. According to the Department of Defense, Army Cpl. Toledo, 22, of Hanford was

killed in Iraq on Wednesday. Twenty-three soldiers with ties to the San Joaquin Valley have died in the war. [Christian Parley / The Fresno Bee]

05/29/07 By Susie Pakoua Vang, The Fresno Bee

U.S. Army Cpl. Victor H. Toledo Pulido of Hanford promised he would return home from Iraq.

But the 22-year-old father of a 1-year-old boy never made it back.

Toledo and another soldier died Wednesday in al-Nahrawan, Iraq, after an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

They were assigned to the 1st Cavalry Regiment based in Fort Benning, Ga.

Toledo was the third Kings County soldier killed in the Iraq war. Twenty-two soldiers with ties to the San Joaquin Valley have died in the war.

As the country honored those who have died in uniform on Memorial Day, the Toledo family gathered in the tiny town of Kettleman City to mourn.

They met at the home of Victor's older brother, Josio Toledo, where dozens of photos were scattered on the dinner table.

Wearing his green military uniform, Victor Toledo grinned in snapshots with his son Isak, his mother and his brother.

Maria Gaspar, Toledo's mother, stared off into space.

At other times, her shoulders shook as she sobbed loudly for her son. "I would always tell him to take care of himself because I would never find another son like him," Gaspar said in Spanish through an interpreter. "He was my baby."

Toledo was the youngest of four.

He was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States with his family when he was 7. He grew up in Avenal, Lemoore and Kettleman City.

He attended two different high schools before he received his GED about two years ago, family members said.

He often worked two jobs, one of them as a cook at Lemoore Naval Air Station, so he could support his young family.

At times, he gave money to his mother to help her.

About two years ago, Toledo joined the Army Reserve. Then he signed up for active duty a year later.

His family said Victor Toledo was not a citizen; he was a legal resident of the United States.

“He liked the military experience he had with the reserves, so he decided to make it a career,” Josio Toledo said.

He found out about his younger brother’s death Wednesday.

The days following the news have been like a dream, he said.

Josio Toledo, his eyes puffy and red, recalled the times he and his brother fooled around together.

He remembered the paintball tournaments. He remembered his brother’s smile.

“He was like everything to me,” he said. “I always took care of him. I wanted the best for him.”

The news of Victor Toledo’s death leaves his wife, Christi, to raise their son alone.

The young couple met at a Halloween party. She was 13, he was two years older.

“He was her first love -- her first everything,” said Margaret Aguilar, Christi’s mother.

The young couple lived in Hanford and married in December, on Isak’s first birthday. Toledo left for Iraq in March.

“My heart breaks because her heart breaks,” Aguilar said, motioning toward her 20-year-old daughter, who broke down several times as she helped make funeral arrangements.

Victor Toledo died trying to provide for his family and doing something he enjoyed, said Jim McGee, Toledo’s brother-in-law.

“He and Christi had the American dream,” McGee said.

They had plans to move to Georgia, where Toledo was based. They had plans to visit Disney World.

“He promised her he’d come back,” McGee said. “He promised he’d come back ...”

Funeral arrangements are pending. The family expects Toledo’s body will arrive by the end of the week.

McGee said Victor Toledo’s father and a brother are trying to get visas to come to California for the funeral.

Green High School Grad Killed In Iraq

[Thanks to Sally B. Davidson, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

June 7, 2007 BY Edd Pritchard, REPOSITORY STAFF WRITER

GREEN People who knew Matthew Kuglics immediately recalled his broad smile and quick wit.

When Ed Bendekgey, Spanish teacher at Green High School, needed to lighten the mood in the classroom, he could count on Kuglics. The student had a good sense of humor, but he never got out of line. Bendekgey would kick Kuglics a straight line and he knew he could count on an answer. "Even in Spanish."

Mary Miller, manager at the Green branch of the Akron-Summit County Public Library, said Kuglics was the kind of student assistant that everyone loved to tease.

"He had a wonderful smile," Miller said. "The Matt we knew always had a big smile."

Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Kuglics was every teacher's dream, the sort of young man who makes a father proud, Bendekgey said.

Hearing that Kuglics had died while serving in Iraq shocked the staff at Green High School. "When we got this news (Tuesday), my breath was taken away," Bendekgey said. "He was too young for this."

Kuglics and a second airman, Sgt. Ryan A. Balmer, 33, of Mishawaka, Ind., died on Tuesday in Kirkuk from injuries they received when their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb. Both were assigned as special agents to the Air Force office of special investigations, the Department of Defense reported.

It was the second tour in the Middle East for Kuglics, who joined the Air Force in August 2000 after graduating from Green. He started out in satellite communications, but cross-trained into the office of special investigations.

Kuglics hoped to retire from the Air Force and go to work as a high school history teacher, said Air Force liaison Doug Kisby, a special agent with the office of special investigations.

Friends and family consoled the Kuglics family Wednesday night. Parents Les and Donna and younger sister Emily referred questions to Kisby, who said he had served with Matthew Kuglics in Iraq.

The Air Force's office of special investigations works at defending air bases and other American assets in Iraq, Kisby said. The special agents assigned to the unit do a lot of work off base, he said.

He believed that Kuglics was killed while off base, but said he still didn't know the circumstances of the incident.

Kisby called Kuglics a knowledgeable serviceman who enjoyed serving in the Air Force. "Matt had a love for the work he did."

Kuglics was in the midst of a six-month tour in Iraq, Kisby said. He also did a six-month tour during 2006. "He was good at what he did and liked what he did," Kisby said of Kuglics. "Those are the reasons he decided to return to Iraq so soon."

During his first Iraq tour, Kuglics used e-mail to keep touch with people in Green. The airman let people know what was going on, librarian Mary Miller said.

When Kuglics last visited the library, Mary Miller said he brought along pictures of a house he had purchased near San Antonio, Texas, where he was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base. Like any new homeowner, Kuglics was excited, Mary Miller said.

As a student assistant, Kuglics helped shelve books and did various jobs around the library. When the new branch opened at 4046 Massillon Rd. in 1999, Kuglics was one of the people who helped with the move.

"We was a wonderful kid, so obviously we're all upset," Mary Miller said. "They're a nice close family."

In December, Kuglics talked to Bendekgey's students about the war.

"What he said, it moved my kids," the teacher said.

Kuglics told them what he had seen. He shared his experiences. He was proud to serve.

"He was not looking forward to going back, but he wasn't dreading it," the teacher recalled.

Kuglics talked about danger. "I don't know if there's a safe place over there," Bendekgey said.

Malia Miller, a high school guidance counselor for both Kuglics children, said Matthew Kuglics liked his job and was excited about being in the Air Force.

"He was fearless," Malia Miller said. "He would always tell me how safe he was. And we believed him."

Losing Kuglics just before his younger sister's high school graduation brings a pall over the annual ceremonies, school officials said.

"His sister's graduating. It's supposed to be a happy time around here," Bendekgey said.

Principal Gary Geis said the graduation committee would decide if the program would be changed because of Kuglics' death.

Added Bendekgey: "We've got a tough couple of days ahead of us."

British Soldier Killed In Al Atiyah; Three Wounded

7 Jun 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with much sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a British soldier from 4th Battalion The Rifles, in southern Iraq today, Thursday 7 June 2007.

The soldier was part of a patrol conducting a search and detention operation in the Al Atiyah district, north west of Basra City at about 0220 local time when he was shot by small arms fire. He was evacuated by helicopter to the field hospital at the British base at Basra Air Station. He was given the best possible treatment but sadly died of his injuries at 0340.

There were three other Multi National Forces casualties during this operation, but their injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

Family Mourns Loss Of Fallen Soldier

05/25/2007 Lynsey Bradley, Midland Reporter-Telegram

Family members and friends will gather at 10 a.m. today at Sherwood Church of Christ in Odessa in memory of Army Staff Sgt. Kristopher Allen Higdon, a soldier who lost his life defending his country.

Higdon had been overseas on his second tour of duty for six weeks when he was killed by a roadside bomb Tuesday, family members said.

"He was in Kuwait for about 3 weeks, then he went into Iraq," said Ronda Higdon, Kris's mother. "He was killed by a roadside bomb under a striker vehicle; it went off."

Kris would have turned 26 on July 10.

He grew up with his mother, stepfather and three younger brothers in Odessa where he graduated from Permian High School in 1999, but he was never too far away from his father, Ollie Lynn Little, his younger brother and two sisters who live in Midland.

Though Kris didn't carry Little's last name, the relationship between the fallen soldier and his father was very strong.

"I just love my son so much. I missed a lot of his life growing up, but we made up for a lot of it these last 4 or 5 years," Little said, holding back tears.

Little was in Denver, Colo., when Ronda Higdon told him about his son's death.

"She called me at about 10 o'clock (Wednesday) morning and got (to Midland) at around midnight last night," he said.

Kris left for his second tour in Iraq in early April. The last thing Little remembers saying to his son was to be careful and that he'd be waiting for him when he returned.

"He always said, 'Nah, don't worry about me. I'll be all right.' He never looked on the bad side of things," Little said.

The last time Ronda and her son spoke was Mother's Day. "He called to tell me happy Mother's Day," she said softly.

While overseas, Kris and Little remained in contact through e-mails. In the last message Kris sent to his father, Little said his son led him to believe he was on one of the many search teams that was looking for three missing soldiers. "He would never give specifics, but the e-mail said, 'I'm sorry I haven't e-mailed more, but we've been very busy with these three guys missing.' He loved his job," Little said.

"He would always keep me up-to-date on whatever he was doing. Every time we'd talk, he was always really excited to talk about his work. This year would have been his seventh year in the service, after finishing boot camp."

Little said he and Kris were more than just father and son; they were close friends and partners in crime. "Everybody was always on guard around us. We were big pranksters," he said with a laugh.

They also shared a love for the Texas Longhorns, but that was where their sport camaraderie ended.

"He was a big NASCAR fan," Little said. "We had different drivers; we'd always try to jab at each other about our drivers."

Both of Kris's parents described him as an all-around good kid; he was very happy and loved his family.

"Kris was always someone everyone looked up to," Little said. "He was just so easy going and easy to talk to. He wasn't like a boss or a mentor, just someone they looked up to."

Little said Kris's mother is "one of the best women in the world" and that Kris "loved his mother dearly."

Kris is survived by his wife MaKayne Higdon, and 4-year-old daughter Kacie, who Little said worshiped her father.

"That was his pride and joy, right there. The happiest day of his life was when his baby girl was born. She worships him; he was a very good father," Little said.

Ronda said Kris was a loving person and had always been "just a good kid." "He loved his country, he loved soccer, loved his family and was a good daddy; he loved his baby," she said.

Even with the dangers that accompanied being a soldier in the armed forces, Kris was very proud of being in the military and believed in his work, his father said. "He was doing what he thought was right, and that's the way he always lived his life," Little explained. "He believed in the cause that he was there for. To me, whatever he believed in was always so morally correct." Ronda said Kris wanted his family to know that he was in Iraq for their protection, to fight for their freedom so they didn't have to be afraid.

Little said that while funeral arrangements are still pending, Kris will "most likely" be buried in the military cemetery in Fort Hood.

When asked what he would want everyone to know about his son, Little was at a loss for words.

"Wow, that's pretty tough," he said. "I don't think you'd have enough room for everything I'd want people to know."

Alabama Soldier Among 6 Killed In Roadside Bombing In Iraq

May 23, 2007 Birmingham (AP)

Sgt. Jean Paul Medlin finished a stint in the Marines and then felt compelled to rejoin the military again after the United States invaded Iraq, opting for the Army this time.

On Saturday, the 27-year-old soldier from Trussville was among six U.S. troops killed in a roadside bombing in Baghdad.

Medlin, who had been a Marine sniper, was a skilled soldier and would have survived the bombing had he not been in a vehicle, said father Ronnie Medlin.

"If he had been on foot it never would have happened; he was smart tactically," his father told The Birmingham News in a story Wednesday.

Tommy Tyler met Medlin in the second grade and the two later served together as Marines. After the service, Medlin moved to Pelham and enrolled in Jefferson State Community College, Tyler said. But Medlin decided to return to the military, joining the Army, after fighting began in Iraq.

"He just couldn't take it anymore; he had to go," Tyler said. "He wanted to fight for his country on the front lines."

Medlin went to Iraq in October with members of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas.

Jeff Hendrix, a former teammate of Medlin's, said Medlin seemed to prefer military service to civilian life.

“He seemed happy being around his family and all, but he didn’t seem as happy,” Hendrix said.

He put all of his heart into his military service, Medlin’s sister, Silvia Medlin, said.

During his military career, Medlin obtained several medals, including the Kosovo Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terror (Service) Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and the NATO Medal.

Funeral arrangements had not been made as of Tuesday, but Medlin will likely receive a Marine send-off.

“He died as an Army soldier, but he always said he wanted to be remembered as a Marine,” Tyler said.

Wounded Rockingham Soldier Is Evacuated



Travis Sigmon

June 7, 2007 By Jonelle Davis, Staff Writer, News & Record

A Rockingham County soldier injured Wednesday in Fallujah has been moved to a German hospital.

Carolyn Sigmon, mother of Army Specialist Travis Sigmon, said her son’s left arm had been amputated just above the elbow. He also has a broken leg and shrapnel in both legs and a shoulder.

Carolyn Sigmon said this morning that her son is heavily sedated and that she has not been able to speak with him. He is on a ventilator, she said.

Travis Sigmon is a 2005 Morehead High School graduate.

Carolyn Sigmon said a nurse at the hospital described her son as “very seriously ill.”

According to his mother, Travis Sigmon was injured when a roadside bomb went off, killing and injuring some of his fellow soldiers. His family received a call around 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; COME HOME, NOW



U.S. soldiers walk on a street while on patrol in Baghdad, January 23, 2007. (Erik de Castro/Reuters)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Assorted Resistance Action

June 7 AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

Suspected militants attacked a government compound in the Daychopan district of Zabul province, killing a policeman and wounding three others, said district police chief Hakim Khan.

The suspected militants traded heavy machine-gun fire with police and Afghan soldiers for more than two hours, Khan said.

One policeman was killed, while two soldiers and a policeman were wounded in the clash before the Taliban withdrew, he said.

An Afghan soldier was also killed in a mine explosion in Zabul province, a Defense Ministry statement said.

TROOP NEWS

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



Burial services for Sgt. Maj. Bradley Dean Conner at Arlington National Cemetery May 31, 2007. Conner, 41, from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and attached to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group at Ft. Lewis, was killed in Al-Hillah, Iraq in an IED explosion. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

**Marine Corps Agrees That UCMJ
Does Not Apply To Kokesh,
Then The Dishonorable Rats Take
Away His Honorable Discharge
Anyhow;**

**“I’m Standing On Principle And We’re
Going To Contest This On Principle.
It’s Not Going To Go Away”
“It’s Clear These Tactics Of Intimidation
Are Being Used Against Members Of Iraq
Veterans Against The War”**



Kokesh wore an anti-war T-shirt to his hearing [BBC]

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

5 June 2007 BBC & Jun 7 By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH, Associated Press Writer

A US military panel has recommended a marine be involuntarily discharged after he was pictured at an anti-war protest dressed in desert fatigues.

Marine Corporal Adam Kokesh was accused of misconduct. The military bans the unauthorised wearing of uniforms.

But the 25-year-old insisted that as his name tag and military emblems were removed he had done nothing wrong.

The three-person board said Cpl Kokesh should lose the honourable discharge status he had already been granted.

Instead, the board recommended he should receive a general discharge under honourable conditions, one step below an honourable discharge

An attorney for Cpl. Adam Kokesh appealed after a military panel Monday recommended kicking him out of the Marines for the uniform infraction and using an obscenity in an e-mail to superior officers.

Cpl Kokesh, a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, appeared at the Washington demonstration in March.

Investigators recommended he be discharged under "other-than-honourable" conditions, but the panel opted for a middle road, meaning he would keep all of his benefits.

"This is a non-punitive discharge," Colonel Patrick McCarthy, chief of staff for the mobilisation command, said.

"What that means is he is not dishonourable, and he's only kind of honourable, so in effect, the board picked the safe route," Cpl Kokesh's lawyer Mike Lebowitz said.

Marine Captain Jeremy Sibert, speaking at the hearing, said military personnel can be punished if their civilian behaviour "directly affects the performance of military duties and is service-related".

The protest was held to mark the fourth anniversary of the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Cpl Kokesh said he would appeal against the board's recommendation.

"I'm standing on principle and we're going to contest this on principle. It's not going to go away," he said.

"It's clear these tactics of intimidation are being used against members of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

"Freedom of speech means the right to say what other people don't want to hear."

Cpl Kokesh is a member of the Individual Ready Reserve, a body consisting of people who have left active service but still have to fulfil the remainder of their eight-year military obligations and can be called back to duty.

His service was due to end on 18 June this year.

The board's recommendation will be submitted for a final decision to the Marine Corps Mobilization Command in Kansas City.

Kokesh's civilian attorney, Mike Lebowitz, had argued that the three-member administrative board that heard the case at the Marine Corps Mobilization Command in Kansas City was "improperly convened."

Marine rules require all members of panels that decide whether to cut ties with Marines to be commissioned officers. He argued that a member of Kokesh's

panel, Chief Warrant Officer Stephen Turner, isn't considered a commissioned officer.

MORE:

6.76.07 Iraq Veterans Against The War [Excerpts]

A panel of three Marine Corps officers recommended that Adam Kokesh receive a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Adam and his attorney will, however, appeal this finding on the grounds that Adam is entitled to his full honorable discharge.

In a seemingly hypocritical contradiction, the Marine Corps panel, as well as the prosecution's key witness, Major Whyte, agreed that the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) does not apply to members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR).

Regardless of this, several other honorably discharged IVAW members are facing a similar hearing based on their stance against the war.

IVAW members will continue to tell the truth about our experiences in Iraq and in the military and fight to bring our brothers and sisters home from Iraq now.

IVAW has just received confirmation from the Washington Post that member Cloy Richards will also be charged by the Marine Corps, but Cloy has not yet received any disciplinary paperwork.

What can you do to help:

Donate to IVAW's legal defense fund at: <http://www.ivaw.org/>

Urge your representative to support the cases of Adam, Liam, and Cloy, and veterans' rights to free speech.

Send an Op Ed and/or Letter to the Editor to your local paper

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

Odious Odierno:

Not Merely An Empty Suit, But A Really Stupid One At That: Babbles Tired Old Vietnam Days Bullshit About Body Counts To Show “Progress”

June 1, 2007 By Ann Scott Tyson, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

[Basic of counterinsurgency warfare this shit-bird never learned: the higher the body count, the worse the occupation forces are doing. Duh.]

[Lt. Gen. Raymond T] Odierno. said the extra troops have produced “some very clear progress.” He cited military data showing that since January, operations in Iraq have detained nearly 18,000 people, discovered about 2,500 weapons caches, killed more than 3,184 enemy fighters and wounded 1,016.

Operations have added security barriers to 11 Baghdad markets and helped generate 32,000 jobs, and have spent more than \$35 million on reconstruction and humanitarian projects, he said.

MORE:

The Clueless Fool Just Revealed The Depths Of His Incompetence

From: WAR IN THE SHADOWS: THE GUERRILLA IN HISTORY, BY Robert B. Asprey; William Morrow And Company; New York, 1994

From the beginning, the American command erred by trying to use maximum, not minimum, force, and by designating the guerrilla the primary target rather than the population that supported him.

Dead guerrillas became “victories”—enough “victories” would “win” the war.

They did not understand that an insurgency is not “won”—except that it fades into relative quiescence.

Unlike the Western battlefield, a rising body count in an insurgency is a danger sign.

The Legacy of Agent Orange in Viet Nam

**See The New Film:
The Last Ghost Of War –**

**Monday, JUNE 11 6:30 pm
Cantor Film Center.**

36 East 8th Street, NY, NY 10003

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

A compelling NEW 57 minute documentary film, narrated by Kevin Kline, shot in Viet Nam, France and the U.S. on the legacy of the largest chemical warfare operation in history and the continuing law suit seeking justice.

Meet the Producers - Pham Quoc Thai and Janet Gardner

Today 3 million Vietnamese suffer the effects of chemical defoliants used by the U.S. during the Vietnam War.

Tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers are also affected, along with hundreds of thousands of children of those exposed decades ago on both sides. The thousands of veterans and civilians disabled from depleted uranium weapons in present wars face similar long term consequences

Donate or purchase tickets at <http://www.iacenter.org/agentorangetickets.html>

A Benefit For:

**VAVA - Vietnam Association For Victims Of Agent Orange/Dioxin
\$5 To \$15 Film Donation Suggested**

Advance Ticket purchase is highly recommended

Even if you are not able to attend, please send a DONATION for: VAVA - Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin

Hear from Constantine Kokkoris, part of the legal team representing the Vietnamese plaintiffs on the appeal of the civil suit in U.S. courts against the 37 U.S. chemical companies which produced the toxic chemicals during the war.

Hear update from: Viet Nam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign

Saturday, June 16 - All Out to Greet the Delegation of Agent Orange Survivors

- **6:30 pm at the Martin Luther King Jr. Labor Center
1199 SEIU, 310 W. 43rd St. (8th & 9th Ave),**

- Organized by the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign, PO Box 303, Prince St, NY, NY 10012

Monday, June 18 - Appeal for Justice – Fill the Courtroom

12 Noon - Gather at Foley Square

1 pm – Attend the oral arguments, Federal Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, 500 Pearl St. in lower Manhattan, just off Foley Square.

Hear the Appeal to continue the civil suit against 37 U.S. companies that produced toxins used against the people of Vietnam.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**The Collaborator Dog Maliki
Threatens Striking Oil Workers
With Soldiers And Arrests**

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

June 7, 2007 By Ben Lando, UPI

On the third day of an oil strike in southern Iraq, the Iraqi military has surrounded oil workers and the prime minister issued arrest warrants for the union leaders, sparking an outcry from supporters and international unions.

“This will not stop us because we are defending people’s rights,” said Hassan Jumaa Awad, president of IFOU. As of Wednesday morning, when United Press International spoke to Awad via mobile phone in Basra at the site of one of the strikes, no arrests had been made, “but regardless, the arrest warrant is still active.”

He said the “Iraqi Security Forces,” who were present at the strike scenes, told him of the warrants and said they would be making any arrests.

The arrest warrant accuses the union leaders of “sabotaging the economy,” according a statement from British-based organization Naftana, and said Maliki warned his “iron fist” would be used against those who stopped the flow of oil.

IFOU called a strike early last month but put it on hold twice after overtures from the government. Awad said that at a May 16 meeting, Maliki agreed to set up a committee to address the unions’ demands.

The demands include union entry to negotiations over the oil law they fear will allow foreign oil companies too much access to Iraq’s oil, as well as a variety of improved working conditions.

“Apparently they promise but they never do anything,” Awad said, confirming reports the Iraqi Oil Ministry would send a delegation to Basra.

“One person from the Ministry of Oil accompanied by an Iraqi military figure came to negotiate the demands.

“Instead it was all about threats. It was all about trying to shut us up, to marginalize our actions,” Awad said. “The actions we are taking now are continuing with the strike until our demands are taken in concentration.”

The strike by the Iraq Pipelines Union in Basra started Monday, instigated by a decision by the Iraq Pipelines Co. to stop regular bonuses to workers. It is part of a larger picture, however, of 17 different demands laid out -- beginning last month -- to the Iraq Oil Ministry and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki by the Iraq Federation of Oil Unions.

Since the strike began, two small pipelines delivering oil products to Baghdad and other cities have been closed, as has a larger pipeline that sends gas and oil to major cities, including Baghdad and utilities.

The strike started with domestic pipelines transporting oil and oil products, but Iraq’s top oil unionist says it will soon encapsulate the 1.6 million barrels per day of oil Iraq sends to the global market.

Basra, home to much of Iraq’s 115 billion barrels of oil -- the third-largest reserves in the world -- is also Iraq’s main port.

Awad said the unions will continue to restrict all oil exports, which bring in 93 percent of Iraq’s federal budget funds. Such a move, combined with the choking off of much-needed supplies of transportation, cooking and heating fuels, is what the unions hope to use as leverage against Maliki.

Awad said “the atmosphere here is full of tension,” and added that he wants to pressure the government to agree to their demands, not topple an already weak Maliki government.

“At the end we are hoping that the situation will not go that way,” Awad said.

Maliki has been unable to meet a key benchmark set by the Bush administration and backed by the Democratic-led Congress: to pass an oil law. Many in Iraq, including oil

experts and parliamentarians, are calling for the law to be put on hold. Negotiators haven't been able to agree on the best means of revenue distribution, whether central or regional governments will have more power in the oil sector, or how much access foreign investors will have.

Manfred Warda, general secretary of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions, Wednesday sent a letter to Maliki condemning his tactics in addressing the strike. "Genuine and democratic trade unions are a cornerstone of democracy and at the same time are a force for reconciliation, peace and stability in a society," Warda wrote.

The Brussels-based International Trade Union Confederation and London-based Trades Union Congress have also condemned the military action and arrest warrants.

A top official with the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine & General Workers' Union said his contacts say the strike had been toned down while negotiations were under way but has not ended.

"The strike began purely and simply at the pipeline," said Jim Catterson, the energy industry officer for Warda's federation, based in Brussels. IFOU "has membership capable of bringing an end to exports."

Kamil Mahdi, an Iraqi economist on Middle East affairs at the University of Exeter, said Maliki's swing from agreement with the unions to a military presence and warrants is "very surprising" and arresting the leaders won't quell the workers' demands.

"It may be the opposite. These are people who are highly respected in the community," he said. If the strike isn't stopped soon, "the effect on the global oil market will certainly be felt."

Assorted Resistance Action

June 7 (Xinhua) & Reuters

A truck bomb struck a police station in a town west of Mosul near the border with Syria on Thursday, killing at least four policemen and wounding more than six, including five British civilian contractors, provincial police source said.

"A bomber driving a KIA truck loaded with an estimated 500 kg of TNT struck the police station in the town of Rabia, some 90 km west of Mosul," the source from Nineveh province where the town located told Xinhua by telephone.

The guards of the police station opened fire on the truck but the attacker continued penetrating the concrete barriers of the main gate and blew it up, totally destroyed the building and causing damages in nearby buildings, said the source spoke anonymously.

The toll could rise, the source added, as rescue team continue removing debris from the wreckage.

A roadside bomb targeted a senior police officer's convoy near Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. Two of the officer's bodyguards were wounded.

At least six people were wounded, including one policeman, in an attempted attack by a truck bomber on a police checkpoint near Ramadi, west of Baghdad, police said. Police opened fire and blew up the truck before it reached its target.

Guerrillas killed a police officer in front his house in central Diwaniya, 180 km (112 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

<p style="text-align: center;">IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

**“The Main Insurgent Groups Are
Implementing The ‘Recoil, Redeploy
And Spoil’ Doctrine”
“The U.S. Has No Genuine Partners As It
Seeks To Regain The Upper Hand”**

May 29, 2007 Via David McCreynolds

By Joost Hiltermann, Le Monde Diplomatique [Excerpts]

Outside Baghdad the main insurgent groups are implementing the “recoil, redeploy and spoil” doctrine they have perfected in response to US offensives over the past two and a half years: rather than holding ground and forming a stabilised front, they focus on the vacuums created as the US concentrates its forces in a given zone, in this case Baghdad.

This doctrine was described in detail in Crisis Group's February 2006 report “In Their Own Words: Reading the Iraqi Insurgency”.

If the Mahdi Army's strategy of temporary retreat succeeds, it is because the Sadrist movement, however undisciplined, has deep roots in the Shia urban underclass.

[T]he Mahdi Army has a solid societal base that will allow it to bounce back when the surge passes. It can, moreover, count on a degree of tolerance from important elements in the security apparatus.

As cordon-and-search operations began, Sadrists used certain police compounds to hide their weapons.

Even the government signaled its willingness to appease the Sadrists by allowing the formation of “popular committees” in Shia districts through which militants could assume an officially recognised status.

While Shia fighters may have hidden their weapons, they remain very much in place, contributing to the rebuilding of Sadr City and other Shia districts, and burnishing their legitimacy in the street.

The US has no genuine partners as it seeks to regain the upper hand.

The Bush administration so far has done little to redress the security plan’s grave shortcomings identified during the pre-surge period.

Although the plan has been presented as a comprehensive strategy, it remains in practice strictly a military operation.

There is growing evidence that the US is supporting, directly or indirectly (via Saudi Arabia), not only tribal elements but “patriotic” insurgents against al-Qaida in Iraq, a tactic that has led death squads organised by insurgents to indulge in arbitrary violence against their Sunni brethren in the name of fighting al-Qaida-brand terrorism.

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/)

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



Foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. army from B Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment invade and search a home at night in west Baghdad's Ghazaliyah neighborhood, March 25, 2007. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

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

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

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

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

“The Latest Intra-Palestinian Violence In Gaza Has The Hand Of Israel And Washington All Over It”

May 29, 2007 By Max Elbaum, War Times [Excerpts]

With Iraq a lost cause, a desperate-for-success U.S. administration is unleashing its fury on the long-demonized Palestinians.

It is an open secret throughout the Middle East that the latest intra-Palestinian violence in Gaza has the hand of Israel and Washington all over it.

Even the Washington Post reported (May 17) that “Israel this week allowed the Palestinian party Fatah to bring into the Gaza Strip as many as 500 fresh troops trained under a U.S.-coordinated program to counter Hamas...

The troops’ deployment illustrates the increasingly partisan role that Israel and the Bush administration are taking in the volatile Palestinian political situation.”

Veteran South African journalist and TIME.com senior editor Tony Karon cut to the heart of what’s happening under the headline “Palestinian Pinochet Makes His Move”:

“The Fatah gunmen who are reported to have initiated the breakdown of the Palestinian unity government may profess fealty to President Abbas, but it’s not from him that they get their orders. They answer to Mohammed Dahlan, the Gaza warlord who has long been Washington’s anointed favorite to play the role of a Palestinian Pinochet.

“Needless to say, only a U.S. administration as deluded about its ability to reorder Arab political realities in line with its own fantasies - and also, frankly, as utterly contemptuous of Arab life and of Arab democracy - as the current one would imagine that the Palestinians could be starved, battered and manipulated into choosing a Washington-approved political leadership.”

Israeli government officials say outright that their own bombardment of Palestinians in Gaza (combined with support for Dahlan) is designed to destroy the Palestinian unity government and any Palestinian faction resistant to Israeli political demands.

Zionist Army And Settlers Attack A Non-Violent Protest In Hebron

June 01, 2007 by Nisreen Qumsieh - IMEMC News

The Israeli army and settlers attacked a non-violent protest against the Annexation wall in Bani-Na'em, near Hebron in the southern part of the West Bank, on Friday midday. Palestinian Information Minister. Dr Mustafa Barghouthi participated in the protest.

Dr. Barghouthi reported that Israeli forces and settlers assaulted women, land owners and a number of Journalists, kidnapping 6 persons, among them a journalist identified as Abed Al Hafez Al Hashlamoun.

Dr Barghouthi also reported that a large number of Israeli soldiers and settler surrounded the demonstrators during the protest, adding that the participants of the nonviolent protest were greatly surprised by the violent attacks carried out by the army and settlers.

Dr. Barghouthi criticized the attack and ensured that these actions would not prevent the Palestinian people from protecting their land and protesting against the Annexation Wall.

[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."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**FIGHT THEM HERE, SO YOU WON'T
HAVE TO FIGHT FOR THEM OVER
THERE**



Defense Secretary Gates and Pace, Chairman of the JCS, June 3, 2007. (AP Photo/Jonathan Drake, Pool)

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