

GI SPECIAL 5F8:

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



A U.S. soldier at a newly-established outpost for Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division in Quarghuli village, near Youssifiyah, Iraq, May 19, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

**“There Are Lots Of
Soldiers Looking To Get
Involved”
“Every Day More And More Are
Opposing The War”**

“There Will Be More To Come” “We Are The Weapons Of This Democracy”

June 1, 2007 Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

Adam Kokesh, [Iraq Veterans Against The War] who served in Falluja, added, “Bush’s logic is that to support our troops means to fund the war.

“But if more troops are funded, they will die.

“Troops are being sent for a feudal occupation.

“We are the weapons of this democracy. “Our democracy has failed and it is time for the people to end the war.”

“This action represents a change in the antiwar movement,” said Paul Abernathy. “There is larger support from activists and communities for soldiers who are resisting...

“When people see that soldiers are willing to go to the extreme to bring the war to others, it signifies a new stage in the movement for sailors, marines, soldiers.

There are lots of soldiers looking to get involved...

Every day more and more are opposing the war and taking steps for actions to oppose this war. There will be more to come.”

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

Grand Rapids Soldier Dies In Iraq

June 08, 2007 By Nate Reens, The Grand Rapids Press

GRAND RAPIDS -- In the hours before Pfc. Shawn Gajdos' Army unit left on a mission in Iraq on Wednesday, the Grand Rapids man called Kay Shepard to say that he loved and missed her.

Shepard, a friend whom Gajdos called "Mom," heard a hint of concern in the 25-year-old's voice and replied that she loved him with all her heart. She told him she couldn't wait to hear from him when he returned from the assignment.

That exchange, however fleeting, will stick in Shepard's mind after Gajdos was killed in a roadside bombing and artillery shelling that same day, according to family and friends.

"You never quit worrying, but you wonder if somehow, some way, he knew," Shepard said Thursday night. "It was one of those calls that I think he felt like he had to make because there wasn't going to be a tomorrow."

The Department of Defense had not announced the death of the 2000 Gateway High School graduate as of early today. Family members were notified by military officials Wednesday night and started placing calls to friends, Shepard said.

Gajdos' relatives could not be reached. They were too distraught to speak about his death, Shepard said. Funeral arrangements are pending.

The loss struck at the heart of Shepard, her husband, Dale, and their son, Ben. The family was a second home for Gajdos since he was 15.

"He is one of those guys ... this is hurting a lot of people bad right now," Shepard said. "Everything is such a blur, but everyone who knew him is treasuring every moment they had with Shawn." The impact was clear by scanning Gajdos' account on the social networking site myspace.com.

Gajdos enlisted about 18 months ago. He had been in Iraq since February after shipping out of Fort Riley, Kan. He repeatedly told people it was the best choice he ever made and that he was helping people who needed it most. "To some people, Iraq seems like a big, bad, ugly place, but Shawn was willing to do whatever it took to help," Shepard said. "He saw it as a place that he could make a difference."

The can-do attitude and desire to assist others less fortunate always shone through in Gajdos, whose favorite movie, "Pay it Forward," revolves around a movement to spread good deeds with the belief it will improve the world.

Gajdos' concern for others was evidenced by a morning ritual of sharing a glass of milk with a cat at Shepard's house. He'd take a drink and then give a drink to the feline. In Iraq, he and another soldier briefly adopted a camel spider, giving it food and shade.

"He'd do anything for anyone," Shepard said.

His interests included biking, swimming and climbing mountains. He recently became addicted to Sudoku puzzles but held a long fascination with video and role-playing games, Shepard said.

While in Iraq, Gajdos yearned for Andes mints and Trident's strawberry-kiwi gum.

Gajdos was last in Grand Rapids at Christmas, a time of building gingerbread houses, bowling and blowing bubbles.

“We were being kids with him and loving every second,” Shepard said. “It’s hard to believe none of us are going to have those moments again.”

Gajdos was the third Michigan soldier to die this week in Iraq, following Sgt. Matthew Soper of Jackson and Pfc. Joshua D. Brown, of Troy. Their deaths bring to 140 the number of U.S. service members with Michigan ties killed since the war began.

Texas Staff Sgt. Killed In As Sadah



82nd Airborne Division paratrooper Staff Sgt. Timothy B. Cole, Jr., 28, of Missouri City, Texas, died from injuries sustained when a bomb detonated near his patrol in As Sadah, Iraq, June 6, 2007. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Families Say Michigan Marine, Soldier Killed In Iraq

June 8, 2007 CHARLOTTE, Mich. (AP)

A Marine and a soldier from Michigan have been killed in Iraq.

The military yesterday notified the family of Charlotte resident Ronald Kestner of his death, WILX TV reported. The circumstances of the death and where he was stationed weren't immediately available.

Twenty-5-year-old Private Shawn Gajdos of Grand Rapids was killed Wednesday in a roadside bombing and artillery shelling. That's according to a friend who told The Grand Rapids Press.

Kestner has a wife, three children, two stepchildren and one grandchild.

Gajdos enlisted about 18 months ago. He had been in Iraq since February after shipping out of Fort Riley, Kansas.

Trumann Mourns Loss Of Fallen Soldier



May 28, 2007 By SAMANTHA MARTIN, Truman Democrat News Staff

The war in Iraq has spread tragedy across the nation for families who have lost loved ones. That tragedy struck home Saturday when friends and family learned that Spc. Erich S. Smallwood of Trumann has been killed in action near Balada, Iraq.

Smallwood, 23, died from injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle

The Trumann community rallied to grieve and honor Smallwood's memory Monday. What was a pre-planned memorial service quickly became a vigil to honor the sacrifice of a young man who died to serve his country and preserve freedom.

Mayor Walters requested that all flags in the city be flown at half-staff until Smallwood's burial.

Smallwood was a graduate of Trumann High School where he was an all-around good guy who enjoyed spending time with his friends and playing football.

"He was a good student and a good person," said Jim Montgomery, principal of Trumann High School. "He liked to kid around a lot, but he never got in any trouble."

Montgomery coached Smallwood, who played as a running back on the school's football team throughout high school.

Montgomery said Smallwood was well-known for his sense of humor. "He was always doing something to make people laugh," he said.

Smallwood was a member of the Marked Tree based, Company B, of the 87th Troop Command's 875th Engineer Battalion. During the deployment, Smallwood was serving with the battalion's Company A, from Jonesboro.

Approximately 400 soldiers from the 875th Engineer Battalion were mobilized for duty in Iraq on July 19, 2006. The 875th is headquartered in Jonesboro with units based in Paragould, Harrisburg and Marked Tree. The battalion is slated for return in the fall of this year.

This is the 21st loss suffered by the Arkansas National Guard during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the only for the 875th.

Family Releases A Statement On Soldier's Death



Pfc. Charles Hester

June 1, 2007 Roxanne Slate, Wife of Pfc. Charles Hester; KREM-TV

FORT LEWIS, Wash — Fort Lewis releases the following statement on behalf of Roxanne Slate, wife of Pfc. Charles Hester:

“Charles was my life, my strength, and my courage. The greatest six years of my life were spent with him. Pfc. Charles B. Hester was a loving and devoted father and husband. He was quiet, sharp, and witty. Charles was an extremely honest person. Charles loved to spend time with his family. He cherished every single moment he had with his wife and daughter. He lived and breathed for us. Charles loved to fish, go to the park, and spend time with the family. He liked anything remote-controlled. It was odd to not see him flying around a helicopter, or an airplane. He loved the simple things in life. He is my love, and my life, he will forever be in my heart. May he never leave my side. Please keep our family in your prayers. Charles will be deeply missed.”

Slate said Hester is survived by family in Washington and Idaho. She requests that members of the news media allow the Hester-Slate family to grieve privately at this time, and contact the Fort Lewis Public Affairs office with any questions about this release.

Pfc. Charles B. Hester, 23, of Cataldo, Idaho, died May 26 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when the vehicle he was in struck an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, Wash.

Family, Friends Mourn Marine Killed In Iraq

May 24, 2007 By TaMaryn Waters, Tallahassee Democrat STAFF WRITER

Three men dressed in Marine Corps uniforms came to Meredith McMackin's door at 1 a.m. Tuesday to tell her the news she never wanted to hear.

Her oldest son would never come home again.

Cpl. Julian Woodall was killed Tuesday by an explosive device in the road while serving in Iraq, according to McMackin. He was 21.

“Yesterday, I was like, ‘I don't want to believe it,’ because I couldn't handle it,” McMackin said Wednesday afternoon. “I just thought this had to be a bad dream.”

Woodall was on his second deployment in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to Battery L, Third Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, based in Camp Lejeune, N.C. He joined the Marine Corps on Aug. 16, 2004, and was trained as a field-artillery cannoneer.

McMackin said her son was close to becoming a sergeant.

He had been promoted to corporal in September and had received the Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

Adam Brown, 29, grew to admire Woodall even though Brown was his coach in an amateur paintball league in Tallahassee. He said Woodall had the most guts of anyone he'd ever met.

"I have run across many people in my life," said Brown, who now lives in Tampa. "Very few have been worthy of the stature Julian holds." He said he's coached two other young men who are in the military; one is in the Navy and the other was a Marine buddy of Woodall's. He said Woodall's death has taken a lot out of him.

"It finally hit home for me," Brown said Wednesday. "I don't want any more of my boys dying over there. Julian died doing his job."

Woodall graduated from SAIL High School in 2004 and married Melissa Robinson, who also is a graduate of the school. He was a painfully shy teenager, according to family and administrators, but McMackin said she knew he touched a lot of people.

"Julian was a very kind and considerate and good person. He was never unkind," McMackin said.

Since Woodall's untimely death, McMackin said the community has offered its condolences and help. She's comforted knowing so many people care.

The last time she talked to him was on Mother's Day. She managed to laugh a bit when she retold the story of how Woodall said he waited in line for an hour and half to use the phone to call her. It turns out the phone didn't work, so he stood in another line.

McMackin said she didn't remember everything they said to each other.

"I just remember that it was so wonderful hearing his voice."

Wounded Soldier's Condition Worsens

June 8, 2007 News & Record

EDEN — The condition of Eden native Travis Sigmon has worsened during his hospital recovery following a bomb attack on his patrol in Iraq.

On Friday morning his parents were being flown to the German Army hospital where he is being treated from injuries including a broken leg, and shrapnel in both legs and a shoulder that were sustained during a bombing this week.

His girlfriend, Jessica Moran, said that the parents flew out in the morning.

Sigmon, 20, a three-sport athlete and graduate of Morehead High School in Eden, had already had an arm amputated from his injuries.

Number Of Iraqis Slaughtered By Occupation Air Strikes Up “Sharply”

June 5, 2007 The Associated Press

The number of civilian Iraqi casualties from U.S. airstrikes appears to have risen sharply, according to Iraq Body Count, a London-based, anti-war research group that maintains a database compiling news media reports on Iraqi war deaths.

The rate of such reported civilian deaths appeared to climb steadily through 2006, the group reports, averaging just a few a month in early 2006, hitting some 40 a month by year's end, and averaging more than 50 a month so far this year.

Those are maximum tolls based on news reports, and they count those killed by Army helicopter fire as well as by warplanes, Iraq Body Count's John Sloboda said. The count is regarded as conservative, since it doesn't include deaths missed by the international media.

The U.S. military itself says it doesn't track civilian casualties.

“The reality of civilian deaths is a year-on-year increase,” said Sloboda, a psychology professor at Britain's Keele University. “This particular part of it — airstrikes — have rocketed up more than any other.”

FUTILE, STUPID EXERCISE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



U.S. soldiers of the Alpha 2-17 Field Artillery 2nd Platoon question a man during a night raid in southern Baghdad, March 18, 2007. (Fabrizio Bensch/Reuters)

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Cpl. Joseph Anzack at 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. (AP Photo/Kevork Djansezian)

**“Voters Want To See An End To
The War”**

**“Americans Are Becoming More
Discontented Over The Situation In
Iraq And More Unhappy With
Democrats”**

Jun 5, 2007 (Reuters) & Jun 7, 2007 AP via CNN

Americans are becoming more discontented over the situation in Iraq and more unhappy with Democrats who won control of Congress last November largely because voters want to see an end to the war, according to a Washington Post/ABC News poll.

Just 39 percent said they approve of the job Congress is doing, down from 44 percent in April. Approval of congressional Democrats dropped to 44 percent from 54 percent, according to the poll results.

Much of that drop was fueled by lower approval ratings of congressional Democrats among strong opponents of the Iraq war, independents and liberal Democrats, The Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

In April, Americans, by a 25-point margin, trusted the Democrats over U.S. President George W. Bush to handle the situation in Iraq. In the new poll, Democrats held their advantage but only by 16 points, the Post reported

Overall, 61 percent said the war in Iraq was not worth fighting, and nearly two-thirds said the United States is not making significant progress restoring civil order in Iraq, the Post said.

In an AP-Ipsos poll released Thursday, 28 percent of Americans said they were satisfied with Bush's handling of the war -- numbers that are deeply affecting Republicans as well as Democrats on Capitol Hill.

The Endless Surge: DC Traitors Keep Moving The Goal Posts

Jun 5, 2007 by Former Ambassador Gerald B. Helman, Juancole.com [EXCERPT]

For domestic political consumption, the White House seems to be addressing all of this, at least for now, through its familiar tactics of pushing out the time when success can be expected (originally it was six months from the initiation of the surge, then September sometime) and dampening expectations by predicting the obvious—increased US casualties.

In other words, things will get worse before they get better.

300 From Fort Bragg Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

June 7, 2007 (AP)

About 300 soldiers who handle logistics and supply functions for troops in Iraq are scheduled to deploy this weekend to Kuwait.

The Army says the soldiers are members of the First Sustainment Command at Fort Bragg. A farewell ceremony is scheduled Sunday at Pope Air Force Base.

Brigadier General Kevin Leonard will lead the soldiers during the year-long deployment.

“Most British Soldiers Regard Their Tours As ‘Loathsome’” “Squandering Soldiers’ Lives, As Part Of Bush’s Vain Attempt To Delay The Inevitable Anglo-US Rout”

06/07/07 By John Pilger, ICH [Excerpt]

06/07/07 By John Pilger, ICH [Excerpt]

An experienced British officer serving in Iraq has written to the BBC describing the invasion as “illegal, immoral and unwinnable” which, he says, is “the overwhelming feeling of many of my peers”. In a letter to the BBC’s Newsnight and Medialens.org he accuses the media’s “embedded coverage with the US Army” of failing to question “the intentions and continuing effects of the US-led invasion and occupation”.

He says most British soldiers regard their tours as “loathsome”, during which they “reluctantly (provide) target practice for insurgents, senselessly haemorrhaging casualties and squandering soldiers’ lives, as part of Bush’s vain attempt to delay the inevitable Anglo-US rout until after the next US election.”

He appeals to journalists not to swallow “the official line/ White House propaganda”.

“Only Cowards Want Other People To Fight Their Wars For Them”

Jun 7, 2007 By BILL QUIGLEY, CounterPunch

Two highly decorated Vietnam veterans published a full-page color ad picturing dozens of white cemetery crosses and an American flag for several days in the

Columbus (Georgia) Ledger-Enquirer titled “An Open Letter to the Soldiers of Fort Benning.”

Fort Benning is located in Columbus Georgia and is home to thousands of members of the U.S. Army. Calling the war in Iraq a mistake, veterans Charlie Litkey and Roy Bourgeois offered, as members of Veterans for Peace, to help active duty soldiers oppose the war.

Charlie Liteky was awarded a Congressional Medal Honor for saving 20 soldiers in Vietnam. Roy Bourgeois, now a Maryknoll priest, a Navy officer for four years, was awarded a Purple Heart during his tour of duty in Vietnam.

Fr. Roy Bourgeois said the ad will continue to run, at least five times. “So far” he said, “we have received a couple of letters from soldiers asking how they can oppose the war.

When asked how he reacts to angry people, Fr. Bourgeois said, “When people in the U.S. tell me how passionately they believe in the Iraq war, I ask them, then why the hell are you here instead of over there?”

“Only cowards want other people to fight their wars for them.”

“I May Be Out Of Fort Hood, But I Left A Lot Of Friends Back There Who Are Deteriorating, And There’s No One There To Speak For Them”

Jun 07, 2007 Alan Bavley, Kansas City Star

For the first time in months, Colleen Owens is free of the shooting pains that ran through her legs and the numbness that robbed sensation from her feet.

Owens, a sergeant in the Kansas Army National Guard, fractured a vertebra in her lower back last fall while serving in Iraq, where she flew combat missions as crew chief on a Black Hawk helicopter.

She was sent back to the U.S. but spent five weeks in bureaucratic limbo at Fort Hood, Texas, crippled with pain, waiting for the paperwork to get the surgery she needed. In March, The Kansas City Star reported on her predicament.

After her story was published, Owens got her wish: On April 23, she underwent surgery at the University of Kansas Hospital near her home in Kansas City, Kan. The four-hour operation was a success.

Owens, 46, is now on extended leave while her back heals.

“I feel like I have two brand-new legs,” she said. “And I’m being waited on by my mother and brother — the ultimate life.”

But Owens is still angry with the system that kept her waiting for care.

“I may be out of Fort Hood, but I left a lot of friends back there who are deteriorating, and there’s no one there to speak for them,” she said. “Somebody has to say this is not right, so somebody will get a fair chance.”

In March 2006, her unit was activated for service in Iraq. It arrived in the Middle East in September.

Their job was to transport soldiers and supplies, often on hazardous flights over hostile territory.

The heavy armor and weapons that soldiers carry, combined with the harsh vibrations of the Black Hawks, make backaches a common complaint of helicopter crews. So Owens wasn’t too concerned when the pain started. She took pain medications and kept flying.

But when the pain worsened, an orthopedic surgeon took X-rays that showed a weakened vertebra had fractured and slipped forward. The injury had pinched nerves from the spinal cord.

It will take several months for Owens to recover from surgery. After that, she will need at least six weeks of physical therapy to strengthen weakened muscles.

But Owens, who was once eager to fly with her unit, said she is unsure whether she will stay in the National Guard.

“I love the Army. I love serving in the Army. I’m just terrified of being hurt again,” she said.

“People actually care for soldiers. It’s the military that gives the soldiers a hard time getting medical care.”

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

June 8, 2007 By BUSHRA JUHI (AP)

BAGHDAD - In a dawn strike Friday, insurgents attacked the house of the police chief in Baqouba, northeast of Baghdad, killing his wife, two brothers and 11 guards, Diyala provincial police reported.

The attackers also abducted two sons and a daughter of police chief Col. Ali Dilayan al-Jorani, police said. The chief, head of central Baqouba's Balda police station, wasn't at home at the time, they said.

The children were described as young men and a young woman, but their ages weren't immediately available.

The two slain brothers were serving as guards at the house, in Kanaan town northwest of the city of Baqouba, which is 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

The bodies of some guards, many of whom were also al-Jorani relatives, were found on a nearby road, apparently after being seized at the house, police said.

Guerrillas speeding by in the northern city of Kirkuk shot and killed a soldier.

A roadside bomb killed two high-ranking police officers and wounded a third south of Baquba, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

Gen. Jack Keane Makes It Official: It's OK To Call The USA "Capitalistic"

"It seemed to me the United States Army ... as part of the greatest capitalistic democracy on the planet, should have hands down not only the best tanks, the best fighting vehicles and the best helicopters," [Gen. Jack] Keane said, "it should have the best rifle in the world." Quoted by Matthew Cox, Army Times, June 04, 2007

Petraeus Makes It Official: In Iraq, It's "The Resistance"

“Believe it or not, in Diyalah province there is a mixed group of sheikhs who are from Sunni, Shia and Kurd elements or tribes, and want to work together to expel al-Qaida. ... But having said that, there’s also plenty of areas where the tribes are still very much with the resistance.” Gen. David Petraeus, head of Multinational Forces-Iraq and the senior U.S. commander in country, quoted by Sean D. Naylor, Army Times, June 04, 2007.

“This Time, The ‘I Word’ Is Not A Left-Wing Epithet But A Straightforward Description Of Policy Aims”

Bush said last week that the difference between Vietnam and Iraq is that the enemy in Vietnam didn’t want to follow us home. Of course during the Vietnam War, President Lyndon Johnson repeatedly made precisely that argument, comparing communists to burglars who must be stopped when they are in the neighborhood (in that case, Southeast Asia) before they came up on the porch and into the kitchen.

May 31, 2007 By Jonathan Alter, Newsweek [Excerpts]

President Bush thinks the Vietnam analogy for Iraq is wrong. Aside from the predictability of this (it’s understandable that he doesn’t like his policy called a “quagmire”), the president’s reasoning is historically ignorant.

Bush said last week that the difference between Vietnam and Iraq is that the enemy in Vietnam didn’t want to follow us home.

Of course during the Vietnam War, President Lyndon Johnson repeatedly made precisely that argument, comparing communists to burglars who must be stopped when they are in the neighborhood (in that case, Southeast Asia) before they came up on the porch and into the kitchen.

This argument was phony 40 years ago — the “domino theory” of noncommunist countries toppling over proved false — and it’s phony now.

The idea that we’re fighting “them” (whoever “they” might be) there so we don’t have to fight them here is lousy logic, now echoed by several GOP candidates for president.

Bush’s reasoning blithely assumes that Al Qaeda cannot walk and chew gum at the same time — cannot fight in Anbar and plot attacks in the United States simultaneously. It also implies that the main explanation for why we have not been hit in the five and a half years since 9/11 isn’t better homeland security, but the war in Iraq!

Come on.

The Vietnam War and the Iraq War do have some things in common.

They were both started and perpetuated by heedless, arrogant leaders unwilling to change course, as Ronald Reagan did in Lebanon, when the facts on the ground changed.

They both reflected poor understanding in Washington of local culture and regional politics.

They both featured the unconscionable policy of throwing good young soldiers after good young soldiers — signing the death warrants of our finest in the name of foolish consistency or mindless fortitude.

[T]he new line out of the White House is that Iraq is Korea. As White House spokesman Tony Snow pointed out, we've had U.S. troops in South Korea for 50 years (actually, it's 57) and the same might prove true in Iraq.

Aside from the fact that no one told us in 2002 and 2003 that we were signing on to a half-century commitment (just a slight omission, no?), the analogy is a poor one.

In Iraq many polls show that about three quarters of the Iraqi people favor us leaving.

Even those Iraqis who want us to help them fight Al Qaeda think we can do so with strike forces from bases outside the country.

The idea of us spending hundreds of millions of dollars establishing permanent bases inside Iraq (something that has received amazingly little publicity) is repugnant to them.

Iraqis don't like the idea of foreigners permanently on their soil.

No people — or tribes — do.

Moreover, all of that White House chatter about staying in Iraq for decades means that Bush has essentially given up on democracy there.

The Iraqi democracy of his dreams would not stand for permanent bases, unless Iran or some other neighbor were poised to attack.

The only two reasons to station troops in the Middle East for half a century are protecting oil supplies (reflecting a pessimistic view of energy independence) outside the normal channels of trade and diplomacy, and projecting raw military power.

These are the imperial aims of an empire.

This time, the "I word" is not a left-wing epithet but a straightforward description of policy aims ...

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

**60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops
Dead:
Big Surprise**



A boy walks through the rubble of a destroyed home after a raid by U.S. soldiers in Baghdad's Sadr City May 30, 2007. REUTERS/Kareem Raheem

[U.S. sponsored polls reported recently that 60% of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops. Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1775. They are right to resist. T]

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

Green Zone Under Siege:
**“The Strikes Are Becoming More
Frequent, Accurate And Deadly”**
**“The Mortars Are Coming From The
Same Place Every Day, And No One
Is Doing Anything About It”**
**“No One Expects A Direct Encounter
With Shrapnel Like This”**
[Not We Precious Civilians, Anyhow]

June 7, 2007 By John Ward Anderson, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD -- Rusty Barber was sitting at his desk in a comfortable if spartan office inside Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone when the first explosion sounded, close enough to rattle the building and his nerves. He got up from his chair, directly in front of a window, and hurried to the building's more protected central corridor. Then the second mortar shell struck.

The round decapitated a palm tree just outside Barber's office, spraying shrapnel across the side of the building, splintering Barber's window and peppering the room with bullet-size pieces of razor-sharp metal. One traveled through a wooden closet and destroyed a porcelain sink; one embedded itself in the small refrigerator; one ricocheted off his desk; another struck his computer monitor.

“It was a sobering event,” said Barber, 42, head of the local office of the U.S. Institute of Peace.

In all, about 10 mortar rounds struck different parts of the Green Zone that day in mid-May, killing two Iraqis and wounding 10 people. Ten cars were damaged or destroyed in the barrage at Barber's complex, a short walk from the U.S. Embassy.

“You accept a level of risk when you come over here, but no one expects a direct encounter with shrapnel like this,” Barber said, carefully fingering a jagged, inch-long piece of metal retrieved from the refrigerator.

Mortar and rocket attacks on the Green Zone are nothing new, but people who live and work in the complex -- a walled compound of about five square miles on the banks of the Tigris River that is headquarters to the Iraqi government and U.S. forces -- say that the strikes are becoming more frequent, accurate and deadly.

Despite the rising casualty toll from the attacks -- eight people have been killed, including two U.S. soldiers, and about 25 have been injured since late March -- the bigger problem is the psychological impact of insurgents striking the symbolic heart of the United States here, Iraqis and Americans say.

That view is strengthened by the sense -- correct or not -- that the Green Zone was a relatively secure oasis where the war didn't seep in.

"It's amazing to people in the red zone, who think that if it can happen in the Green Zone, it can happen anywhere, and what's going to happen next?" said a 27-year-old Iraqi computer technician, who spoke on condition his name not be used, fearing that he and his family could be targeted.

Like many Iraqis, he works in the Green Zone but lives outside it, an area some now call the red zone.

Anti-government satellite television channels broadcast insurgent statements claiming that they can strike the Green Zone with impunity, he said, which scares Iraqis because "the mortars are coming from the same place every day, and no one is doing anything about it. Stuff like that gets to people" more than fear of the bombs themselves, the technician said.

"For Iraqis, we're used to it. For Americans, they're a little afraid because they haven't seen it before."

The Bush Administration Made A Decision "They Would Go Back To The Al-Qaeda Card, Although There's No Empirical Basis" Idiot Reporters "Going Ga-Ga About Al-Qaeda"

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

06/07/07 By John Pilger, ICH [Excerpt]

More often than not, censorship by omission is employed: for example, by omitting the fact that almost 80 per cent of attacks are directed against the occupation forces (source: the Pentagon) so as to give the impression that the occupiers are doing their best to separate “warring tribes” and are crisis managers rather than the cause of the crisis.

There is a last-ditch sense about this kind of propaganda. Seymour Hersh said recently, “(In April, the Bush administration) made a decision that because of the totally dwindling support for the war in Iraq, they would go back to the al-Qaeda card, although there’s no empirical basis.

Most of the pros will tell you the foreign fighters are a couple of per cent and they’re sort of leaderless... there’s no attempt to suggest there’s any significant co-ordination of these groups, but the press keeps going ga-ga about al-Qaeda... it’s just amazing to me.”

Baghdad Cut Off From National Grid

6 June 2007 (IRIN)

Limited electricity and drinking water are the main problems, causing disease and frustration.

“We have one or two hours a day of electricity at best. Sometimes we have no electricity for two or three days. And it has become normal for us to wake up in the morning and find no water in the taps,” Alwan, a father of three and government employee living in Baghdad, said.

In a press conference held in May in Baghdad, Electricity Minister Karim Waheed blamed unrelenting insurgent attacks on electricity pylons, power stations, government workers and fuel deliveries for the near collapse of the power system.

“Insurgents have struck the electricity networks feeding the capital from the north and the south, cutting the city off from the national grid. This, of course, affects the pumping of water from the water plants,” Waheed said.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Palestinian Ministry Of Health Lacks 129 Vital Medicines Due To Zionist Regime Stealing Palestinian Tax Money

01 / 06 / 2007 Ramallah - Ma'an

Palestinian information minister and official government spokesman, Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, has warned of the dangers resulting from the fact that the ministry of health cannot provide 129 different vital medicines because the Israeli government is withholding over US \$ 850 million of Palestinian tax revenues.

In a statement issued Friday, the minister urged the international community to pressure Israel to release the tax revenues, which increase by US \$55 million every month.

[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

The Democrats "Give The Dear Leader All The Money He Needs To Keep Feeding The Babylonian Inferno With The Dead Bodies Of Iraqi Citizens And American Soldiers"

The Democratic Establishmentarians, like their Republican counterparts, are wealthy, well fed, well wadded and secure behind their phalanxes of state and private security. The actual effects of their policies – the death, grief, ruin, hardship, suffering and fear they inflict on ordinary people, at home and abroad – never touch the elite.

They hear the cries as from a great distance, they see the destruction as through a glass, darkly.

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

May 18, 2007 Chris Floyd, Lew Rockwell.com

Whew! Thank God that's over!

The mighty wind you hear coming from Washington today is the huge sigh of relief from Democratic leaders, glad that they can now drop all the political posturing about ending the war in Iraq and get back on board with the imperial program.

With the crushing defeat yesterday of what was purported to be a bill to “end” the war, Senate Majority Leader Harry “Give ‘Em Mild Heck” Reid moved quickly to give the Dear Leader all the money he needs to keep feeding the Babylonian inferno with the dead bodies of Iraqi citizens and American soldiers.

In fact, the bill in question, the Feingold Plan, would not have actually ended the illegal occupation of Iraq – God forbid!

However, it would have curtailed the extent of the war crime to some degree – withdrawing “combat forces” but keeping troops in Iraq for “counterterrorism” (and aren’t we constantly told that all the Iraqi insurgents are “terrorists”?) and “training Iraqi forces” and protecting the fortress embassy being constructed in the heart of Baghdad.

But even this slight slackening of the garrote would not have taken effect until April 2008 – or after 10 more months of savage “surging” by Bush and his sectarian death-squadding allies. (Such as this kind of thing.)

In any case, it was well known that the bill was dead on arrival and had no chance of passing; that’s precisely why the Democratic leaders put it up for consideration.

It was a PR exercise to give political cover to those Democrats whose ambitions have forced them to at least nod toward the “consent of the governed,” as clearly expressed in the anti-war vote last year.

But now that the stunt is over, it’s back to bipartisan business.

As the New York Times reports:

“After the vote, Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader and a co-sponsor of the Feingold plan, said he was committed to delivering legislation acceptable to Mr. Bush by the end of next week. He conceded that the compromise was likely to disappoint war opponents who had pushed Congress to set a pull-out date...”

In the end, the only proposal to pass the Senate (with overwhelming Democratic support) was a resolution by Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi, senior Republican on the Appropriations Committee, which urged Congress to provide about \$95 billion sought by the president for the war before Memorial Day.

Of course, those “war opponents” who will be “disappointed” that the Democrats failed to pass the Feingold “mild curtailment of the slaughter” bill include the majority of citizens in the United States who now oppose the war and want to see it brought to an end, according to all polls.

This why they voted the Democrats into power in last year’s election – to do something about stopping the war.

It was a vain hope, of course.

The Democrats (with a handful of honorable exceptions) had already displayed their preternatural spinelessness throughout the Bush imperium, culminating in their failure last fall to mount a proper, furious, public, frenzied – if doomed – resistance to the “Military Commissions Act,” the anti-Magna Carta measure that transformed the United States into a banana republic run by a tyrannical “Unitary Executive” and his military junta.

(The essence of the bill allows the unchallengeable Commander-in-Chief to declare anyone on earth an “enemy combatant” and keep them chained up indefinitely, with only one legal recourse allowed: a military tribunal, set up by the Commander, for those captives he decides to put to the question. As for the rest, they can rot forever at his pleasure.)

The Democrats, afraid of looking “soft” on terrorism, put up only the most token, tepid defense of the Constitutional Republic and let the MCA sail through, all the while telling their supporters with a wink: “This is just tactical. Wait till we win back Congress in November, then we’ll get rid of this law.” Yet the mephitic measure remains on the books, in full force – five months after the Democrats were sworn in.

It was therefore the height of folly – or the depths of desperation – to believe that these Democrats would do anything substantial to upset the imperial apple-cart that Bush has set rolling through the Middle East and Central Asia.

They are too cowardly, too co-opted, too corrupt and too comfortable to challenge the long-standing, bipartisan policies of loot and domination that have burdened us with a vast empire of more than 730 military bases on every continent, and endless, churning wars – overt and covert, direct and proxy – all over the world.

After all, the Democratic leaders are among the elite who have profited most handsomely from the imperial arrogance that has bankrupted the national treasury, distorted the economy, perverted our society and left Americans more at threat than ever before.

The Democratic Establishmentarians, like their Republican counterparts, are wealthy, well fed, well wadded and secure behind their phalanxes of state and private security.

The actual effects of their policies – the death, grief, ruin, hardship, suffering and fear they inflict on ordinary people, at home and abroad – never touch the elite.

They hear the cries as from a great distance, they see the destruction as through a glass, darkly.

And so it will go on, and on, and on.

The Democrats – especially these Democrats – are not going to stop it.

MORE:

“The Democrats Showed That They Were A Responsible Ruling-Class Party”

June 1, 2007 Editorial, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

Within the U.S. ruling class, opposition to Bush’s disastrous handling of the Iraq war has spread significantly. But the real concern in these circles is for the future of U.S. military and political power, which would be harmed by a crisis in funding the war machine.

In surrendering to Bush on the war spending bill, the Democrats showed that they were a responsible ruling-class party--prepared to put the future interests of U.S. imperialism ahead of antiwar sentiment among the people whose votes last November put them back in control of Congress.

**LIAR
SOLDIER-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY
DESPICABLE PIECE OF SHIT**



varifrank.com/images/Preacher_Reid.jpg

**WANTED FOR THE MURDER OF U.S.
TROOPS AND CITIZENS OF IRAQ:
THE TRAITOR REID**

LIAR

**SOLDIER-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY
DESPICABLE PIECE OF SHIT**



**WANTED FOR THE MURDER OF U.S.
TROOPS AND CITIZENS OF IRAQ:
THE TRAITOR PELOSI**

**No, Americans Are Not Stupid Trash
Who Care For Nothing More
Important Than Who's The Next
American Idol And What Was In Anna
Nicole's Refrigerator When She Died**

For the fourth straight month, the number of people identifying themselves as Republicans has decreased. For the third straight month, the number of people identifying themselves as Democrats has also decreased.

A Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey of 15,000 adults in May found that just 30.8% now say they're Republicans. That's down slightly from last month and down more than six percentage points from the GOP peak of 37.3% during Election 2004.

However, the survey also found that the number of people identifying themselves as Democrats has fallen to its lowest level in seventeen months (since January 2006). Democrats gained about two percentage points of support during 2006 and peaked at 38.0% in December of last year.

Since actually taking control of Congress, Democrats have given back most of those gains. Today, 36.3% say they belong to Nancy Pelosi's party.

As a result, the number not affiliated with either major party has jumped to another all-time high—32.9%.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

“The President Has Lost The Support Of The Majority Of The People Of Pakistan, If Not The Whole”

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

June 8, 2007 Declan Walsh in Islamabad, The Guardian

The Pakistani government was forced into a dramatic climbdown yesterday as the political crisis surrounding President Pervez Musharraf deepened, with international condemnation of harsh new media laws and the first signs of serious dissent within his own party.

As thousands of people demonstrated in four cities - some in defiance of a ban - the government overturned a decree signed by Mr Musharraf on Monday empowering the government to close television stations, revoke licences and impose large fines.

The decree brought international protests. Human Rights Watch said it would “muzzle” the free press and European ambassadors issued a rare statement of concern. The prime minister, Shaukat Aziz, responded by suspending the decree yesterday.

Mr Musharraf appears increasingly isolated as he battles through the greatest political challenge of his career.

Lawyers, journalists and opposition parties were already openly hostile when, two days ago, he rounded on his Pakistan Muslim League party for failing to support him. "You always leave me alone in time of trial and tribulation," he berated followers at a party meeting, according to the News newspaper.

Ishaq Khakwani, one of 77 ministers in the federal cabinet, said Mr Musharraf complained: "Things happen, but I have to face the brunt alone."

Several party officials told the Guardian they were unhappy with Mr Musharraf's handling of the crisis provoked by the attempted sacking of the chief justice, and feared it might bring the government down.

Kabir Wasti, one of the party's 40 vice-presidents, said: "The president has lost the support of the majority of the people of Pakistan, if not the whole."

Analysts said party activists sensed that the public mood had turned.

"Musharraf is trying to insert steel rods inside their spines to stand up and defend him. But he fails to recognise they are politicians, and they understand there is great anger on the streets," said Abbas Nasir, editor of the Dawn newspaper.

Several hundred journalists rallied in Islamabad yesterday despite a ban on meetings of more than five people.

Analysts said Mr Musharraf might resort to more drastic steps.

"Any attempt to impose emergency rule and suspend fundamental rights would be pouring petrol on the fire," said Samina Ahmed of the International Crisis Group, citing rumours of military rule.

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/)

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

<http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://qi-special.iraq-news.de>;

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