

GI SPECIAL 5G10:



It's Official: U.S. Troops Do Have A Mission In Iraq: To Defend Dictatorship And Fight Democracy

July 12, 2007 By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF, NY Times [Excerpt]

[A] poll this spring of Iraqis - who know their country much better than we do - shows that only 21 percent think that the U.S. troop presence improves security in Iraq, while 69 percent think it is making security worse.

That poll of Iraqis, conducted by the BBC and other news organizations, found that only 22 percent of Iraqis support the presence of coalition troops in Iraq, down from 32 percent in 2005.

[W]hen Iraqis are begging us to leave, and saying that we are making things worse, then it's remarkably presumptuous to overrule their wishes and stay indefinitely because, as President Bush termed it in his speech on Tuesday, "it is necessary work."

Comment: T

The writer can't face the truth, so he doesn't mention it: defying the wishes of the Iraqi people that the U.S. occupation end forthwith and U.S. troops get out now is nothing more or less than denying the Iraqis democracy and imposing on them an Imperial military dictatorship headquartered in Washington DC.

Of course any decent Iraqi with any sense of self respect will take up arms to fight a military dictatorship run by George W. Bush.

Wouldn't you?

Or would you just kiss his ass?

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed Somehow Or Other Someplace Or Other

July 12, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070712-04

BAGHDAD — A Task Force Marne Soldier was killed in an attack east of Baghdad.

[Compare this crap with the battle reports issued by the British Army when one of their soldiers is KIA. For an example, see the story below in the section AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS, headline: British Soldier Killed Near Gereshk On Thursday 12 July 2007. T]

Green Zone Barrage Kills American, Five More Wounded; Other Casualties' ID Not Reported

10 July 2007 By Robert H. Reid, The Associated Press

BAGHDAD – Extremists [translation: nationalists] unleashed a barrage of more than a dozen mortars or rockets into the Green Zone on Tuesday, killing at least three people — including an American — and wounding 18 in an area once considered the safest in the Iraqi capital.

An Iraqi and a "third country national" were also killed in the attack, the U.S. Embassy said in a statement.

The embassy said the 18 wounded included five Americans — two military members and three civilian contract employees.

The attack against the well-protected nerve center of the U.S. and Iraqi leadership occurred at a time of mounting opposition to the war in Congress and is likely to cast doubts on claims that the U.S. troop buildup is bringing stability to the Iraqi capital.

In a report last month, the United Nations office in Baghdad said the "threat of indirect fire" — meaning rockets and mortars — into the Green Zone had increased, adding that the barrages had become "increasingly concentrated and accurate."

The report said such attacks increased from 17 in March to 30 in April and 39 by May 22. Between Feb. 19 and the end of May, at least 26 people were killed in Green Zone attacks, the report said.

But the fact that extremists are able to mount such attacks despite the American troop surge has been especially disturbing. [Not to the resistance, one may assume.]

Local Soldier Dies In Iraq



July 1, 2007 By KATHERINE NGUYEN and ELLYN PAK, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Tammy Cho always picked up Shinwoo Kim and brought him home to his family when he took a break from his military service.

Those times were too few, but when Kim, an Army medic, flew in, Cho made sure to be there waiting for her longtime friend.

In a few days, the 22-year-old will do it one last time. This time, she'll fly to Delaware to escort Kim's body home.

"As of right now, our emotions are like waves," Cho said Sunday night. "It just comes and goes. Some waves are bigger than others. It's still unbelievable."

On June 28, Kim became the second soldier from Fullerton in a week to be killed in Iraq.

Shane Stinson, a 23-year-old Army private, also died last month weeks after returning to duty in Iraq.

Kim, who graduated from Sunny Hills High School, died after being attacked by insurgents in Baghdad. He and three other soldiers were assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Carson, Colo., when they were killed by makeshift explosives.

Friends and family were devastated Thursday when they received the news. Kim was a 23-year-old medic for the U.S. Army. According to friends, Kim had six more months to go before completing his 15-month assignment in Iraq, his first tour of duty there. He told friends how much he missed them and how much he missed things like driving his brand-new Lexus and eating a Double-Double burger from In-N-Out with a pink lemonade.

Cho said he told her: "What I really miss is being home. What I really miss is doing whatever I want to do. I miss driving my car."

Kim – whose friends called him "Doughboy" and "Woo-meister" -- had a great, big smile. Even in his official military photograph, Kim couldn't resist flashing a smile that will be cherished by friends and family.

"He had the most awesome smile," said his older sister Shinae Kim, 27. "He has a smile that could brighten up the room. He was caring. He was hilarious. He was loyal. He was adventurous."

"I just spoke to him the day before he died," longtime friend Christine Kim said through tears on Sunday. "He was my best friend. He called me on Wednesday before he went to bed and said, 'Hey buddy, I want you to cheer me up,' so I told him about the silly dream I had about having a pet platypus."

Christine Kim, who is not related to Shinwoo (pronounced Shinoo), said she got her friend to laugh, but he had look up "platypus" on Google first.

According to Kim, Shinwoo had dreams to go to USC to become a pharmacist, but not before backpacking through Europe. Traveling was one of the main reasons Shinwoo joined the army, said Christine Kim.

"He was very adventurous and wanted to see the world," said Kim, who has known Shinwoo for eight years. "He even once tried to get his parents to send him to boot camp in high school."

His family members were against him joining the military, Cho said. The Fullerton soldier attended Fullerton Junior College after high school and enlisted in the Army in 2005. He became a medic because he wanted to help people, his sister said, and received a Bronze Star.

When close friends found out about Shinwoo Kim's death, they gathered and paid a visit to his parents' home in Fullerton on Saturday to pay their respects. They also left eulogies on the soldier's MySpace page.

Shinwoo was the youngest of three children in the Kim family. He also has an older brother Josh, 31.

"I reminded them of the time in high school when Shinwoo crashed his Infiniti and he had to drive around a green Kia instead. His mom had told him it was a rental car for him to use in the meantime, but then he found out that she bought it for him as a replacement and he was like, 'What??'" Christine Kim said. "His parents were laughing so hard remembering that."

The last time Christine Kim saw her best friend was in February, when Shinwoo came home from Iraq during a two-week break.

"I'm so glad he came back home and made it out to my birthday," she said. "I will always be grateful I got to see him smile that big smile of his again."

Cho will find out today when she will be traveling to pick up Shinwoo's body.

"It hasn't hit me yet that he's not going to be here," Cho said. "He was my sunshine."

Services are expected to take place Friday at a location still to be determined. The military burial will be at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier on Saturday.

Family Mourns Soldier Killed By Bomb In Iraq

7.3.07 By Mark Petix Staff Writer; San Gabriel Valley Tribune

The message Wayne Hiltz left on the answering machine at his Sacramento-area home is quiet and heartbreaking.

"Deb and I are on our way to Southern California to lay our son to rest."

A good student, a good friend, a good soldier. A good son.

That's how friends and family describe Army Pfc. Cory Hiltz of La Verne, one of five American soldiers killed Thursday when a bomb exploded in Baghdad.

He was 20.

A lifelong resident, Cory was a graduate of Lutheran High School of La Verne. He attended Citrus College before joining the Army in February 2006.

His father, a retired Pasadena deputy police chief, said what people will remember most about Cory is his heart.

The elder Hiltz remembers Cory watching a nature show on television when he was a young boy. When a small animal was attacked by a larger one, he began to cry.

"He said 'Dad, why is he hurting him? He didn't do anything,'" he said. "We wondered what he would come back (from Iraq) like and he came back with a bigger heart than before. He wasn't jaded by the war."

Cory had been in Iraq for eight months when they extended his tour of duty until January. In return, he received three weeks leave.

On May 30, his parents picked him up at the airport. "Deep into the drive home there was a quiet period and I looked over and saw he was smiling," his father said. "I said 'What's that for?' And he said 'I love living in U.S.'"

When he was about to return to Iraq, Cory and his father talked about the war.

"He was not happy about it, but he said 'Dad, I made a commitment to my country. I don't want to go back. But I made a commitment and I'm going to fulfill my obligation.' Ten days later he was dead."

Lutheran High Administrator Diana Beckett said news of Cory's death has the school reeling.

"He was a great kid," she said. "Just special. Everybody liked him."

Cory and the four others killed were based with the Army's 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division in Fort Carson, Colo.

Also killed were Sgt. Shin W. Kim, 23, of Fullerton; Sgt. Michael J. Martinez, 24, of Chula Vista; Sgt. Giann C. Joya Mendoza of North Hollywood; and Spc. Dustin L. Workman II, 19, of Greenwood, Neb.

A bunkmate of Cory's in Iraq was one of many leaving messages of condolence on his MySpace page.

"Hiltz," he wrote, "man you are sorely missed, the room is like a graveyard. They packed up all of your stuff and now I have your empty bed as a reminder.

"We all miss you here, you made us laugh so much. Keep Workman out of trouble up there. You are deeply missed."

Lutheran High has about 180 students. It was even smaller when Cory attended. It gave Beckett and the rest of the staff the chance to really get to know to know Cory and his family, which she describes as wonderful and caring.

She says he leaves behind many broken hearts.

"He came in just before he went to Iraq just to say goodbye," Beckett said. "There were hugs all around and he said 'See you in a little while.'"

In addition to his father, Cory is survived by his mother, Debra, and sister, Kayla.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. July 14 at First United Methodist Church in Pasadena. Burial plans are not yet set, but the Hiltz family wants to bury Cory at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Covina Hills.

During his leave, Cory and his family spent two weeks visiting La Verne.

"He loved La Verne," his father said, "and the reason for the Covina Hills is it overlooks the Valley, and that's where we want him to be. This is his home."

Family Mourns Loss Of Local Soldier

July 2, 2007 NBC San Diego

SAN DIEGO -- Family, friends and fellow service members are mourning the loss of a Chula Vista native who, along with three other Southern California soldiers, was killed by a roadside bomb last week in Iraq.

The four men were killed when a roadside bomb went off in Baghdad on Thursday. They were identified as Sgt. Shin Kim of Fullerton, 23; Sgt. Michael Martinez of Chula Vista, 24; Sgt. Giann Mendoza of North Hollywood, 27; and Pvt. Cory Hiltz of La Verne, 20.

The men were members of 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, which is based in Colorado. Their deaths bring the number of Fort Carson-based soldiers killed in Iraq to 212.

Martinez was born and raised in the South Bay city, NBC 7/39 reported. His parents said he was a wonderful man with a great smile and that he had plans to come home after his tour of duty was over and become a police officer.

His father, Manuel Martinez Sr., said the last time he heard from his son was on Father's Day.

Martinez wrote his father a note that said, "Dad, I can't thank you enough for all you've done for me. I just hope I turn out to be a son you can be proud of. Anyway, love you dad, Mike."

A shrine inside the family's front door expresses the kind of pride they had for Martinez. A candle has been shining bright since he left for war, on his second tour of duty.

Fighting tears, his mother, Armida, said two soldiers showed up at their home on June 28.

"Because I was alone at home, I answered it by myself. I knew right then that he was gone. But he wanted us to be proud of him. I'm so proud of him," she said.

Martinez is survived by his 1-year-old son, Landon, his parents and his two brothers.

Natalie Gallegos, Landon's mother, said she will tell Landon his father was a hero.

"I'm going to tell him that he loved him very much. Every chance he got he called to see how he was doing because all he wanted to do was be with his son," she said.

Services for Martinez are scheduled for next Monday and Tuesday. He will be buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Point Loma.

Henry Byrd III Had Always Planned A Life In The Military

June 27, 2007 Jackie Schlotfeldt, News-Bulletin Staff Writer

Henry George Robert Byrd III wasn't just a fun-loving young man who always had a smile on his face and whose heart was so big he always worried about other people before himself.

He was also a serious young man who had a dream of serving his country, driving tanks and fighting for the freedom of others.

Byrd's dream came true in January 2006 when he joined the United States Army and trained to drive military tanks while stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga. After he had served more than a year in the Army, Byrd's unit was deployed to Iraq in April of this year. His family said he was to be there for a little more than a year.

Less than two months after being deployed to the war zone, Byrd suffered a fatal attack of heatstroke while on duty, ending a dream, and creating a void in the lives of his family and friends back home. He died in a German hospital on Sunday, June 24.

"If any kid went straight to heaven, this kid did," said Frank Ortega, Byrd's uncle. "He was a good kid with a pure heart."

The news of Byrd's death shocked his family and friends. It wasn't so much that they weren't aware of the danger he was in, but it was more the fact that it wasn't enemy fire that killed him.

"To me, he's a hero," Ortega said. "You know that saying, the good die young? It's true for him."

The 2004 Belen High School graduate joined the JROTC during his freshman year. Byrd's stepmother, Margaret Baca, said he had wanted to be in the military since he was a little boy. His father, Henry J. Byrd II of Veguita, was a Vietnam veteran, and Byrd's grandfather was a Marine who served during World War II.

Belen High School JROTC Chief Oscar Magallanes said Byrd was always someone you could count on, going above and beyond what was asked of him. "He was a great kid," Magallanes said. "I was shocked and speechless (when I heard the news). You don't expect something like that to happen."

Magallanes remembers Byrd always smiling and constantly looking out for others. One image that keeps replaying over and over in his head is the time when Byrd was standing in the ranks and he was smiling. "I said, 'Henry, stand at attention,'" Magallanes said. "That's what keeps hitting me over and over. "He cared about people, and when you lose one like Henry, it's hard — it's real hard. He was a wonderful student and a wonderful cadet."

Richard Long, owner of Belen Goju Ryu Karate, knew Byrd since he was about 5 years old when he became a student of Long's.

"Henry was a good boy," said Long, whose daughter, Tamara was killed in March 2003, when her helicopter crashed while serving in Afghanistan. "He was happy-go-lucky and always had a goofy grin on his face. I was real proud he graduated from high school and joined the military. He was a hard-working kid."

Long went on to say that Byrd had earned a brown belt with three black stripes while attending Goju Ryu Karate.

Byrd was also a volunteer member of the Rio Grande Estates Fire Department before joining the service, and Fire Chief L.E. Rubin said he saw Byrd before he left for Iraq.

"He stopped by my station just to say hi and to say thanks for what we did for him," Rubin said. "I'm very sad to hear that (he died)."

Byrd also had a very close relationship with Rick and Belinda Gonzalez and their children. They met him through their daughter, Maranda, who knew Byrd from JROTC.

"He's a really great person with a big heart," Rick Gonzalez said. "He was always happy. He considered my wife and me like a mom and dad. It's a great loss."

As tears filled her eyes, Maranda spoke about how caring Byrd was. "He was like my protector almost. He always called me his little brat. In his letters, it was 'hey, brat.' Nobody expected him to die. He was like my big brother."

Belinda Gonzalez said she talked with Byrd on Father's Day and he said he was fine, but that he wanted to come home.

"He was a really big part of our lives," she said.

And while the family kept in touch through phone calls and letters, the news of Byrd's death was devastating.

As Belinda took out the most recent letters Byrd wrote to them, tears welled up in her eyes as she read parts of the letters.

"He writes "Don't worry mom, I'm keeping my head down. I feel like I have a guardian angel on my shoulder. I worry about my people at home. I'll be home sooner than you think. I'll say a prayer and you say one too. Send my love to everyone."

"He was an awesome kid," Belinda said.

While family and friends are deeply saddened by their loss, their memories of a young boy who loved hunting, camping, fishing, swimming and riding horses bring smiles to their face.

"He was just happy all the time," Louise Ortega, Byrd's aunt, said thoughtfully. "He was the most bubbly person you could ever meet."

She recalled the time she saw Henry wearing two cell phones on his belt. Louise said with a laugh that "Henry said if he got two phones it was cheaper than one. Then he wouldn't miss a call."

And looking back, Frank remembers the good times at his house fixing pancakes and popcorn from scratch for his nephews.

"It was my specialty," Frank smiled. "He liked my pancakes."

"To me, God needed more angels, and he called him," Frank said. "To me he's a hero."

Valley Man, 27, Re-Enlisted In Army, Was Killed In Iraq

07/06/2007 BY BRENT HOPKINS, Staff Writer, L.A. Daily News

NORTH HOLLYWOOD - On the Fourth of July, his 28th birthday and the 231st of the nation he loved, Sgt. Giann Carlo Joya-Mendoza came home, in a flag-draped coffin.

Born in Honduras and raised in the U.S., Joya-Mendoza became a soldier at age 20. A proud, organized and conscientious man, Joya-Mendoza made the Army his life. After his first stint was up, bored with his civilian accounting job, he chose to re-enlist in 2003 and go to war for the country that had become his home.

He deployed to Iraq last October with Bravo Company of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. He earned a promotion to become a noncommissioned officer and won the respect of his fellow soldiers.

On June 28, while on patrol in Baghdad, he died with four of them, killed by a roadside bomb.

"He really loved the Army," said his stepfather, Orlando Useda. "He didn't need to go back to the Army the second time. He had a good-paying job, but he took a pay cut and he went back."

Joya-Mendoza came to the U.S. as a teenager, attending Birmingham High School before finishing his degree in his native country. He returned to North Hollywood and studied at Los Angeles Community College before joining up in 1999. He wore the Stars and Stripes of his adopted nation on his uniform with pride.

While serving abroad, he began the process of becoming an American citizen. Now, his family hopes to complete it posthumously.

"In this country, we are free, we can do what we want," he once told his mother. "In other countries, they force you to go into the Army."

Joya-Mendoza traveled the world in the military, serving in Germany and South Korea before heading to the Middle East with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

At home, he was meticulous in his habits, keeping his clothes, DVDs and coin collections clean and organized at all times. He even found a way to eat tacos and lobster with a fork. His mania for organization served him well in the Army.

"Everything was clean, organized and categorized and yet still he could have fun and be laid back," wrote his friend, Spc. Brian Gill, in remarks delivered at a memorial in Iraq earlier this week. "His DVDs still had the original plastic wrappers on the outside. He spent hours on his class A (uniforms) making sure they were perfect. As gunner, he spent an hour each day brushing off his turret area with a toothbrush. As a sergeant, he already made sure his truck was prepped, clean and ready to go at a moment's notice. ... In fact he went by the book with everything."

Spit-polished and well-pressed in his service, Joya-Mendoza was also a caring family man. As he did each leave, he spent four days with his mother, Maria Ines Mendoza, in February, then spent 12 days with his large, extended family and his girlfriend in Honduras.

Mendoza last heard from her son May 13, picking up the phone just as she left for her 6 a.m. shift at the West Hollywood motel where she works as a supervisor.

"'Mom, happy Mother's Day,' he said, and he sounded so tired," she remembered. "I said, 'Why don't you call more?' And he said, 'I've been busy, but I had to find time to call you.'"

The task in Iraq was grueling, with long days and tough conditions. Joya-Mendoza remained upbeat and committed to the Army. He planned to make it his career.

"He wasn't happy when he was going to work at a regular job," Useda said. "He didn't sleep well, he waited until the last minute before he went to his job. He didn't like sitting behind a desk."

The Army was his way out. He hoped to transfer to an intelligence job after his time in the infantry was up.

Last Thursday, while out on patrol, Joya-Mendoza's unit struck an improvised explosive device. He was killed alongside Sgt. Shin W. Kim, Sgt. Michael J. Martinez, Spc. Dustin L. Workman II and Pfc. Cory F. Hiltz.

Two soldiers came to Mendoza and Useda's home that night, wearing their dress uniforms and bearing bad news. Mendoza spent the past week preparing for her son's return.

On Wednesday, her family held hands as they made their way into a hangar at Bob Hope Airport. Soldiers from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Irwin, in green uniforms, stood at parade rest to the side.

A roar of engines signaled the arrival of the chartered plane. Two airport firetrucks let loose with their hoses to form a memorial arch above the white jet. The family members rose and bowed their heads. Men dabbed at their eyes and put their arms on women's shoulders for support.

After the air crew carefully removed the casket from the hold, the soldiers carried their comrade's body to rest in front of his mother. A sergeant respectfully unfolded the flag and stepped away.

Mendoza walked forward and laid her hand on the white stars and softly wept. After a few more moments for the family, the soldiers carried her son's body back to the hearse. A procession of motor police led the long, black car away. The honor guard saluted as it disappeared from view.

"He thought he was lucky, so I never asked him, 'What do you want in case ...'" Mendoza said, her voice trailing off. "But when I was riding with him, I thought, 'He would have been so proud.' I know him. He would have liked that."

Special Forces Medic Shot, Killed In Iraq

June 29th, 2007 MICHAEL GILBERT; The News Tribune

A Special Forces soldier from Fort Lewis was killed Tuesday in Iraq, the Department of Defense said Thursday.

Sgt. 1st Class Nathan L. Winder, 32, a medic, was shot while with a quick-reaction force near Diwaniyah, about 75 miles south of Baghdad, the military said.

Winder was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group at Fort Lewis.

Raised in Utah, he joined the Army in 1993 and served 10 years as a mechanized infantryman at Fort Riley, Kan., in Korea and at Fort Hood before he was accepted into the Special Forces. He arrived at Fort Lewis in 2006, the Army Special Operations Command said in a statement.

His mother, Terri, told the Salt Lake Tribune she and her husband, Tom, adopted their son in Korea when he was 2 and raised him with seven other adopted children.

Two of his brothers also serve in the Army and have been deployed to Iraq, she said.

“When the other two were in Iraq, Nathan had a hard time with that,” his mother told the newspaper. “He didn’t like it that his brothers were serving in the war and he was here at home. He wanted to be over there serving his country. Then his turn came.” He was deployed in January, she said.

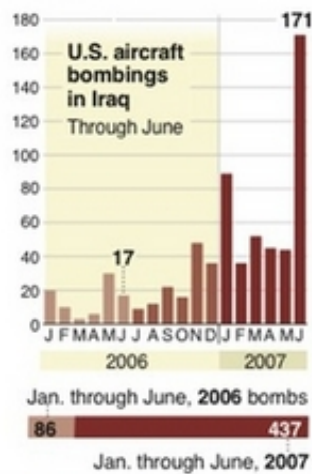
Terri Winder said her son was tough on the outside but caring and loyal to his friends.

“He loved the children in Iraq and carried teddy bears and things to give them,” she told the Salt Lake Tribune. “He was trying to help two Iraqi children come to the states for medical attention.”

Winder is survived by his wife, Mechelle, who lives in Canada with her sister. He also is survived by an 11-year-old son from a previous marriage, Logan, of Herkimer, N.Y.

U.S. bombings rise

Air Force and Navy aircraft bombings in Iraq increased five-fold in the first six months of 2007 compared to those in the first half of 2006.



SOURCE: U.S. Air Force

AP

Humvee Blown Up In Baghdad; Casualties Not Announced



A roadside bomb destroyed a U.S. military Humvee in central Baghdad July 11, 2007. Casualty figures were not immediately available. REUTERS/Thaier al-Sudani

“All” British Basra Bases Attacked

12th July 2007 Associated Newspapers Ltd

All British bases in Basra came under mortar fire over the past day - a frequent occurrence in the city - the military said today.

No casualties or damage were recorded.

New Zealand Mercenary Killed In Iraq

07/12/07 New Zealand Herald

A former New Zealand soldier has been killed while working for a private security firm in Iraq. Darryl de Thierry, 34, had just returned to work in the war-torn country when his armoured vehicle ran over a landmine on Tuesday.

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A U.S. Army soldier handcuffs suspected insurgents in Baqouba, Iraq, July 8, 2007. (AP Photo)

U.S. Military Butcher Photo Journalist And Driver; His Camera Stolen



The wreckage of a mini-bus where an Iraqi photographer and driver working for Reuters were killed in Baghdad. (AFP/Ahmad al-Rubaye)

Jul 12, 2007 (Reuters)

An Iraqi photographer and driver working for Reuters in Iraq were killed in Baghdad on Thursday in what police said was American military action and witnesses described as a helicopter attack.

Photographer Namir Noor-Eldeen, 22, and driver Saeed Chmagh, 40, were killed in eastern Baghdad, the international news and information company said.

A preliminary police report obtained by Reuters said Noor-Eldeen and Chmagh had been killed by a "random American bombardment" that killed nine other people.

The report was issued by the al-Rashad police station, the closest station to the scene. Reuters obtained a photocopy of the report. It was based upon witness accounts of the incident and signed by a lieutenant-colonel, the head of the station.

Noor-Eldeen had called a Reuters colleague to say he was taking photographs of a damaged building.

Witnesses interviewed by Reuters in the al-Amin al-Thaniyah neighborhood said Noor-Eldeen and Chmagh, who also worked as a cameraman's assistant, were near the building around the time a U.S. helicopter fired on a minivan.

"The aircraft began striking randomly and people were wounded. A Kia (minivan) arrived to take them away. They hit the Kia and killed ... the two journalists," said one witness, Karim Shindakh.

Shindakh and three other witnesses said U.S. soldiers came and took Noor-Eldeen's camera equipment, which has not been recovered.

A witness has returned Noor-Eldeen's press cards to Reuters.

TV footage showed the front of the minivan had been badly mangled. There was a large hole in the roof. A pool of blood lay near the curb, while shrapnel marks pocked the wall of a house.

The deaths take to six the number of Reuters employees killed in Iraq since U.S.-led forces invaded the country in 2003 to topple Saddam Hussein.

"Once again we are left mourning colleagues who have met an untimely death while doing their job in Iraq," said Reuters chief executive Tom Glocer.

"Our sympathies and thoughts are with their families, friends and colleagues today," added Glocer.

"Noor-Eldeen and Chmagh's outstanding contribution to reporting on the unfolding events in Iraq has been vital. They stand alongside other colleagues in Reuters who have died doing a job that they believe in."

Reuters Editor-in-Chief David Schlesinger said the deaths were a tragic reminder of the risks journalists face in covering the war in Iraq.

"The job our reporters do is a critical one - telling the world what is happening on the streets of Iraq on a daily basis," said Schlesinger.

"Reuters will continue to do all it can to protect journalists who must work in dangerous and difficult conditions but still have a right to do their jobs."

Noor-Eldeen was single.

Chmagh was married with four children.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

British Soldier Killed Near Gereshk On Thursday 12 July 2007; Two More Wounded

12 Jul 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with much sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a British soldier from the 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards near Gereshk in Helmand province, Afghanistan today, Thursday 12 July 2007.

The Grenadier Guards soldier was working as part of the 1st Battalion Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment Battlegroup, who are undertaking operations alongside Afghan National Security Forces to improve security in the Helmand River valley.

During an enemy contact, the soldier suffered a gunshot wound at approximately 0800 hours local time. He was rapidly evacuated by helicopter and despite the very best efforts of emergency medical staff he was pronounced dead on arrival at the field hospital.

Two other soldiers were injured in another part of the same operation and they are now receiving medical treatment.

Dutch Officer Dead After Attack In Deh Rawud

Jul 12 (Reuters)

A Dutch soldier wounded in a bomb attack in the southern town of Deh Rawud earlier this week died from his injuries on Thursday after being transported to a hospital in Utrecht in the Netherlands. First Lieutenant Tom Krist was 24.

Assorted Resistance Action

Jul 11 (Reuters) & July 12, 2007 (AP) & By VOA News

Taliban guerrillas killed three policemen in an ambush on a convoy of U.S.-led troops in Afghanistan on Wednesday, a provincial official said.

The attack happened on a road in the southeastern province of Paktia, a bastion for the resurgent Taliban, who have stepped up their raids in recent months.

In eastern Khost province, a roadside bomb targeting a police patrol vehicle left six officers dead. The victims were part of a joint U.S.-Afghan patrol.

During an attack on police in Helmand's Sangin district one police officer was killed and another was wounded when police hit a landmine.

TROOP NEWS

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



U.S. Army Spc. Andre Craig's casket is carried from Immanuel Missionary Baptist Church in New Haven, Conn., July 6, 2007. Craig, 24, was killed in Iraq June 25, 2007 when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by an IED. (AP Photo/Bob Child)

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When: Friday, July 13th 2007 at 7pm
Where: Venice United Methodist Church

1020 Victoria Ave. (at Lincoln)
Venice, CA 90291

Hear from Ronn Cantu before he completes his two week mid-tour leave and returns to Baghdad

Hear from local veterans who have returned from Iraq and are now speaking out

Learn the strategies IVAW is implementing to bring our troops home now

Cost: \$10 Suggest Donation (nobody turned away for lack of funds)

Who:



Ronn Cantu- Ronn is a Sergeant stationed in Baghdad. He is in the middle of his second tour to Iraq but is back in Los Angeles for two weeks of leave. He will be speaking about the current situation in Iraq and the state of the “surge”.



Darrell Anderson- After serving one tour in Iraq and receiving a Purple Heart, Darrell refused a second deployment by going to Canada. Darrell has since turned himself into the Army, served his punishment, and continues to speak out.



Jabbar Magruder- Jabbar served in Iraq as a member of the CA National Guard and is president of the Los Angeles chapter of IVAW. He recently returned from Washington DC, where he turned in more than 1,000 signatures from soldiers opposing the war as part of the Appeal for Redress.



Tim Goodrich (MC) - Tim participated in the pre-war bombing of Iraq while George Bush was promising diplomacy would be used first. After being honorably discharged, he traveled to Baghdad on a fact finding delegation. Tim is a founding member and board member of IVAW.

Also...Edgar Cuevas, Jeff Key, and more of our new local members!

Questions?
Email la@ivaw.org

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

Fed-Up British Soldiers Are ‘Quitting In Droves’

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

3rd July 2007 by IAN DRURY, Associated Newspapers Ltd

The armed forces are struggling to cope because so many demoralised servicemen are quitting, a committee of MPs will say.

A damning report by a Commons committee will warn that the growing shortfall - fuelled by a recruitment crisis - is leaving the military increasingly overstretched in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It found the number of RAF servicemen and Army officers returning to civilian life has hit a ten-year high.

The total shortfall in forces personnel was 5,850 in April this year. The shortage was 5,170 in 2006.

Increasingly frequent overseas postings, heavier workloads, poor pay and disruption to family life were the key reasons more troops were quitting the military, MPs found.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Collaborator Police Chief Hides On British Base After Attack

12th July 2007 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

The Basra chief of police Maj. Gen. Jalil Khalaf came under fire while leaving a British base yesterday and was forced to scurry inside to safety.

British and Iraqi forces fought off the attackers as the police chief went back into the base for protection.

Iraqi police said a roadside bomb also blew up as his convoy tried to pass, wounding two of his guards.

Bush Buddy's Home And Police Station Blown Up In Fallujah

July 11 (Xinhua)

Multiple bombers attacked the house of a tribal leader during a gathering in a town near the city of Fallujah Wednesday, killing at least 21 people and wounded some 50 others, local police and medical sources said.

Two bombers wearing explosive belts blew themselves up at about 5:00 p.m. (1300 GMT) among a crowd of the al-Jumailat tribe in the house of Sheikh Meshhin al-Khalaf in the town of Garmah

Afterwards, two more bombers sneaked among dozens of people gathered to help evacuating casualties and blew themselves up, the source said.

Earlier, Khalaf called on a gathering in his house to urge his tribesmen join the [U.S. occupation organized] Iraqi security forces to fight militants in Iraq's western Anbar province, the source added.

Many of the wounded people were in critical condition, he said.

Khalaf's house was totally destroyed by the blasts, the source said, adding that several nearby houses and a police station were also damaged.

Ambulances, police vehicles and private cars transferred killed and wounded people to the General Hospital in Fallujah.

Some [collaborator] tribal leaders in Anbar have turned against nationalist insurgents.

Assorted Resistance Action

July 11, 2007 Associated Press Writer & Reuters & 7.12.07 Xinhua & Reuters

A bomber on a bicycle wounded a policeman at a checkpoint in Falluja, west of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed a policeman inside his car in Diwaniya, 180 km (112 miles) south of Baghdad on Tuesday, police said.

At least four policemen were killed and two others wounded when guerrillas attacked their patrol in northern Baghdad on Tuesday evening, police said.

At least two policemen were wounded by a car bomb near their patrol in Mosul, police said.

Guerrillas attacked a police commando checkpoint, killing one policeman in the Saidiya district of southern Baghdad on Tuesday, police said.

At least 20 nationalists stormed the house of Samarra's deputy mayor Abboud Hamid, shot him several times and killed him Wednesday.

Guerrillas on a motorcycle killed a police intelligence officer in northern Najaf on Tuesday evening, police said.

Three Iraqi soldiers and four policemen were killed on Monday when a car bomber rammed their checkpoint in south Baghdad, U.S. military said on Tuesday.

A British cleric trying to negotiate the release of five British hostages seized in Baghdad has returned to the United Kingdom amid reports that nationalists were distributing threatening pamphlets that labeled him a spy.

A car bomb detonated in the Bab Sinjar neighborhood in western Mosul, local police source said. The attack targeted a passing police patrol in the neighborhood, wounding two policemen.

A bomber stormed a wedding ceremony in a town near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Thursday, killing four people and wounding five others, local police source said. The attack targeted the house of a brother of an Iraqi police officer in the town.

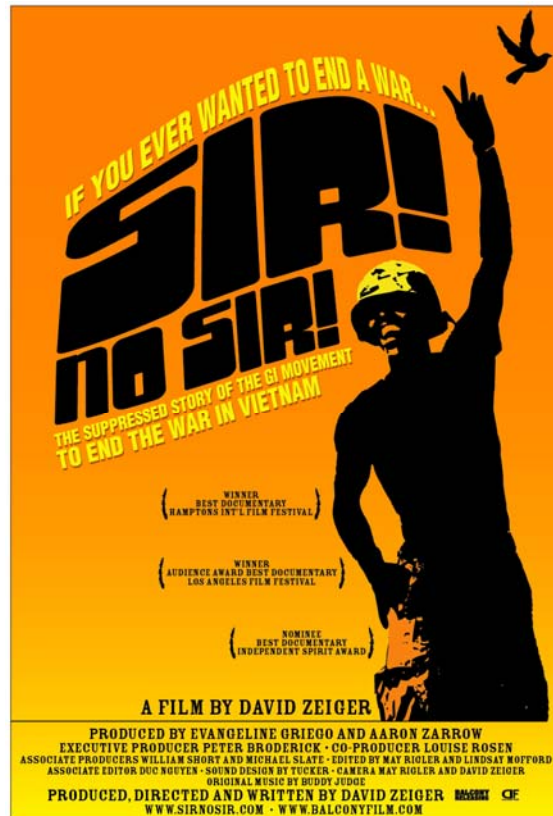
FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

**"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.**

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-Martin Smith, Iraq Veterans Against The War Midwest Regional Coordinator

Over the course of the last 3 months since we began the "Make a resister out of Soldier" program, we have handed out over 400 copies of the film to active duty soldiers, including 100 DVD's that were given to soldiers in Iraq!

We thank you for your continued support! Let's keep it up...

The Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) Bus Tour has been handing out copies of *Sir! No Sir!* to active duty military personnel.

Be part of the solution and get a copy into the hands of a soldier today!

**The *Sir! No Sir!* DVD is on sale now, exclusively at
www.sirnosir.com.**

Also available is a Soundtrack CD (which includes the entire song from the FTA Show, "Soldier We Love You"), theatrical posters, tee shirts, and the DVD of "A Night of Ferocious Joy," a film about the first hip-hop antiwar concert against the "War on Terror."

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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.

A Word From Mr. Kalashnikov

Jul 6, 2007 By Mansur Mirovalev, The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Sixty years after the AK47 went into production, designer Mikhail Kalashnikov says he doesn't stay awake at night worrying about the bloodshed wrought by the world's most popular assault rifle.

"I sleep well. It's the politicians who are to blame for failing to come to an agreement and resorting to violence," Kalashnikov said Friday at a ceremony marking the birth of the rifle, whose initials stand for "Avtomat Kalashnikov."

"During the Vietnam War, American soldiers would throw away their M16s to grab AK47s and bullets for it from dead Vietnamese soldiers," Kalashnikov said.

"I hear American soldiers in Iraq use it quite often."

"After the collapse of the great and mighty Soviet Union, so much crap has been imposed on us, especially on the younger generation," he said. "I wrote six books to help them find their way in life."

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/)

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



People look through a window at the overturned furniture in an Iraqi citizen's home wrecked by an armed home invasion by foreign occupation soldiers from the USA in the Amil neighborhood in Baghdad July 8, 2007. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

[61% of Iraqis say they approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces in their country, up from 47 percent in January. A solid majority of Shiite and Sunni Arabs approved of the attacks, according to the poll. 9/27/2006 By BARRY SCHWEID, AP & Program on International Policy Attitudes

[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 1776. They are right to resist. T]

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
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Please say how many you wish sent.

NOTE WELL: They will all be different issues of GI Special to satisfy DOD regs that you may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue.*

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Wars Wasting \$12 Billion A Month; Pentagon “Estimates” Full Of Shit

All told, Congress has appropriated \$610 billion in war-related money since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror assaults, roughly the same as the war in Vietnam.

Jul 9 By ANDREW TAYLOR (AP) [Excerpts]

The boost in troop levels in Iraq has increased the cost of war there and in Afghanistan to \$12 billion a month, and the total for Iraq alone is nearing a half-trillion dollars, congressional analysts say.

All told, Congress has appropriated \$610 billion in war-related money since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror assaults, roughly the same as the war in Vietnam. Iraq alone has cost \$450 billion.

The figures come from the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, which provides research and analysis to lawmakers.

For the 2007 budget year, CRS says, the \$166 billion appropriated to the Pentagon represents a 40 percent increase over 2006.

The Vietnam War, after accounting for inflation, cost taxpayers \$650 billion, according to separate CRS estimates.

The \$12 billion a month "burn rate" includes \$10 billion for Iraq and almost \$2 billion for Afghanistan, plus other minor costs. That's higher than Pentagon estimates earlier this year of \$10 billion a month for both operations. Two years ago, the average monthly cost was about \$8 billion.

But the estimates call into question the Pentagon's estimate that the increase in troop strength and intensifying pace of operations in Baghdad and Anbar province would cost only \$5.6 billion through the end of September.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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