

GI SPECIAL 5G5:



**“I Had A Nephew Killed
In Iraq And I’m Not Sure
Why”
Seymour Soldier Is Killed In Iraq**



June 27, 2007 By Justin Hesser, The Courier-Journal

A soldier from Seymour died as a result of combat injuries while serving his second tour of duty in Iraq, the Defense Department and his family said.

Army Spc. Carter A. Gamble Jr., 24, died Sunday in Duraiya, military officials said.

Gamble was on patrol checking buildings to make sure they were unoccupied when someone inside shot him, said Jackson County Sheriff Marc Lahrman, who is Gamble's uncle.

Gamble spent most of his life in Georgia. He has a 2-year-old daughter, Deborah Lynn, and his wife, Peggy, is expecting a child in November, Lahrman said yesterday.

Gamble entered the military after graduating from high school and was sent to Iraq during the invasion, Lahrman said. But the experience was a "nightmare" for him and he eventually left the military, Lahrman said.

"You stick a gun in a 20-year-old's hand and invade another country, personally I can't imagine what that could have been like," his uncle said.

Gamble also was dealing with the death of his mother, from cancer, in 2001.

"That was always his grounding force," Lahrman said. "He could always talk to (his) mom."

After about two years out of the military, some of which he spent in Brownstown, Gamble decided to go back in, Lahrman said.

"After being out awhile and growing up some more, he figured out that it was for him," Lahrman said. "He was making plans for a military career."

His nephew had been in Iraq for six months on his second tour, Lahrman said.

Gamble was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Ga.

While Lahrman said he has always been skeptical of the war, his nephew's death has created even more confusion.

"I had a nephew killed in Iraq and I'm not sure why," Lahrman said. "How does someone explain to his 2-year-old daughter why she doesn't have a dad?"

Funeral arrangements are pending.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Baghdad IED Kills Two U.S. Soldiers, Two More Wounded

July 5, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070705-09

BAGHDAD — Two Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers were killed and two other Soldiers were wounded when an explosive formed projectile detonated near their patrol during combat operations in a southern section of the Iraqi capital July 5.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad

July 4, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070704-18

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed during combat operations in a southern section of the Iraqi capital July 4.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Copter Crash

7.4.07 Reuters

BAGHDAD, July 4 (Reuters) - One person on board a U.S. military helicopter was killed when the aircraft was forced down in northern Iraq on Wednesday, a military spokesman said.

Another person on board had been hurt, he added.

“I Never Believed In The War, And I Felt We Had No Business Being There”

Brentwood Marine Dies In Iraq



June 25, 2007 KRXI-TV

A Marine bomb technician with deep ties to the cowboy culture of the Northern California town where he spent his teenage years died in Iraq doing the work he loved, his family said.

Staff Sgt. Stephen J. Wilson, 28, was killed in a blast Wednesday along with a fellow Marine as they scouted for explosives in Iraq's Al Anbar province, according to his mother and the Department of Defense.

Wilson was only 17 when he enlisted in the Marines after graduating from high school, which meant his mother, Bonnie Lou Schreiner, had to sign for him to serve.

“I never believed in the war, and I felt we had no business being there. But he was part of it, and I had to support it,” Schreiner told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Wilson rode bulls and raised pigs in the Future Farmers of America program after moving to Brentwood in 1992, said his mother, who lives in Hidden Valley Lake in Lake County. He was also played hockey and soccer.

After joining the Marines in 1997, he was stationed in Japan, Finland and the Ivory Coast before volunteering for Iraq. He was on his third tour when he was killed.

Wilson grew up in suburban Atlanta before moving to Brentwood and was assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 13 out of Camp Pendleton in San Diego County. He is

survived by his mother; his father, John C. Wilson of Tualatin, Ore.; two brothers; and a grandmother.

Soldier From Lake City Remembered As A Natural Mentor

6/25/2007 By Emily Buss, Post-Bulletin, Rochester MN

LAKE CITY -- Anthony "Tony" Hebert, a 19-year-old Lake City soldier who was killed Thursday in Iraq, is remembered by friends and coaches as a leader and competitor.

The death of Hebert, a 2005 graduate of Lincoln High School in Lake City, was confirmed Friday by his parents, Robert and Laurie Hebert. The Defense Department hasn't yet released information on the circumstances of Hebert's death.

Steve Randgaard, a fifth-grade teacher in Lake City who was Hebert's high school golf coach, spoke Thursday night with Hebert's parents at their home as friends stopped by to console them.

"I'd say they're in shock right now more than anything else," Randgaard said later in an interview.

Hebert was home on leave in February and was planning to speak with a class, Randgaard said, but school was canceled for two straight days because of snow, so he didn't get the chance.

During high school, Hebert played golf with great skill. He was the team leader and a respected mentor, said Alex Wallerich, who was in junior high school when Hebert was a senior.

"He was a well-respected friend and player," said Wallerich, who recently completed his junior year of high school. "He was a senior when I met him, and we became good friends."

While finishing his senior year, Hebert was excited about the benefits and opportunities he would encounter in the military, according to friends. He was passionate about becoming a part of the Airborne unit in Iraq. But, another teammate of Hebert's remembers his guidance the most.

"I met him when I was in eighth grade," Spencer Halder said. "He was easy to follow as a leader and was positive about everything. We played together for a while and advanced to sections. That's when we became good friends."

Randgaard said Hebert was a dedicated person who was an excellent golfer, was very coachable and took a keen interest in helping the younger players on the team.

"He had a really good work ethic," Randgaard said. "When he was determined to do something, he would go to it. He was just a quality, classy kid. It's a tough loss."

Randgaard described Hebert's guidance of Halder and Wallerich. "Tony took them under his wing and got them going, and now they're our top golfers."

Halder and Wallerich played on the Lake City golf team that took fourth place in the state high school golf tournament three weeks ago. Halder also placed ninth as an individual.

"Tony would have been proud of that," Randgaard said.

Hebert is the 61st person with strong Minnesota ties to be killed in connection with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Army Pfc. Raymond Spencer Jr. Was Killed In Iraq

June 23, 2007 Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer

(SACRAMENTO COUNTY) -- Army Pfc. Raymond Spencer Jr., 23, of Sacramento County was a study in contrasts. He liked the movies "Top Gun" and "Finding Nemo," the History Channel and "South Park," country music and rock.

His eclectic interests, he said on his MySpace profile, were proof that he was a "down to earth guy who enjoys life and takes things as they come."

Today, Spencer's modest description of himself is joined by sad remembrances left by the many people of varied backgrounds he touched during his short life.

Spencer was killed Thursday in Baghdad when insurgents attacked his unit with homemade bombs and small arms, according to the U.S. Army.

"He was always happy, always smiling," his aunt, Victoria Gargano, 49, of New York City, said today. "He kept everybody's spirits up. I don't think there was anybody who didn't like him."

Spencer was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Bliss, Texas and proud of it, relatives said.

"People sleep peaceably in their beds at night, only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf," Spencer, quoting George Orwell, wrote in the profile he posted at MySpace, the popular online social networking site.

Spencer was a firefighter in Placer Hills before joining the Army. He coached youth ice hockey and played the game himself throughout the U.S. and Canada, at one point harboring ambitions to play professionally.

He cherished his family, said his aunt, and wrote on MySpace, "My family has always been there for me and support everything I do. I plan to be the same way when I start my own family one day."

Slain Soldier Lived American Dream

June 22, 2007 By HEATHER HADDON, HERALD NEWS

When the 14-hour-a-day menial job got to Spc. Farid Elazzouzi, he looked to the Army for a better opportunity at realizing the American dream.

The recent Paterson transplant was strong and fit. The military could help improve his English, Elazzouzi believed. A steady salary would benefit his family back in Oujda, Morocco.

On June 14, Elazzouzi's hopes were dashed when an improvised explosive device ripped through his Humvee in the northern Iraq town of Kirkuk. Elazzouzi was 26 years old and in three months, his military tour was scheduled to end.

On Thursday, news of Elazzouzi's death circulated about South Paterson, where he lived briefly. Several residents said they could relate to his story -- the immigrant whose desires for something better drove him to leave his family.

"A lot of young kids do the same thing," said Khoed Mahmmoud, 39, who also left Morocco for Paterson two years ago. "Even if he wasn't from my country, it's sad what happened to him."

According to the Pentagon, Elazzouzi was born in Morocco. His father died, leaving behind his mother and older siblings. His mother now lives in Oujda, a city of 342,000, near the Algerian border.

Elazzouzi graduated high school and spoke some English, according to those who knew him in Paterson. He idolized fast cars and the material comforts of life in the United States, but his family in Morocco struggled financially. Elazzouzi managed to win a green card from an annual lottery in Morocco and decided to leave home, said Youssef Douaoula, the owner of Casablanca Grocery -- a hub for Moroccans on Main Street in Paterson.

About two years ago, Elazzouzi arrived in Paterson with a friend during the winter, remembered Abdalilah Louhab, another Paterson acquaintance. Elazzouzi moved to a Getty Avenue apartment with several roommates, whom he knew well from Morocco. He started working as a busboy at Alkhayam, a local restaurant.

Though he loved America, the job quickly wore on him. "He was working from 9 o'clock in the morning until 11 p.m.," said Louhab, 27, a barber. "It was hard on him."

Elazzouzi sought advice from Louhab and other local Moroccans, part of a small enclave in Paterson that number about 115, according to the 2000 Census. One of his friends helped him open a bank account, where he managed to sock away a few thousand dollars. Several acquaintances told him to apply to Passaic County Community College. And one of his first questions, Douaoula remembers, was about finding a gym.

Tall and well-built, Elazzouzi eventually decided to capitalize on his brawn. When a Moroccan veteran told him about the Army, Elazzouzi enlisted in the Army in 2005, Douaoula said.

Elazzouzi served in the 25th Infantry Division, based at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. He took basic training in Fort Jackson, S.C., the Army's largest facility for recruits. His unit, the 3rd Brigade Infantry Combat Team, deployed to Iraq in July 2006 for a one-year tour.

He came home to Paterson for two visits, friends remember. Douaoula chatted with him on-line. Sometimes, Elazzouzi complained about his military salary.

Eight days ago, Elazzouzi boarded a Humvee together with Sgt. Derek T. Roberts, 24, of Gold River, Calif. and Spc. Val J. Borm, 21, of Sidney, Neb. The unit drove through Kirkuk, a city 140 miles north of Baghdad.

All three soldiers died when the IED exploded. Their company was set to return to the U.S. in July, but the tour had been extended by three months.

After Elazzouzi was killed, Army representatives came to inform his roommates and asked about how to locate his mother, friends said. Army officials finally reached Elazzouzi's family in Morocco five days after he died, according to John Reese, a 25th Infantry Division spokesman.

The military does not release information about burial arrangements for soldiers. Reese said that if their loved ones chose to, the bodies of foreign-born soldiers are returned to their home countries.

Nearly 70,000 of the U.S. military's 1.4 million soldiers were immigrants in 2004, according to the most recent Pentagon statistics. They constitute about 5 percent of the total military force.

Elazzouzi's death shocked his friend Louhab when he learned about what had happened last week in Iraq. He also felt empathy for the soldier's loved ones in Morocco.

"His poor family," Louhab said. "He was just trying to support them."

Pfc. Larry Parks Jr., Tank Gunner From Altoona Killed In Iraq

June 21, 2007 By Michael Birnbaum, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pfc. Larry Parks Jr. was only in Iraq for 38 days.

"He was raised rough and tough," said his father, Larry Parks Sr. "We thought he'd be invincible -- we thought he'd go over there and help out, and then come back and be fine."

Pfc. Parks had been a member of the Newburg Volunteer Fire Department in Blair County for eight years when he shipped out for Army basic training in January 2006.

He was trained as a tank gunner and this May was deployed to Iraq, where he died Monday when his tank hit a roadside bomb south of Baghdad, according to his family. Pfc. Parks, 24, lived in Altoona.

When Pfc. Parks joined the Army, "he was excited," said Nikki Nagle, a friend since childhood. "He always wanted to do it. When he first had his physical, he had a hard time getting in, because he had a hernia." After several tries, Ms. Nagle said, he was accepted.

"He wanted to make his family proud of him, and he did," she said.

"We weren't happy or excited about it" when he joined the Army, said his mother, Cheryl Parks, "but he wanted to help."

Pfc. Parks was one of 8,143 military personnel from Pennsylvania deployed worldwide as of the end of April, according to the most recent figures available from the Defense Department.

Pfc. Parks was interested in serving others from a young age. He grew up by a fire station. "He used to hang around down there and watch the guys practice," said Bob Dennis, president of the Newburg Fire Association.

He was fascinated by the firefighters' routines and joined the Newburg department when he turned 16, and still a student at Altoona Area High School.

"He wasn't afraid to gear up and go into a burning building," said Mr. Dennis.

In addition to his mother and father, Pfc. Parks is survived by two sisters, Amanda Parks and Hannah Parks of Altoona; a brother, Adam Parks, of Altoona; and a half-sister, Michelle Clark, of Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

Slain Downstate Soldier Sought To Turn Life Around

June 23, 2007 By Kristen Kridel, Chicago Tribune

When Army Pfc. Jacob Timothy Tracy was fatally injured in Iraq a week ago, his cousin and best friend, a medic stationed only 10 minutes away, wasn't able to be by his side.

After Tracy died Monday, his parents have been concentrating on one thing: They have been calling everyone they can - from the Red Cross in Washington, D.C., to U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) - to try to get his cousin home to Palestine, in southern Illinois, for their son's funeral on Wednesday.

'It's kept us busy, kind of kept our minds off of things or at least helps,' said Tracy's father, Don.

Jacob Tracy, 20, died of injuries received June 17 when an explosion went off near his vehicle in Baghdad. Tracy, of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based at Ft, Hood, Texas, had been in Iraq less than four months.

He knew he was going to have to go to war when he joined the Army, said his mother, Sheila. But Jacob Tracy, who dropped out of Palestine High School his senior year and got into some minor trouble with the law, wanted to turn his life around.

He passed a General Educational Development test before leaving for Iraq.

'He told us that he wanted to make me and his dad proud,' Sheila Tracy said. 'He knew he needed discipline in his life and structure, and he knew the Army would give it to him.'

But Sheila and Don Tracy said they were already proud of the son they adopted before he was 5.

Jacob Tracy and his medic cousin, Levi Estock, were friends even before they were relatives, Sheila Tracy said. Jacob Tracy's birth mother had asked Estock's mother to adopt the boy.

Estock's mother couldn't adopt another child but said she knew someone who might, and the two boys ended up as cousins.

Jacob Tracy grew up to be the type of guy who always wanted to make people laugh, his father said.

The family learned about Jacob Tracy's injuries on Father's Day after Don Tracy missed a phone call from Iraq and he and his wife checked the messages at their home.

Jacob Tracy was unconscious when his parents called overseas, but someone held the phone up to his ear, his mother said. 'They let us talk,' Sheila Tracy said. 'We got to tell him we love him.'

Notes From A Lost War:

**“Do I Go Back And Arrest Every
Policeman On Sight? I Could, But It
Would Put Off 90 % Of The Rest Of The
People”**

7.4.07 By Sharon Behn, The Washington Times

TIKRIT, Iraq -- Confronting what he calls the most difficult challenge the modern U.S. Army has ever faced, a top frontline combatant said every American military service is being transformed by the war in Iraq.

“This is harder than anything we have ever done. We’ve got nothing to compare with this,” Command Sgt. Maj. Jeff Mellinger told The Washington Times during a three-day trip to northern Iraq. He was the most senior command sergeant serving in Iraq before finishing his assignment in May.

He went over that day’s trip north of the capital, driving from one U.S. base to another. His small convoy of four Humvees avoided a series of roadside bombs, one of which went off shortly after his vehicles passed.

Another U.S. convoy was hit as it was coming from the other direction. The command sergeant major had his vehicles pull guard duty, watch the roads, and jumped out of his Humvee to help out the crippled convoy.

“Like today, there were (Iraqi police) at both places where the (roadside bombs) were. I know that. Do I go back and arrest every policeman on sight? I could, but it would put off 90 percent of the rest of the people,” he said.

**GUESS WHO’S WORRIED
GUESS WHO ISN’T
GUESS WHY
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Iraqis gather to observe a U.S. army soldier in Baghdad’s Sadr City, Iraq, March 14, 2007. (AP Photo/Adil al-Khazali)

Notes From A Lost War:

U.S. Command Back With That Silly Trench Digging Bullshit Again

July 5, 2007 By Hussam Ali and Mike Drummond, McClatchy Newspapers

KARBALA, Iraq — A now-dead plan to ring Baghdad with a trench to keep out insurgents has found new life in Karbala, a predominately Shiite Muslim city 50 miles south of the capital.

Iraqi construction crews this month will begin digging a 12-mile-long trench to the west and south of the city of 1.4 million residents to help prevent car bombs and protect two holy Shiite shrines.

U.S. and Iraqi officials shelved plans announced last year for a bigger trench to surround Baghdad. Instead, they've focused on conducting military operations in the provinces and raiding car-bomb shops.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Panjwai IED Kills Six Canadian Soldiers

Jul 4 (Reuters)

Six Canadian soldiers were killed in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday when their armored vehicle hit a roadside bomb, the Canadian government said, in what was the deadliest attack on NATO forces this month in the country.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, the deadliest since April, when six Canadian soldiers were killed in a similar incident. It brings the total number of foreign troops killed in action in Afghanistan to more than 70 this year.

Ottawa said the six men and a local Afghan interpreter died when their armored vehicle hit the device in the Panjwai district about 20 km (13 miles) southwest of the southern city of Kandahar, which is home to Canada's 2,600-strong mission.

The blast occurred on a gravel road as the troops were returning in a convoy of 12 vehicles from a joint operation with the Afghan national army.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Paktika, Two Wounded;

Nationality Not Announced

Jul 5 AFP

A soldier with the NATO-led force was killed and two wounded Thursday when a bomb struck a vehicle in southeastern Afghanistan, the alliance said.

Thursday's attack targeted International Security Assistance Force [occupation] troops on a joint operation with Afghan forces in Paktika province, said ISAF spokesman for eastern Afghanistan Major Donald Korpi.

"One ISAF soldier was killed and two others were wounded when an ISAF vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb," he told reporters through a translator.

Assorted Resistance Action



An attack site in Spin Boldak, in the province of Kandaha July 5, 2007. A bomber blew himself up at a checkpoint in southern Afghanistan, killing 10 police and wounding 11. (AP Photo/Allah Uddin)

July 2, 2007 AP & July 4 (Xinhua) & July 5, 2007 By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Writer

A bomber blew up a room full of policemen eating lunch at a southern Afghan checkpoint Thursday, killing 10 officers and wounding 11. The attack occurred near Spin Boldak, a town in the southern province of Kandahar near the Pakistan border.

The blast killed 10 policemen, wounded 11 and destroyed two rooms, said Sayeed Agha Saqib, the provincial police chief. Spin Boldak's district police chief was among the wounded.

A roadside bomb destroyed a police vehicle patrolling in a dangerous area of southern Afghanistan on Monday, killing all seven policemen on board, an official said.

The Ford Ranger police truck was traveling through the Zhari district of Kandahar province when the bomb exploded, said provincial police chief Fayed Agha Faqid.

Some insurgents attacked police checkpoints in Jaghuri district Tuesday afternoon, Ahmadzai told Xinhua. One policeman died in the conflict, the police chief said, adding eight others, including two insurgents and six policemen were injured.

TROOP NEWS

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



Army Sgt. Trista Moretti's casket during her burial July 3, 2007, in Linden, N.J. Sgt. Moretti was killed in an insurgent mortar attack on June 25 in Nasir Lafitah, Iraq. (AP Photo/George Olivar)

70 From Arkansas National Guard Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse



Members of the Arkansas Army National Guard's 213th Area Support Medical Company, hold shirts to give to family members that state 213th ASMC Deployed Soldier Supporter, July 5, 2007 in North Little Rock, Ark. About 70 members depart Friday to train for two months before deploying to Iraq. (AP Photo/Mike Wintroath)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

03 Jul 2007 Reuters & July 4, 2007 The Associated Press & (Reuters) & (Xinhua) & 05 Jul 2007 Reuters & (Xinhua) & AP & Laith Hammoudi, McClatchy Newspapers

Clashes between the Shi'ite Mehdi Army militia and Iraqi police left at least three people dead, including a policeman, and six wounded in the southern Iraqi city of Samawa, police said. The clashes began after police attempted to arrest a senior Sadrist official in the city.

Tensions rose overnight in the city, as many of Sadr's Mahdi army militiamen, carrying machineguns and rocket propelled grenade launchers, spread in the streets around his office in the city, the source added.

A car bomb targeting a police colonel's convoy wounded seven policemen, in central Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

An Iraqi intelligence officer died from his wounds, after being attacked by guerrillas in central Kirkuk.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded two policemen when it exploded near their vehicle in southern Kirkuk, police said.

Three Iraqi soldiers were wounded by a roadside bomb targeting their patrol in southwest Kirkuk, police said.

Guerrillas killed two policemen and wounded two officers in a drive-by-shooting in the southern part of the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two policemen were wounded in an IED explosion near a fuel station in Al Hujjaj neighborhood downtown Kirkuk city around 8,45.

A source in the infrastructure 1st brigade of the Iraqi army said that a soldier was killed and 3 others wounded in an IED explosion targeted two patrols from the 1st and the 5th battalions of the brigades on Kirkuk-Reyadh street yesterday evening.

Three policemen were seriously wounded when militants threw a grenade at their vehicle in Hawija, 70 km (43 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

3 policemen were injured in an IED explosion targeted their patrol in Zafaraniyah district south east Baghdad around 7,55 am.

A car bomber rammed his vehicle into an Iraqi army checkpoint near the Nafaq al-Shurta area in western Baghdad on Wednesday, killing at least two soldiers and wounding seven others, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

One Iraqi soldier was killed and three were wounded by a roadside bomb in western Baghdad targeting their vehicle, police said

Three Iraqi soldiers were wounded by a mortar attack on their camp near Hilla, 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas assassinated a police intelligence major in central Baghdad, police said.

Two Iraqi journalists working for a television station were captured and killed last month. The slayings of Mohammed Hilal Karji and Sarmad Hamdi al-Hassani were the latest attack targeting Baghdad TV, which is owned by Iraq's Sunni Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi's Iraqi Islamic [collaborator] Party.

Five Iraqi policemen were killed on Wednesday by a suicide car bomb in Baiji, a town 180 km (120 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. The police said that several other officers had been wounded in the attack on a police patrol.

One Iraqi soldier was killed by a roadside bomb targeting an army patrol in Suleiman Beg, about 90 km (55 miles) from the northern city of Kirkuk, police said. Three other soldiers were wounded.

Gunmen killed an Iraqi soldier at a fake checkpoint near Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Four policemen were killed and two were wounded by a roadside bomb in Samarra, 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad, the police said.

A car bomb killed two policemen near the western city of Ramadi, police said.

A source in the 5th Iraqi army division said that 4 Iraqi soldiers were killed while they were going to give support to another Iraqi army force fighting insurgents in Al Dainiyah village south Baladrooz town east of Baquba city today afternoon.

The same source confirmed that another 3 soldiers were injured in an IED explosion targeted their patrol in Imam Mansour area east Baquba today morning.

A security source in Baquba city said that a policeman was shot dead by a sniper downtown Baquba city today afternoon.

A governmental source said that 5 guards of the house of Baquba deputy governor were injured in an attack by gunmen early morning today.

Police sources in Toz Khormato district said that guerrillas captured 4 trucks drivers near Al Habash village, part of Khalis town north of Baquba early morning today. The source said the drivers are Kurdish and they don't work for any company adding that the insurgents kidnapped the drivers and left their trucks on the street.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Poem For The 4th Of July: America, America

July 04, 2007 Via Phil G

Saadi Youssef is a well-known Iraqi poet, an expatriate living in London. The translator is Khaled Mattawa, poet, president of RAWI, and professor at University of Michigan. The poem was sent to me by D. H. Melhem.

**Poem For The 4th Of July:
America, America**

by Saadi Youssef

I too love jeans and jazz and Treasure Island
and John Silver's parrot and the balconies of New Orleans.
I love Mark Twain and the Mississippi steamboats and Abraham Lincoln's
dogs.
I love the fields of wheat and corn and the smell of Virginia tobacco.
But I am not American.

Is that enough for the Phantom pilot to turn me back to the stone age?

America:
let's exchange gifts. Take your smuggled cigarettes
and give us potatoes.
Take James Bond's golden pistol
and give us Marilyn Monroe's giggle.
Take the heroin syringe under the tree
and give us vaccines.
Take your blueprints for model penitentiaries
and give us village homes.
Take the books of your missionaries
and give us paper for poems to defame you.
Take what you do not have
and give us what we have.
Take the stripes of your flag
and give us the stars.
Take the Afghani Mujahideen beard
and give us Walt Whitman's beard filled with butterflies.
Take Saddam Hussein
and give us Abraham Lincoln
or give us no one.

We are not hostages, America
and your soldiers are not God's soldiers ...
We are the poor ones, ours is the earth of the drowned gods,

the gods of bulls
the gods of fires
the gods of sorrows that intertwine clay and
blood in a song...
We are the poor, ours is the god of the poor
who emerges out of farmers' ribs
hungry
and bright,
and raises heads up high...

America, we are the dead.

Let your soldiers come.
Whoever kills a man, let him resurrect him.
We are the drowned ones, dear lady.
We are the drowned.
Let the water come.

(translated from the Arabic by Khaled Mattawa)

The Greatest Lie In American History



VA Hospital in Spokane, Washington July 2005

“Bring ‘Em On “
George W. Bush
July 2, 2003

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: July 04, 2007
Subject: The Greatest Lie In American History

The Greatest Lie In American History

“If we were to quit Iraq before the job is done, the terrorists we are fighting would not declare victory and lay down their arms. They would follow us here.”

George W. Bush

**Speech given at West Virginia
Air National Guard
July 4, 2007**

“If the United States cuts and runs in Vietnam, we will have a temporary peace and then a certain world war.”

**Richard M. Nixon
Durham, N.C.
April 30, 1966**

Without exception, the war in Iraq is the greatest lie in American history.

If the Bush administration is not stopped, we will continue to see a slow moving Rawanda throughout the Middle East.

I did not serve in Vietnam for the cause of freedom, I served Big Business in America for the cause of profit.

Lying is the most powerful weapon in war.

For the love of oil is the root of all evil.

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
July 4, 2007**

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

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

“Their Weaponry Fits An Asymmetrical War, And They Have The Capacity To

Blend Into The Daily Flow Of Iraqi Life, As We Cannot”

August 2007 By David Halberstam, Vanity Fair [Excerpt]

[I]t is hard for me to believe that anyone who knew anything about Vietnam, or for that matter the Algerian war, which directly followed Indochina for the French, couldn't see that going into Iraq was, in effect, punching our fist into the largest hornet's nest in the world.

As in Vietnam, our military superiority is neutralized by political vulnerabilities.

The borders are wide open. We operate quite predictably on marginal military intelligence.

The adversary knows exactly where we are at all times, as we do not know where he is.

Their weaponry fits an asymmetrical war, and they have the capacity to blend into the daily flow of Iraqi life, as we cannot.

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

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

**U.S. Occupation Commands'
Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even
More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**



An Iraqi citizen in the rubble of his home after a home invasion by foreign occupation soldiers from the USA in Baghdad's district of Sadr City. (AFP/Wissam Al-Okaili)

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

***Payback:*
Thieving Contractors Fuck Up New
U.S. Imperial Embassy;
Terrified Staff Move In Delayed:**

“Electric Shocks, Fuel Leaks And Noxious Fumes”

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.

July 4, 2007 By Glenn Kessler, Washington Post

U.S. diplomats in Iraq, increasingly fearful over their personal safety after recent mortar attacks inside the Green Zone, are pointing to new delays and mistakes in the U.S. Embassy construction project in Baghdad as signs that their vulnerability could grow in the months ahead.

A toughly worded cable sent from the embassy to State Department headquarters on May 29 highlights a cascade of building and safety blunders in a new facility to house the security guards protecting the embassy. The guards' base, which remains unopened today, is just a small part of a vast \$592 million project to build the largest U.S. embassy in the world.

The main builder of the sprawling, 21-building embassy is First Kuwaiti General Trade and Contracting Co., a Middle Eastern firm that is already under Justice Department scrutiny over alleged labor abuses. First Kuwaiti also erected the guard base, prompting some State Department officials in Washington and Baghdad to worry that the problems exposed in the camp suggest trouble lurking ahead for the rest of the embassy complex.

The first signs of trouble, according to the cable, emerged when the kitchen staff tried to cook the inaugural meal in the new guard base on May 15. Some appliances did not work. Workers began to get electric shocks. Then a burning smell enveloped the kitchen as the wiring began to melt.

All the food from the old guard camp -- a collection of tents -- had been carted to the new facility, in the expectation that the 1,200 guards would begin moving in the next day.

But according to the cable, the electrical meltdown was just the first problem in a series of construction mistakes that soon left the base uninhabitable, including wiring problems, fuel leaks and noxious fumes in the sleeping trailers.

“Poor quality construction . . . life safety issues . . . left (the embassy) with no recourse but to shut the camp down, in spite of the blistering heat in Baghdad,” the May 29 cable informed Washington.

The “fairly serious problems” noted in the cable indicate that First Kuwaiti’s work fails to meet basic safety standards, said an administration official who was not authorized to speak to the news media. But the State Department’s Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO), which oversees construction of the new embassy, has kept a “close hold” on the project, making it difficult for anyone else in the government to gauge progress.

“We are suspecting we will find the same issues in the new embassy,” resulting in months of delays, the official said.

Originally, the new guard base -- estimated to cost about \$22 million -- was due for completion in January, but deadlines were missed. OBO certified that the camp "meets and exceeds" its contract requirements in a letter signed April 14 and provided by First Kuwaiti.

The new delay in moving the guards may affect plans to build temporary housing for maintenance workers and contractors hired to help run the new embassy, which is scheduled to be completed in the fall.

Retired Maj. Gen. Charles E. Williams, the director of OBO, who was formerly with the Army Corps of Engineers, declined to be interviewed. "It is internal business," said his special assistant, Phyllis A. Patten-Breeding.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

“As Punishment, The Palestinian People Who Elected Hamas Will Continue To Be Subjected To The Horrors Visited Upon Them By The Americans, The Israelis, And The EU”

28 June - 4 July 2007 By Joseph Massad, AL-AHRAM [Cairo] [Excerpts]

As punishment, the Palestinian people who elected Hamas will continue to be subjected to the horrors visited upon them by the Americans, the Israelis, and the EU.

The anti-democracy Americans and Europeans are already sending financial and diplomatic rewards to the coup leaders in the West Bank, as are the Israelis, although the latter are more cautious. Israel's major help to the putschists in the last few days consisted mainly in the bombardment of Gaza and arranging for "peace" talks with the coup leader in Sharm El-Sheikh as a reward.

Indeed Israel, the United States, and Europe are reversing all the measures they had taken to punish Palestinian democracy since the election of Hamas in order to reward the anti-democratic coup.

In this regard, Israel has begun returning the tax money it had been stealing from the Palestinian people for the last year and a half (about one billion US dollars).

As for the illegal coup government convened by Abbas with the technocratic Salam Fayyad as prime minister, it, like its Chilean predecessor, will receive all kinds of aid, economic, military, diplomatic, and ideological.

Let us not forget that the “Chicago school” technocratic economists, disciples of Milton Friedman, were the ones given charge of the Chilean economy under Pinochet and almost brought it to a halt. It is the Chilean example which popularised the term “technocrats” in government, which would become commonplace after the 1980s and which the Palestinian people are promised now as their salvation.

Since he led the coup against democracy, Abbas has suspended articles in the Palestinian basic law that require parliamentary approval of decisions he makes.

He has also ordered the dissolution of all NGOs, which must now reapply for licences that will not be granted to Hamas-affiliated organisations, thus making them illegal.

Whereas Hamas brought looting and disorder by some of its members under control within days, widespread destruction of Hamas-affiliated property, including social service centers, schools, and offices continues throughout the West Bank at the hands of Fatah thugs. In the meantime, Hamas members, including elected officials, have had to go into hiding in fear for their lives with hundreds being rounded up by Israel and Fatah.

Reports of disappearances are rife.

And all this is fully endorsed by the “international community” in the name of supporting “democracy.” Indeed the very rhetoric used by Abbas and his Fatah junta is borrowed from US rhetoric in the “war on terror,” especially the linking of Hamas to Iran.

In the meantime, acts that Fatah thugs organized, including throwing a Fatah activist (mistaken as a Hamas activist) from a tall building, and the like, are being blamed on Hamas by the secular chorus of Palestinian intellectuals (and the Saudi-owned satellite media) who are supporting the Fatah coup.

Perhaps Mahmoud Darwish’s recent poem in support of the coup published on the front page of the Saudi newspaper Al-Hayat, can be explained by the monthly checks he receives from the Fatah-controlled Palestinian Authority; and he is not alone. His condemnation of those secular intellectuals who support Palestinian democracy is a further attempt to polarize Palestinian society not along the lines of those who support or oppose Palestinian democracy, but along the lines of secularists versus Islamists.

That the “secularists” are the ones collaborating with theocratic Israel to destroy democracy coded as “Islamism” is represented as a force of Western modernity and enlightenment.

What is lost on Darwish and his ilk is that it is those “dark forces” of Islamism in Palestine that are the ones defending democracy.

The pro-coup position adopted by many of the Oslo secular intellectuals towards Palestinian democracy is indeed transforming Palestinian secularists into the “darkest force” in Palestinian history in decades.

What we are witnessing is nothing less than the overall collapse of Palestinian secular example of resistance to the Israeli occupation.

The only antidote to these forces of true darkness is to continue to support and mobilise for Palestinian democracy and to expose the anti- democracy coup leaders and their apologist intellectuals for what they are: collaborators with the enemy.

[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



Imperial Democrats Announce Plan To Keep On Killing U.S. Troops And Iraqis Until April 2008;

02 July 2007 By Jennifer Yachnin, Roll Call

House Democratic leaders plan to force another vote on war policy in July, when lawmakers will take up a proposal that would end military involvement in Iraq by the spring of 2008, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) announced Friday.

According to the Speaker, the measure will instruct the Defense secretary to begin the redeployment of military personnel from Iraq within 120 days of the bill's passage and would require that withdrawal to be completed by April 1, 2008.

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



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

**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**

**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/)

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