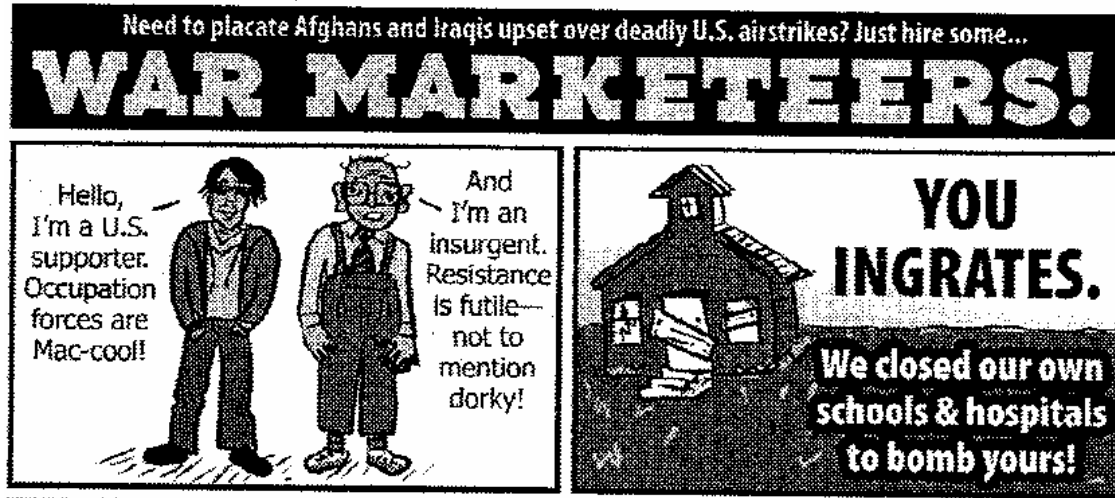


GI SPECIAL 5G7:



Semper Desplicable: **Disgusting Marine Corps Scum In Command Defy Recommendations On Troops With PTSD; Hundreds Of Combat Vets Wrongly Kicked Out With No Benefits**

Navy Capt. William Nash, who coordinates the Marines' combat stress programme, told USA Today this week that at least 326 of the discharged Marines showed evidence of mental health problems, possibly from combat stress, according to the Marines story. The Marine Corps has yet to follow up on Nash's recommendations.

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

July 06, 2007 By Aaron Glantz (IPS)

SAN FRANCISCO: Cody Miranda joined the U.S. Marine Corps when he was 17 years old. He loved the military and hoped to spend his entire career in the service.

Miranda has served more than 16 years in the Marine Corps. Over the years, he's been deployed to the Middle East six times, including stints in the 1991 Persian Gulf War and the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

But when he returned from a tour in Iraq in 2003, his stepmother Jodie Stewart says, he was a changed man.

"He always used to be over focused on time as the military trains you to be," she said as an example. "He's never on time for anything anymore. I don't know how to explain it to you. How do you explain it when a man who used to behave one way has gone abstractly and profoundly different?"

After returning from Iraq, Cody Miranda divorced his wife and pulled away from his son. He started drinking too much and was found in possession of cocaine.

"He never received any of the post-deployment questionnaires that now are mandatory for all troops," said Amanda Newman, a licensed family therapist who's been seeing Miranda on a pro-bono basis for the past few weeks. "He couldn't understand why all of a sudden his life was falling apart."

In 2005, Miranda went Absent Without Leave from Camp Pendleton in California for nearly a year and lived homeless on the street.

When he returned to the Marine Corps, military doctors diagnosed him with severe post-traumatic stress disorder; an anxiety illness that can develop after exposure to a terrifying event or ordeal in which grave physical harm occurred or was threatened, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Military doctors also diagnosed Miranda with bipolar disorder, insomnia and sleep apnea.

But rather than give him treatment for his illness, the Marine Corps lowered his rank to private from staff sergeant, threw him in the brig multiple times (most recently for being five minutes late for a hearing), and began court martial proceedings that can lead to a dishonourable discharge -- which would have denied the medical benefits Miranda needs to get his life right again.

Newman said Miranda needs inpatient psychiatric care, which he is not receiving, and complained that her attempts to see him while in the brig were delayed as a result of military orders.

"I asked immediately to see him in the brig and was told that it was not possible," Newman wrote to Miranda's military lawyer on Jun. 29.

"This is absolutely unacceptable: if a Marine was experiencing a medical emergency and had cut an artery and was bleeding profusely, he surely would not be denied treatment simply because he was in the brig."

"In fact I would assume and hope that he would be transferred to the hospital for appropriate treatment. There is no difference regarding the severity and crisis

nature of Pvt Miranda's psychiatric condition and that of a medical condition: both are life threatening," she wrote.

Officials at Camp Pendleton did not respond to multiple telephone and e-mail inquiries by deadline. Thirty-six hours after receiving a written request for information, a public affairs representative of the base told IPS: "I still don't have anything for you."

But public attention did appear to have an effect, however.

On Tuesday, after veterans' groups helped Miranda file formal complaints with California Congressman Ken Calvert and Senator Barbara Boxer, Camp Pendleton's commander, Col. James B. Seaton, abandoned plans for a court martial.

According to military defence lawyer Captain Bart Slabbekorn, Miranda was brought before the base commander Jul. 3 and given "non-judicial punishment."

"As a result of today's proceedings, Pvt Miranda may be retained in the Marine Corps or he may ultimately leave active duty," Slabbekorn wrote in a letter to supporters. "Either way, at this point, he will be looking at a discharge making him eligible for VA (Veterans Affairs) treatment down the road."

If Miranda does remain in the military, it's likely he will be assigned to the Wounded Warrior Battalion, where he would work with other soldiers facing similar issues.

"The future is up to Miranda," Slabbekorn said.

In the first four years of the Iraq war, 1,019 Marines were dismissed with less-than-honourable discharges for misconduct committed after overseas deployments.

Navy Capt. William Nash, who coordinates the Marines' combat stress programme, told USA Today this week that at least 326 of the discharged Marines showed evidence of mental health problems, possibly from combat stress, according to the Marines story.

Nash told the paper he hoped that "any Marine or sailor who commits particularly uncharacteristic misconduct following deployment...be aggressively screened for stress disorders and treated."

"If a Marine who was previously a good, solid Marine -- never got in trouble -- commits misconduct after deployment and turns out they have PTSD, and because of justice they lose their benefits, that may not be justice," Nash said.

The Marine Corps has yet to follow up on Nash's recommendations.

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,508th time, there is no enemy in Iraq. Iraqis and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started this war of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't

**tell the truth: this war was about making money for them, and nothing else.
Payback is overdue. T]**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed In Salah Ad Din, Four Wounded

July 7, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070708-04

TIKRIT, Iraq – One Task Force Lightning Soldier was killed when an explosion occurred near his vehicle while conducting operations in Salah ad Din Province, Saturday. Four Soldiers were also wounded and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

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

7.7.07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070707-15

BAGHDAD — Two Task Force Marne Soldiers were killed and two were wounded by an improvised explosive device explosion during a dismounted patrol south of Baghdad Friday.

MNC-I Soldier Dies Of Non-Battle Related Cause

July 7, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070707-13

BAGHDAD – An MNC-I Soldier died July 6 of a non-battle related cause.

Oak Harbor Soldier Killed In Iraq



Keith Kline

July 7, 2007 By MEGHAN GILBERT, BLADE STAFF WRITER

OAK HARBOR, Ohio — A 24-year-old soldier from Oak Harbor was killed this week by a roadside bomb near Baghdad, his family told The Blade yesterday.

Keith Kline, a 2002 graduate of Oak Harbor High School, was a sergeant with the 82nd Airborne Division based in Fort Bragg, N.C., his uncle, Mark Lipstraw, said.

The family was told of Sergeant Kline's death late Thursday, he said.

Mr. Lipstraw said his nephew was on his first tour in Iraq and had been there about three months.

Sergeant Kline joined the Army after high school and re-enlisted after serving his first three years. He worked in the communications area of the Army and enjoyed it, Mr. Lipstraw said.

Sergeant Kline is the son of Betty Kline of Oak Harbor, and stepson of Allen Lipstraw of Rocky Ridge, who raised him since Sergeant Kline was a baby. His biological father is Tom Crawfoot, Mark Lipstraw said.

In high school, the soldier was a leader on the Rocket wrestling team that was the Division II district champions in 2002, his senior year.

Sergeant Kline placed sixth in the state wrestling tournament that year.

"There was no one like him," Coach George Bergman said.

He wrestled in the 103-pound division, the smallest weight class. That meant he was first on the mats and led the way for the team, Mr. Bergman said.

"He was very much a team player," the coach said.

Mr. Bergman said his former wrestler was “a great kid” who had a vibrant personality and was well-liked by everybody.

“He had lots of energy,” Mr. Bergman said. “He had no quit in him. He didn’t get discouraged.”

Paulette Lipstraw, Sergeant Kline’s aunt, joked that her nephew was “a tiny thing” in high school, but he bulked up to about 130 pounds while in the service.

“He was forever giving,” Ms. Lipstraw said. “He had a heart of gold.”

Sergeant Kline knew the risks of being in the military but wanted to serve his country, his aunt said.

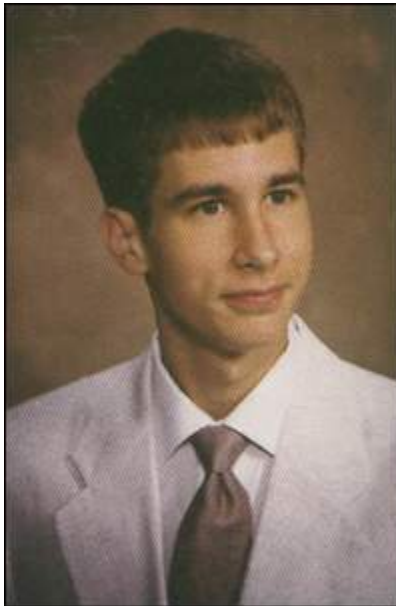
“We are so proud of him,” she said.

Sergeant Kline enjoyed spending time fishing and deer hunting, said his cousin, Jake Lipstraw, who turned 19 on Thursday, the day they heard the news.

The two grew up together playing video games and causing mischief in the neighborhood, his cousin said. Many of the Xbox 360 games they played were Army games, Jake Lipstraw said. “We hung out a lot. We got along so well.”

The family was told Sergeant Kline’s remains would be returned in 7 to 10 days. Funeral arrangements have not been scheduled.

Local Soldier Killed In Iraq



Vinnedge's Talawanda yearbook photo, 2001

July 7, 2007 THE ENQUIRER

OKEANA – A Butler County soldier was killed in Iraq two days ago, his mother confirmed today.

Details of 24-year-old Anthony Vinnedge's death were not immediately available. His mother, Deborah, said she was too upset to talk.

"It's just been two days," she said. "I'm not ready to talk about anything yet. I'm dealing with an officer here right now."

Vinnedge was a 2001 graduate of Talawanda High School in Oxford.

Talawanda Schools Superintendent Phil Cagwin remembered Vinnedge "as a smart young man who was always about doing the right thing."

"He was a really quiet, conservative sort of young man who typified middle America," said Cagwin.

Okeana is north of Miami Whitewater Forest and northeast of Harrison.

British Soldier Killed By Basra IED

07/07/07 Ministry Of Defense

A British soldier has been killed during a large scale operation in Iraq during the early hours of this morning, 7 July 2007.

The soldier was killed when an IED detonated in the Tuninah district in the north of Basra.

British Soldier Dies At Basra Palace

7 Jul 07 Ministry of Defence & By Ned Parker, L.A. Times Staff Writer

It is with deep sorrow that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death yesterday, 6 July 2007, of a soldier of 4th Battalion The Rifles at the Basra Palace base in Basra city centre, Southern Iraq.

An investigation into the incident is on going and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage. The soldier is from Fiji.

Former Area Resident Killed In Iraq: Sister: 'She Wanted To Be In The Army'

June 26, 2007 By AMANDA REAVY, STAFF WRITER; The State Journal-Register

MOUNT ZION - Cindy Blackston always looked up to her older sister, Army Spc. Karen Clifton. She supported her sister's decision to join the Army despite her own concerns about Clifton's safety.

"Ever since she was a little girl, she wanted to be in the Army," Blackston recalled. "We tried to talk her out of it, but that's what she wanted to do. She wanted to be on the front lines, and she wanted to support her country."

Clifton was performing the job she loved when her family's worst fear was realized. The 22-year-old was killed Thursday in Baghdad when a rocket-propelled grenade struck her vehicle, according to the Department of Defense.

"She's a hero. She's our hero. We love her and we'll miss her," Blackston said outside Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home, where her family met Monday. Arrangements are pending while the family awaits word of when Clifton's body will return home, she said.

Clifton - who was born in Decatur, grew up in Mount Zion and lived briefly in Sangamon County - was assigned to the 554th Military Police Company, 95th Military Police Battalion, in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Her father, Douglas Clifton, lives in Mount Zion and her mother, Chris Hancock, in Illiopolis. Hancock said her daughter lived briefly with her in Illiopolis and Springfield and had moved to Florida with her half-sister, Heather Maple, also 22, where she finished high school at Fort Myers.

Clifton signed up for a five-year commitment with the Army and had recently completed her fourth year. She had been deployed in Iraq since June 2006.

Clifton was originally scheduled to return stateside this June 1, but her tour was extended through October.

"I keep thinking (if her tour of duty had ended) June 1, she would still be here," Hancock said.

Blackston and Hancock said they kept in touch with Clifton as much as possible through text messages and phone calls, the last one a week and a half ago.

"The last thing I remember her telling me before I hung up was, "I love you." Those were the last words I said to her," Blackston said.

Hancock said she had sent a text message to her daughter on Wednesday, but never heard back.

"She usually texted right back, but I thought, 'She's just busy.'"

Her family said Clifton was driving a Humvee carrying three other people when it was attacked. She was the only occupant killed.

Hancock and Blackston last saw Clifton when she returned to central Illinois on leave just before Christmas. The family went out to eat together and mother and daughter hit the town together.

“We had a blast,” Hancock said.

Blackston said she regrets that her sister never met her 5-month-old daughter.

“It’s been very tough, and we’re still grieving about it. I try everyday to think about the good times that we had,” she said.

Those memories include Clifton’s love of Indy car racing and her positive attitude. Clifton also had aspirations of becoming a state trooper. “I just want everybody to know that she was a hero, and she fought for this country for everybody. And I just hope people appreciate what she did,” Hancock said.

Loved Ones In Lee Mourn Soldier Killed In Iraq



This is the last photo that Joel House of Lee posted of himself in Iraq about a month ago on his Myspace page. Photo courtesy of House family.

June 26, 2007 By Toni-Lynn Robbins, Bangor Daily News

LEE — When Sgt. Joel House, 22, deployed to Iraq in November 2006, he worried he would never again see his aging 14-year-old dog, Seyda.

On Monday afternoon, Seyda paced around the House family’s front lawn, sniffing a memorial the family erected to honor their fallen soldier.

House, who was deployed with the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division of Fort Hood, Texas, was killed Saturday by an improvised explosive device in Taji, Iraq. House grew up in Lee, graduated from Lee Academy and planned to settle in the town after his time in the military.

"I don't know how to explain what it's like to lose a 22-year-old son; I just know God was ready to take him," said Paul House, 51, the soldier's father. "He was a great testament to his peers, and the Lord wanted him."

Deanna House, 47, last spoke with her son on Thursday. As always, they talked about the arid Iraqi weather, the welfare of Joel's brother, Luke, 27, and sister, Joy, 25, and the much-anticipated care packages filled with beef jerky, his father's chocolate peanut butter fudge, and Joel's favorite — Grandma's peanut butter squares.

The last telephone conversation, though, was unlike any the Army mother had experienced during either of her son's two deployments. She said her youngest child felt distant, and his thoughts seemed to be elsewhere.

"His voice was kind of flatlike," said Deanna House. "I think he knew what he was getting ready to face."

While Joel House was a quiet man, friends, family and members of the community often sought him when something needed to get done.

"He was a go-to guy," said his aunt Kathy Crise. "If anyone needed a dog watched, or someone to take care of their house while they were away, they would hand over their keys to Joel and never think twice about trusting him."

Paul House was overcome with emotion as he described the last father-son-hunting trip he took with Joel. He pointed to the mounted bear head on the wall, Joel's trophy from that trip.

Then a smile crept across House's face as he reminded the family of his son's snappy humor. He said Joel had mastered the art of one-liners.

Before he had a chance to offer an example, his wife explained her son's humor by displaying the gray long-sleeved T-shirt Joel wore home for his two-week leave in March. The shirt bore a cartoon drawing of a soldier in camouflage standing next to a Humvee. The yellow lettering read, "Who's your Baghdaddy?"

Even after he was injured in a barracks bombing in March, Joel found a way to make his family laugh at the tragic incident that claimed the life of his best friend. After the attack, Joel snapped a photo of the rubble, his sleeping bag the focus of the frame. He posted the picture on the social network Web site MySpace and gave it the caption, "My sleeping bag got dirty."

Paul House, who runs his own outdoor guide business from home, said he would miss Joel the most when he visits their favorite hunting spots. His son loved hunting, fishing, playing the guitar and eating "camp food," he said. After his military service, Joel hoped to return home to help his dad and go to school to become a game warden, said Deanna House.

The grieving parents said they both supported their son's decision to join the Army, and took pride in his efforts.

"It's like when your kids first get their driver's license," Paul House said, describing his emotions when Joel was deployed. "You are always scared."

On Saturday — Deanna House's birthday — the couple's worst fears were realized, as two Army representatives pulled into the driveway around 6:30 p.m. She had just returned home from a day trip to Belfast when the soldiers arrived. She said her birthday could never be the same after Saturday, and wished she could change the date.

Many family members spent hours at the well-known "painted rock" in Lincoln on Sunday to leave a final message to Joel. Community members have scrawled messages on the rock for decades, and on Monday, motorists passing by the marker found a wave of red, white and blue. Drivers bound for Lee on Route 6 could read the message: "Freedom Isn't Free, Sgt. Joel House, U.S. Army, 11.21.84, 6.23.07." Motorists traveling in the other direction could see a large 22, the soldier's age, and the note, "Fallen Hero, Joel H."

"This is the politics of motherhood," said Deanna House. "My son went to war and gave his life."

Soldier Makes Ultimate Sacrifice

June 28, 2007 By CINDY MALLETTE, Staff Writer, The Tyler Telegraph

WILLS POINT - The giant flag raised above Veteran's Memorial Park billowed at half-staff Wednesday afternoon, a solemn reminder that one more soldier has made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

At 9 p.m. Saturday, Leslie Malone received the news that every military wife dreads: her husband, Staff Sgt. Jimmy Malone, was dead.

Sgt. Malone, 23, and three of his fellow soldiers died Saturday afternoon in Taji, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated under their Humvee.

Mrs. Malone was at home with her parents when two Army officers came to the door to give her the terrible news.

"As a military wife, you know why they've come," she said.

She'd spoken to Sgt. Malone only six hours before. She said the conversation was normal, and that he promised to call her the next day. When she didn't hear from him, she wasn't concerned. She said he often got called out on missions and phoned whenever he had time.

Sgt. Malone was in the middle of his second Iraq tour. He deployed on Oct. 30, 2006, and was supposed to come back to Texas in January 2008.

The last time he saw his family was February, when he came home for two weeks to see his brand new baby, Reagan.

“He loved her so much. He couldn't be more proud to be a daddy,” Mrs. Malone said.

One night during his two-week leave, Mrs. Malone realized her husband hadn't come to bed. She found him wide awake in the living room, and when she asked why he was up, he said, “I knew if I went to bed, I wouldn't hear Reagan. I wanted to do it all.”

Sgt. Malone did try to do it all, his wife said.

“I never knew anyone who could G.I. a diaper.”

Sgt. Malone was G.I. from a very young age. His grandmother, Monah Malone, said he talked about joining the military after watching “Top Gun” as a boy. He picked a specific branch - the army - in seventh grade and followed through on his dream after finishing high school.

“We knew from the time he enlisted that he was going to be a career soldier,” Mrs. Malone said.

Sgt. Malone served with the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. In his first tour of duty, which lasted from March 13, 2004 - March 13, 2005, he was part of a tank unit stationed in Sadr City, a suburb of Baghdad. He crossed paths with an IED during his first tour too, but thankfully no one was injured.

Mrs. Malone never expected a second IED would take her husband's life, but she said she was prepared nevertheless.

“Jimmy and I discussed at length what he wanted, and that's what we're doing,” she said. “He wanted full military all the way.”

Sgt. Malone's family must wait for his body to return to the United States before making funeral plans. However, they have decided to lay his body to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Mrs. Malone said the Army has been a great support to her. She also credits her family and the community for giving her strength during some very dark hours.

“I know it'll be okay. I'm sad, but it'll be okay,” she said.

Sgt. Malone will forever stand as a hero to his family.

“If I could turn out to be half of what my brother was, I'll be very happy,” said Marcus Malone, Sgt. Malone's younger brother.

Marcus Malone is a private first-class in the Army. He said he enlisted because he wanted to do the same thing as his brother.

“He was always teaching me about being a good man and being the best I could be,” he said.

Pfc. Malone was scheduled to go to Iraq on July 22. Those plans are postponed for now, but he says he's ready to serve. “I will go and do what my brother started.”

3 British Soldiers Wounded; One In Serious Condition



AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani)

A track of a British military vehicle destroyed by insurgents in Basra July 7, 2007.

British troops were hit by heavy attacks with bombs, rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire in the southern city of Basra, causing a number of casualties among them.

07/07/07 Ministry Of Defense

In three separate incidents, one soldier was very seriously injured and another received a minor injury from Small Arms Fire attacks, and a further soldier was injured from a separate IED attack.

***Here Is What The Mass Media
Never Tell You About Iraq;
“The Bradley Caught Fire With Three
Soldiers And An Iraqi Interpreter
Trapped Inside, And The Gunner
Trapped Underneath”
“Ray Rode In With The Remains Of His
Friends”***

July 09, 2007 by Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpt]

Forward Operating Base Apache

At about 10 a.m., two Bradleys went out on a second patrol, with [Pfc. Timothy] Ray in the trail vehicle. The first Bradley rolled over an IED so big that it flipped the vehicle upside-down and blew a crater big enough for a Humvee to fit in.

The Bradley caught fire with three soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter trapped inside, and the gunner trapped underneath.

Ray immediately broke the first rule for medics. Before his teammates had a chance to clear the area, he jumped out and tried to run to the first Bradley.

His tunnel vision had kicked in.

“There was small-arms fire,” he said, mud from the scene seeping through his boots. “I couldn’t get to them. The flames were too high and too hot.”

But eventually he did get close enough to try to help the gunner escape — a friend with whom Ray had spent the past year. Ray eventually got him out, but the soldier didn’t make it.

As Ray worked, [Sgt. 1st Class Chad] Smith calmly assessed what his medics would need at the aid station. Soldiers ran back and forth from a radio to bring him updates.

He knew almost immediately that the men trapped inside the Bradley were already gone, but also that the reports of small-arms fire meant more casualties. Humvees filled with Charlie Company soldiers raced out of the gate to help.

After an hour, the men were still trapped.

A second explosion rocked through the compound, and the medics prepared for the worst.

As Ray continued to dig around the Bradley and pry open the doors, reports came in of more casualties.

The soldiers brought in an Iraqi girl with burns covering 60 percent of her body, as well as two Iraqi adults. The aid station medics prepared them for an airlift to the closest hospital.

And then another explosion. An RPG had hit a Humvee filled with military police who had arrived to help, killing one MP instantly.

Soldiers brought in an injured female soldier and a male soldier who had lost both legs.

The aid station medics stabilized them for the run to the hospital. Four MPs were treated for smoke inhalation.

The medics began passing out body bags. Charlie Company was ordered inside the building, but Ray, [Pfc. Sean] Lawson and Smith stayed.

Smith's team would identify the bodies even as they comforted a chaplain bruised by shrapnel and faced a platoon that, counting the four soldiers and the interpreter who had died that day, had lost a total of nine people.

Ray rode in with the remains of his friends. Guys he ate with. Guys he joked with. Guys he dreamed with.

He walked past the aid station, the trauma of the day etched in lines around his eyes and mouth.

"This is the hardest part," he said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Four Canadian Soldiers Wounded Near Kandahar

July 7, 2007 By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Writer & CBC

Four Canadian troops were injured in a bombing in southern Afghanistan on Saturday.

The roadside blast struck a NATO convoy in southern Afghanistan.

In the latest attack, a man rammed his vehicle into a military convoy about eight kilometres west of Kandahar City, setting off an explosion that killed the bomber, officials said.

The soldiers affected by the blast were travelling in a LAV III, considered one of the safest military vehicles being used in the mission.

All were transported by helicopter to the multinational hospital at Kandahar Air Field. Two were later released, while the other two were still undergoing treatment.

Qari Yousef Ahmadi, a purported Taliban spokesman, said a bomber had attacked the convoy.

Terrorists In Command Of U.S. Occupation Kill “Scores” Of Afghan Civilians; 108 Butchered In Bala Boluk; 30 More Killed While Burying Their Dead: “U.S. Troops And Their NATO Allies Killed More Civilians Than Insurgents Did, According To Several Independent Tallies”

After more than five years of increasingly intense warfare, the conflict in Afghanistan reached a grim milestone in the first half of this year: U.S. troops and their NATO allies killed more civilians than insurgents did, according to several independent tallies.

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

July 7, 2007 By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Writer & CBC & By Sayed Salahuddin, (Reuters) & July 6, 2007 By Laura King, L.A. Times Staff Writer

NATO and U.S. airstrikes have killed scores of Afghan civilians this week, residents and officials said on Saturday, deaths likely to deepen discontent with foreign forces and the Western-backed Afghan government.

Several residents and the head of a district council in Farah said an air attack in the Bala Boluk area had killed 108 civilians.

“Women and children have been killed and 13 houses destroyed,” said Bala Boluk council head Haji Khudairam. “In the bombing, in total, 108 civilians have been killed.”

“We are asking the government to send a delegation to see for itself the civilian deaths,” said Faizullah, a resident.

Residents of Kunar and provincial officials said airstrikes there killed three dozen civilians.

Eleven civilians, including nine family members of a man called Mohammad Nabi, were killed in an airstrike on Thursday.

Then 30 more civilians were killed in another airstrike on Friday while they buried the bodies of those killed on Thursday.

“In total from two days of bombing, 36 civilians have been killed,” said Shafiqullah Khatir, a Red Crescent employee.

Abdul Saboor Allahyar, a senior police officer in Kunar, said airstrikes killed 25 civilians and wounded 14.

After more than five years of increasingly intense warfare, the conflict in Afghanistan reached a grim milestone in the first half of this year: U.S. troops and their NATO allies killed more civilians than insurgents did, according to several independent tallies.

By late June, the United Nations mission in Afghanistan, working with local rights groups, had counted 314 civilian deaths at the hands of Western-led forces and 279 people killed by the Taliban and other militants. But that figure did not include at least 45 civilian deaths reported by local officials last weekend in Helmand province's Gereshk district.

“We see whole families killed together in their home - mothers, babies, everyone,” said Abdul Matim, a parliament member from Helmand province, who has personally investigated many of the civilian deaths in his home district. “It's a terrible sight.”

After a suicide bombing last week on the outskirts of Kabul that targeted a U.S. military convoy and killed two Western security officers, Afghan police anxiously waved journalists away.

“Don't go close,” they warned. “The Americans might shoot you.”

TROOP NEWS

“No U.S. Forces Have Ever Been Compelled To Stay In Sustained Combat Conditions For As Long As The Army Units Have In Iraq”

July 05, 2007 Lieutenant General William E. Odom, U.S. Army (Ret.) [Excerpt]

No U.S. forces have ever been compelled to stay in sustained combat conditions for as long as the Army units have in Iraq.

In World War II, soldiers were considered combat-exhausted after about 180 days in the line. They were withdrawn for rest periods. Moreover, for weeks at a time, large sectors of the front were quiet, giving them time for both physical and psychological rehabilitation.

During some periods of the Korean War, units had to fight steadily for fairly long periods but not for a year at a time. In Vietnam, tours were one year in length, and combat was intermittent with significant break periods.

In Iraq, combat units take over an area of operations and patrol it daily, making soldiers face the prospect of death from an IED or small arms fire or mortar fire several hours each day.

Day in and day out for a full year, with only a single two-week break, they confront the prospect of death, losing limbs or eyes, or suffering other serious wounds.

Although total losses in Iraq have been relatively small compared to most previous conflicts, the individual soldier is risking death or serious injury day after day for a year. The impact on the psyche accumulates, eventually producing what is now called “post-traumatic stress disorders.”

In other words, they are combat-exhausted to the point of losing effectiveness. The occasional willful killing of civilians in a few cases is probably indicative of such loss of effectiveness. These incidents don't seem to occur during the first half of a unit's deployment in Iraq.

After the first year, following a few months back home, these same soldiers are sent back for a second year, then a third year, and now, many are facing a fourth deployment!

Little wonder more and more soldiers and veterans are psychologically disabled.

**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:
PACK UP**

GO HOME



BAQUBA, Iraq, June 25: American soldiers were forced to move out of a house they had secured, after they discovered the building next door was rigged with explosives. Scott Nelson/World Picture Network, for the New York Times

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



The coffin of Spc. Andre Craig is carried from Immanuel Missionary Baptist Church in New Haven, Conn., July 6, 2007. Craig was killed in Iraq June 27, 2007 when his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb. (AP Photo/Bob Child)

Iraq Veterans Against The War Comes To Groton, Ct. “How Can I Be Against The Troops? I Am One”



7/7/2007 By Amy Renczkowski, The Day [Excerpts]

Groton, Ct. — Nine members from Iraq Veterans Against the War, from all different states, ages and military backgrounds, stopped in Washington Park Friday not to wave signs in the air, not to play peace music over loudspeakers, and not to make speeches through megaphones.

“We’re going out in the communities with fliers, interacting with military members that would like to talk to us,” said Jimmy Massey, IVAW regional coordinator for the South.

The group set off from Georgia last month on a summer bus tour that will end in New York. Groton, home of the Naval Submarine Base, was their ninth stop.

“This is not a protest tour. We are here to reach out and have dialogue with active personnel,” said Jim Goodnow, the bus driver.

The nonprofit organization, founded by Iraq War veterans in 2004, is made up of veterans and active-duty servicemen and women who are working to bring soldiers home from the war. The group provides outreach to communities and is a network for returning service members: those who may have a hard time adjusting or who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, according to Massey.

The anti-war members reaffirmed that they are not anti-soldier or anti-military.

Sholom Keller, an Army veteran, joined IVAW two years ago.

"How can I be against the troops? I am one," he said, pointing to his shirt bearing the group's name. "I have an opinion of the war in Iraq because I've been there. I've come to Groton ... to listen, talk and share."

Bus tour members hosted a barbecue Friday evening in Washington Park to meet with anyone interested in learning about the organization. The rain prevented them from placing fliers around the community.

Groton resident Allie Klosiewski stopped by before the barbecue to show her support. Her son Frank was severely injured in 1996 while in the Air Force after a bombing of the U.S. base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, she said. He rendered care to other victims of the blast, despite his own injuries, and received a Purple Heart.

Frank suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder after serving in Kuwait, Klosiewski added.

"It's sad to see this happening (the Iraq war). Just 'cause (President) Bush wants it his own way ... people are losing their sons and daughters," Klosiewski said. "It's such a waste of these young men and women and not a good cause."

Adrian Kinne of Vermont joined IVAW in January. She was activated in the reserves after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and worked in intelligence in Afghanistan and Iraq and then at a Veterans Affairs hospital. She said the veterans who served in Iraq know and understand the reality of war.

"It's not a popular topic of conversation among the units ... but they're not alone. We are there to support them," Kinne said.

"They really are scared of us," said Adam Kokesh, a member of IVAW who served in the Marines. "It's clear because we are getting attention."

But members said most public reaction has been positive. The group received a great response at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, they said.

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 RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Mahdi Army & Collaborators Fighting In Samawah

7.7.07 By Molly Hennessy-Fiske, L.A. Times Staff Writer

Sporadic shooting could be heard Friday in the southern city of Samawah after clashes erupted between security forces and members of the Al Mahdi militia affiliated with [nationalist] Muqtada Sadr.

Two Iraqi police officers were killed in the shootings, and 36 people were injured, including Iraqi police and soldiers, said Dr. Saleh Abdul Hassan, manager of a health clinic. Government offices closed and a curfew was imposed for the night, and security forces took sniper positions atop buildings, witnesses said.

Tribal leader Abdul Kareem Khafaji said Al Mahdi gunmen were sticking to their stronghold in the Jumhuri neighborhood, across the Euphrates River from his home.

“On the side of the river where I live, it is quiet,” he said. “But on the other side of the river, shooting can be heard from time to time.”

The latest outbreak followed an attempt Thursday by Al Mahdi fighters to visit Rumaitha, 20 miles north of Samawah, to inaugurate a new office, according to police.

The men refused the Iraqi security forces' demand to leave their weapons outside the town and returned to Samawah, where they gathered with about 150 supporters for a protest that led to clashes with police.

Assorted Resistance Action

07.07.07 (Reuters) & By Molly Hennessy-Fiske, L.A. Times Staff Writer

Five Iraqi soldiers were killed on Saturday by a car bomb targeting a military checkpoint in east Baghdad, an army spokesman said.

Six policemen were wounded by roadside bombs near Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

To the south, four Iraqi soldiers were killed in a roadside bombing while driving between Hillah and Karbala at midnight.

Guerrillas attacked a checkpoint near the town of Mashahidah, 25 miles north of Baghdad, killing at least eight Iraqi soldiers, according to Hamid Mishedani, 19, a shop owner who saw the shooting.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

“Our Forefathers’ Generation, The Very Generation That Inspired Me Into Military Service, Had So Much In Common With The Insurgents That Our Generation Gunned Down”

07/03/2007 by Daniel Joseph Black, [Iraq Veterans Against The War] lvaw.org/

When, at the tender age of 17 years and 2 days, I swore to defend this country with everything up to and including my life, I had in mind the values and pride instilled in me throughout a 13 year career of public education.

I believed that two short centuries ago, the Declaration of Independence established the freest state the world had known, and that state’s citizens’ rights were established and protected by the Constitution, a people’s victory without historical precedent.

Relinquishing the very statutes outlined in that sacred document was the farthest thing from my thoughts.

The ranks of brave and heroic individuals I was about to join had wrestled for themselves freedom and independence from an oppressive imperial empire by driving them off this continent and back across the Atlantic by means of force, and so I took the oath.

I could not have imagined that just three short years later, I’d become the component of an oppressive imperial empire attempting to wrestle freedom and independence from ranks of brave and heroic individuals who, in turn, were trying to drive me off their continent and back across the Atlantic by means of force.

From retrospective meditation, I came to understand that our forefathers’ generation, the very generation that inspired me into military service, had so much in common with the insurgents that our generation gunned down.

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.

Do We Hate Our Country?

From: Elliot Markson
To: GI Special
Sent: July 05, 2007
Subject: Do we hate our country?

During the Vietnam War, a friend of mine was put into the stockade for organizing his fellow soldiers against the war.

An Army captain peered into his cell one night and sneered: "Why do you hate your country?"

My friend said: "I don't hate my country. I only hate some people in it, like you!"

THE GEORGIE W. SAPRANO'S Episode 6: The Mexicans

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: July 05, 2007

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

THE GEORGIE W. SAPRANO'S: THE MEXICANS

Georgie W: Ok, we're at the ranch so it's safe to talk. Da way I see it, we gotta stand strong just like they did at the Alamo. When I light up a big Cuban cigar and drive past the Alamo, dats what I am proud of, da way they defended dere turf.

Libby: Youse right Boss, we hafta defend our turf.

Cheney: Why don't you friggin shut up Libby. The only reason youse didn't go to prison is because when the other prisoners would of started raping you, youse

would of started squealing like dueling banjos. Then they would of started impeaching us.

Rove: I still think we should of thrown Putin overboard in a cement suit from the boat at Kenabutt pork.

Georgie W: Yeah well, he's got his turf to defend just like we have to defend our turf in Iraq. Like I said before, if all youse was listening and had half a brain, we have to defend our turf just like they did at the Alamo.

Condi Rice: Boss, we were surrounded, overrun and the Mexicans killed everybody defending the Alamo. Didn't youse watch Davy Crockett as a kid ?

Georgie W: That's it. We should take away all of the helmets from the Solders in Iraq and make them wear coon-skinned caps.

Libby: Could I get one of those coon-skinned caps?

Rove: Shut up Libby or we will have you wearing one while standing out in the hot desert guarding da Mexican border. That will be your prison sentence.

Condi Rice: And you will be surrounded by Mexicans there too.

Join Us Next week For Another All New Episode Of
THE GEORGIE W. SAPRANO'S

IT'S THE WRITING, THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO GOOD

U.S. Labor [Sort Of] Against The War Sponsors Speaking Tour Including A Pro-Occupation Iraqi Traitor

July 6, 2007 By Lee Sustar. Jon Van Camp contributed to this report. Socialist Worker

LEADERS OF Iraqi trade unionists toured the U.S. in June to give Americans insight into the class struggle in Iraq and foster solidarity for their cause.

The 12-city tour, organized by U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW), showed an interest by U.S. labor activists in building solidarity with Iraqi workers.

However, as was the case in a similar tour in 2005, the events were clouded by controversy over the pro-occupation position of one of the union federations represented by one speaker--Hashmeya Muhsin Hussein, president of the Electrical Utility Workers Union, which is affiliated with the General Federation of Iraqi Workers (GFIW).

As a statement on the tour by New York City Labor Against the War (NYCLAW) put it, "The GFIW (formerly IFTU) is sponsored by the Iraqi Communist Party (ICP) and former U.S.-installed Prime Minister Iyad Allawi. These parties oppose immediate U.S. withdrawal, support Bush's 'surge,' and demand that the Iraqi puppet regime crush Iraqi resistance--positions that are echoed by the GFIW."

Abdullah Muhsin, international representative of the then-IFTU, was quoted in January as saying that "If the American troops leave, Iraq will become a bloodbath and turn toward the dark ages." Similarly, Wishyaar Hamad Haji, a top official in the Kurdistan Teachers' Union, an affiliate of the GFIW, said on a tour of Britain earlier this year that a troop withdrawal would be a "catastrophe."

"NYCLAW believes that such support for pro-occupation forces undermines genuine solidarity with Iraqi workers, weakens the fight for immediate U.S. withdrawal, and has no place on an antiwar platform," the group said in its statement.

The USLAW tour did include Faleh Abood Umara, General Secretary of the Iraqi Federation of Oil Workers, which opposes the occupation position and which recently went on strike in defiance of the government.

However, visa difficulties prevented Umara from reaching Washington, D.C., for the opening of the tour, which included a protest at the office of BearingPoint, a consulting company that wrote the proposed Iraq oil law that would virtually privatize 70 percent of the company's oil wealth.

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



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. soldier forces an Iraqi citizen to humiliate himself in his own home after breaking in with other U.S. soldiers at night in Baquba June 28, 2007. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

[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
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**“I Was Imprisoned For 14 Months
After Trying To Apply For**

Conscientious Objector Status After Seeing The Reality Of The Iraq War” “Libby -- Who Covered Up The Truth On Issues Of War Is Going To Walk Away”

2007-07-05 Canada IFP

A veteran who spent 14 months in prison for filing a conscientious objector application against redeployment to Iraq has spoken out against the commutation of Scooter Libby's sentence by President Bush.

“I was imprisoned for 14 months after trying to apply for conscientious objector status after seeing the reality of the Iraq war,” Kevin Benderman, who had to serve his sentence at a prison 3,000 miles from home, said.

Kevin Benderman had served as an army mechanic for 10 years when he developed moral and religious objections to the war in Iraq, after serving there in 2003, and refused to deploy there again. After seeing scenes of devastation in Iraq, and through his readings of both the Bible and the Qu’ran, Kevin Benderman filed an application for conscientious objector status on 28 December 2004.

He was then sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment at a court martial.

“Homes were bombed, people lived in mud huts and drank water from the mud puddles,” Benderman wrote in his conscientious objector application. “I could not ignore the little girl standing by the side of the road with her mother. Her arm was burned to her shoulder, and she cried in pain. To be aware of the mass graves throughout the area that we were in, full of bodies of women and children and men, all who had died by the hand of war, maybe not our war, but war.”

His wife Monica Benderman, who organized a campaign to obtain her husband's release, also hit out at Bush's action.

“Parole was denied to Kevin because he had not been 'sufficiently rehabilitated.'”, she said.

“What were they rehabilitating him from? Not wanting to go to war.

“During those 14 months Kevin would be sitting in a plastic chair getting shouted at; he was denied his mail at times, they tried to prevent his talking to his attorney and our congressman.

“Meanwhile, Libby -- who covered up the truth on issues of war that affect the lives of people like my husband -- is going to walk away.”

The couple are currently helping America 's veterans through their new organization, Benderman's Bridge.

President Bush commuted Vice President Cheney's former Chief of Staff Lewis "Scooter" Libby's sentence saying "I have concluded that the prison sentence given to Mr. Libby is excessive."

Conservative Chest

**GET OUT
OF JAIL FREE,
SCOOTER LIBBY**



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PROMISE NOT TO IMPLICATE BUSH OR CHENEY**

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