

GI SPECIAL 5G8:



**Iraq Veterans Against
The War Comes To Ft.
Hamilton, Brooklyn:
“He Got His T-Shirt, Which He
Proudly Announced He Would
Wear At The Next ‘Drill’”**

“With Tears In My Eyes, I Cleaned Up The Picnic Mess, And Knew That Nothing Could Be Better Than That”



6 Jul 2007 By Elaine Brower, The Military Project

The day after this Country celebrated “Independence Day” which marks the declaration of the colonials breaking off relations with King George of England, the Iraq Veterans Against the War arrived in Brooklyn, New York.

The New York Harbor, and surrounding areas, was the bloodiest battlegrounds of the revolution which earmarked the birth pangs of a new nation. Fittingly, a huge bus, “The Yellow Rose of Texas,” arrives in front of Ft. Hamilton Military Base, which was then and still is a bastion of the harbor.

Troops fought and died in this harbor, and now troops train and leave for another bloody battle, but this time in an occupied territory. It seems that this Nation, founded on “Common Sense” and independence, has now become what it loathes.

The day started with food taken into the park, long before the bus arrived. In the tradition of Brooklyn, large 6 ft. heroes, with Italian roast beef, ham, cheese, turkey, salami and tomatoes, with salads, fruit and vegetable platters, were placed on top of picnic tables in the middle of Dyker Beach Park, a half a block away from the gates to Ft. Hamilton Military Base.

This was all done under the strict supervision and surveillance of New York’s Finest, the NYPD. One lonely woman, and 3 police cars with inhabitants watching, set up the picnic area, and surrounded it with pictures of the boots of fallen soldiers killed in Iraq and who were from the State of New York, approximately 200 of them.

They watched as she struggled arranging these pictures with care, but did not offer any assistance, which was not a surprise since obtaining the permits was nothing short of a miracle for that day.

The NYPD expressed concern that this may get “out of control.” Ha! It was a picnic.

A member of Vets for Peace shows up to help and brings soda and music.

We were now ready to greet the weary road warriors who were doing their utmost, with all their energy, stamina and military training, to meet and greet as many military members as they could up the East Coast and then heading out West. The least we could do was offer them food and hospitality in this place that was historic, and now for more than one reason.

Again, a resistance had formed in the harbor.

Right before the bus arrived at the site, one of the Finest came over and asked if we were expecting a Greyhound bus at this location. No, it was the “Yellow Rose of Texas”, with a huge banner on the side announcing “IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR”. He looked confused, befuddled and then concerned.

He got on the walkie-talkie, and told them that the bus that was at the front gate of the base couldn't be the bus we were waiting for since it was a Greyhound bus. Ignoring the looks from the NYPD, we continued fusing over the arrangements.

Again they asked, but we didn't have an answer. It seemed to them that something was amiss, and maybe the picnic idea was a decoy so this mysterious bus could attempt entry onto the base.

A short time later, our huge Yellow Rose pulled up and did a perfect parallel park on the Brooklyn street. Again, New York's Finest exited the patrol car and asked “How many people are on that bus?” Turning around, we shrugged. However, looking across the park, 2 more patrol cars and a police van were surrounding the area.

Our beleaguered visitors jumped off the bus and slowly meandered over to the picnic area. Heartfelt hugs and kisses were exchanged, and food was immediately grabbed for the eating. The day was overcast, but the warmth and energy that was brought by the Iraq Veterans made our picnic area very special. We talked, ate, played music, and the park was enjoyed by the guys playing Frisbee.

New York's Finest relaxed a little, and helped themselves to some food.

After about an hour, a police officer calling for Elaine Brower, approached the picnic area. I turned to be summoned over to the other side of the park, where a gentleman was sitting down on a picnic bench. The Police Officer asked that I speak with this gentleman. I extended my hand, and he introduced himself as Rocco Mandile, the Provost Marshal of Ft. Hamilton Military Base.

Caught off guard, I wasn't sure how to respond to the introduction. My first sentence was "We're not on the base."

He was very cordial and congenial, so much so, that it put me on guard. We spoke for over ½ hour. His long history was told to me, and how he was not only in the military, was retired from the NYPD, and then as a civilian was asked to become Provost at Ft. Hamilton.

I listened, only to say that my son returned from Iraq, he was a police officer, my husband was retired from the "job" and my stepson was stationed in the 110. He was a bit surprised by this statement.

To make a long conversation short, he came, along with a member of his MP unit, to let "me" as the coordinator of this event, know that "he sympathizes with what these guys are doing, but if they make an attempt to go on the base....well...he had already informed the MP's of what to do." He couldn't allow them on the base, and didn't want any trouble. He explained how he was looking at the IVAW website and keeping up with the tour. I thought that this was not only good, it was bad. He knew that these guys were serious and were not afraid.

The two comments that I made to him that hit home were "why don't you go back to the base and tell the soldiers that we are having a picnic here and they should all come and see what it is about. That might prevent these guys from trying to talk to them on the base."

To that he had a very garbled response of "oh, ha, oh, I can't get involved...", And then I said "Well, why don't you get on the phone to all the newspapers and media you know, which I assume is a lot since you have been around the block a few times, and get them over here to interview these guys. After all, they are traveling around the Country and want their story told on the 6:00 news."

Another very garbled response.

Well, he was told by me that I had no control over what the IVAW members did, they were grown men, and I was just sponsoring the picnic.

I would be happy to convey his message, and extended an offer to him and his guard to come join us and speak to them directly, which he declined. We exchanged phone numbers, and they politely left.

Picnicking and fun went on, and a few more people showed up, but no military members.

At 5:30 PM, just when rumblings of when to leave started, my son showed up. USMC, Sgt. James Brower. He immediately came over and stuffed his face because "Ma, I'm hungry!"

He ate and talked to Shalom, or I should say Shalom talked to him. They laughed, and then one by one IVAW members wandered over and met James.

That moment will remain fixed in my mind forever. I remember the night he left for boot camp, and all the sleepless nights I had for the last 6 years, only to look upon him standing with these bravest of brave young men resisting the Empire.

All was not lost, they had a new member.

He got his t-shirt, which he proudly announced he would wear at the next “drill.”

With tears in my eyes, I cleaned up the picnic mess, and knew that nothing could be better than that.

The bus left with a police escort, and off to party at Rocky Sullivans.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed, Three Wounded West Of Baghdad

July 8, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070708-16

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldier was killed and three other Soldiers were wounded when a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near their patrol during combat operations west of the Iraqi capital July 8.

Chicago Soldier Dies In Iraq Explosion, Family Says

July 8, 2007 By Gerry Smith, Chicago Tribune staff reporter

A Chicago soldier serving in Iraq was killed after being struck by a roadside bomb, his family said Saturday.

Eric Lill, 28, was on his second tour of duty in the country, where he was training the Iraqi police force, said his father, Anthony Lill of Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

He said his son was pronounced dead about 11 a.m. Friday in Baghdad.

Lill had been transferred from an Army base in Germany to the 2nd Infantry Division in Ft. Carson, Colo., where he hoped to see his two children more frequently, his father said. But the unit was deployed to Iraq in October, and Lill worried about the mission.

“He was leery about going to Iraq this time because the unit had a history of casualties,” Anthony Lill said.

He said his son was born and raised in Chicago and graduated from St. Laurence High School in suburban Burbank. He played hockey at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va., where he studied for a year before enlisting.

He is survived by a daughter, Mikayla, 4, and a son, Cody, 6. He and his former wife were divorced in March while he was in Iraq, his father said.

Lill was to be discharged from the Army in June 2008 and planned to work at Scholle Corp., a food-packaging plant in Northlake, his father said.

But Lill also voiced concerns about his transition to life after the military. “He wondered if he would fit back into society,” his father said.

Lill's body will be flown to Chicago for a funeral, his father said.

2nd British Soldier Dies After Attacks In Basra; Air Cover Needed To Safeguard Retreat From The City

July 8, 2007 The Associated Press

LONDON: A British soldier seriously injured in heavy fighting in southern Iraq died Sunday, the Defense Ministry said.

The soldier, who was not identified, was one of three wounded as British troops were hit by heavy attacks with bombs, rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire in the southern city of Basra early Saturday. Another soldier died during the attacks, the ministry said.

The troops came under “a large number of attacks” while conducting operations in which several people were arrested in Basra, the military had said.

Coalition warplanes destroyed roadside bombs from the air as the troops were extracted from the city, it said.

Grenade Blast Kills Carson GI; “Like Everyone Over There, He Got Sick Of It Real Fast”

June 26 By SARAH PULLIAM, The Colorado Springs Gazette

A Fort Carson soldier died from injuries last week after a rocket-propelled grenade struck his vehicle in Baghdad, the Army said Monday. Pfc. Jerimiah J. Veitch, 21, of Dibble, Okla., died Thursday. He was assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

“It’s really hard right now,” Veitch’s older sister Amanda Testerman said. “We knew that was a risk, obviously, but we never really expected this.”

Friends and family gathered Sunday night for a candlelight vigil at Dibble High School, where Veitch had played football.

“The entire town knew him. He was a rock star,” Testerman said. “He played tough guy, but if he sees a girl he likes, he gets real shy.”

Veitch, who had been in Iraq for eight months, was home on leave two months ago for a couple of weeks.

Veitch was injured a week before his death and could have taken medical leave, but he volunteered to go on the patrol when his Hummer was hit.

“He was just doing his job, but he was ready to come home,” Testerman said. “Like everyone over there, he got sick of it real fast.”

Religion was a large part of Veitch’s life, his sister said. His grandfather was a Southern Baptist preacher.

“The family takes comfort in knowing that he is no longer waking up in a living hell every day but is walking streets of gold,” Testerman said.

Veitch moved from California to Dibble before high school with his mother, Valorie Sanchez, and stepfather, Tony Sanchez.

“I lost one of my best friends in the whole world, and his mother lost her son,” Tony Sanchez said. “We couldn’t believe it.”

Veitch’s family described him as outgoing and liked by everyone who met him.

“He made other people part of his family,” his stepfather said. “If you made a friend with him, you were a friend for life.”

Since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, 3,562 members of the U.S. military have been killed, 206 of them Fort Carson soldiers.

In two deployments to Iraq, the 2nd Brigade has lost more soldiers than any other Fort Carson unit, with 99 killed. Roadside bombs have been the leading cause of death for Fort Carson soldiers in Iraq, claiming 90 lives.

The Great Surge Fiasco Rolls On: “11,000 Iraqi Soldiers Were Assigned To A U.S.-Led Offensive” “Only About 1,500 Showed Up” Silly Maj. Gen. Lynch Says U.S. Troops Will Stay Forever

July 8, 2007 Associated Press

U.S. soldiers in night-vision goggles piled out of a Chinook helicopter under a wide, orange moon. They crawled through mud along canals south of Baghdad, then stormed a chicken farm that the U.S. military believed doubled as a car bomb factory.

But something was missing: Iraqi partners.

The Iraqi army has yet to deploy a single soldier on this 380-square-mile swath, where the U.S. military is waging an offensive to dislodge al-Qaida fighters from marshlands along the Tigris River.

In Tuesday's predawn raid, the lack of Iraqi backup meant a frustrating outcome for U.S. forces. When suspects fled, there was no Iraqi cordon to catch them.

But more broadly, it illustrated a key weakness in the new U.S. counterinsurgency strategy of "clear, hold, rebuild." American commanders say the "hold" phase relies on Iraqi forces' ability to move into cleared areas and keep insurgents in check once the U.S. draws down its troop levels.

But areas such as Salman Pak - once an enclave for Saddam Hussein's favored officials - reinforce the accusations that the Iraqi military is still a long way from meeting U.S. expectations.

"We're all very frustrated. We're trying to fix this country, but the Iraqis are having trouble recruiting and getting their numbers up," said Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, which is deployed in the area.

There also are signs of an unwillingness by Iraq's leadership to commit forces to operations outside Baghdad. About 11,000 Iraqi soldiers were assigned to a U.S.-led offensive launched last month in and around Baqouba, on Baghdad's northeastern rim. Only about 1,500 showed up, U.S. officials said.

"In some areas, the Iraqi army is full of capable military professionals, but there are other places where there are literally no Iraqi security forces," Lynch told The Associated Press this week.

"Those are the places where the coalition will have to stay until the Iraqi government recruits, trains and builds forces to deny militants those sanctuaries."

[Which means the idiot thinks U.S. troops will keep fighting the war forever. Fools like Lynch had the same stupid opinions about Vietnam, until the whole army rebelled and refused to go on fighting that evil Imperial war any more. And that was that. Period.]

Since his arrival here in March, [Col. Wayne Grigsby Jr., commander of the Army's 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division] said he put in several requests for two Iraqi army battalions - up to about 1,500 men - to join the 3,800 U.S. troops now in the area.

He is still waiting.

Iraq's Defense Ministry said it was concentrating its resources in Baghdad.

So U.S. commanders here are resigned to teaming up with whatever Iraqi partners they have - mostly Iraqi police patrols riding in pickup trucks with just rudimentary armor as protection from mines and other attacks.

And they are no match for insurgents, U.S. military officials say.

THIS IS FOR REAL: **U.S. Command Announces Killing Of Key Al-Qaida Leader That U.S. Command Announced Killing Last Year**

July 6, 2007 Washington Examiner

The U.S. command in Baghdad this week ballyhooed the killing of a key al-Qaida leader but later admitted that the military had declared him dead a year ago.

A military spokesman subsequently acknowledged the mistake.

**NO MISSION;
HOPELESS WAR:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



BAQUBA, Iraq, June 25: Leaving the area of what the troops call an “H-BIED” - or house-born improvised explosive device - soldiers had to look for thin copper wires outside, which are used as trip wires. Scott Nelson/World Picture Network, for the New York Times

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Eleven Polish Soldiers
Asked To Be Sent Back
To Poland “Due To The
Insufficient Armouring**

Of The American Hummer Vehicles” Four Wounded By Paktika IED Today

7.8.07 (AFP)

A roadside bomb injured four Polish soldiers north of the Afghan capital Kabul on Sunday during a patrol near their base, the troops' commander said.

The explosion happened at 8:00 pm (1530 GMT) in the southeastern Paktika region, commander of the Polish contingent in Afghanistan, General Marek Tomaszycy, told the PAP news agency.

None of the soldiers' lives were in danger, he added.

According to private television channel TVN24, however, two of the four had been seriously injured when the device exploded underneath the third vehicle in their convoy.

Polish troops in Afghanistan have recently complained that their vehicles are not sufficiently protected against attacks.

Eleven soldiers requested last month to be sent back to Poland “due, according to them, to the insufficient armouring of the American Hummer vehicles,” defence ministry spokesman Jaroslav Rybak said.

**“Our Homes Are Being Destroyed.
We Are Bombed. They Destroy Us
And They Kill Us”**

July 8, 2007 By Kim Barker, Chicago Tribune foreign correspondent [Excerpts]

KABUL, Afghanistan -- The men told the same story, of how foreign troops bombed their villages long after the Taliban fighters had left, how the bombs killed women and children, goats and sheep, and how if they had one wish, it would be for the foreigners to leave.

One man said 60 civilians had been killed in the air strike June 29 in a village in southern Helmand province, one of the most remote and dangerous areas of Afghanistan.

“Our children are being killed,” said Abdul Qader, who said he lost at least seven family members. “Our homes are being destroyed. We are bombed. They destroy us and they kill us. What should we do?”

The video showed shrapnel-riddled tractors and mangled cars and homes that looked like piles of crushed crackers.

In interview after interview, ordinary Afghans say they increasingly distrust NATO's motives and increasingly blame their government for failing to stem civilian deaths.

Ghulam Reza and Ashuqullah Wafa, workers at a Kabul salt factory, were shot June 16 on the street in front of their factory, near NATO troops investigating an earlier suicide bombing. Their friend, Azizullah Mawlawizada, was killed. Reza, Wafa, witnesses and police blamed Western troops.

“Sometimes we think they are trying to invade our country, that they just don't like us,” said Reza, 28, who has 5 inches of stitches on his back and X-rays showing the bullet in his right side.

“I saw them. They didn't care. Sometimes, it comes to my mind that I am Muslim and they are not. And that is why they shot me and that is why they don't care.”

This Is Not A Satire: **World's Stupidest Liars At Work**

July 8, 2007 By Jason Straziuso, Associated Press & RFE

In the west, in Farah province, Abdul Qadir Daqeq, chief of the provincial council, said elders from the Bala Baluk district delivered a letter to his office saying that 108 civilians, including women and children, were killed in airstrikes Thursday and Friday.

Provincial Governor Muhayuddin Baluch said all casualties were Taliban militants.

Baluch said that an investigation has determined that “not a single civilian was killed in the clash that took place in Bala Bluk district.”

“The area is under the control of the enemy,” Daqeq said. “No one can go to Bala Baluk to find out the exact number of casualties.”

Assorted Resistance Action

Jul 6 (AFP) & July 7, 2007 By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Writer & 7.8.07 Xinhua

A roadside bomb planted by insurgents struck a police van in Hazar district of the central Logar province on Saturday afternoon, killing three policemen, provincial deputy police chief Abdul Majid Latifi said.

Another explosion killed three Afghan policemen at a police base in Sangin district of the southern Helmand province on Saturday, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said. "The explosive device was hidden in a wooden cart," said the statement, which blamed Taliban militants for the blast.

Thursday saw one of the deadliest attacks in three weeks when a bomber blew himself up at a police gathering in southern Afghanistan, killing nine people

In Farah, a western province bordering Iran that has seen little violence until this year, insurgents attacked an Afghan security patrol from fortified positions and wounded five Afghan soldiers, the coalition said.

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

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of First Lt. Daniel Riordan at St. Catherine Laboure Catholic Church June 30, 2007, in Sunset Hill, Mo. Riordan and three others were killed by a roadside bomb north of Baghdad. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

**200 Fort Wainwright Soldiers Off To
Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse**

Jul 6, 2007 The Associated Press

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — About 200 aviation regiment soldiers at Fort Wainwright are being deployed to western Iraq to support ground troops there.

An advance team of about 40 soldiers has already arrived in Kuwait to prepare the way for the 15-month deployment.

The soldiers are from the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, known as Task Force Dragon. The task force's eight CH-47 Chinook helicopters are en route to the Middle East. The Chinooks, often termed the Army's workhorse, can carry large amounts of supplies or troops.

The remaining 160 soldiers, who are scheduled to fly out of Fairbanks within the next few days, were honored during a deployment ceremony Thursday morning at Fort Wainwright.

Protest Update From Stockholm: Next Year He Hopes To Have A Fucking HUGE Demo At The Embassy

From: Mark Shapiro
To: GI Special
Sent: July 04, 2007
Subject: protest update from Stockholm

[He writes: Maybe the 'headline' for the text could read something like ' Next Year He Hopes to Have a Fucking HUGE Demo At The Embassy']

Quick note on today's events at the US Embassy - no doubt you got the PDF's I had a friend email you earlier today. [This refers to the text of the flyer handed out: See below. T]-

Party was held at the Ambassadors house across the street from the Embassy - first a heavy layer of Swedish Police protection - had on a suit and tie and I looked the part so no problem there - then a thick layer of US Embassy security people - the usual suspects - razor short hair, sunglasses and walki-talkies with curly earpieces like right out of a dumb CIA film - suit and American accent worked there too - then another layer of short hairs with metal detectors - no problem there - 'have a nice day' worked a treat - the last 5 feet and it felt like like 5 miles - and well that was it.

I wasn't on the guest list and a small group of Embassy thugs zeroed in on me a flash and asked me exactly what I was doing.

I said to 'peacefully protest' - then the shit hit the fan - their eyes had a bitter terrible horrible stare and I felt a vice-grip on each arm - one said 'don't try anything stupid.'

The little group of mean looking bastards escorted me back out to the Swedish Police line back down the lane.

I looked one right in the eye and said 'bet you'd love to send me to Guantanamo like hundreds of other innocent people who are fucking sick of the USA trying to control the world' - his didn't answer but his shit eaten grin said it for him.

I was determined to stand my ground and surprisingly the Swedish Police left me alone.

I distributed my leaflets to the guests as they walked up the lane to the party and a few people actually voiced supportive comments in passing but most 'weren't very friendly' to say the least.

A striking example was some dumb fuck with an American accent who told me 'I should be shot' waving his clinched fist in the air - I responded with 'I dare you to hit me you prick' - as he turned to me his face puffed up like a balloon and was as red as an apple and then walked away.

There was one Swedish chap there with an impeach Bush and Cheney Tee shirt handing out leaflets as well which was nice.

I'm hoping to organise a large protest at the Embassy for the 40th Anniversary next year - and BTW my protest today was completely peaceful and entirely within the law.

Attempting to run through the Ambassadors front gate could have lead to serious problems like one of the no doubt armed security monkeys deciding to bloody shoot me.

Today wasn't nearly as exciting as it was 39 years ago but I'm very pleased to have gone back today and in my own very small way speak out against what we all know is so wrong –

Keep up the great work on 'GI Special!
Mark

MORE:

“July 4th, 1968 Mark, Joined By Six Other Deserters, Held A Sit-Down Protest On The US Embassy Lawn Against The Vietnam War”

“39 Years Later, Mark Was Determined To Give The Embassy Another Headache”

5 July 2007 BY JOHN GULLIVER, Camden New Journal

IF you met him for the first time you'd probably think he was just an ordinary middle-aged man. But Mark Shapiro is far from that.

On Monday he flew to Stockholm from his Holborn home to gate-crash the July 4th party held by US embassy staff, as a protest against both the Vietnam war and today's Iraq conflict.

Mark was a deserter who fled from Vietnam in the late 60s and settled in Sweden for a short time along with 500 fellow US soldiers.

Then on July 4th, 1968 Mark, joined by six other deserters, held a sit-down protest on the US embassy lawn against the Vietnam war.

Mayhem followed when security heavies attacked the protesters and dumped them into a police van. A night in the local nick followed.

Now, 39 years later, Mark was determined to give the embassy another headache.

But over the phone from Stockholm last night (Wednesday), he told me he never made it past the front gate of the ambassador's garden where the party was being held.

Stopped for not having an invitation, he said he wanted to stage a “peaceful protest”.

That set things humming. Two men held him, later joined by six others. It was goodbye to his protest.

But Mark isn't down-hearted. Afterwards, he joined several hundred Swedes in an anti-war protest in the city.

What made him do it?

“Vietnam was a great tragedy and is one for a new generation of Americans involved in the Iraq war,” he said. “My protest is in the memory of the three million Vietnamese killed and the 650,000 Iraqis and the 3,500 US soldiers killed in Iraq.”

As I said, Mark isn't an ordinary fellow.

MORE: Flyer Handed Out At The Embassy:

July 4 1968 - 2007



It was 39 years ago this Fourth of July, during a time when the United States was engaged in another tragic military adventure that I, along with 6 other American Military Deserters and a Draft Resister, held a sit-down protest on the U.S. Embassy lawn here in Stockholm to speak out against the Vietnam War at the American Ambassadors' celebratory garden party.

We were here representing the organized voice of the more than 500 U.S. soldiers, sailors and marines then living in Sweden who had left the military to protest the Vietnam War.

By the end of that War, according to official Department of Defense statistics, more than 500,000 American servicemen had gone AWOL or Deserted.

Mark Shapiro, a former Vietnam veteran who came to Sweden in 1968 as a Deserter, said today: 'Vietnam was the great tragedy of the time for my generation and is an essential recollection for a new generation of Americans in this time of the Iraq War.'

Attacked by Embassy security personnel and subsequently jailed by Swedish police, that demonstration was the only time that American servicemen protested the American War in Vietnam on the grounds of a US Embassy.

It was a stark reminder that amidst the July 4th beer and hot dogs and flag waving, there were many Americans who were prepared to sacrifice greatly to oppose that unjust war.

2008 is the 40th anniversary of our protest and I am here today in the memory of over 3 million Vietnamese killed and the untold millions still suffering from the deadly effects of Agent Orange and to strongly condemn the more than 4 years of

U.S. Occupation in Iraq which has killed over 650,000 Iraqis and over 3,500 American servicemen and women.

I hope 100,000 will join next year and peacefully tell the USA to leave the world alone!

No more War - Bring the Troops Home Now!

Mark Shapiro

Former Vietnam veteran who came to Sweden in 1968 as a Deserter.

Contact the 2008 Protest Organizers at stockholm1968protest@yahoo.com
Your voice counts.

Sign the Len Aldis Agent Orange Petition. Over 700,000 already have.
<http://www.petitiononline.com/AOVN/>

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**“We Consider That The
Occupation Is Vile To Us”
“The Main Problem Of Iraq Is The
Occupation”**

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

<p>I don't think there would be extraordinary troubles when or if the occupation forces leave. And even assuming such an occurrence, we can eventually solve our problems ourselves.</p>

July 6th, 2007 Democracy Now [Excerpt]

As the Iraqi cabinet approves part of a controversial oil law, we speak with Faleh Abood Umara, the general secretary of the Federation of Oil Unions and a founding member of the oil workers union in Iraq. He calls on Iraqi lawmakers to reject the legislation.

FALEH ABOOD UMARA: [translated] With regards to the situation of the Iraqi oil workers, they're persevering in their work and preserving the Iraqi oil wells. The reason we went on strike was to make twenty-seven demands, which we submitted to the Iraqi prime minister. He agreed to them, but the minister of oil did not implement the demands that led to the strike.

The most important point or one of the most important points is our demand not to rush through the new Iraqi oil law, because we believe that this oil law does not serve the interests of the Iraqi people. So we ask our friends in the United States, as well, to stand in solidarity with us and publicize the ill effects of this law, so that it never is agreed upon in the parliament.

AMY GOODMAN: Explain the law.

FALEH ABOOD UMARA: [translated] According to Article 111 of the Iraqi Constitution, which states that the oil and gas of Iraq are owned by the Iraqi people and they have the right to control it.

But when you look into the details of the law, many of the articles of the law actually conflict with this preamble of the law, the most important point of which is the issue of the production-sharing agreements, which allows the international oil companies, especially the American ones, to exploit the oil fields without our knowledge of what they are actually doing with it.

And they take about 50% of the production as their share, which we think it's an obvious robbery of the Iraqi oil.

We also object to the procedure by which these companies are given the contracts for exploiting the oil, because it allows the granting of the contracts with the aid of foreign advisers. We demanded that it's actually the Iraqi experts that need to be consulted with regards to the granting of the contracts.

In brief, there is hardly an article in the law that actually benefits the Iraqi people.

But they all serve American interests in Iraq.

And we know well that the law was actually written here in the United States, with the help of James Baker and Ms. Rice and the experts from the IMF. And it serves the interests of the American government and not the Iraqi people.

We're still negotiating with the Iraqi parliament and the Iraqi government, and we succeeded in halting the discussion of the law in the parliament until next October.

And we hope that we will manage to modify some of the articles of the law. As regards to the strike, we actually declared victory last week.

AMY GOODMAN: Faleh Abood Umara, your thoughts on the occupation? Do you think US troops would leave immediately? And what would that mean for Iraq?

FALEH ABOOD UMARA: [translated] **We consider that the occupation is vile to us.**

The main problem of Iraq is the occupation.

I don't think there would be extraordinary troubles when or if the occupation forces leave.

And even assuming such an occurrence, we can eventually solve our problems ourselves.

Our main problem is the occupation.

AMY GOODMAN: Finally, Faleh Abood Umara, why did you have trouble coming into this country? And are you afraid of returning back to Iraq?

FALEH ABOOD UMARA: [translated] I cannot be afraid of my own country. I love my country, and I'm prepared to lay my life for it.

I think that the technical problem I had had to do with a conversation I had with an American ambassador, because he accused me of not being diplomatic because I used the term “occupation forces,” instead of the “multinational forces” or “friendly forces.”

So I discovered just before leaving that there was a problem with the termination date on the visa, so I was returned from the airplane, basically, in Amman, and I had to stay three more days in Amman before joining Hashmeya.

And thanks to interference and pressure from friendly members of the Congress, who interfered and talked to the embassy over there in Amman, they expedited the correction of the date on the visa so that I could arrive here and give my message to the American people.

Bomber Kills 23 Collaborator Recruits

8 Jul 2007 (Reuters)

A truck bomber killed 23 new Iraqi army recruits and wounded 27 others on Sunday when he rammed into their truck while they were travelling on a road south of Baghdad, police and an army official said. They said the incident took place near the town of Haswa. The recruits were from western Anbar province who had just joined Iraq's security forces.

They had been at a recruitment centre in the town of Falluja earlier in the day.

***GUESS WHO HAS THE POWER –
THEY CAN EMPTY THE STREETS
[GET OUT ALIVE WHILE THERE'S STILL
SOME TIME LEFT]***



A view of quiet and haze-covered streets in the Amil district of Baghdad following a curfew imposed by the anti-occupation Mehdi Army in protest of the recent detention of cleric Sheikh Jasim, July 8, 2007. REUTERS/ Thaier al-Sudani

***GUESS WHO HAS THE POWER --
THEY CAN FILL THE STREETS
[GET OUT ALIVE WHILE THERE'S STILL
SOME TIME LEFT]***



Iraqis citizens march during an anti-occupation protest called by the anti-occupation Mehdi Army in Amil neighborhood in Baghdad, July 8, 2007. They condemned the arrest by American troops of Jassim al-Hasnawi, the head of a local

office of nationalist Muqtada al-Sadr's political organization. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

Shit-Eating “Christian” Traitors Infest Command Structure: “Troops Who Refuse To Be Evangelized Are Sent To Combat Zones With Higher Concentrations Of Insurrectionists, Jihadists, And IEDs”

07/05/2007 by Mikey Weinstein, A BUZZFLASH GUEST CONTRIBUTION [Excerpts]

In the hierarchical subculture of the military, when your immediate superior tells you to fall in line for Christ or face the consequences, responding with “get out of my face, sir or ma'am” is simply not an option.

Imagine then how a young soldier might respond to a multiple-star general ordering his staff to create a PowerPoint presentation showing a direct parallel between the Book of Revelation and our movements in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Or a four-star general distributing a flyer “urging” attendance at a religious class at a church outside the base, entitled “Jesus Versus Mohammad: an examination of the life of both prophets and why Jesus is superior to all.”

Soldiers and chaplains contact me from the frontlines on a daily basis telling of troops who refuse to be evangelized and are then sent to combat zones with higher concentrations of insurrectionists, jihadists, and IEDs.

Many battle staff meetings conducted by commanders begin with evangelical prayers.

When a captain confronted his full colonel about one such exclusionary prayer, the colonel grabbed his uniform and said, “Captain, you better get this down right now, boy! We’re here to spread American democracy and the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!” Rather than exceptions, these seem to be the rule.

Their vision of a spiritually transformed U.S. military, with Ambassadors for Christ in uniform, “empowered by the Holy Spirit,” is not one with the religious freedom our founding fathers intended.

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.

If We Ran Hollywood ...

July 09, 2007 Rob Colenso Jr. and C. Mark Brinkley, Army Times

If you’ve never seen them before, a lot of the films on AFI’s top 100 list sound like they could be military movies, too. Here’s our Magnificent Seven:

1. “12 Angry Men” — “The Dirty Dozen Meet Their New Squad Leader”
2. “Bringing Up Baby” — “Damn, I Hate the New Lieutenant”
3. “The Sixth Sense” — “How Sarge Knows What You’re Hiding in Your Wall Locker”
4. “Blade Runner” — “Bayoneting for Dummies”
5. “Raging Bull” — “Damn, I Hate the New First Sergeant”
6. “It’s a Wonderful Life” — “Welcome to the Air Force”
7. “Psycho” — “Damn, I Hate the New First Sergeant”

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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



An Iraqi citizen is forced to stand in the street and watch foreign occupation soldiers from the US 3d Infantry Division invade his home to search it, without his consent, in the village of Al Majahreen, 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of Baghdad, April 22, 2007. T. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

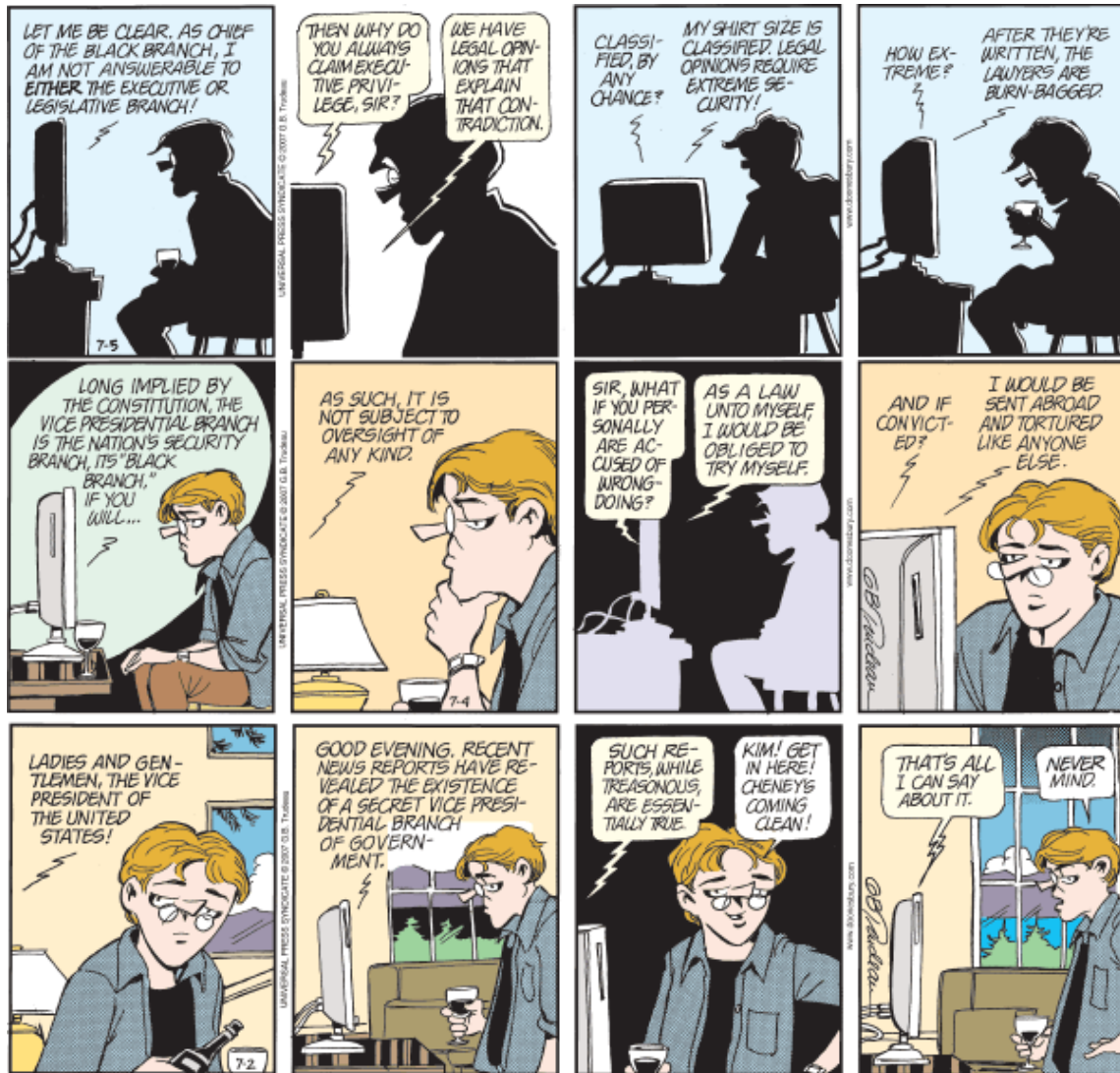
[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't 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!

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Bush Regime Trying To Ignore Their Own Iraq Benchmarks; "The Heart Of Darkness Is The President," The Person Said. "Nobody

Knows What He Thinks, Even The People Who Work For Him”

July 8, 2007 By Karen DeYoung and Thomas E. Ricks, Washington Post Staff Writers
[Excerpts]

The Iraqi government is unlikely to meet any of the political and security goals or timelines President Bush set for it in January when he announced a major shift in U.S. policy, according to senior administration officials closely involved in the matter.

As they prepare an interim report due next week, officials are marshaling alternative evidence of progress to persuade Congress to continue supporting the war.

Those achievements are markedly different from the benchmarks Bush set when he announced his decision to send tens of thousands of additional troops to Iraq.

As they work to put together the reports due to Congress next week and in September, these officials and others close to Iraq policy recognize that the administration is boxed in by measurements that were enshrined in U.S. law in May.

Top administration officials are aware that the strategy's stated goal -- using U.S. forces to create breathing space for Iraqi political reconciliation -- will not be met by September, said one person fresh from a White House meeting.

“The heart of darkness is the president,” the person said. “Nobody knows what he thinks, even the people who work for him.”

Because of corruption and mixed loyalties, a Pentagon official said about the Iraqi police, “half of them are part of the problem, not the solution.”

Even if U.S. troops and their Iraqi allies are able to hold Baghdad and the surrounding provinces, noted the intelligence official, there is a good chance that security will deteriorate elsewhere because there are not enough U.S. troops to spread around.

The Traitor Bush Set On Exaggerating Al Qaeda To Keep War Going:

In A Speech At The Naval War College In June, Bush Referred To Al Qaeda At Least 27 Times

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

Jul 5 Analysis by Khody Akhavi, (IPS) [Excerpts]

As U.S. President George W. Bush's military adventure flounders in Iraq, his administration appears to be increasingly depicting the conflict as a struggle between the U.S.-led Coalition forces and the archetypal terrorist threat posed by the shadowy "radicals and extremists" of al Qaeda, often to the exclusion of other political actors in the mainly Sunni insurgency.

The U.S. counter-insurgency strategy appears set on exaggerating al Qaeda's role and bolstering its identity as an archetypal menace and convenient label to describe the most sensational and gruesome suicide attacks in Iraq, even though the group's number of operations are often dwarfed by those claimed by other factions, according to recent Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty report documenting the use of media by Sunni insurgents in Iraq.

But there are increasing doubts among analysts in Washington about al Qaeda's role as a pervasive and powerful force, an enemy that is everywhere and nowhere to be found (at the same time, no less).

In a speech at the Naval War College in late June, Bush reportedly referred to the terrorist organisation at least 27 times, seemingly to stir lingering anger over the Sep. 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington to build support for the "surge strategy", a build-up of U.S. troops that, after six months, has not improved security throughout Iraq, according to a recent report from Editor & Publisher Magazine.

U.S. military and intelligence officers refute the seemingly perennial association between the Iraqi insurgency and al Qaeda, arguing that Iraqis with connections to the transnational terrorist network comprise a small number of those that pose a threat to U.S. troops, according to the same report.

New Stamp

July 06, 2007 New Jersey Veterans For Peace

The United States Postal Service created a 41-cent first-class stamp with a picture of President Bush. The stamp was not sticking to envelopes, which enraged the President, who demanded a full investigation.

After a month of testing, a special presidential commission presented the following findings:

- 1) The stamp is in perfect order.
 - 2) There is nothing wrong with the adhesive.
 - 3) People are spitting on the wrong side.
-

THIS IS THE ENEMY; BRING THE WAR HOME NOW



(AFP/Brendan Smialowski)

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http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>;

<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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