

GI SPECIAL 5H14:



August 17, 2007 NPR: Military analysts fear thousands of small arms declared missing after being issued by the U.S. to Iraqi security forces have likely fallen into the hands of insurgents.

The Big Lie: Bush Traitors, Not Petraeus, Will Write September Report

[For months, Bush has been flooding the world with a repeated lie: That he will hear from General Petraeus in September about how the war is going. Guess what. Is anybody out there really surprised? T

August 15, 2007 By Julian E. Barnes and Peter Spiegel, Los Angeles Times Staff Writers [Excerpt]

According to the officials, Gen. David H. Petraeus is expected to propose the partial pullback in his September status report to Congress, when both the war's critics and

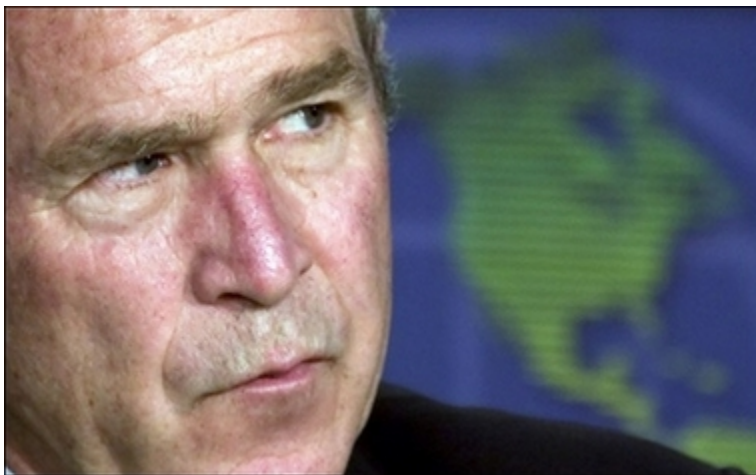
supporters plan to reassess its course. Administration officials who support the current troop levels hope Petraeus' recommendations will persuade Congress to reject pressure for a major U.S. withdrawal.

The expected recommendation would authorize U.S. commanders to withdraw troops from places that have become less violent and turn over security responsibilities to Iraqi forces.

But it does not necessarily follow that Petraeus would call for reducing the overall number of troops in the country. Instead, he could move them to another hot spot, or use them to create a reserve force to counter any rise in violence.

Despite Bush's repeated statements that the report will reflect evaluations by Petraeus and Ryan Crocker, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, administration officials said it would actually be written by the White House, with inputs from officials throughout the government.

**LIAR
TRAITOR
TROOP-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE**



(AFP/Jim Watson)

**THIS IS THE ENEMY;
BRING THE WAR HOME NOW**

MORE:

Another Stupid Lie From General Betrayus

August 16, 2007 AP

One of most significant shifts for U.S. forces recently has been recruiting allies among former Sunni insurgents areas such as the western Anbar province. “A pretty big deal,” said Petraeus.

“You have to pinch yourself a little to make sure that is real because that is a very significant development in this kind of operation in counterinsurgency,” he added.

“It’s all about the local people. When all the sudden the local people are on the side of the new Iraq instead of on the side of the insurgents or even al-Qaida, that’s a very significant change.”

MORE:

Who Do You Believe? Betrayus Or Your Lying Eyes?

“Large portions” of equipment, including guns, supplied to police in the western province of Anbar are missing

August 16, 2007 AP

It also is not a new development that as coalition forces fight a problem in one area, militants rise up in another.

Odierno did not answer the question of whether he has enough troops to go after regrouping insurgents in isolated locations.

August 12, 2007 The Associated Press

“Large portions” of equipment, including guns, supplied to police in the western province of Anbar are missing from police stations, Marine officers told the U.S. Congress in May.

The Pentagon says the Interior Ministry’s accounting of police equipment is unreliable.

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed, Six Wounded Somewhere Or Other In Iraq By Something Or Other

August 16, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory, RELEASE No. 20070816-01

BAGHDAD — Two Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers were killed during combat operations in an area north of the Iraqi capital Aug. 15. Six other Soldiers were wounded in the attack.

[Pathetic incompetence, as usual. Roughly half of Iraq is “north of the Iraqi capital.”]

Baghdad IED Kills One U.S. Soldier; Two Wounded

August 17, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070817-10

BAGHDAD — One Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed and two were wounded when a roadside bomb detonated during a patrol in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital Aug. 17.

Family Remembers Slain Soldier

08/05/2007 Michelle De La Rosa, Express-News

When Fernando Santos entered Adonia Santos' life, she knew him as the younger boy who lived across the street and liked to laze around with her brothers.

“He was just this tall, scrawny, nerdy little kid who came around to hang out,” she recalled during a phone interview from Fort Lewis, Wash., on Saturday.

In November, they would have been married 11 years.

Fernando, a 29-year-old staff sergeant, had been scheduled to return from his second deployment to Iraq in June, but his stay was extended until October, Adonia said. When he returned, the couple were supposed to start planning a ceremony to renew their vows.

But Fernando and two other soldiers were killed Thursday after a roadside bomb, called an improvised explosive device by the military, detonated near their patrol in eastern Baghdad. A news release issued by military authorities in Baghdad said 11 other soldiers were wounded. Four were treated for their injuries and released.

They were conducting combat operations against militias in that part of the nation's capital.

Fernando was the 29th San Antonian killed in Iraq since the invasion. Six U.S. troops have died in the first four days of this month; 80 were killed in July, according to the Iraq Coalition Casualty Count.

Adonia, 34, said her husband was a strong man who tried to set a good example for others and tried to raise people's spirits, often through humor. He loved his children — three the couple had together, ages 6 months, 15 months, and 7 year, and Adonia's 16-year-old son from a previous relationship — and valued time with his family when he wasn't working, Adonia said.

"One of the last times that I talked to him, he was telling me that he was making plans that once he was back stateside, he was looking at changing his career path so he would be home more and wouldn't be in the field or deployed so much," said Terrie Bradlaw, Adonia's mother.

Fernando's body will be returned to San Antonio, possibly this week. He will be buried in San Fernando Cemetery No. 3 on Cupples Road, next to the grave of Albina Santos, the grandmother who raised him.

Daniel Santos, who is handling the funeral arrangements, said that was his nephew's request. Albina Santos and her husband, who also is deceased, raised Fernando virtually from the time he was an infant, after his mother left, said Gilbert Santos, Fernando's father and Albina's son.

Albina Santos was proud of her grandson's military career, Daniel Santos said. And Fernando was excited about his success. Daniel Santos recalled one phone call from a jubilant Fernando.

"He matched his dad's rank," Daniel Santos said. "He called that he was so happy that he was able to match his father's rank. That was one of his highlights."

Fernando attended John Jay High School in the Northside Independent School District but did not graduate, Adonia said. Instead, he earned his GED while working at Bill Miller Bar-B-Q to help support Adonia and her son, who was a baby back then.

“He was the best thing that ever happened to me,” she said. “He was always, always wanting to make me happy.”

When Fernando started hanging around with Adonia’s brothers, he was about 13, she said. Several years later, they began dating. After a 10-month courtship, they married in 1996 at Albina’s home.

In 1997, Fernando enlisted in the Army. The couple had been at Fort Lewis since 2000, Adonia said.

She said her husband loved his job and cared about the men in his platoon.

“He schooled them on finances and parenting and marriage and investment,” she said. “He wanted them to be OK when they got out, like you would your own child. Everybody wanted to be him. He was really funny, quirky. He made everybody laugh. He was strong.”

Fernando was home for a two-week break in February when baby Victor was born. Fernando spent a week with the infant before returning to Iraq.

On Thursday, Adonia was feeding the baby and preparing him for a nap when a chaplain came to her door. His words obliterated any plans for a ceremony to renew marriage vows.

There will still be a ceremony, this one a funeral farewell, and Adonia is sure many will attend.

Daniel Santos said the family will miss Fernando, but they are proud of him.

“I just want the people to recognize him, that he went out there and fought for his country, and proudly,” he said.

‘You’re More Than A Brother; You’re A Hero’

August 9, 2007 By Will Higgins, IndyStar

Zachariah Jared Gonzalez’s interest in food was serious enough that he planned to make a career of it.

When he joined the Army in 2002, after finishing at Hamilton Southeastern High School, he elected to be a cook. It would be good practice for later, when he’d open a restaurant.

But soon Gonzalez had a change of heart. He quit cooking and transferred to the infantry. He’d been there a year and a month, patrolling Baghdad with Bravo Company of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, when the vehicle he was riding in was blown up July 31 by an improvised explosive device. He and two fellow soldiers were killed.

Gonzalez, 23, was buried Wednesday in Indianapolis.

He was the 93rd member of the military with ties to Indiana to be killed in the war in Iraq.

Gonzalez came from a large family, and many of his relatives participated in his funeral at St. Monica Catholic Church on the Northwestside. An aunt read from the Bible, as did a cousin. Both of his brothers gave eulogies, Jacob recalling his brother's perseverance.

"He loved to fish," Jacob said, "and he would never give up. We'd be leaving, and he'd still be fishing."

"We're so proud of Zach," said his other brother, Seth. "You're more than a brother. You're a hero now."

Gonzalez was remembered as friendly, likable -- his Army buddies called him Gonzo -- but also as focused, with a serious side.

"He was self-directed," said Monsignor Paul Koetter, who officiated at the funeral. "He wanted to go somewhere in his life."

Gonzalez's interest in cooking stemmed from his mother, Laura Galan Gonzalez, who taught her three sons as well as her daughter to be at home in the kitchen.

When they were young, she'd encourage them to find a recipe that interested them. She'd take them shopping for the ingredients, then be on hand to answer questions as the children labored to turn the project into dinner.

"The cooking was social," Koetter said. "The kitchen would be full of people. It was all about family."

Despite his fondness for cooking, Gonzalez quickly began to see more pressing matters after joining the Army. That's when he moved from the kitchen to the front lines.

"I find that amazing," Koetter said. "Most of us would be thankful to have a safe job. But for him to choose the infantry shows that when he believed in something, he needed to do something."

About 600 mourners filled the church, many sniffing as the service ended and Laura and Benedict Gonzales followed their son's coffin out the door to the hymn "Here I Am Lord."

They buried him at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery on Haverstick Road.

Soldier's Wife: 'He Was My Angel'

August 10, 2007 By Sharon Swanepoel, The Loganville Tribune

LOGANVILLE — To Megan Rojas-Gallego, the 20-year-old widow of Loganville fallen soldier Spc. Cristian Rojas-Gallego, theirs was a beautiful love story cut tragically short long before its time.

“He was my angel — the most wonderful man you could ever hope to meet,” said Rojas, which is the name the family goes by.

“We never had an argument — not one in the whole time we were together. I was lucky enough to be married to the most wonderful man in the world and now I will have to get used to going on without him. God must have needed him for another mission — his mission here is complete now.”

The U.S. Army announced Sunday the 24-year-old soldier was one of three soldiers from the Stryker Brigade Combat Division out of Fort Lewis, Wash. killed Aug. 2 when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle.

Cristian Rojas had been a Marine first and was on his fourth tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed in action after re-enlisting with the Army in 2006.

His young widow said she is relying on her strong faith and the support of family and friends, in particular those on the base at Fort Lewis, Wash. where she hopes to remain for the time being.

“I believe God puts you where he knows you need to be and I am surrounded by a wonderful circle of friends here,” Rojas said.

The love story began two years ago today, when Rojas was a young single mom with two small boys. She first met her husband while he was a Marine stationed at Twentynine Palms Marine Corps in California.

“I didn’t even know what a Marine was then,” the California native said. “I was at a friend’s (house) dropping off clothes and he was there. I thought he was an attractive man at first and then found out what a wonderful person he was. We were married three months later on Nov. 9, 2005.”

Rojas said her husband completely accepted her two boys, Raymond 3, and Taylor 2, as his own and was thrilled two months ago when she gave birth to their son, Eric, who she said is the spitting image of his dad.

“I am going to change his name to Cristian — Cristian Jose Rojas to honor his father,” she said. “I have to be strong for the boys now. He had a great life — a wife he loved and three beautiful boys. I should have known it was too perfect.”

Rojas said she had spoken to her husband over a video camera six hours before he was killed and she is grateful to have had that opportunity. She said they only spoke about the possibility of him not coming home once — when he had filled out the paperwork before being shipped out.

“I never wanted to speak about it and we just didn’t expect it to happen — he had already been to Iraq three times before,” Rojas said. “But he told me he didn’t want me

crying alone in a dark room if anything did happen. 'You will need to be strong for my boys.' So that's what I need to do."

Rojas said she does regret that her husband, a Columbian immigrant, never managed to complete his citizenship papers before his death.

"He was so proud of his service," she said. "He said it was an honor to serve this country and he was proud he was keeping us safe. He really deserves to be made a citizen. He was supposed to put the papers in but I don't know if he did before coming back when our son was born. He left to go back June 27 and was only back 36 days when he was killed."

Derrick Corbett, deputy chief of staff for U.S. Rep. John Linder, (R-7) said there is a way Rojas can petition for her husband's citizenship posthumously if the papers had not been filed.

"It is Form N-644 — Application for Posthumous Citizenship and can be filed by the spouse or parent," Corbett said.

Loganville Mayor Tim Barron said he had spoken to Georgia Sen. John Douglas to see what could be done to ensure citizenship for the young immigrant who had paid the ultimate price for his adopted country. The couple had lived in Loganville with the soldier's parents for four months in 2006 before he re-enlisted with the Army.

Everman Soldier Killed By IED

Aug. 06, 2007 By ALEX BRANCH, The Star Telegram

Sgt. Dustin S. Wakeman wanted self-discipline.

After graduating from Everman High School in 2000, he took some college classes, but he didn't apply himself like he thought he should.

The solution, he decided, was the U.S. Army.

"He told me he had to start listening to somebody," said his father, David Wakeman. "It was something he felt like he needed to do to make a better life for himself."

Sgt. Wakeman, 25, was killed Saturday in Hawr Rajab, Iraq, when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by an improvised explosive device, according to the Defense Department.

Two other soldiers were also killed.

Before his death, Sgt. Wakeman seemed to find the discipline he sought, his father said. He was trained as a medic and spoke of pursuing a career in medical services.

"He liked helping people," David Wakeman said. "He found that fulfilling."

At Everman High School, Sgt. Wakeman was active in the band and the drama, math and science clubs. After graduation, he was interested in engineering and took classes at Tarrant County College and the University of Texas at Arlington.

His best friend had a rock band, and Sgt. Wakeman spent a lot of time listening to them play, David Wakeman said.

He enlisted three years ago and was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division in Fort Richardson, Alaska. Sgt. Wakeman was deployed to Iraq in October, his father said.

Because of the time difference, Sgt. Wakeman wasn't able to call home often, David Wakeman said. When he did, he rarely spoke of the danger in Iraq, except to occasionally say, "I've seen some stuff."

The last time he called was about a month ago. His parents weren't home.

"He left us a message talking about how disappointed he was we weren't there," David Wakeman said. "He was sorry he missed us. We were really sorry, too."

Since his death, Sgt. Wakeman's friends have filled his MySpace page with goodbyes. One was from another soldier, who wrote of seeing Sgt. Wakeman two minutes before he died.

"We were joking like always in the midst of chaos," the soldier wrote. "You were always there. I will remember the lunches, the nights out, and the conversations only we would get."

Another message was left by a woman, apparently the wife of another soldier.

"Thanks for being doctor to my husband," she wrote. "Watch over the guys left behind."

Sgt. Wakeman is also survived by his mother, Margaret, and brother, Zach, both of Everman.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

World Class Bullshit & Stupidity, Just For You: Reporter And U.S. Officers Compete For Most Dimwitted Comments On The War

August 16, 2007 By Megan Greenwell, Washington Post Staff Writer [And pro-occupation propagandist] [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD -- When the sniper's bullet hit Billy Edwards, his Army brothers did not hesitate.

[How about his Army sisters? Were there any around? Did they "hesitate"?)

The 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division calls itself the "Send Me" brigade, and on Saturday, its soldiers were quick to send themselves [What, they disobeyed orders and became a chaotic mob? And if they were obeying orders, they did not "send themselves] to find the man who shot Pfc. William L. Edwards, a wide-eyed [thanks for making him sound stupid or naive] 23-year-old from Houston.

They quickly identified the house where they believed the assailant was hiding and moved in, just as the sniper knew they would

[Hoped maybe, but if they have resistance snipers who can foretell the future and "knew" what would happen, time to get the fuck out by the first available means of transportation.]

Inside the house, one soldier stepped on a pressure plate, detonating an estimated 30 pounds of explosives hidden under a stairwell. In an instant, four troops were killed; four others were injured. Edwards died later in the hospital. The sniper escaped

The attack in Arab Jabour, southeast of Baghdad, was particularly savage, predicated on knowledge of the soldiers' sense of duty to a fallen comrade.

[Left this line in so the reader can gain a full understanding of the remarkable combination of stupidity and mindless sucking-up to U.S. occupation command this Bush propagandist regularly comes up with. Does the reporter ever call U.S. military attacks on Iraqis "savage"? Never. Not once in any report from Iraq. No, this racist piece of shit reporter only uses the term "savage" to describe Iraqis fighting to liberate their country.]

[Then comes the drooling sentimental idiocy about "duty to fallen comrades," out of some war movie or TV show. The reason for trying to find the sniper is to avoid being the next KIA. Duh.]

Military commanders say the number of similar incidents -- those in which soldiers are lured into a house rigged to explode -- has risen dramatically across Iraq in recent months.

"The enemy is continually evolving tactics," said Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of the U.S. offensive south of Baghdad, who described Saturday's events in an interview. "In this case, our guys followed their instincts to chase this guy down and got trapped."

Saturday's attack marked the first time that troops under Lynch's command have been killed by a house-borne improvised explosive device, the official term for a house bomb. The tactic appears to have spread south from Diyala province, northeast of the capital, where three house bombs have killed several American troops in the past two months.

The U.S. military typically classifies house bombs with other IED attacks, so the exact number of Americans killed by the devices is difficult to determine.

On Monday, troops in Baqubah, the capital of Diyala, held a memorial service for four soldiers killed there by a house bomb Aug. 6. Twelve other troops were killed in that attack.

[That's what the reporter wrote. Go figure what that means. No report from central command that 16 U.S. troops were dead from one house bomb. Somebody would have noticed, right?]

Such mass-casualty attacks underscore the vulnerability of U.S. troops fighting enemies trained in guerrilla warfare and with extensive knowledge of Iraq's often challenging terrain. The growing use of house bombs is part of a larger pattern of more complex and coordinated attacks against U.S. forces

Officials attribute the increasingly sophisticated attacks to desperation on the insurgents' part after troops became too successful at finding roadside bombs and other explosives.

"It's a clear sign that they could not get to us by other means, and that's a good sign," said Lt. Col. Michael Donnelly, a spokesman for the American operation in northern Iraq, describing the pattern of house bombs in that area. "Obviously we're countering the improvised explosive devices, and force on force, they know that they can't fight us."

[Having a dim witted blow-hard idiot like this in command is a powerful asset for the resistance forces. He whines about how guerrillas won't volunteer to step forward so he in neat rows so he can kill them, telling the world by so doing that he is utterly lacking in even the most elementary counter-insurgency knowledge. Incompetence in action, he couldn't find his feet with both hands and a flashlight, let alone command any group more advanced than Cub Scouts. God, what a hopeless loser.]

[Then there's this gem: "Officials attribute the increasingly sophisticated attacks to desperation on the insurgents' part..." Hopefully, somebody will pick this up for Comedy Central.]

But ambushes and rigged houses can cause many more casualties than smaller improvised explosive devices, which rarely kill more than one or two people at a time.

Increasingly, Donnelly said, insurgents are creating a "daisy chain" of house bombs, in which an initial explosion can trigger blasts up and down a block.

Additionally, house bombs can be some of the most difficult explosives to detect because of the myriad ways they can be activated, Donnelly and others said.

Some insurgents use powerful bombs or other munitions; others rely on homemade explosives. The blast can be set off by a trip wire, a pressure plate or a remote device.

"They are hard to find, but there is generally some sort of telltale sign," Donnelly said. "We just look for the signs and then deal with it the best we can."

After last week's bombing in Baqubah, troops captured three suspected insurgents, who led them to several other rigged houses in the neighborhood. Lynch said that although no one has been arrested since the Arab Jabour blast, troops have "refined their tactics" using lessons learned that day.

"We study the enemy, and we have a basic idea of how he uses these houses and how he plants initiators," Lynch said. "As their tactics evolve, ours evolve."

[Wow! Impressive! Thanks to all that hard "study," the general has a "basic idea" about house bombs. Get a house. Plant a bomb in it. Hide the bomb. When enemy troops step on a pressure plate, they blow up. Way to go General!!]

[And thanks for confirming that the resistance has the initiative, attacks at times and places of their choosing, and your tactics are defensive and always behind the curve: "As their tactics evolve, ours evolve."]

"There is no question that there is still a serious threat," Donnelly said. "But the gains we have made are tremendous. In the end, we will win, and they will be marginalized and pushed out."

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



Iraqi citizens walk down a street patrolled by U.S. Army troops from 1st Battalion, 325 Airborne Infantry Regiment, attached to 2nd Brigade, 1st infantry Division in the Kazimiyah neighborhood of north Baghdad, Aug. 8, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Jousek)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two More Canadian Soldiers Wounded By IED In Zhari; “What’s Going On Zhari Is Very Worrying”

August 17, 2007 The Canadian Press

Two Canadian soldiers were slightly injured Friday after their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb, the Canadian military said.

Both soldiers were riding in a Track Light Armoured Vehicle, or T-LAV, along Highway 1 as part of a supply convoy for Canadian troops when they drove over the bomb.

Both suffered upper body injuries. One was quickly released while the other was being held for observation, military officials said.

Friday’s attack took place just inside Kandahar province’s dangerous Zhari district, at a spot some 10 kilometres west of Masum Ghar. The village itself is in the province’s Panjwaili district.

The soldiers were taken by helicopter to a hospital at Kandahar Airfield 30 kilometres to the east.

The T-LAV sustained extensive damage and will be towed from the scene later, military officials said.

“What’s going on Zhari is very worrying,” said [Lt.-Cmdr. Hubert] Genest.

Zhari district’s police chief was killed by a bomber earlier in the day.

The bomber blew himself up as Khariudin Achakzai, the chief of Kandahar’s Zhari district, was coming out of his house with five of his children, said Abdul Ghafar, a police official.

Achakzai, two of his sons and a daughter were killed instantly, while two other sons were wounded, Ghafar said.

In the east, NATO troops were hit by a roadside bomb before coming under small-arms and mortar fire, the statement said. The alliance did not disclose the exact location of the incident.

TROOP NEWS

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



The coffin containing the remains of US Army Staff Sgt. Wilberto Suliveras shortly after it arrived at Muniz Airbase, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Aug. 6, 2007. Staff Sgt. Suliveras, who was killed a week earlier by small arms fire in Hor Al Bash, Iraq, is survived by a wife and two sons. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**Doctor Says Plan To Close Navy
Emergency Rooms To “Save
Money” “Is A Life-Threatening
Disservice To Our Military
Personnel”**

**“We Are Not Talking About Dirty
Barracks Here, We Are Talking About
People’s Lives”**

Aug 15 2007 By Dr. Grant Schmidt, MD, Whidbey News Times. Dr. Grant Schmidt is a Navy hospital emergency room physician.

I would like to make everyone aware of an injustice that is now taking place.

I am an emergency room physician, and I work at two Navy hospitals that are closing their emergency rooms, and opening "Urgent Care" centers instead.

This will happen at the Navy Hospital in Oak Harbor and at the Cherry Point Navy Hospital in North Carolina on Oct. 1 of this year.

The Navy claims that this is needed to save money.

Nothing can be further from the truth.

The closure of these facilities will cost all of us millions of dollars.

Besides the fact that it is a life-threatening disservice to our military personnel.

First of all, since the closures have been announced, I have kept track of the many patients that would not be seen or treated at Urgent Care, and would otherwise be transferred to a civilian facility: minor trauma, motor vehicle accidents, young infants, cardiac patients, drunks, pregnant women, the list goes on.

In addition, anyone who shows up after business hours will also have to go to the nearest ER, regardless of their condition. At a civilian facility, each of these patient's bills will easily exceed thousands of dollars, and will be paid by Tricare insurance.

Tricare like Medicare is funded by all of us taxpayers. In a typical week, I see and treat many thousands of dollars worth of Tricare patients that would not be seen in Urgent Care.

It costs very little to do so, compared to the huge costs of treating them elsewhere, not to mention the costs of ambulance transport.

The Navy is saving money for the Navy. That is true, and at first glance, how can we blame them? They have a war to run, and a budget to trim. They say they are doing this "all over" and unfortunately that is true.

The cost then to all of us is exponential, and is easily several millions of dollars or more. The Navy is not looking at the overall expense to the American people, just the numbers they need to crunch.

But they are accountable to all of us. This is a misappropriation of tax dollars by a public entity and is illegal in these United States.

Your money and tax dollars will pay for this, and any shortcomings will be added to the deficit.

Think of our children. How can we allow huge chunks of debt to be piled on to them in this way, when we have the ability to stop it?

Keeping the ER's open will save millions of our hard earned tax dollars.

Finally, an even bigger tragedy is the human cost to our active duty service members, retirees and the many dependents who rely on these emergency rooms.

After the Walter Reed fiasco, I cannot think of a greater disservice.

We are not talking about dirty barracks here, we are talking about people's lives.

These two Navy ER's that are scheduled to close see over 40,000 patients annually. Not all of these patients can be seen or treated in an Urgent Care setting.

My colleagues and I are emergency physicians, and our jobs are not in jeopardy. We are in high demand, yet most of us choose to work on base at a reduced wage because we are either veterans or retired military.

We are trained in ATLS (advanced trauma life support).

We are experts at keeping people alive, and unfortunately our services are occasionally needed.

There will continue to be accidents on these busy military bases, only now the ER will be closed!

The injured will fall victim to what we call in trauma the Golden Hour.

Both of these bases are far enough away from the closest civilian ER that the Golden Hour will expire before the patient can be saved.

I pray that this does not happen to your son or daughter.

So please, everyone who pays taxes or has a loved one in the military needs to speak out on this issue.

Feel free to forward this letter to your congressman, or better yet, write one from your own perspective. Keep the emergency rooms open, and God Bless America.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

GET THE MESSAGE?



Thousands of angry demonstrations march against the Occupation in Najaf, 160 km (99 miles) south of Baghdad, August 15, 2007 demanding the release of Rajeh Mohammed Hussein, a senior aide of nationalist political leader Moqtada al-Sadr, who was arrested by the U.S. during a raid on Tuesday. REUTERS/Ali Abu Shish

Nationalist, Anti-Occupation Mahdi Army Gaining Strength:

**“There Is A Mahdi Army Member In
Every Family And In Every Home
Across Iraq And The Military Is Not
Exempt”**

**“We’ve Slowed Them Down, But They
Are Still Slowly Expanding Their Reach.**

Jaish Al Mahdi Expansion Is Taking Place”

Comment: T

[For those unable to figure it out from the account below, the Mahdi Army is a nationalist, anti-occupation, anti-Iranian organization. Reporters sucking up to the U.S. occupation prefer not to mention that. Reporting those facts would raise too many embarrassing questions.]

August 16, 2007 By Ned Parker, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD -- Abu Mohammed is a policeman by day, patrolling the Shiite Muslim district of Sadr City. Come sundown, however, Abu Mohammed commands a platoon of Jaish al Mahdi, or the Mahdi Army, a Shiite militia associated with radical cleric [translation: anti-occupation nationalist] Muqtada Sadr that is widely accused of sectarian killings [translation: killing agents of the occupation].

Abu Mohammed is not alone in this double life.

By his account and those of U.S. military and Iraqi sources, Mahdi militia members have infiltrated much of the country's security apparatus, including the army, where they reportedly intimidate and bribe troops and commanders to look the other way.....

“There is a Mahdi Army member in every family and in every home across Iraq and the military is not exempt,” said Abu Mohammed, leaning nonchalantly in a Sadr City alley, as children played in the street.

“The army wouldn't go after the Mahdi Army because many elements in the army are Mahdi Army. Here in Sadr City for example, there is one company and 35 of them are Mahdi Army.”

Abu Mohammed, who insisted on identifying himself only by his battle name, represents one of the challenges U.S. strategists face in Iraq.

While U.S. forces search out militia fighters and try to build a nonsectarian police force [translation: a collaborator police force for the U.S. occupation] and army, men such as Abu Mohammed are surreptitiously undoing their work.

In addition to infiltrating Baghdad army units in Shiite neighborhoods, the Mahdi Army has been able to bring political pressure on commanders, and on at least one occasion, to create its own army units packed with its fighters.

The nexus has included soldiers turning a blind eye as Sadr fighters slip through checkpoints.

In late March, in the early phase of the U.S. military buildup, a Mahdi fighter who gave his name as Abu Haidar bragged to The Times that Iraqi army officers had provided vehicles to his group “We have a deal with the Iraqi army and police,” he said.

In one of the more troubling examples of the relationship between the militia and Iraqi government, the Defense Ministry in January authorized lawmaker Baha Araj, a Sadr loyalist, to form a plainclothes army unit to patrol the Shiite district of Kadhimiya, U.S. army officers and a Shiite politician told The Times.

“The Baha Araj company was a 300-man element of plainclothes Jaish al Mahdi operatives . . . that have subsequently been put in Iraqi army uniforms,” said Lt. Col. Steven Miska of the 1st Infantry Division. “Nobody in the Iraqi army chain of command wanted those guys in uniform. It was a political decision.”

Sadrist member of parliament Falah Hassan defended the company’s creation. “This battalion was protecting Kadhimiya,” he said. The district houses a key Shiite shrine.

The Defense Ministry disbanded the unit in May. The commander became the head of a new battalion that included many of his former troops.

The other Araj soldiers were placed in Kadhimiya’s Bravo Company. The U.S. Army arrested three Bravo members last week after finding them meeting with Mahdi fighters.

The battalion’s intelligence officer was arrested for shooting at U.S. soldiers April 29 outside a mosque.

“We’ve slowed them down, but they are still slowly expanding their reach. Jaish al Mahdi expansion is taking place,” a U.S. Army military intelligence officer in west Baghdad said on condition of anonymity.

“Like water, they are going to find a crack and move through the weakest area.”

Senior U.S. military officers involved in training Iraqis acknowledge that militia influence in the army has been a problem, but said they believed the challenge is small compared with the danger in the police force. [That’s the good news?]

“In some ways, we shouldn’t be surprised some of the people involved may have succumbed to these types of militia pressures,” said Brig. Stephen Gledhill, deputy head of the U.S.-led army and police training efforts.

In the northern part of Ghazaliya, Iraqi soldiers helped the Mahdi Army take back territory from Al Qaeda in Iraq militants.

An air of suspicion now pervades the northern Ghazaliya battalion. At least two of its commanders are suspected of working with the Mahdi Army.

“The militia is looking for guys who are working in the army and living in the area. They make them sources,” said an Iraqi officer, one of the few in the battalion whom the Americans trust. He asked that his name not be used because he was afraid for his life.

The officer said that if he acted aggressively against the Mahdi Army, the group could pull strings in the parliament and government to harass officers. Last week, when the officer insisted that civilians be searched at a Ghazaliya checkpoint, the militia threatened him, saying it would call his division commander and have him removed.

The officer said he was soon brought in for questioning by military intelligence; Sadrists had accused him of helping Al Qaeda.

“If anyone doesn’t like me, they can complain” to the Ministry of Defense, he said.
“Maybe the division commander will listen to them and not to me.”

In Hurriya, the militia reportedly intimidated an Iraqi army unit that was brought up from southern Iraq. Bombs have targeted U.S. convoys just a few hundred yards from Iraqi army posts in that city, U.S. Army Capt. Andrew Lee said.

Recently, the Mahdi Army pulled off a coup: hijacking the leadership of a highly lauded Iraqi battalion in east Baghdad, using it to mount strikes in Fadil

The 2-26 battalion, led by Col. Talib Abdul Razzaq, was one of several rated strong enough to operate independently.

Assorted Resistance Action

August 15, 2007 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & 16 Aug 2007 Reuters & 17 Aug 2007 Reuters & (KUNA)

Tuesday night, a car bomb targeted a police patrol at the celebration yard near Zamzam bakery (downtown Kirkuk) killing one policeman and injuring 18 more.

1 policeman injured during shooting by guerrillas in al-Nasr neighborhood downtown Kirkuk, at 12:30 this afternoon. They were driving a navy blue Opel Omega without number plates.

Wednesday morning, two car bombs exploded at Noor neighborhood (downtown Mosul city) targeting police patrols killing ten including three policemen.

Wednesday, guerrillas attacked police stations in eastern side of Mosul city by mortars. No casualties reported.

1 policeman shot dead by sniper at the checkpoint in al-Shuhadaa district, south Fallujah.

Four policemen were wounded by a roadside bomb in southern Kirkuk, police said. Another two policemen were wounded by a second roadside bomb in central Kirkuk.

A roadside bomb targeted a police commando patrol in southern Baghdad’s Doura district on Thursday, killing one policeman and wounding another, police said on Friday.

Kirkuk: A police coordination center source told KUNA that an explosive device went off in Ras Domez district as a police patrol vehicle was passing by, injuring four policemen.

Other patrols rushed to the area, upon which a second explosion occurred and wounded a fifth police personnel, a brigadier, and two civilians who were standing close to the location, according to the source.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Honoring Joseph Carey



VN Farmer interrogated: Photo by Joseph Carey
[From Vietnam GI]



Joseph Carey:

[www.25thida.com/TLN/tln-corr1.htm#JosephCarey]

Comment: T

Joseph Carey deserves to be remembered as one of the outstanding soldier opponents of the war on Vietnam.

His work with Vietnam GI (the troops' newspaper helping organize resistance against the war inside the army) was famous in the day, but to protect him from command retaliation he got no public credit for his photos published in Vietnam GI.

Recognition is long overdue. More of his work is to be found at the website referenced below.]

Joseph Carey, 25th Admin. Co., 6/67 to 4/68

Joseph Carey was attached to Admin. Company, 25th Infantry Division, Information Office from June 1967- April 1968. He spent much of his time in the field with the 1/27, 2/27, 1/5 and 4/9.

From Joseph Carey to GI Special: [Excerpts]

On the editorial board, and masthead, of Vietnam GI.

I was in Vietnam in 1967-68. I was there during the Tet Offensive. I was a combat photographer and journalist.

Worked out of Cu Chi. Went out mostly with the Wolfhounds, both the 1/27 and the 2/27.

About half the [Vietnam GI] covers here feature my photos, too:.

http://www.sirnosir.com/archives_and_resources/galleries/cover_pages/vietnam_gi.html

You might want to take a look at “Two, Three, Many Vietnams...,” too. A reader done by Ramparts magazine. I have several photos on that book, too.

I was at Indiana from '61-'66. Actually thought I graduated in '65 and moved to New York. Was notified I needed 5 more hours of science and returned in '66. That's when I was drafted, June of '66.

Oddly enough my diploma shows my graduation date as June of '67. I was somewhere outside Cu Chi in June of '67.

Did my basic and AIT - clerk's school - at Ft Dix. Then they sent me to Ft Benjamin Harrison. Graduated from Finance School there and was put on a levy to Vietnam.

First assigned to the PX at Cu Chi. I did the ordering. I hated it and went to the division Information Office and asked for a job. They liked my degree in English literature. Said I would have to take photos, too. Handed me a camera and a couple of rolls of film and told me to walk around the Cu Chi base camp and shoot the two rolls and if they liked them I had a job.

I got orders to report there the next week.

I hated it around division headquarters and tried to spend most of my time in the field. That was not a problem as I got to be well known and any field commander was happy to have me.

I got published.

I'd love to correspond with the guys in Iraq who are going through the same things I went through in Vietnam.

My only worry is the possible volume and my ability to respond to same.

Joseph Carey
chefjcarey@gmail.com

OCCUPATION REPORT

**U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING
DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR;
RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED
RESISTANCE THAT IS**



Foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. Army Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division force Iraqi citizens to submit to eye scanning during a home invasion operation in the Amariyah neighborhood of west Baghdad, Iraq on Sunday, Aug. 12, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Jousek)

[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!**

U.S. Military Hopes For 50,000 Iraqi Prisoners In U.S. Concentration Camps By 2008; Up 20,000 From This Year

August 15, 2007 By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

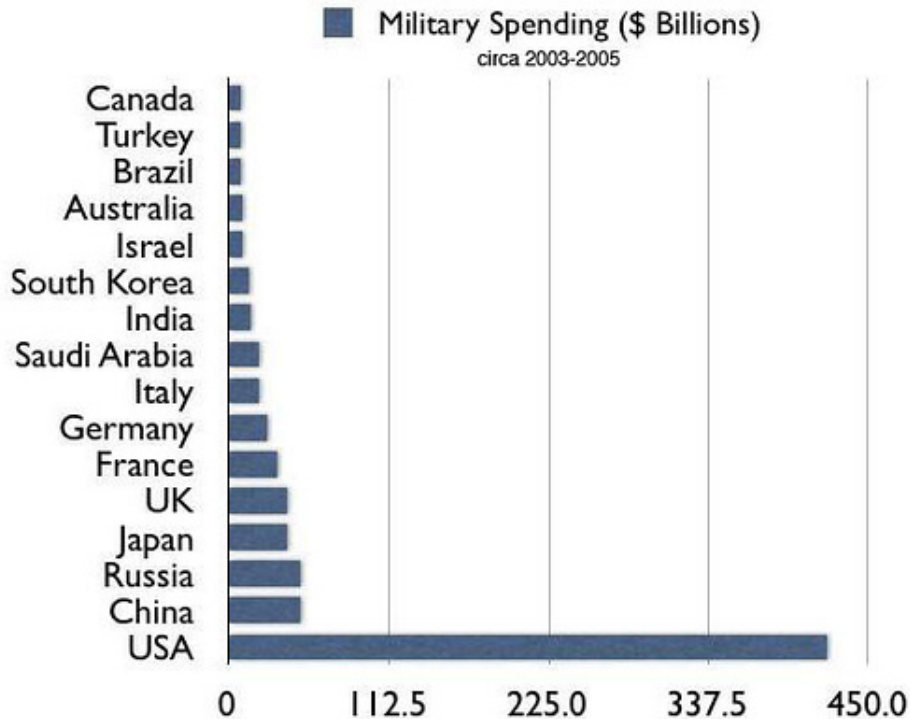
U.S. military operations associated with the troop increase in Baghdad have boosted the number of detainees held in American facilities in Iraq to about 23,000, up 5,000 from four months ago, according to Army Col. Mark Martins, the top military lawyer in Iraq. That number represents an all-time high since the U.S. occupation began in 2003.

Iraqi security forces have picked up 4,052 detainees during the increase, bringing the overall number of security detainees now held in Iraqi prisons to 60,000, said Judge Abdul Satar Bayrkdar, spokesman for the Iraqi Higher Judicial Council.

Cordesman said that U.S. military commanders told him their detainee numbers could grow to 30,000 by the end of this year, and up to 50,000 in 2008.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

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

***They Really Do Hate Our Liberties:
Boy, 15, Harassed By Cops For
Chalking Names Of Iraq KIA On
Downtown Sidewalks;***

“Al Abdo, Acting City Manager, Said Even If Filkowski Applies For A Permit, He Won’t Be Granted One”



Willie Filkowski, 15, of Fort Myers drew the names of U.S. soldiers who have died in Iraq on sidewalks in downtown Fort Myers, until city police stopped him because a city worker had complained. Filkowski said police called the names graffiti. Andrew West/news-press.com

August 02, 2007 By Gabriella Souza, The News-Press

Willie Filkowski’s memorial isn’t a statue or an eternal flame. But he still thinks he has the right to show it to the public.

Since July 1, the 15-year-old Cypress Lake High School student has been paying tribute to Iraq war casualties on the sidewalks of downtown Fort Myers, writing 283 names like Joel Dahl and Richard Parker in bright-colored chalk.

“You don’t realize each person has a name,” the red-haired theater student and Fort Myers resident said. “I thought it would be thought-provoking, and it appeals to people on both sides of the issue.”

Fort Myers police stopped him and his two companions Monday evening in front of the federal building on First Street, telling him his work was graffiti, Filkowski said. They also checked to make sure his memorial wasn’t gang-related.

They had received a call from a city worker who claimed there was an antiwar protest going on downtown.

An officer advised Filkowski to apply for a permit with the City Council, said Maureen Buice, Fort Myers Police Department spokeswoman. Filkowski said he inquired about the permit Tuesday.

Although police aren’t classifying Filkowski’s writings as graffiti, his efforts may be in vain.

Al Abdo, acting city manager, said even if Filkowski applies for a permit, he won't be granted one.

Because Filkowski's memorial consists of names in chalk, with no signs or plaques recognizing it as a memorial, Abdo said it had to be stopped.

"If we were to permit him to continue, it would be a designated spot and it would be identified," Abdo said.

Randall Marshall, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, said the city may be overstepping its boundaries.

The actions of the city sounded to Marshall like the chalking was judged on its content instead of Filkowski's right to express it.

"The city is treading on thin ice," he said.

Buice said officers thought the chalking could be damaging because street and sidewalk traffic could be affected as drivers and pedestrians noticed the names written in fluorescent violets and pinks. It also could cause accidents or hinder foot traffic, she said. **[The cops need a quick trip to Iraq, and a long stay. They might learn that some chalk on a sidewalk doesn't exactly qualify as a high risk situation worth fucking around with a 15 year old boy.]**

Recent rains and power washings have swept away most of Filkowski's memorial, leaving a rainbow-colored line trickling along the pavement. But faded names still remained in front of the Orion Bank and a few law offices.

Kerry Habel, manager of the Morgan House Restaurant, noticed Filkowski when he wrote names in front of her restaurant. She said her business wasn't hindered.

"It's a good thing," she said. "It makes people remember that there's a war going on."

Downtown City Council representative Michael Flanders also supports the chalking and said he would help Filkowski get a permit. He and Filkowski will meet Monday to discuss the chalkings.

"I definitely support the idea of what he's doing," he said.

And Wilbur Smith, the owner of the Bradford building, which Filkowski chalked in front of, wanted to apologize for accidentally wiping the names off during the weekly sidewalk washing.

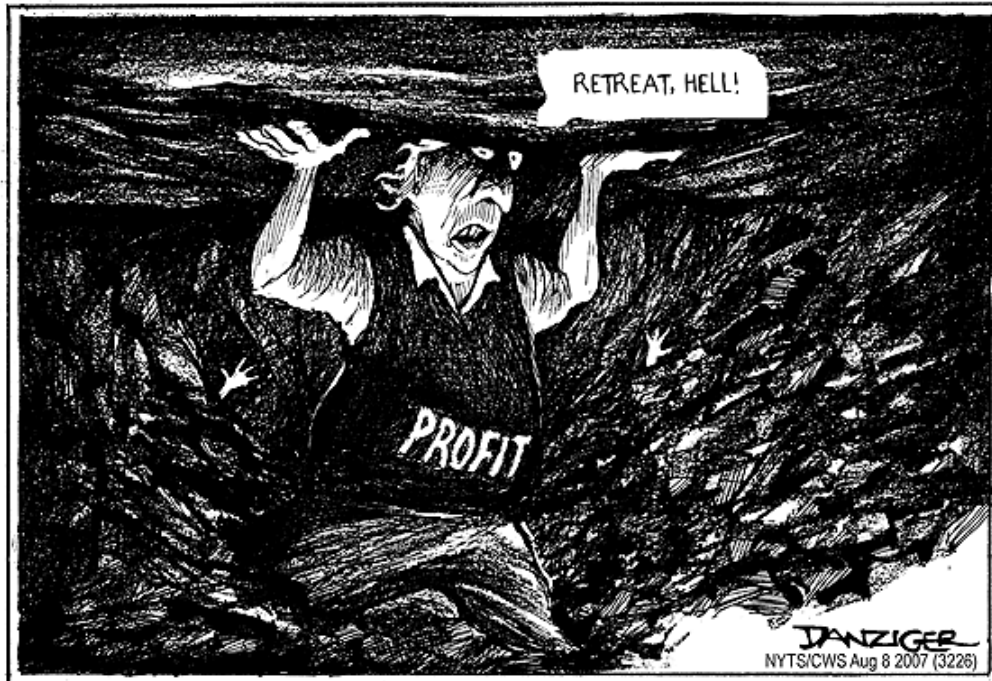
"I know the person who did this went to a lot of work," he said. "I have no objection to it being there."

Veteran Frank Santacrose of Cape Coral said the memorial was a good idea, but the format wasn't. "You don't do things like that on public or private property," he said.

Filkowski said he plans to do everything he can to start chalking again. He's considering talking to the ACLU, he said. But he does want to be lawful. "I figured we'd play by the rules," he said.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Murray Mining Owner Explains Why He Would Never Use the "Retreat Method"



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