

GI SPECIAL 5H18:

**HOW MANY MORE FOR BUSH'S WARS?
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



A seriously injured U.S. soldier lifts his burned hand as U.S. military doctors treat his wounds in the 28th Combat Support hospital in the Green Zone in Baghdad August 18, 2007. The soldier was brought to hospital by a military helicopter after an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded under his vehicle. REUTERS/Damir Sagolj

**“Its A No Win, It Is A No
Should Be Here Deal”**

**“They Can Shoot At Us From
Across The River Sitting In
Their Lawn Chairs And We
Can't See Or Do Shit”**

The rest of the shit is so, and I mean so BS about the new Embassy that you would not believe it, everybody with a lick of common sense is fit to be tied, and the rest, mostly State Department Pukes are so clueless that it is an embarrassment to be an American, what can I say.

From: Thomas Cleaver
To: GI Special
Sent: August 20, 2007
Subject: Fwd: Baghdad commentary

A good piece for the newsletter. The Jennings here is my good friend Jennings Heilig, former USAF Capt, intel, back in the cold war in the 80s. Solid folks.

The story pretty much tells everything you need to know about "security" in the Emerald City.

From: [XXXXXXXX]
Date: August 17, 2007 3:00:42 PM EDT
To:[XXXXXXXX]
Subject: Baghdad commentary

Hello, Jennings.

Thought you might be interested in reading this message from [XXXXX].

He's a contract employee for a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin and has been in Baghdad about 3 weeks now.

He sent this message about 2 days ago.

He was an enlisted Marine in Vietnam, came back and went to college and went back into the USN as an officer. (I think he retired from the reserves as a CDR.) His job is to train the US embassy staff (other than the USMC embassy detachment) for security matters at the current and new (under construction) US embassy in Baghdad.

His brother is also a long term contract employee in Baghdad and is a retired US Army bird colonel and West Point grad.

Neither of them think the situation over there is worth a damn.

Enjoy...
[xxxxxx]....

Hi ladies and gentlemen, here's a little update from the sandbox.

I am not sure if it is today or yesterday for you, we are eight hours ahead. But by now, you have heard of the major bombings and other fun stuff over here.

Yesterday my time, we were at checkpoint 18, the farthest point south in the green zone, trying to get a convoy of equipment into the area. This is a place, were the locals can, after a heavy screening process, bring their stuff into the green zone.

Anything that is a major order or request for the Embassy has to pass through here, its the only place that big trucks can bring stuff in.

We were alerted that 7 trucks of materials were to process in. We went to the final checkpoint, which until yesterday was manned by troops from Georgia, not the state, but the country.

Well, as we moved up through the checkpoint, we saw that now everybody was of a "darker" color. The Georgians had been replaced by troops hired from Uganda, yep, the former land of cannibals.

So, being the old but not entirely stupid person I am, got on the horn and ordered full Battle Rattle, in other words, get your shit ready.

We parked in the "neutral" zone, e.g., the last stop after you pass the area that the Marines man with towers.

Now US troops are very restricted to where they can operate, so its up to the old fart/contractors like us to handle chores like this. The other senior guy with me is a current Marine Reserve LTCOL, so he and I knew the drill and we made sure to make nice and friendly contact with the Marines manning the post.

If something happens, and we can make it back to them, they can engage and send the gun trucks up, other wise, good luck Charlie Brown!

So Chris, the other old fart Marine and I walked up to the contracted security company guy, a company named Triple Canopy, and confirm that our trucks are out in the waiting area.

These guys are sharp, but they also know the score, once we pass out of the green zone to meet the trucks, all support beyond visual range means you are in shit if anything happens. We coordinated radios, and out we went.

Now the procedure for the locals is that they bring their trucks up to a holding area, we send our people out to make contact. Then we remove and search the drivers and helpers, remove all cell phones, their batteries etc, so they cannot detonate any IED's.

We then send them under Escort up to the Marine checkpoint, do the paperwork and then escort them back, ride their trucks into the screening area where Triple Canopy screens the trucks with detectors, explosive residue testing, the whole nine yards. Then the drivers are directed to a final vehicle inspection, the trucks move forward to an X-ray kind of deal, cleared and then into the Green Zone.

Yesterday turned to shit.

No sooner than we got 50 yards toward the trucks and it became a sniper's dream. I sucked the dirt ASAP!

Triple Canopy at first tried to open up, but the ROE says you cannot return fire unless you have a confirmed target and ID.

Needless to say, the local drivers went one way and we went the other.

For about 5 minutes, lots of caps were expended, but nothing hit on our side and I guess nothing on the bad guy side.

This is so BS, they can shoot at us from across the river sitting in their lawn chairs and we can't see or do shit.

I had 5 people out there plus myself.

Now I will give the Ugandans credit, they moved in almost fire team actions up to their final point and they are armed with AK's and immediately returned fire and covered us as we pulled back.

The drivers got in their rigs and beat feet ASAP. Burned two magazines and the only thing to show is a dirty weapon.

This area, and I don't know if you can see it on google or on a map, is just south of the 14th of July bridge, right across from the Baghdad university.

The Tigris at this point, and I have plenty of photos and movies which I will show someday, is only about 60, maybe 80 feet across and is covered with high weeds, you could wade across it.

Any idiot on a rubber air mattress can float across and launch an invasion of the Green Zone.

The sniping is to discourage the locals from working with us, and a lot of time, it works.

Then today, my time, the major bombings hit up north and also smaller stuff the closed two bridges across the Tigris into the Green Zone.

Bottom line, this is one FUCKED UP deal.

Not a matter of politics, its a no win, it is a no should be here deal, the new Embassy is even closer to the river, and they are going to reduce the Green Zone from about 13 grid squares to 4.

All I can say is, you gotta love it!

Then, about four hours later, I am back at the Embassy, debrief, do a bunch of paperwork and now in my hooch, watching satellite TV and drinking lots of water and beer.

Ain't life grand?

The rest of the shit is so, and I mean so BS about the new Embassy that you would not believe it, everybody with a lick of common sense is fit to be tied, and the rest, mostly State Department Pukes are so clueless that it is an embarrassment to be an American, what can I say.

So that's my day in the sandbox.

My brother and I just finished watching a Baghdad Block Buster copy of the new Simpson Movie and that is so unreal.

Will try and send some more photos shortly and if I can figure out the DVD burning program, will have some interesting stuff to send.

The dust here is everywhere, it collects on piles inside my door in the hooch, and its is cleaned everyday.

The flies are starting to return, they tell me they are like the mosquitoes in Alaska, but still just as annoying.

Still haven't seen a camel. Or somebody that gives a shit!

Anyhow, all my best to all of you, too much beer, have to pee and in 6 hours be back in the Embassy to talk about what we will do today.

But it could be worse, I could have a regular job!

More tomorrow, OD

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

Slam Poet-Turned-Sergeant Is Killed



Scott Kirkpatrick was among five U.S. soldiers killed Saturday.
(Suzy Quintavalle - Suzy Quintavalle)

August 14, 2007 By Mariana Minaya, Washington Post

Scott Kirkpatrick kept a collection of all the rocks and bricks that were thrown at him during his first tour of duty in Iraq. He had joined the Army 2 1/2 years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, hoping to go to Afghanistan and do his part to halt the terrorist threat.

Instead, he was deployed to Iraq, where he was among five soldiers killed Saturday in Arab Jabour, a haven for Sunni insurgents southeast of Baghdad. In the deadliest attack against U.S. troops this month, a sniper shot one soldier and lured the others into a house rigged to explode.

Although Kirkpatrick, 26, had made the transformation from sensitive poet to a "rock hard" soldier, he retained his humor and artistic sensibilities. The rocks hurled at his head, usually by children who moments before had been laughing and joking with him, "piqued his ironic sense of humor," said his uncle Roy Deppa, 59, of Montgomery County.

Army life was not something Kirkpatrick had considered while growing up in Frederick and parts of Virginia, his uncle said. As a teenager, Kirkpatrick's main interests were poetry, writing and acting.

He was an accomplished slam poet who traveled throughout the country to perform "modern, competitive type, in-your-face, streetwise sort of poetry," Deppa said.

His nephew had a way of telling stories that made his family burst into laughter -- especially when he was the punch line. He had a way of writing poetry that moved his uncle.

But Sept. 11 "affected him, and he just wanted to make a difference," said Kirkpatrick's cousin Suzy Quintavalle, 37, of Mount Airy. In a blog item, she came across a posting from a friend that noted Kirkpatrick's need "to make the difference from the inside out."

He temporarily left behind his longtime girlfriend, Christy Blasingame, for Army training in Georgia. But before leaving for Iraq with the Third Infantry Division in January 2005, Kirkpatrick proposed. The couple married during a leave in his first tour, and they spent more than a year together in Georgia before he left on his second tour May 11, his wife's 29th birthday.

His military career was a successful one: He had been promoted to sergeant and aspired to a career in intelligence services, Deppa said.

"I remember his father going back to the base and looking at his kid, the counterculture poet in an Army uniform in the faces of his privates, yelling at them," Deppa said. "It was just this transformation."

When Kirkpatrick obtained Internet access in the Green Zone last week, he told his father, Ed Kirkpatrick of Dickerson in Montgomery, that he was starting to consider a teaching career.

"I can only conjecture that being on the ground in Iraq maybe changed his mind about wanting to do that permanently," he said. "I think he learned a lot about himself in the Army. I think he realized that he was a lot stronger and a lot more self-sufficient than he realized."

FATAL BOMBAZO PARA UN AÑASQUEÑO



En la foto, Julián Inglés Ríos, quien perdió la vida durante un atentado en Irak. (Juan Luis Valentín)

8.6.07 Por José A. Delgado, El Nuevo

WASHINGTON - Un soldado de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico murió ayer en Irak, en medio de una explosión que provocó heridas a otros tres militares boricuas.

La víctima fatal boricua fue identificada como Julián Inglés Ríos, de 52 años y miembro del batallón 130 de ingeniería de la Guardia Nacional de Puerto Rico, confirmaron anoche fuentes militares.

Inglés Ríos, quien tenía su residencia en Añasco, es la baja militar de origen boricua número 66 de las guerras estadounidenses en Irak y Afganistán, según el conteo de este diario.

El batallón 130 tiene a su cargo rastrear bombas que puedan haber sido colocadas en carreteras iraquíes, una de las tareas más peligrosas de las Fuerzas Armadas estadounidenses en Irak.

Los tres soldados heridos en el incidente en que perdió la vida Inglés Ríos no fueron identificados. Pero una fuente militar aseguró que ninguno tiene heridas que puedan colocar su vida en peligro.

Entre octubre y diciembre de 2006 otros cuatro guardias nacionales de Puerto Rico, entonces asignados también al batallón 130, sufrieron heridas graves mientras realizaban patrullajes en Irak.

Por lo menos 3,660 miembros de las Fuerzas Armadas de Estados Unidos han muerto en Irak.

Hay cálculos muy dispares sobre el total de las bajas civiles iraquíes.

El grupo británico "Iraqbodycount" sostiene que ha certificado la muerte de por lo menos 70,000 civiles iraquíes.

Pero, un estudio publicado en la revista médica "Lancet" en el verano de 2006 sostiene que realmente pueden superar las 600,000 personas.

**“We’ve Just Been Dealing With
A Lot Of Bullshit” “It’ll Be Just
One More Way They Screwed
Me”**

**“They Had Been Officially
Deployed For 729 Days. If Their**

Orders Had Said 730 Days, They Would Have Been Eligible For Full, Active-Duty GI Bill Benefits”

“The Soldiers Saw A Direct Connection Between The Extension And The Deaths Of Their Friend”

“This Place Gives Me The Heebie-Jeebies,” He Said. “They Really Don’t Like Us Here”

And then they got hit again: While training the Marines to take over their mission, they learned they had been officially deployed for 729 days. If their orders had said 730 days, they would have been eligible for full, active-duty GI Bill benefits — worth about \$400 a month more than their Reserve GI Bill. For a company filled with 20-somethings planning to start school in the fall, that’s huge.

August 20, 2007 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

TAQADDUM, Iraq — On another dusty, hot day in Kabani, Iraq, a lake reminded National Guard soldiers of their boats back home in Minnesota.

The Bimidji, Minn., boys have made their mark on Taqaddum Air Base, too. In the mess hall, their Minnesota accent (with its long “O”) and loud laughter distinguish them more than the bulls on their unit patches. The Marines say they’ll miss them, and the doctors at the Level II Surgical Unit praised their ability to help out even when they’ve taken a hit.

But their constant good humor doesn’t quite mask the pieces of anger and resentment that come from those hits — and from their unit’s extension in Iraq.

They deployed to Iraq in October 2005 — not long after about two-thirds of the company had deployed to Bosnia for nine months.

Most of them were excited about spending time together doing their mission, but then the rumors began of an extension — after the welcome-home party had already been planned back in Minnesota.

Add to that the day-to-day troubles of being a Guard unit in Iraq: working to get supplies, worrying about whether jobs would be there when they returned home, doing an active-duty job for Guard benefits.

“I was pretty laid back, but now it doesn’t take much to set me off,” Ophus said. “There are a lot of guys like that. We’ve just been dealing with a lot of bullshit.”

Part of the reason the platoon got hit with rumors and more daily-grind extras that interfered with their mission was the lack of stability in leadership. They had two lieutenants go home, one because he was injured. A platoon sergeant was relieved of duty, and another left to fill in with the supply unit, which was short.

Now they have a sergeant first class who serves as both platoon sergeant and platoon leader. In a mark of respect for a man who has served as a buffer for his platoon, the soldiers have given him a new rank: "Lt. 1st Class."

And then they got hit again: While training the Marines to take over their mission, they learned they had been officially deployed for 729 days. If their orders had said 730 days, they would have been eligible for full, active-duty GI Bill benefits — worth about \$400 a month more than their Reserve GI Bill. For a company filled with 20-somethings planning to start school in the fall, that's huge.

"I'll have 23 months of active duty," said Spc. Aaron Yliniemi, who expects to finish a degree in sociology when he returns. "If it's one stinking day I need, I'll be pretty upset.

"It'll be just one more way they screwed me."

Things immediately got worse after their extension, too.

"We had a 'Why me, why us?' mentality," Ophus said. "We've been doing this for too long."

In 16 months in theater, "we've seen Marines go home and come back," Staff Sgt. Rob Fraik said.

Their sense of being here too long increased when they lost Greg Riewer on March 23 after having lost Josh Hanson the previous August.

"That was a f---ing scary day," Sgt. Jeff Woodford said. "I really wanted out of Iraq after that."

An improvised explosive device went off underneath Greg's seat and killed him.

"The braces in the back of the Humvee took all the meat and muscles" off the legs of Marcus Kuboi, and broke bones in both legs as well, Woodford said. Kuboi is recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Ophus said the guys back at Taqaddum immediately ran to donate blood, while Woodford's crew headed out to help.

Kuboi was a medic, like Woodford.

"We heard the guys got hurt, but the whole way out there, we don't know what was going on," Woodford said. "I was expecting to help Kuboi out, but he was the one hurt the worst."

Spc. Adam Petersen said a lot of the soldiers saw a direct connection between the extension and the deaths of their friend.

“It was like, ‘Damn, we should have been home sitting at McCoy’s having a beer,’” he said.

“It’s just the bitterness of still being deployed.”

Ophus said they haven’t had much time to process the deaths.

“We had a memorial,” Ophus said. “That’s when it seemed real. But the next day was back to business. ... It’ll probably set in pretty hard when we get home.”

“This place gives me the heebie-jeebies,” he said. “They really don’t like us here.”

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



U.S. Army soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division climb a wall to search a house in the Amariyah neighborhood of west Baghdad, Aug. 1, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed;

Nationality Not Announced

August 20, 2007 By Rahim Faiez, The Associated Press

In southern Afghanistan, a NATO soldier was killed escorting a convoy in southern Afghanistan on Sunday.

TROOP NEWS

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



The remains of Army Spc. Christopher Todd Neiberger, 22, of Gainesville, Fla., Aug. 16, 2007, at Arlington National Cemetery. Neiberger died Aug. 6 from wounds caused by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based in Schweinfurt, Germany. (AP Photo/Haraz N. Ghanbari)

Petraeus Says He Armed Iraqi Insurgents So They Could “Fight For Their Country”

August 18, 2007 By James Glanz and Stephen Farrell Published, Reuters [Excerpt]

In the impromptu interview in the shop in Ghazaliya, Petraeus also responded to recent reports by the Government Accountability Office and the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction that were critical of his handling of hundreds of thousands of

weapons given to Iraqi security forces when he was previously in charge of training those forces.

The weapons were not properly registered by serial number and thousands were lost, potentially to insurgent groups, the agencies found.

"We made a decision to arm guys who wanted to fight for their country," Petraeus said.

Reservist Wins: No Iraq Duty He Sues To Block 5th Deployment, Arguing "Unlawful Custody" Army Tells Stupid, Silly Lie About Why They Let Him Go

He said the Army released Botta because it determined he "was not medically qualified to remain on active duty."

The decision surprised Waple because Botta never claimed any medical disqualification and suffers from no illnesses.

August 13, 2007 By Brian Skoloff - The Associated Press

West Palm Beach, Fla. — The Army has released a reservist from active duty after he asked a federal court to block his fifth deployment to war zones, his lawyer said July 31.

Sgt. Erik Botta was sent to Iraq three times and to Afghanistan once, and he felt the Army should consider his previous tours "to assure a sharing of exposure to the hazards of combat."

He filed a court petition July 12, contending that the Army's refusal to exempt him "constitutes unlawful custody."

But Botta, 26, of Port St. Lucie, withdrew his petition July 31, noting that the Army told him he would be released from active duty and demobilized as of that day, his lawyers said in a filing in U.S. District Court here.

Botta was sent home from Fort Jackson near Columbia, S.C., on July 30, said his attorney, Mark Waple.

"We're very happy to have Erik home with his family, headed back to school and back to his job," Waple said in a telephone interview.

He said the Army released Botta because it determined he “was not medically qualified to remain on active duty.”

The decision surprised Waple because Botta never claimed any medical disqualification and suffers from no illnesses.

Waple said that Botta, who had reported for duty July 15 with plans for deployment a few weeks later, was now pursuing an honorable discharge.

Army spokeswoman Maj. Cheryl Phillips did not respond to specific questions about why Botta was released from active duty.

“The Army has policies and procedures in place to handle situations when a soldier is determined to be in a non-deployable status,” Phillips said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. “Each soldier is handled on an individual basis.”

Botta had said at the time he filed his petition that he wasn’t against the war, but simply felt he had done his duty.

He was granted an initial exemption from deployment last year, allowing him to pursue an electrical engineering degree at Palm Beach Community College and work as a senior technician on Blackhawk and Seahawk helicopters at Sikorsky Aircraft Corp.

But his latest exemption request was initially denied by the Army.

Phillips noted at the time Botta filed his petition that Army Reserve units deploy for 12 consecutive months, and that Botta had only accumulated about 10 nonconsecutive months of deployment.

She also noted that Botta was under an eight-year service contract. Phillips said that out of 649 deployment delays requested by soldiers since the start of the Afghanistan war in 2001, the Army has granted 561, or 87 percent.

Botta enlisted in the Army Reserves in October 2000. After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, he requested transfer to active duty, which was granted the next month, according to the petition. He was deployed to Afghanistan for about seven months in 2002. He then had three deployments to Iraq as part of a special operations team — about a month in 2003, three months in 2004 and 15 days later that year, according to his petition.

After his release from active duty on Oct. 30, 2004, Botta had not been required to participate in any training, he said.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email

requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576
Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

Pentagon Paid War Profiteers \$998,798 To Ship Two 19-Cent Washers: “They Took A Lot Of Vacations” [War Is Good Business: Invest Your Kid]

[Thanks to Katherine Gorell, Military Project, & Marks Shapiro, who sent this in.]

Aug. 16 (Bloomberg) [Excerpts]

A small South Carolina parts supplier collected about \$20.5 million over six years from the Pentagon for fraudulent shipping costs, including \$998,798 for sending two 19-cent washers to a Texas base, U.S. officials said.

The company also billed and was paid \$455,009 to ship three machine screws costing \$1.31 each to Marines in Habbaniyah, Iraq, and \$293,451 to ship an 89-cent split washer to Patrick Air Force Base in Cape Canaveral, Florida, Pentagon records show.

C&D's fraudulent billing started in 2000, Stroot, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service's chief agent in Raleigh, North Carolina, said in an interview. "As time went on they got more aggressive in the amounts they put in."

The price the military paid for each item shipped rarely reached \$100 and totaled just \$68,000 over the six years in contrast to the \$20.5 million paid for shipping, she said.

"The majority, if not all of these parts, were going to high-priority, conflict areas -- that's why they got paid," Stroot said. If the item was earmarked "priority," destined for the military in Iraq, Afghanistan or certain other locations, "there was no oversight."

The scheme unraveled in September after a purchasing agent noticed a bill for shipping two more 19-cent washers: \$969,000.

That order was rejected and a review turned up the \$998,798 payment earlier that month for shipping two 19-cent washers to Fort Bliss, Texas, Stroot said.

"C&D was a rogue contractor," Stroot said. While other questionable billing has been uncovered, nothing came close to C&D's, she said. The next-highest contractor billed \$2 million in questionable transport costs, she said.

Corley, 46, was fined \$750,000. She faces a maximum prison sentence of 20 years on each count and will be sentenced in the near future, McDonald said in a telephone interview from Columbia. Stroot said her sibling died last year.

Stroot said the Pentagon hopes to recoup most of the \$20.5 million by auctioning homes, beach property, jewelry and "high- end automobiles" that the sisters spent the money on.

"They took a lot of vacations," she said.

\$13 Billion Spent By DoD Can't Stop Home Made IEDs: "At IED Expo In Fayetteville, N.C., 75 Vendors Sought To Sell Military Customers Products Ranging From Surveillance Cameras-On-A-Pole To MRAP Vehicles" Iraqi IED-Makers Keeping "The World's Most Powerful Military Off Balance" [And Keeping War Profiteers Happy]

Aug 20 By CHARLES J. HANLEY, AP Special Correspondent [Excerpts

On one day in May, 101 of the 139 anti-U.S. attacks involved IEDs.

The Pentagon has sought to recover via a crash program - the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, or JIEDDO - that by next year is expected to have spent some \$13 billion on detectors and robots to defuse bombs, vehicle armor, training and other means to "defeat" the homemade weapons.

That sum is comparable, in inflation-adjusted dollars, to what the U.S. spent building the two atomic bombs dropped on Japan in 1945, based on figures compiled by Washington's Brookings Institution.

Some in Congress complain the money's accomplishing little.

"We don't mind spending money if it's saving soldiers' lives," said Rep. James Moran, D-Va., a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

"But we haven't seen that it has saved a lot of lives yet, and it's been up and running for three years," growing from a task force of a dozen to an agency with an authorized staff of 358.

Congressional auditors, meanwhile, are reviewing JIEDDO's operations, and the Pentagon itself this year formed an outside task force to monitor the organization.

By October, the anti-IED group will test another innovation: advanced ground-penetrating radar to detect deeply-buried explosives.

Such technology was on display in June at what was billed as an IED Expo in Fayetteville, N.C., where 75 vendors sought to sell military customers products ranging from surveillance cameras-on-a-pole to MRAP vehicles.

The IED evolution sometimes goes in reverse. Because of the success of frequency-jamming from aircraft and ground vehicles, the insurgents' use of radio-controlled detonation has dropped since early 2006 from 60 percent of IEDs to 15 percent, said a knowledgeable U.S. officer in the region. The bombers have instead reverted to wire detonation.

"It's sort of gone in a circle," said Mahoney.

It's a circle that demonstrates what may be an open-ended ability of Iraqi IED-makers to keep the world's most powerful military off balance.

In a National Defense University research paper, Mahoney's predecessor at the Joint IED Defeat Organization concludes the IED is here to stay, in a looming "Long War" against foes beyond Iraq.

As for the Iraqi foe, Col. Bill Adamson writes that he "proved to be quick learning and innovative."

And as for JIEDDO, he says its efforts "are not producing the effects desired."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Thousands Take To The Streets Demonstrating Against The U.S. Occupation Of Iraq And Recent

Raids, Arrests And Killings Of Iraqi Citizens By Occupation Troops

"MEDICAL WORKERS IN THE HOSPITALS IN SADR CITY CONDEMN THE U.S. MILITARY OPERATION"



Doctors take part in a protest in Baghdad's Sadr City August 20, 2007. Thousands take to the streets in Baghdad August 20, 2007 to demonstrating the U.S. occupation of Iraq and recent raids, arrests and killings of Iraqi citizens by occupation troops. The banner reads: "Medical workers in the hospitals in Sadr City condemn the U.S. military operation." REUTERS/Kareem Raheem



Thousands take to the streets in Baghdad August 20, 2007 demonstrating against the U.S. occupation of Iraq and recent raids, arrests and killings of Iraqi citizens by occupation troops. REUTERS/Kareem Raheem

Pro-Iranian Collaborator Governor Blown Up

20 Aug 2007 Reuters & By Ali Samawai, Mail & Guardian

A roadside bomb killed the governor of the southern Muthanna province on Monday, police said.

The blast struck the convoy carrying Mohammed Ali al-Hassani at about 9 a.m., killing him and three other people. Al-Hassani's office manager and two guards also were seriously wounded, police said.

"The governor's vehicle was thrown 10m by the blast before falling into a stream by the side of the road," said witness Hussein Kadhim from the Rumaitha neighbourhood of Samawa. "The whole city is paralysed after the attack. There is no movement, no shops are open and everybody is staying indoors."

Al-Hassani was a member of the Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council (SIIC), one of Iraq's most powerful [collaborator and pro-Iranian] parties and a bitter rival of another Shi'ite movement led by [anti-Occupation nationalist] Moqtada al-Sadr.

The slain governors' party, formerly known as the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, was founded in Tehran under the auspices of the Iranian government as an Iraqi opposition force in exile.

"We Don't Have A Democracy Here, We Have A Foreign Occupation"

Aug 19 (AFP)

On domestic Iraqi politics, Sadr said that Maliki's days as Iraqi leader were coming to a close: "Al-Maliki's government will not survive because he has proven that he will not work with important elements of the Iraqi people ...

"The prime minister is a tool for the Americans and people see that clearly."

"It will probably be the Americans who decide to change him when they realise he has failed. We don't have a democracy here, we have a foreign occupation."

Assorted Resistance Action

18 Aug 2007 Reuters & 20 Aug 2007 Reuters & By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers

Guerrillas killed a police officer in a drive-by shooting in Hawija, 70 km (40 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

One Iraqi soldier was killed and another wounded by a roadside bomb in Tuz Khurmato, 80 km (50 miles) south of Kirkuk, police said.

Before noon, a roadside bomb targeted an Iraqi army patrol near Sarha bridge (40 km south of Kirkuk) killing 1 soldier and injuring two others.

Guerrillas killed two police officers in a drive-by shooting in Baiji, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. The officers were brothers, they said.

The bodies of two policemen with gunshot wounds to the head were found in different areas parts of Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two policemen were seriously wounded by a roadside bomb in central Mosul, police said.

At least five Iraqi soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb hit their armoured vehicle in Taji, 20 km (12 miles) north of Baghdad, on Sunday, an Iraqi army source said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

**"What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms."
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

**"The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"
--Camille Desmoulins**

***You Think There's Anything
New About Fucking Over
Veterans?***

**40,000 Veterans Of The First World
War Made Their Way To
Washington, D.C., In The Summer
Of 1932;**

**The Government Ordered The
Army To Attack Them;
Rat Cowards MacArthur, Eisenhower
And Patton Led 200 Cavalrymen, 400
Infantrymen With Fixed Bayonets,
And Five Tanks Against Unarmed
Vets, Killing Two, Wounding Dozens**

Facing the dire circumstances of the depression, veterans wanted Congress-- which had already paid off debts and bonuses owed to corporations and war profiteers--to take care of veterans, too.

Seventy-five years later, this forgotten chapter in U.S. history stands as a proud achievement in the history of American war veterans fighting for a better life for themselves and their families--and a reminder of the brutality that the U.S. government will use against those standing up for social justice.

August 17, 2007 By Eric Ruder, Socialist Worker

How happy to be a soldier
Of the old Red, White and Blue
Paid like a banker in time of war,
And cared for afterward too,
With a job and a home in the city
Or a fertile farm in the dell,

**For like Princes, we treat our Veterans--
We do, like Hell!
--from "The Happy American"**

WITH THE Great Depression causing mass unemployment and bread lines across the U.S., some 40,000 veterans of the First World War made their way to Washington, D.C., in the summer of 1932 to demand immediate payment of a bonus under a law passed several years earlier.

The law granted compensation of a \$1 a day for stateside service and \$1.25 a day for overseas service to each veteran, but payment was delayed until 1945 -- leading veterans to derisively refer to the money as the "Tombstone Bonus," because you would die before you collected it.

Facing the dire circumstances of the depression, veterans wanted Congress-- which had already paid off debts and bonuses owed to corporations and war profiteers--to take care of veterans, too.

As the number of veterans who pledged to camp in the nation's capital until they received their bonuses grew, alarm swept through the political establishment.

"If the farmers of this nation who are suffering united, as these men have united, and with the same abandon, started a march upon the Capitol, and joined ranks with those of the city whose souls have been seared with misery during the past few years, it would not be difficult for a real revolution to start in this country," wrote California's Republican Sen. Hiram Johnson in a letter to his son.

On July 28, Gen. Douglas MacArthur -- aided by then-Majors Dwight Eisenhower and George Patton -- led 200 cavalymen, 400 infantrymen with fixed bayonets, and five tanks against the largest of the protesters' encampments near the Anacostia River.

MacArthur's troops drove the veterans out and burned the camp to the ground. By the end of the day, two veterans were dead, and dozens more--as well as many civilian onlookers--were wounded.

That night, President Herbert Hoover sat in the Lincoln Study of the White House and looked out the window at a fiery red that filled the sky over Washington.

Seventy-five years later, this forgotten chapter in U.S. history stands as a proud achievement in the history of American war veterans fighting for a better life for themselves and their families--and a reminder of the brutality that the U.S. government will use against those standing up for social justice.

THE U.S. military had drafted some 3.5 million Americans to fight in the "Great War," and many had to leave civilian jobs that paid 10 times what they got for their service in the military.

A total of 116,708 U.S. soldiers perished in the First World War, and another 204,000 came home wounded. There was a federal job training program for disabled veterans, but very little help for the tens of thousands of veterans who suffered from "shell shock"-- what today is called post-traumatic stress disorder.

About half a million African Americans were among those drafted into the military, but when they returned to the U.S. as part of a victorious war effort, they were seen as a threat because they sought employment in industries that had long excluded them. Lynchings were on the rise, and in Washington, D.C., in 1919, mobs of white soldiers and sailors carried out attacks on Black residents.

Political opposition to the passage of bonus legislation, which had already become a public debate in 1920, took on racist overtones. In a resolution, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce argued against the bonus because "the half million Negroes in the South, who probably would receive \$500 or \$600 each, would immediately quit work until the money was spent."

In an editorial, the Cleveland Advocate, an African American newspaper, linked this racism to the plight of white veterans, calling the Chamber of Commerce's resolution "an insult to the race, and a most reprehensible injustice to the white world war veteran."

That year, bonus legislation passed in the House and stalled in the Senate -- a pattern that repeated itself most years until a bill finally passed in 1926, but with payment deferred until 1945.

After the Great Depression struck, various protests took place across the U.S.--marches of the unemployed and homeless, demonstrations for food relief and protests for veterans' benefits.

In March 1932, some 4,000 men and women marched on the Ford's River Rouge production facility with a list of demands to present to management. When they were denied entry, a scuffle broke out, and police opened fire, killing four workers.

The Ford Massacre, as it became known, as well as the general state of unrest, led the U.S. military to establish an officer's class on domestic disturbances at the Army's Tank School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

"Federal troops have been used in the suppression of domestic disturbances on more than a hundred separate occasions," the tank officers learned, "and there is every reason to believe that troops will be called on again, for the same purpose."

Veterans learned that Hoover planned to veto any bonus bill, and a few began making their way toward Washington to put muscle behind their demand for immediate payment. Some veterans from Portland, Ore., started the trek, picking up press coverage and inspiring others to set out.

Getting tens of thousands of people to Washington was no easy task. Some veterans hopped freight trains, some hitchhiked, and in some states, National Guard vehicles were used to transport people eastward.

When the railroad bosses got word of the men hopping freights, they tried to get the veterans cleared off trains. In city after city, however, the Bonus Expeditionary Force (BEF)--as the Bonus marchers dubbed themselves--found ways to "persuade" the railroad bosses.

In Council Bluffs, Iowa, some BEF members were former railroad workers.

As a train cleared of veterans started on its way, it had to stop because a couple cars had come uncoupled.

The train operators recoupled them and started again, but the train became uncoupled at another point. Finally, the engineer said that he wouldn't move the train until the veterans were allowed on.

In Caseyville, Ill., BEF men soaped the train tracks, tying up some B&O trains for 12 hours until they were allowed on board.

THE BONUS marchers streamed into Washington, settling into some two dozen camps and abandoned buildings throughout the city. The largest was Camp Marks in Anacostia, which ultimately became a tent city housing some 15,000 veterans, plus many wives and children.

One of the most remarkable features of the camps--and one of the least remarked on by mainstream newspapers--was that Black and white soldiers lived side by side in them, even though Jim Crow segregation defined the South, as well as life in the military.

Roy Wilkins, then a reporter for NAACP's publication Crisis, traveled to Anacostia to write about what he saw. "There I found black toes and white toes sticking out side by side from a ramshackle town of pup tents, packing crates and tar-paper shacks," wrote Wilkins.

"Black men and white men, veterans of the segregated army that had fought in World War I, lined up equally, perspired in sick bays, side by side.

"For years, the U.S. Army had argued that General Jim Crow was its proper commander, but the Bonus marchers gave lie to the notion that Black and white soldiers--ex-soldiers in their case--couldn't live together."

Sightseers and supporters packed some 10,000 automobiles and trucks to catch a glimpse of the camps, according to police, and the Army's Military Intelligence Division stepped up its espionage activities, placing spies among the marchers.

In early July, the Army secretly moved several tanks close to the capital. Major Patton shared his ideas on how to deal with "unruly" citizens with other military leaders, who were conducting secret anti-riot training near Washington.

"If you must fire, do a good job--a few casualties become martyrs, a large number an object lesson," said Patton.

“When a mob starts to move, keep it on the run...Use the bayonet to encourage its retreat. If they are running, a few good wounds in the buttocks will encourage them.

“If they resist, they must be killed.”

On June 15, the House had passed a bill calling for immediate payment of the bonus. Attention turned to the Senate. Some 6,000 veterans camped in front of the Capitol building the next day to put pressure on senators.

Congress was set to adjourn on July 16, and by July 1, police estimated that 21,000 veterans were camped out around Washington, with more arriving every day. Congress began seeking out ways to induce the veterans to leave. But few accepted the offers of free transportation out of Washington and back to their homes.

Congress adjourned without passing the bill, but the veterans vowed to stay until they got their bonus. Many had no reason to leave because they had no jobs or homes to return to.

Hoover, in collusion with Washington’s district commissioners, looked for a reason to evict the marchers.

He settled on giving an order to clear veterans squatting in some abandoned buildings near the Capitol to make way for a building project in the area that today is known as Federal Triangle.

As word got out that police had been dispatched to clear the buildings, veterans from Camp Marks began streaming toward the site of the confrontation. Just before noon, the U.S. attorney general gave a new order that all government property, not just the buildings, was to be cleared.

Some 4,000 veterans were massed at the site of the building evictions when a policeman who was meeting with resistance drew his gun and killed two of the marchers.

MacArthur had been meeting since morning with his aides, and the confrontation gave him the pretext he needed to call in troops to “break the back of the BEF,” he said. “It will all be done tonight.”

MacArthur’s men charged the marchers and a large number of spectators alike.

“Men and women were ridden down indiscriminately,” reported the Baltimore Sun. “The mad dash of these armed horsemen against twenty to thirty thousand people who were guilty of nothing more atrocious than standing on private property observing the scene was bitterly commented on by spectators.”

Patton seemed particularly satisfied by the bedlam he observed from his horseback perch.

“Bricks flew, sabers rose and fell with a comforting smack, and the mob ran,” he wrote. “Once, six men in a truck threw a regular barrage of bricks, and several men and horses

were hit. Two of us charged at a gallop, and had some nice work at close range with the occupants of the truck, most of whom could not sit down for some days.”

ONLY IN 1936 was a cash-now bonus finally passed -- after Congress voted to override Franklin Roosevelt’s veto.

But the memory of the march of the Bonus Army--and the broad sympathy it evoked--was no doubt a key factor in the bill’s final passage.

Hoping to head off a replay of militancy among returning soldiers after the Second World War, Congress passed a GI Bill of Rights in 1944 that provided, among other things, money for higher education, loan guarantees for home and farm mortgages, and unemployment pay for up to a year. At \$500 a year, the education benefits were enough to pay for tuition at Harvard University.

But the struggles of veterans didn’t end there.

Veterans of the U.S. war in Vietnam first waged a battle to end that war, and then to get recognition of and treatment for PTSD, as well as compensation for illnesses caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

Today’s veterans will also have to fight battles--for better medical care, to bring the troops home and to get the disability payments that they are due.

The march of the Bonus Army is a rich part of this tradition of veterans’ struggles, and its lessons are relevant to all those committed to the struggle for justice.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it’s in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you’ve read, we hope that you’ll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



Iraqi women wait while foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. Army Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division search their house during a home invasion in the Amariyah neighborhood of west Baghdad, Aug. 13, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Jousek)

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

Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist.
T]

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

**So Much For That Iraq "Sovereignty"
Bullshit**

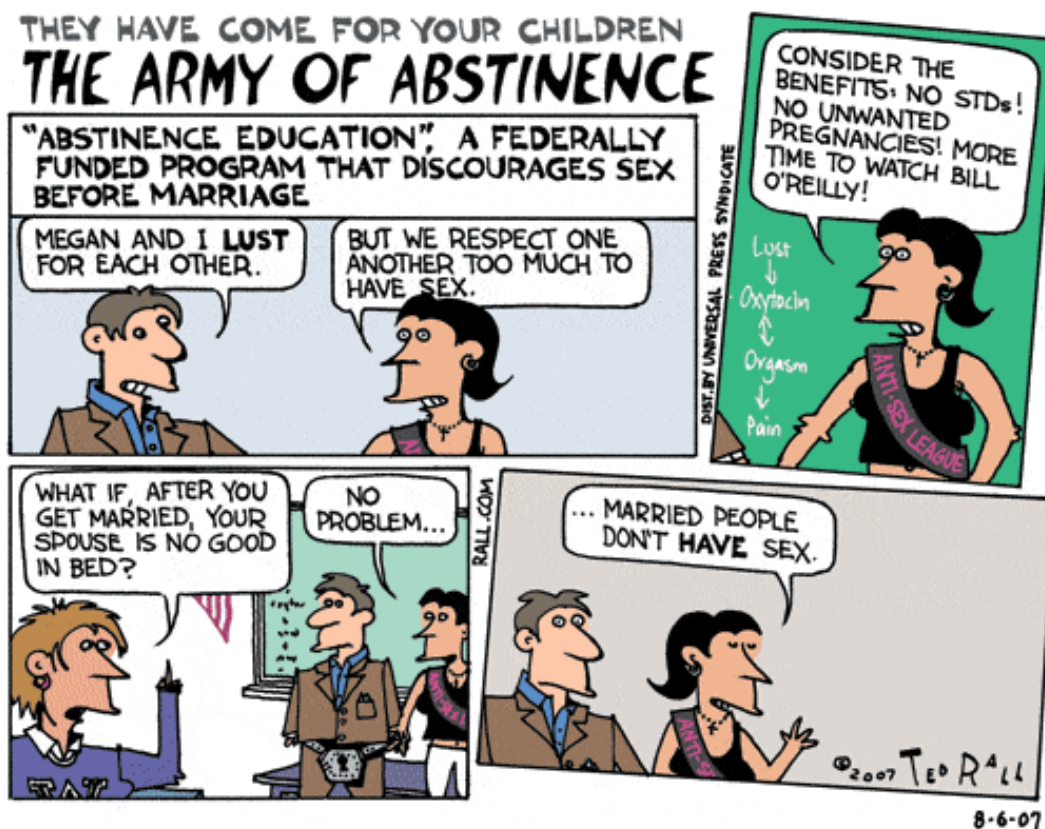
August 18, 2007 By Damien Cave, New York Times [Excerpt]

More commonly, Iraqi politicians complain that they are not able to replace Maliki until the Americans signal strong opposition and identify a replacement. For many in the Iraqi political class, the meetings between Maliki and the other leaders, which are scheduled to continue, represent the government's last chance to prove itself to a patron that might soon waver.

Everyone, said Qasim Dawood, a Shiite lawmaker, is waiting on the Americans. "From one side, they interfere in everything they want," he said.

"Then on the other side, they say, 'Sorry, you are a sovereign country, you have to do it yourself.' "

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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