

GI SPECIAL 5H2:



[Thanks to Katherine G, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

July U.S. Combat Deaths In Iraq Hit All Time High: Up Nearly 100% From 2006

By Glenn Kutler, casualties.org/oif/

Period US Dead

7-2007	81
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7-2006	43
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7-2005	54
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7-2004	54
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MORE:

Iraqi Deaths Spike Five Months Into US Troop Surge

Aug 1 By Joseph Krauss, AFP

The number of Iraqi civilians killed in the country's brutal civil conflict rose by more than a third in July despite a five-month-old surge in US troop levels, government figures showed Wednesday.

At least 1,652 civilians were killed in Iraq in July, 33 percent more than in the previous month, according to figures compiled by the Iraqi health, defence and interior ministries and made available to AFP.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Baghdad IED Kills Three U.S. Troops; Six More Wounded

August 1, 2007 AP

BAGHDAD —Three Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers were killed and six others wounded when an IED detonated near their patrol during combat operations in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital July 31.

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed, 10 Wounded By Something Or Other Somewhere Or Other In Iraq; Cowards Commanding U.S. Troops Too Frightened Of Resistance To Report Facts

August 2, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070802-05

BAGHDAD — Two Task Force Marne Soldiers were killed and 10 were wounded in an indirect fire attack Tuesday.

Bradley Hit In Baghdad 8.1: Casualties Not Announced



A US army Bradley infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) is seen in flames after a roadside bomb exploded in Baghdad, 01 August 2007. (AFP/Ali al-Saadi)

U.S. Soldier Killed In East Baghdad

August 1, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070801-06

BAGHDAD —A Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed by small arms fire during combat operations in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital July 31.

Kansas Soldiers Killed In Iraq

August 02, 2007 By Steve Fry, The Capital-Journal

Staff Sgt. Travis S. Bachman was three weeks shy of returning home from Iraq when he was killed Wednesday by an explosion, his widow said from their home in Garden City.

Bachman, 30, a member of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas National Guard, died at approximately 5:10 a.m. when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle, according to the Kansas Adjutant General's Office.

Bachman joined the Kansas Army National Guard when he was 17 and a junior or senior in Garden City High School, Amber Bachman said of her husband. She said her husband enlisted in the National Guard because "he was very much wanting to do it. He was very much the military man."

Bachman's father, Rodney Bachman, of Garden City, had been in the Marine Corps before Travis Bachman was born, and his uncle, Roger Bachman, of Thornton, Colo., also had been a Marine.

Bachman, who was serving his second overseas deployment, was to return home late this month, Amber Bachman said. He deployed to Iraq with the 714th Security Forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"He was three weeks away from being done," she said. "They were training their replacements."

Bachman had served in Kosovo from 2004 to 2006. He deployed for Operation Noble Eagle in 2002, providing security at military bases in Kansas.

Amber and Travis Bachman would have celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary on Sept. 21, she said. They have a son, Tyler, 4, and a daughter, Kaleigh, 8 months.

Bachman's parents, Rodney and Connie Bachman, also live in Garden City. Funeral arrangements are pending.

To date, 119 Fort Riley soldiers have been killed while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Bachman is the eighth Kansas National Guard soldier to die in Iraq and the second in a week. A ninth soldier in the National Guard died in fighting in Afghanistan.

Warner Robins Medic, Slain In Iraq, Loved Helping Others

Jul. 25, 2007 By Jake Jacobs, The Telegraph

WARNER ROBINS --Army Spc. Daniel Enrique Gomez is being remembered by those who knew him as a natural leader, hard worker, caregiver and loving son.

Gomez, 21, was among four soldiers killed July 18 in Adhamiyah, Iraq, when their vehicle was attacked by enemy forces using an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. The soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

"I knew Daniel very well," said Warner Robins High School principal Steve Monday. "He was a leader in our school, an excellent, well-rounded, mature person."

Gomez, who graduated in 2004, was “one of the best and brightest we had to offer,” Monday recalled. “His death really brings things back home. I’m shocked and saddened. He was a tremendous young man.”

The young soldier’s father, Juan Gomez, recalled that in his son’s last visit to Warner Robins in early June while on a rest-and-recovery leave, Daniel’s thoughts were half a world away.

“He was telling me all the time he was ready to go back,” Juan Gomez said. “He wanted to be with his buddies and take care of them.”

That last thought was amplified by Steve Atkins, a retired lieutenant colonel who was Daniel Gomez’s Junior ROTC instructor at Warner Robins High.

“He was a natural leader and a server who did not mind taking care of others,” Atkins said. “He had a lot of initiative and never shied away from any work that had to be done.”

His involvement with ROTC was an example of initiative, his father said.

“One day he called home and said he would be late from school,” Juan Gomez said. “He stayed and watched the cadets drill. The next time I saw a drill, he was in it.”

Daniel Gomez was drawn to the military and at first wanted to be an Air Force officer. He attended Texas A&M University on an ROTC scholarship, his father said, but “things didn’t work out” and he left after one year. He enlisted in the Army two years ago.

“He wanted to be a corpsman, a combat medic,” Juan Gomez said. “He did a paper on medics while in school and was impressed with their courage, how they performed their jobs in difficult circumstances.”

Daniel Gomez had plenty of difficult circumstances to face himself once he was deployed to Iraq.

“The first month he was there he was in action every day. One time he and others went to the scene of a car bomb attack. He said it was awful, body parts all around,” Juan Gomez related. “He treated our soldiers first, then treated some Iraqi civilians. One man he was treating kept saying something and Daniel got an interpreter to tell him. The man was asking about his son, who was also killed in a car bomb attack. He told me the man was crying for his son.

“Now I understand what the man was going through.”

The loss of Daniel Gomez is something the family will have to contend with for a long time, his dad said, but the soldier had left hints something like this might happen.

“The fact that he was out there, doing his duty and doing something he liked makes it somewhat bearable,” Juan Gomez said Tuesday. “I know he made his peace with himself. The last time he was here, with all the violence going on over there, he still wanted to be there for his buddies. I feel he was preparing us for this.”

Since the news of their loved one's death, the Gomez family has heard from many people who knew him, both here and abroad.

"Ever since we heard of his death, people have been calling us, knocking on the door and crying with us about it," Juan Gomez said. "He was a big-hearted person who took care of everybody, even the Iraqis. We didn't know how many lives he touched until we started receiving messages from people all over. It's a source of comfort knowing he was doing what he wanted to do."

The best thing people can do to remember Daniel Gomez is support the troops and pray for them, he said.

"To me he was the ultimate soldier, the ultimate warrior," Juan Gomez said. "They have a job to do, and he liked what he was doing. All we are asking for is support and prayers for the troops over there."

The young man's love - his passion - for what he was doing in Iraq was evident, Atkins said.

"His enthusiasm for what he was doing in the medical corps, you could tell he had a deep passion for what he was doing," the Junior ROTC instructor said.

The soldier and his former teacher talked about the future in early June, and the corpsman said he would either re-enlist or go back to college and finish his degree.

"He would have done well no matter what he chose," Atkins said. "He did have his 'pick-up' moments, but he was the kind of person who learned from his mistakes and never made the same one twice."

"Daniel was the right person for just the right job," his father said. "He was born to be a combat medic."

"It's just very terrible, his death, and something we're going to be dealing with the rest of our lives. It's a turning point in our lives."

Cecil County Army Corporal Iraq Casualty

July 21, 2007 By Martin Weil, Washington Post Staff Writer

Brandon M. Craig, who grew up in Maryland, was a high school football player, an outdoorsman and someone who would fix a family friend's roof after a storm to keep it from leaking.

He had been a carpenter and a restaurant cook, and he joined the Army last year because he "wanted to make something of himself," a cousin said last night. "He just wanted to make his life better."

Cpl. Brandon Craig, 25, who grew up in Earleville, in Cecil County, Md., died Thursday in Husayniyah, Iraq, of wounds from a roadside bomb, the Pentagon said yesterday. "He really believed in what he was doing over there," his cousin Dawne Allen said last night. "He believed in what he was fighting for."

Craig was a graduate of Bohemia Manor High School in Chesapeake City, Md., where he started at tackle on offense and defense for three years, said Sean Lenz, a former assistant football coach at the school.

Craig made certain that his teammates put forth maximum effort, Lenz said. In Craig's senior year, the team won nine of 10 games, and "a definite reason for that was his leadership," Lenz said.

Gail Price, the school's lead secretary, said Craig climbed the roof of her Earleville farmhouse after a severe storm a few years ago to prevent leaks. "He was one of those kids that would reach out to help anybody who needed any assistance," she said. Price said Craig "wanted to help other people have the kind of freedom he had."

He arrived in Iraq in early April, his cousin said, and would call home weekly "to let everybody know that he was okay . . . that he loved them and missed them."

He received an award for valor in recognition of his actions during an incident in Iraq, his cousin said.

Survivors include his parents, Mary Jane and Danny Craig; a brother, Ryan; a sister, Amber; and grandparents Nancy and Reggie Craig, all of Earlesville.

Australian Soldier Wounded

August 02, 2007 News Limited

An Australian soldier was wounded when his patrol came under fire.

Brig Nikolic said the soldier suffered slight injuries in Tuesday's attack and was evacuated to a coalition medical centre. an Australian soldier was wounded when his patrol came under fire in southern Iraq.

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"U.S. Forces So Far Have Been Unable To Establish Security, Even For Themselves"

“For Convoys On This Route, ‘It’s Not Unusual To Be Diverted Or Delayed A Half-Dozen Times Or More Due To Real Or Suspected Bombs’”

As one soldier, who, earlier in the war, participated in such a midnight home invasion that terrorized a dozen members of an Iraqi family, recalled: “I thought of my family at the time and thought, ‘If I was the patriarch of the family, if soldiers came from another country and did this to my family, I would be an insurgent too.’”

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Phil G, who sent this in.]

August 01, 2007 By Michael Schwartz, Tomdispatch.com [Excerpts]

President Bush has called upon Congress, the American public, the Iraqi people, and the world to suspend judgment -- until at least September -- on the success of his escalation of the war, euphemistically designated a “surge.”

But the fact is: It has already failed and it’s obvious enough why.

A more vivid way to appreciate the nature of the almost instantaneous failure of the overall surge operation is anecdotally by reading news reports of specific campaigns -- like the report Julian Barnes and Ned Parker of the Los Angeles Times sent in from Baghdad’s Sunni-majority Ubaidi neighborhood, which was headlined: “U.S. troop buildup in Iraq falling short”.

It concluded ominously, “U.S. forces so far have been unable to establish security, even for themselves.”

Or we might note that, instead of ebbing, violence in Iraq was flooding into new areas, just beyond the reach of the U.S. combat brigades engaged in the surge. Or perhaps it’s worth pointing out that, by July, the highly fortified “Green Zone” in the very heart of Baghdad -- designed as the invulnerable safe haven for American and Iraqi officials -- had become a regular target for increasingly destructive mortar and rocket attacks launched from unpacified neighborhoods elsewhere in the capital. According to New York Times reporters Alissa J. Rubin and Stephen Farrell, the Zone has been “attacked almost daily for weeks.”

Or we could focus on fact that the long supply lines needed to support the surge -- massive convoys of trucks moving weapons, ammunition, and supplies heading north from Kuwait into Baghdad -- have become a regular target for insurgents.

Embedded reporter Michael Yon, for instance, recently reported that, for convoys on this route, “it’s not unusual to be diverted or delayed a half-dozen times or more due to real or suspected bombs.”

Twenty thousand more American combat troops are now in and around the capital. (The rest of the 28,500 troops the President sent surging into Iraq have been dispatched to other provinces outside the capital.)

This has meant a tripling of American troops on patrol at any given time, but it has failed to produce either significantly “fewer brazen acts of terror” or progress in “restoring services and rebuilding the neighborhoods.”

So it can be no surprise that the surge has failed to generate “growing trust and cooperation from Baghdad’s residents.”

As one soldier, who, earlier in the war, participated in such a midnight home invasion that terrorized a dozen members of an Iraqi family, recalled: “I thought of my family at the time and thought, ‘If I was the patriarch of the family, if soldiers came from another country and did this to my family, I would be an insurgent too.’”

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



U.S. soldiers of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division stand in front of the house that they are about to invade in the Amariyah neighborhood of west Baghdad, July 31, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Jousek)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

British Soldier From 2nd Royal Tank Regiment Killed In Basra

1 Aug 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with much sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a British soldier from the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment in Basra City, southern Iraq last night, Tuesday 31 July 2007.

The soldier died as a result of injuries sustained by an Improvised Explosive Device attack which targeted a British Forces Warrior vehicle patrol that was carrying out routine duties in the Mustashfa district of Basra City.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed, Another Wounded

August 1, 2007 The Associated Press

A gun battle with militants in eastern Afghanistan left a NATO soldier dead Wednesday.

The clash in eastern Afghanistan also left another soldier wounded, the alliance said in a statement. NATO did not identify the exact location of the clash, or the nationality of the casualties. Most of the troops in eastern Afghanistan are American.

Assorted Resistance Action; Convoy Wiped Out, Two Mercenaries Wounded

30 July 2007 By VOA News & August 2, 2007 The Sydney Morning Herald & August 1, 2007 The Associated Press

Taliban militants have attacked a convoy in southern Afghanistan, killing up to 13 Afghan guards and wounding others who worked for a private security firm.

Officials said Monday that the convoy was attacked late Sunday on the road from the capital, Kabul, to Kandahar.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for executing four Afghan judges whose bodies were found yesterday.

“We killed them (the judges from the neighbouring province of Paktika) because they worked for the Government,” a Taliban spokesman, Yousuf Ahmadi, said.

In southern Kandahar province, police fended off a Taliban attack at their checkpoint in Zhari district on Tuesday, leaving one policeman dead.

TROOP NEWS

General Hints Troops Will Rebel Against Iraq War

31 July 2007 By Al Pessin, VOA: [Excerpt]

Senator John Warner, a respected voice on defense issues from President Bush's own Republican Party, expressed frustration at the lack of progress by the Iraqi parliament, which is now on its summer recess.

"How do you think that the troops accept their challenge to lose life and limb to carry out their orders when they see the other side of the partnership is absolutely failing?" he asked.

The nominee to be Admiral Mullen's vice-chairman, Marine Corps General James Cartwright, responded that U.S. troops are committed to their mission, but will not have unlimited patience.

"There comes a point at which they're going to look at that and say, 'How much longer and at what price?' if progress isn't seen," he said.

\$19.2 Billion Worth Of Military Supplies MIA: Report Says "Defense Department And Components Of The Multinational Force-Iraq Responsible"

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

US commanders often accuse foreign powers such as Iran of supplying arms to illegal militias fighting in Iraq, but the report shows that they cannot fully account for the hundreds thousands of weapons they brought in themselves.

8.1.07 (AP) & News World Communications Inc.

The Pentagon cannot account for \$19.2 billion worth of equipment provided to Iraqi security forces, government auditors said Tuesday.

The finding by the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, comes a few days after the Pentagon acknowledged that the U.S. and its allies have delivered a little more than a third of the equipment in the pipeline for the Iraqi Army and less than half of what is destined for the Iraqi police.

Baghdad officials have long complained that the lack of equipment has made it difficult to train and equip Iraqi forces.

The GAO found a discrepancy of at least 190,000 weapons between the data reported by the unit charged with implementing the program to train and equip Iraqi forces and the property books where such details are supposed to be kept.

According to the July 31 report, the military “cannot fully account for about 110,000 AK-47 assault rifles, 80,000 pistols, 135,000 items of body armor, and 115,000 helmets reported as issued to Iraqi forces.”

The GAO says the Defense Department and components of the Multinational Force-Iraq were responsible.

US commanders often accuse foreign powers such as Iran of supplying arms to illegal militias fighting in Iraq, but the report shows that they cannot fully account for the hundreds thousands of weapons they brought in themselves.

Man Reports Army Recruiter Confined, Threatened To Kill Him

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

July 25, 2007 By NICK WERNER, The Star Press

MUNCIE -- A 27-year-old Muncie man has filed a police report alleging that an Army recruiter held him against his will inside a car Saturday and threatened his life.

The complainant, Forrest Lee Beard, told The Star Press on Tuesday that recruiters from a Marion office had been dissatisfied with him and had been harrasing him after he withdrew from plans to enter the military.

"He just would not let me out," Beard said. "Whether he was obeying orders or whatever -- I'm a civilian. I don't have to abide by their rules."

Beard said Cpl. Michael Miller approached Beard on Saturday afternoon while he was working at Kohl's department store in Muncie.

Beard said he agreed to speak with Miller in an Army car parked in the store's lot after Beard's shift ended.

Once inside the car, Miller locked the car's doors, which have child-proof locks operated from the driver's area, and refused to allow Beard to leave, Beard said.

After about 20 minutes in the car, Miller became irate, apparently after receiving a cell phone call from his commanding officer, Beard said, and began threatening Beard.

"He told me he wanted to cut my throat and stab me in the chest," Beard said. "He continued on and on with this murder thing for about 10 minutes straight."

Beard said he believed some of Miller's anger was connected to the fact that Miller had been called in to work on a Saturday.

After about 30 minutes in the car, Miller allowed Beard to leave, Beard said.

Beard returned home and called both Miller's commanding officer and Muncie police, he said.

Delaware County Prosecutor Mark McKinney said Tuesday he had yet to receive reports on the case.

Beard said he considered joining the Army Reserves about two months ago, but that the Army had recently documented him as a full-time active-duty recruit.

When the Army failed to correct the error, Beard decided not to join, he said.

"It was issue after issue," he said.

Army recruits have no legal obligation to the military until after a swearing-in ceremony the day they ship off for boot camp, Lawson said.

Beard had not yet gone through that process.

The fact that Beard was not yet a soldier, Beard said, gives credit to his story.

"I don't have to make any of this up to get out," he said.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



A fuel tanker exploded near a gas station in the Mansour neighborhood of western Baghdad Aug. 1, 2007. Police said the explosion was the work of an attacker. (AP Photo/Asaad Mouhsin)

July 31, 2007 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & 01 Aug 2007 Reuters & (KUNA) & Laith Hammoudi, McClatchy Newspapers & By HAMID AHMED, Associated Press Writer

Two men working for the anti terror directorate were killed by guerrillas in Saidiyah neighborhood south Baghdad around 4,30 pm.

A car bomber slammed into an Iraqi police station northeast of Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 13 people, police said. Most of the victims were policemen and recruits lining up outside the station in Hibhib. Fifteen more were wounded in the attack, a police officer said on condition of anonymity because of security concerns.

2 police man were killed and 3 policemen injured in a truck bomb targeted the police checkpoint located at the end of (40) St. in Falluja city west of Baghdad today afternoon.

Nine Iraqi soldiers were killed and 14 others were injured in a car bomb attack in Diyala governorate on Wednesday, a military source said. A booby-trapped car was detonated near a bus carrying Iraqi soldiers eastern Diyala who were returning home on a leave, the source told KUNA on condition of anonymity. The explosion killed the nine soldiers and injured 14 others, said the source.

Kirkuk: Around 11.45 am, gunmen opened fire on an employee of he new Iraqi army on the way between Kirkuk –Mosul near Sirkran check point (north of Kirkuk city) injuring the employee who was taken to hospital for treatment.

Around 10 am, a roadside bomb exploded at Al-Hajaj neighborhood near Khansaa elementary school in downtown Kirkuk targeting a police patrol of Irouba police station injuring two policemen and one civilian who was near the explosion scene.

Guerrillas killed Major-General Maher Nouri, a senior traffic police officer, in a drive-by shooting in central Baghdad, police said.

2 policemen were injured in an IED explosion targeted their vehicle in Mahmoudiyah town south Baghdad around 7,00 pm.

A policeman was killed and 7 others wounded in an IED explosion targeted their vehicle in Al Mamoun neighborhood downtown Baghdad around 5,00 pm.

ISKANDARIYA - A roadside bomb killed one Iraqi soldier and wounded three others in Iskandariya 40 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Nineveh province police chief, Wathiq al-Hamedani, escaped a roadside bomb attack on his convoy in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. Four people, including two policemen, were wounded in the incident but Hamedani was unharmed.

<p style="text-align: center;">IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

***A Comment To Felicity Arbuthnot;
“Those Who Claimed To Support
Changes Are Still Giving Lip-Service
And It Is The Soldier Who Pays The
Price From Both Directions”***

From: Monica Benderman
To: GI Special
Sent: August 01, 2007
Subject: please pass along....

A comment to Felicity Arbuthnot - whose email was published in your last GI Special:

Please let her know - we understand her frustrations, not only with those named, but also many unnamed in the “peace” and anti-war movement.

What we have learned is that PR and personal attention matters more than getting anything real done.

We have spent this past year since Kevin returned home trying to get enough funding to begin real work on a project we have spent three years preparing. It is based on our firsthand experiences, and on hours of conversations with veterans and counselors from not only the Iraq war, but past wars, who have expressed their frustrations with the system, but also with the movement that claims to be speaking for them.

[For more on the project, go to Kevin Benderman Defense Committee, <http://www.topia.net/kevinbenderman.html> T]

Talk is cheap.

When we began publicly discussing Kevin's situation we heard from people all over the country who made promises of a commitment to help us do what we could to fight back.

We have not stopped fighting for what we know is needed.

Kevin went to prison for over a year and we continued to fight for what was needed, but because we wouldn't toe the party line, those who made promises didn't come through - their money is only good if we practice their agenda and their agenda does nothing to help the soldiers or families in any real way.

Their talk is cheap, and their actions speak volumes when it comes to the truth.

In December 2004 we published a 5 page letter outlining much of what we had seen to be wrong with "support" for the military personnel.

What we see now is that what we talked about then is now becoming stories in the mainstream media- the intimidation of a faulty leadership, the incompetence, the negligence.

What also is true - those who claimed to support changes are still giving lip-service and it is the soldier who pays the price from both directions.

There are good people doing the work of peace - but they are not in the news, they are spending their time struggling to get real work done behind the scenes.

There are good people who have given real support to what Kevin and I have spoken about and to help with Kevin's case as well, but they are the ones who give quietly, and who work tirelessly because they have been there, they understand because they have walked the walk.

They are the people who deserve the attention and the publicity, but who will never ask for it.

You are one of those people, Tom - and we know how hard you work to make the truth heard. We have heard from many soldiers in Iraq who have written to us because of the contact you have given.

That connection is important and we hope it continues.

Thanks.

Monica Benderman

[Compared to the heroism and sacrifice made by Sgt. Kevin Benderman, who went to military prison rather than do a second tour in Iraq in what he saw was an evil war, and the heroism and sacrifice made by Monica Benderman, who fought no less fiercely and with equal determination to vindicate his principled stand, GI Special is not in the same league at all.

[The effort here is to report the news, trying to provide a platform for members of the armed forces who wish to speak out against the wrong done to them, to the Iraqis, and to all of us by the corrupt thugs running the government. It's a honor to be of service. T]

Lying CON



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: August 02, 2007
Subject: Lying CON

Lying CON

The Iraq War is a lying CON--just like Vietnam.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
August 2, 2007

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

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

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.

The U.S.S. Forrestal: In Remembrance

**“Young Americans Are Being Asked By
Another Batch Of Corrupt Politicians To
Fight Another Immoral And Unjust War
In Iraq”**



List of those who lost their lives onboard USS Forrestal - 29 July 1967. (As listed on panel 24E on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (the wall) in Washington, D.C.)

July 31, 2007 Via VetPax

I would like to thank George Weber for posting this remembrance for the sailors killed aboard the U.S.S. Forrestal forty years ago.

During my years in the U.S. Navy, I had the opportunity to watch a film about that tragic event two times. The first time was in 1970 during my basic training or boot camp at the Naval Training Center in San Diego. The second time was in 1972 at the Fleet Fire Fighting School located at the 32 St. Naval Station also in San Diego CA..

The thing I remember most about that flick was seeing members of the flight deck fire fighting crew being cut down by flying debris caused by exploding ordinance. This was followed by seeing the same injured crew members being engulfed by the flames cause by burning jet fuel. I'll never forget that sight.

In addition to the many brave crew members killed topside on the fight deck, many sailors were killed below decks, being trapped by the heat and flames of the spreading fires.

As many of you know, I spent many years as a professional municipal fire fighter in addition to my Navy fire fighting experience.

I can honestly say that a fire aboard a ship can be Hell on earth, given the amount of flammable fuels and explosives.

Over the years many movies like "Platoon" and "Born on the Fourth of July" illustrated what soldiers and marines went through during those years while this country was engaged in that immoral and unjust war.

Many of us who served in the Naval Service can remember ships being deployed without an adequate number of crew members, turn around cruises with short periods of home port time which sounds very familiar today.

I can recall the deferred maintenance and inadequate or non-existent training of crew members while serving aboard the U.S.S. Monticello LSD 35 in 1971.

It seemed like the ship was being held together with bailing wire and bubble gum. As a result, the "Mo Boat" limped into Sydney Harbor due to a blown economizer on number two boiler in September 71.

There just wasn't enough money at that time to properly maintain the fleet due to the fact that every dollar was being sucked up by the war in Vietnam.

In conclusion, I believe that we who were witnesses of that tragic time in our country's history, have an obligation to pass down our experiences to this generation of young Americans, who are being asked by another batch of corrupt politicians to fight another immoral and unjust war in Iraq.

Once again, thank you Brother George.

Peace and Solidarity

Ken Dalton EN2, U.S.N. 1970-74
President, Alan Reilly-Gene Glazer Chapter 021
Veterans For Peace, New Jersey

"How Gun Articles Are Written"

August 02, 2007 Via Joe Balshone, Firebase-Humor. He writes: "Thanks to Lyman Lyon of the API List for permission to reproduce his example of how gun articles are written."

Instruction From The Editor To The Journalist:

Frangible Arms just bought a four page color ad in our next issue. They sent us their latest offering, the CQB MK-V Tactical Destroyer.

I told Fred to take it out to the range to test.

He'll have the data for you tomorrow.

Feedback From Technician Fred:

The pistol is a crude copy of the World War II Japanese Nambu type 14 pistol, except it's made from unfinished zinc castings.

The grips are pressed cardboard. The barrel is unrifled pipe. There are file marks all over the gun, inside and out. Only 10 rounds of 8mm ammunition were supplied.

Based on previous experience with a genuine Nambu, I set up a target two feet down range. I managed to cram four rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber.

I taped the magazine in place, bolted the pistol into a machine rest, got behind a barricade, and pulled the trigger with 20 feet of 550 cord.

I was unable to measure the trigger pull because my fish scale tops out at 32 pounds.

On the third try, the pistol fired.

From outline of the holes, I think the barrel, frame, magazine, trigger and recoil spring blew through the target.

The remaining parts scattered over the landscape.

I sent the machine rest back to the factory to see if they can fix it, and we need to replace the shooting bench for the nice people who own the range.

I'll be off for the rest of the day. My ears are still ringing.

I need a drink.

Article Produced By The Journalist:

The CQB MK-V Tactical Destroyer is arguably the deadliest pistol in the world.

Based on a combat proven military design, but constructed almost entirely of space age alloy, it features a remarkable barrel design engineered to produce a cone of fire, a feature much valued by Special Forces world wide.

The Destroyer shows clear evidence of extensive hand fitting.

The weapon disassembles rapidly without tools.

At a reasonable combat distance, I put five holes in the target faster than I would have thought possible.

This is the pistol to have if you want to end a gunfight at all costs. The gun is a keeper, and I find myself unable to send it back.

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



Iraqi citizens are forced at gunpoint to sit on the floor and obey foreign occupation soldiers from the USA who invaded their home in the middle of the night June 27, 2007. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

“You get the interpreter and you get the man of the home, and you have him at gunpoint, and you’ll ask the interpreter to ask him: ‘Do you have any weapons? Do you have any anti-US propaganda, anything at all--anything--anything in here that would lead us to believe that you are somehow involved in insurgent activity or anti-coalition forces activity?’

“So you’ve just humiliated this man in front of his entire family and terrorized his entire family and you’ve destroyed his home. And then you go right next door and you do the same thing in a hundred homes.”

Sgt. John Bruhns

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

***Welcome To Baghdad:*
Under The Brilliant Leadership Of
George W. Bush, The Sun And Moon Of
Our Existence, He Whose Wisdom Is
Deeper Than The Marianas Trench And
Whose Glory Is Higher Than The Rocky
Mountains, See How Peaceful His Loyal
City Has Become**

July 31, 2007 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & By Mariam Karouny and Paul Tait (Reuters)

Baghdad:

Police said a bomber was driving a fuel truck packed with explosives in an attack in Mansour district of western Baghdad that wounded 60 people apart from the 50 killed.

Separately, 20 people were killed and 40 wounded when a suicide bomber blew up his vehicle near a popular ice cream parlor in a bustling area full of electronics stores in Baghdad’s predominantly Shi’ite district of Karrada.

In southern Baghdad, a parked car bomb killed three people and wounded five in Doura district, police said.

- Around 8:15 a.m. gunmen killed engineer Bahaa Naji, a resident engineer in Al Sarafiya Bridge (the bridge that was destroyed and the government is trying to re-build). Naji was killed near Al Karkh hospital.
 - Around 8.30 am, a roadside bomb targeted an Iraqi army patrol at Mansour neighborhood (west Baghdad) near Al-Sa'a restaurant killing one soldier and injuring five people .
 - Around 9 am, a roadside bomb targeted an American convoy at New Baghdad (east Baghdad) near Al-Baida'a movie house injuring three people .
 - Around 9.20 am, a roadside bomb exploded at Palestine street targeting a joint troops (American and Iraqi) injuring two Iraqi policemen.
 - Around 10.15 am, a roadside bomb targeted an American patrol at Zayouna neighborhood (east Baghdad) . No casualties reported.
 - Around 10.30 am, a roadside bomb targeted an American patrol at Zayouna neighborhood (east Baghdad) injuring one resident.
 - Around 3 p.m. an IED targeted Iraqi army vehicle in Al Mansour injuring 5 soldiers.
 - Gunmen attacked a police patrol in Al Bayaa using machine guns. 1 policeman was killed and injured 2 policemen.
 - A road side bomb targeted an Iraqi army vehicle in Al Yarmouk. 4 soldiers were injured.
 - Police found 19 dead bodies throughout Baghdad. 2 in Mahmoudiyah, 1 in Yarmouk, 2 in Bayaa, 3 in Amil, 3 in Saidiyah, 1 in Mansour, 3 in Doura, 2 in Jihad, 1 in 1 Karrada, 1 in camp sara.
-

‘They Built The White House With Slave Labor, Why Not The Embassy In Iraq?’

“Many Of The Workers Were Verbally And Physically Abused”

“I’ve read the State Department inspector general’s report on the construction of the embassy. Mr Chairman, it’s not worth the paper it’s printed on. This is a cover-up and I’m glad that I’ve had the opportunity to set the record straight.

[Thanks to Phil G. who sent this in. He writes: They built the White House with slave labor, why not the embassy in Iraq?

Aug 2, 2007 By David Isenberg, Asia Times Online Ltd. [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON - In the past few years there have been numerous stories about unscrupulous contractors hiring people from low-wage Asian countries such as the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan for work in Iraq and then exploiting them with low pay, unsafe conditions, seized passports, cramped housing, and poor food, medical care and safety gear. But generally these were stories about people hired by private contractors working for other private corporations

But new accusations are changing that. Disturbing reports have surfaced about the nearly 900 laborers being used to build the new multimillion-dollar US Embassy in Baghdad and the conditions under which they work.

The specific allegations are that the new US Embassy compound is being built by trafficked workers from Asia and Africa who were beaten and subjected to squalid living conditions. Former employees of First Kuwaiti General Trading and Contracting Co (FKTC), the contractor building the nearly 42-hectare, US\$600 million embassy complex on the Tigris River scheduled for completion next month, are making some of the charges.

With the advantage of hindsight, this scandal was inevitable. Articles about First Kuwaiti's problems with workers it has hired are not new. Such groups as Corpwatch, based in California, have been reporting on its problems for years.

In fact, many observers wonder how FKTC got the \$592-million contract in the first place. It was awarded to it by the US State Department in the summer of 2005. Many of its competitors, such as Framaco, Parsons, Fluor and the Sandi Group, which have established track records for building secure embassies or large-scale construction projects, were viewed as possessing far stronger experience.

[D]uring testimony before the House of Representatives Oversight Committee last Thursday, Rory Mayberry, a former subcontract employee of the FKTC, said he believes that at least 52 Philippine nationals had been kidnapped to work on the embassy project.

He testified:

"Mr Chairman, when the airplane took off and the captain announced that we were heading to Baghdad, all you-know-what broke out on the airplane. The men started shouting; it wasn't until the security guy working for First Kuwaiti waved an MP5 (submachine-gun) in the air that the men settled down. They realized that they had no other choice but to go to Baghdad ...

"I've read the State Department inspector general's report on the construction of the embassy. Mr Chairman, it's not worth the paper it's printed on. This is a cover-up and I'm glad that I've had the opportunity to set the record straight.

"Let me spell it out clearly. I believe these men were kidnapped by First Kuwaiti to work on the US Embassy. They had no passports because they were confiscated at the Kuwait airport. When the airplane touched down at Baghdad airport, they were loaded into buses and taken away.

“Later, I found that they were being smuggled into the Green Zone. They had no IDs, no passports, nothing. They were being smuggled in past US security forces. I had a trailer all to myself in the Green Zone. But they were packed 25 to 30 in a trailer, and every day they went out to work on the construction of the embassy without the proper safety equipment.

Another former employee, John Owens, who worked as a general foreman from November 2005 to June 2006, said conditions were deplorable, “beyond what even a working man should tolerate”.

“The contract for these workers said they had to work 12 hours a day, seven days a week, with some time off on Friday for prayers.

“A few people from India told me they were making \$240 a month. A guy from Sierra Leone got paid \$300 a month. A Pakistani worker told me he got \$900 a month, but that he had to pay additional costs for their work permits and visas, and that all told he was making about \$300 a month after those costs.

“Many of the workers were verbally and physically abused, intimidated, and had their salary docked for as much as three days’ pay for reasons such as being five minutes late, sitting down on the job, and other crazy stuff.

“Because I was the only American on-site working for First Kuwaiti, many of the workers thought I had the power to help them with their problems.

“Workers often came to me and told me they hadn’t been paid overtime or that their salary had been shorted. They also came to me with their health problems, asking me if I could go off-site and get them some medication.”

First Kuwaiti is still a US contractor and working on embassy projects in Asia and Africa.

“My Uncles And Cousins Were Murdered By Saddam’s Regime. But Today, If Saddam’s Feet Appeared In Front Of Me, I Would Fall To My Knees And Kiss Them!”

July 18, 2007 By Anne Nivat, The International Herald Tribune [Excerpts]

Dressed in a loose black tunic with long sleeves called an abbaya, I strapped on sandals, tucked my hair under a scarf tied at the chin and blended into the crowded streets of Baghdad. Only my contacts knew that I was a foreigner and a reporter, and I

didn't tell anyone where I was staying or for how long. I was careful never to speak in public.

My contact and I got around in a gray Peugeot. Ali, whom I knew from a previous trip, had traded in his BMW because it was too conspicuous - residents of Baghdad have to consider how every detail of life could impact on their very survival. They assume as low a profile as they can, then wait fatalistically for the day that "something happens."

"The only sure thing here is that we have lost our trust. Can you believe that we are terrorized in our own homes?" Ali, 32, chose to remain in Baghdad while the majority of his friends and relatives joined the hordes of refugees in Syria and Jordan (for the less fortunate) or Sweden (for the others).

"I am Shiite," Ali said. "My uncles and cousins were murdered by Saddam's regime. I wanted desperately to get rid of him. But today, if Saddam's feet appeared in front of me, I would fall to my knees and kiss them!"

On the eastern bank of the Tigris River, where I stayed, the government could provide electricity only between 6 and 7 a.m. All the appliances would burst into action, waking up the household. For those who can afford it, a small generator fills in the gaps in power. But a generator consumes up to 20 gallons of gasoline a day, an enormous amount in a time of shortages.

Under Saddam Hussein, 40 gallons of gasoline cost half a dollar. Today, you'd have to pay \$75 for the same quantity on the black market - or you could stand in line for four to five days at a gas station and pay about \$35.

"You spend all your time preoccupied with either getting gasoline or getting electricity - not to mention worrying about violence," says Ali.

Bush Regime Sides With Iranian Controlled Death-Squad Militia

July 31, 2007 By Mark Seibel and Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpt]

The two largest militias, Sadr's Mahdi Army and the Badr Organization of the Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council, are tied to prominent Iraqi families whose rivalries date back generations. Both militias have infiltrated the security forces.

Badr, which has never openly battled American forces, generally gets credit for being the more astute player of the two. "The Badr corps understood the game from the beginning and incorporated itself into the security forces," Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said.

A senior U.S. military official described American support for Badr — an Iranian-funded organization that many think still conducts targeted assassinations — as

the only option since many of its members have been absorbed into the Iraqi security forces.

“Badr has decided to join the government, and they gave up their weapons and became part of the state,” the senior military official said.

“If we’re not going to support al Qaida in Iraq and not going to support Jaysh al Mahdi (the Mahdi Army) and we can’t support the security forces, then why are we here?” [Why? To die in vain for George W. Bush’s deadly, stupid Imperial fantasies. Duh. T]

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