

GI SPECIAL 5H25:



Soldier Sends A Heads-Up From Iraq

From: [Soldier, Iraq]
To: GI Special
Sent: August 27, 2007
Subject: Re: GI Special 5H23: National Guards Reject The War

you may interested in that article about iraq whistleblowers losing their jobs, being demoted, even some have been detained by US forces and interrogated, etc.

you may have already heard about it but i just found out - keep up the good work

REPLY:

The men and women serving in the armed forces are the finest, most honorable people one could wish for. They're doing the good work, whatever they can, wherever they are, quietly, carefully building the resistance to this evil war for Empire and the money-hungry scum that brought it on. That's the work that counts, and can save us all.

And after this story, there's one for you.

Guess whose very close aide was neck deep in this corruption and thievery?. Oh no, not our famous hero General; oh please, say it ain't so. Yeah, right. T]

Aug 25, 2007 MSNBC.com

One after another, the men and women who have stepped forward to report corruption in the massive effort to rebuild Iraq have been vilified, fired and demoted.

Or worse.

For daring to report illegal arms sales, Navy veteran Donald Vance says he was imprisoned by the American military in a security compound outside Baghdad and subjected to harsh interrogation methods.

There were times, huddled on the floor in solitary confinement with that head-banging music blaring dawn to dusk and interrogators yelling the same questions over and over, that Vance began to wish he had just kept his mouth shut.

He had thought he was doing a good and noble thing when he started telling the FBI about the guns and the land mines and the rocket-launchers — all of them being sold for cash, no receipts necessary, he said.

He told a federal agent the buyers were Iraqi insurgents, American soldiers, State Department workers, and Iraqi embassy and ministry employees.

The seller, he claimed, was the Iraqi-owned company he worked for, Shield Group Security Co.

"It was a Wal-Mart for guns," he says. "It was all illegal and everyone knew it."

So Vance says he blew the whistle, supplying photos and documents and other intelligence to an FBI agent in his hometown of Chicago because he didn't know whom to trust in Iraq.

For his trouble, he says, he got 97 days in Camp Cropper, an American military prison outside Baghdad that once held Saddam Hussein, and he was classified a security detainee.

Also held was colleague Nathan Ertel, who helped Vance gather evidence documenting the sales, according to a federal lawsuit both have filed in Chicago, alleging they were

illegally imprisoned and subjected to physical and mental interrogation tactics “reserved for terrorists and so-called enemy combatants.”

Corruption has long plagued Iraq reconstruction. Hundreds of projects may never be finished, including repairs to the country’s oil pipelines and electricity system. Congress gave more than \$30 billion to rebuild Iraq, and at least \$8.8 billion of it has disappeared, according to a government reconstruction audit.

Despite this staggering mess, there are no noble outcomes for those who have blown the whistle, according to a review of such cases by The Associated Press.

Donald Vance, the contractor and Navy veteran detained in Iraq after he blew the whistle on his company’s weapons sales, says he has stopped talking to the federal government.

Navy Capt. John Fleming, a spokesman for U.S. detention operations in Iraq, confirmed the detentions but said he could provide no further details because of the lawsuit.

According to their suit, Vance and Ertel gathered photographs and documents, which Vance fed to Chicago FBI agent Travis Carlisle for six months beginning in October 2005. Carlisle, reached by phone at Chicago’s FBI field office, declined comment. An agency spokesman also would not comment.

The Iraqi company has since disbanded, according the suit.

Vance said things went terribly wrong in April 2006, when he and Ertel were stripped of their security passes and confined to the company compound.

Panicking, Vance said, he called the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, where hostage experts got on the phone and told him “you’re about to be kidnapped. Lock yourself in a room with all the weapons you can get your hands on.”

The military sent a Special Forces team to rescue them, Vance said, and the two men showed the soldiers where the weapons caches were stored. At the embassy, the men were debriefed and allowed to sleep for a few hours. “I thought I was among friends,” Vance said.

The men said they were cuffed and hooded and driven to Camp Cropper, where Vance was held for nearly three months and his colleague for a little more than a month. Eventually, their jailers said they were being held as security internees because their employer was suspected of selling weapons to terrorists and insurgents, the lawsuit said.

The prisoners said they repeatedly told interrogators to contact Carlisle in Chicago. “One set of interrogators told us that Travis Carlisle doesn’t exist. Then some others would say, ‘He says he doesn’t know who you are,’” Vance said.

Released first was Ertel, who has returned to work in Iraq for a different company. Vance said he has never learned why he was held longer. His own interrogations, he said, seemed focused on why he reported his information to someone outside Iraq.

And then one day, without explanation, he was released.

“They drove me to Baghdad International Airport and dumped me,” he said.

When he got home, he decided to never call the FBI again. He called a lawyer, instead.

“There’s an unspoken rule in Baghdad,” he said. “Don’t snitch on people and don’t burn bridges.”

For doing both, Vance said, he paid with 97 days of his life.

MORE:

Petraeus HQ Linked To Massive Iraq Fraud And Corruption: Criminal Investigation Focuses On Lt. Col. Levonda Joey Selph, Who Reported Directly To General Petraeus “And Worked Closely With Him” “The Largest Ring Of Fraud And Kickbacks Uncovered In The Conflict Here”

August 28, 2007 By James Glanz and Eric Schmitt, The New York Times

BAGHDAD, Aug. 27 — Several federal agencies are investigating a widening network of criminal cases involving the purchase and delivery of billions of dollars of weapons, supplies and other matériel to Iraqi and American forces, according to American officials.

The officials said it amounted to the largest ring of fraud and kickbacks uncovered in the conflict here.

The inquiry has already led to several indictments of Americans, with more expected, the officials said.

One of the investigations involves a senior American officer who worked closely with Gen. David H. Petraeus in setting up the logistics operation to supply the

Iraqi forces when General Petraeus was in charge of training and equipping those forces in 2004 and 2005, American officials said Monday.

The inquiries are being pursued by the Army Criminal Investigation Command, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, among other agencies.

In an interview on Aug. 18, General Petraeus said that with ill-equipped Iraqi security forces confronting soaring violence across the country in 2004 and 2005, he made a decision not to wait for formal tracking systems to be put in place before distributing the weapons.

But now, American officials said, part of the criminal investigation is focused on Lt. Col. Levonda Joey Selph, who reported directly to General Petraeus and worked closely with him in setting up the logistics operation for what were then the fledgling Iraqi security forces.

It is not clear exactly what Colonel Selph is being investigated for. Colonel Selph, reached by telephone twice on Monday, said she would speak to reporters later but did not answer further messages left for her.

The enormous expenditures of American and Iraqi money on the Iraq reconstruction program, at least \$40 billion over all, have been criticized for reasons that go well beyond the corruption cases that have been uncovered so far. Weak oversight, poor planning and seemingly endless security problems have contributed to many of the program's failures.

That federal agency, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, responded with a report in October 2006 that found serious discrepancies in American military records of where thousands of the weapons actually ended up. The military did not take the routine step of recording serial numbers for the weapons, the inspector general found, making it difficult to determine whether any of the weapons had ended up in the wrong hands.

In July 2007, the Government Accountability Office found even larger discrepancies, reporting that the American military "cannot fully account for about 110,000 AK-47 rifles, 90,000 pistols, 80 items of body armor, and 115,000 helmets reported as issued to Iraqi security forces as of Sept. 22, 2005."

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Texas Soldier Killed In Samarra



82nd Airborne Division Cpl. Tracy C. Willis, 21, of San Antonio died Aug. 26, 2007, when his unit came under attack in Samarra, Iraq. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Soldier Was Dedicated To Faith And Family



Chief Warrant Officer Jackie L. McFarlane Jr., 30, who grew up in Norfolk, was killed Tuesday in Iraq. He was a part-time minister. (U.S. Army)

August 17, 2007 By Elissa Silverman, Washington Post Staff Writer

Jackie L. McFarlane Jr. delivered his last sermon about two months ago to the congregants of Victory Christian Faith Center, where he was a part-time minister.

"They were life-changing," said Kim Johnson, a member of the church in Fairbanks, Alaska, and a family friend.

Chief Warrant Officer McFarlane, 30, who grew up in Norfolk, was one of five soldiers killed Tuesday when the Chinook helicopter transporting them crashed near Taqqadum air base in Iraq.

McFarlane was part of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force 49. He and the others who were killed were pilots and provided tactical aviation support.

"Jackie's priorities were God, his wife, his children and the Army," Johnson said in a phone interview.

McFarlane was born in Fort Riley, Kan., and joined the Army shortly after graduating from Lake Taylor High School in Norfolk, where he took Advanced Placement classes and ran track.

One of his friends from Lake Taylor was Marlon Fuller, who had a sister named Shanaye.

The Fullers' mother, Karen Martin, said that at a certain point, she noticed that McFarlane was spending less time with her son and more with her daughter.

"I would say, 'Does that boy like you?' "Martin said last night.

Her daughter told her no, but Martin knew otherwise.

And when Fuller asked her mother at the age of 16 to go with McFarlane to Colorado, the base where the soldier was first assigned, Martin told her that she was too young to get married.

But her daughter convinced her it was the right thing to do and said she would graduate from high school in Colorado.

They were married in 1994, when McFarlane was 17 and Fuller was 16.

McFarlane saw the military as a way to better himself. He encouraged his wife to continue her education as well.

"He just pushed her and challenged her," Martin said.

Before deploying to Iraq, McFarlane was stationed at Fort Wainwright near Fairbanks. He spent previous tours of duty in Afghanistan, Germany, Fort Bragg, N.C., and Balad air base in Northern Iraq.

McFarlane was a devoted father to his children, Janee, 7, and Joshua, 2. He was also dedicated to serving God, said his mother, Germaine Shields.

One of McFarlane's most memorable sermons was about choosing words carefully and trying not to think negatively about people, said Johnson, the family friend.

In addition to his wife, children and mother, survivors include three sisters, Kiaunte Akern, Jacquelynne McFarlane and Elysha McFarlane.

S.C. Soldier Killed In Iraq

August 21, 2007 (AP)

A South Carolina woman was one of two Fort Hood, Texas-based soldiers that were killed by enemy fire in Iraq last week, the Defense Department said.

Spc. Zandra T. Walker, 28, of Greenville was killed along with Sgt. Princess C. Samuels, 22, of Mitchellville, Md., on Wednesday in Taji, Iraq, according to a Defense Department news release.

Walker was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Aviation Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

Walker fueled helicopters and was serving her second tour with the Army, one of her sisters said Monday.

"She'd be the one clapping her hands and cheering them on when they came in," Walker's oldest sister, Charlita Worthy, said by telephone Monday from their mother's Greenville home.

Walker and her twin sister, Yolanda Worthy, graduated from Woodmont High School in 1997 and joined the Army during their second year at South Carolina State University, Charlita Worthy said.

Yolanda Worthy was serving in Kuwait when she learned of her sister's death and has returned home, Charlita Worthy said.

"We were upset they decided to leave college, but it's something that they wanted to do," said Charlita Worthy, 31.

Walker met her husband while they were both in the military, and he has been serving as a civilian in Kuwait, Charlita Worthy said.

The last time the women were together was for the funeral of their youngest sister, who died earlier this summer from brain cancer, Worthy said.

"Out of sadness, came joy," she said. "If we hadn't been together then, it would have been more than a year since we saw each other."

Tentative funeral arrangements are scheduled for Friday at Mount Hopewell Baptist Church.

"She knew what she was going into, and she went into proudly, bravely," Worthy said. "I'm the big sister, and they're supposed to look up to me. But at this point, I'm looking up to her."

Walker is the fourth South Carolina woman to die in the war in Iraq, according to an Associated Press database of casualty records released by the U.S. military.

Samuels was the fourth woman from Maryland to die in the war. She was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Bradley Blown Up, Burning In Baghdad; Casualties Not Announced



A Bradley Fighting Vehicle is seen engulfed in flames at the side of the road leading to Baghdad Airport, Iraq, Aug. 28, 2007. (AP Photo/Asaad Mohsin)

August 28, 2007 By STEVEN R. HURST, Associated Press Writer

A Bradley Fighting Vehicle was seen engulfed in flames at the side of the road leading to Baghdad Airport Tuesday morning, but there was no immediate report about the incident from the military. It appeared to have been hit by a huge explosion. The stretch of highway is one of the most heavily guarded in Iraq.

Irish Mercenary Killed In Iraq

28/08/2007 UTV Internet

The British Foreign Office says a Belfast man has been killed in Iraq. He was working with a private security firm on Sunday when he was killed by a landmine in the Alcoot area.

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



A US soldier patrols a street in Buhriz, an area in southeast Baquba, 30 July.
(AFP/Olivier Laban-Mattei)

**“I’m Just A Lowly Enlisted Dude, So I
Don’t Have The Privilege Of Reading
Reports From Generals And Colonels
Saying How We’re Sticking It To The
Enemy”**

**“From What I Can See, The Only
Progress That Is Absolute Is The**

Progression Of Time, Moving Like A Glacier”

June 07, 2007 By AH, Army of Dude

I've only been to Iraq for one tour, which has been turned into fifteen or sixteen months depending on which eight ball you ask.

A good deal of those around me are in their second tour, which was from 2003-2004. They deployed eight months after the beginning of the war.

I hear it often: their living conditions improved as time went on. From tents they moved into squad rooms, and finally two man shipping containers with AC.

In 2007, we have de-evolved. From containers in Mosul we moved into a bay that housed the platoon in Baghdad. NCOs shared rooms with each other in a separate area.

Now in Baqubah, the whole platoon shares one tent.

On average, we spend five days out of the week at an outpost in the city, a house once owned by a family until we kicked them out. We pay them rent now, and gave them their stuff. We just got some AC units for the place, but it's not much help in the heat. Some choose to sleep on the roof instead of inside since it's a bit cooler.

Everyone, on the roof or otherwise, must combat the mosquitoes, which can only be described as persistent. Our trash and excrement are burned daily. War is about a lot of things, but one of them is progress. So what happened to this one?

My battalion lost three men the last deployment. Two were from an accident.

This time twice that many died in one nanosecond last month. Since June 2006, the total comes to twelve. One in Mosul, one in Baghdad and ten in Baqubah. What a difference three years can make.

I've been a stickler for military history ever since I can remember, and one thing that is clear to me is that wars are most difficult and dangerous at their beginning. Fighting an unknown enemy makes a man edgy and nervous. You're never certain how well you'll perform under the stress of combat.

As time goes by, that turns into confidence. Tactics that are understood in theory are put to test on the battlefield. Supply lines, nonexistent before, start picking up steam. Days melt together as everything becomes routine.

It's called progress and it has been the case for every war in our history except Vietnam and this one.

The conditions have worsened in steps since we arrived here last year.

We started out in Mosul, where the Iraqi Army was well trained and well disciplined. We had no qualms with them watching our backs. The unit we were relieving, the 172nd Stryker Brigade, kept the city under tight wraps. IED attacks were common but rarely resulted in a death or injury. As we learned the city, we dropped into a schedule: a mission or two every day, mostly for two hours or more. If it came to two and a half hours, we moaned at the possibility of missing lunch.

The worst thing that happened was getting force protection, which meant sitting in a shack for four hours, guarding the base. You had a plate brought to you if your hours fell during meal times. Curses to anyone who didn't bring mayonnaise with your sandwich!

Four months later, we got the word we were going down to Baghdad.

This made everyone a bit nervous; nothing happened to us in Mosul, just the occasional ineffective IED or a novice sniper. It was easy street. Missions turned from community engagements to twelve hour clears of multiple neighborhoods. We would leave for three, four or five days at a time and stay in the city to get an early start.

In Baghdad, we fought a more sophisticated enemy.

They had a certain weapon we never encountered, an IED with a copper projectile that tore through any kind of armor we had. They were rare and expensive, but they were killing us.

The media was making Baghdad out to be the very center of hell. It was a tougher fight, but we were wondering where all the bad guys went. We got into a few skirmishes during the four months we were there, but nothing like we expected.

After awhile, we started to feel the strain of operations.

Nearly nine months later, and we're starting to see the toll on our equipment and ourselves.

It's difficult to describe what it feels like to be walking around in the desert heat from sunup to sundown, searching every house, car, lot, trash pile, sewer drain, abandoned building, garage, apartment and warehouse we came across.

At about hour ten, you start to get the giggles from exhaustion, walking around in a delirious state, not concerned with banalities like getting shot.

The only thing we could look forward to was going home in a few months.

On the eve of the big push through Sadr City, rumors started flying about us moving up to Baqubah. We all thought, "Where?" No one knew where it was or why it was so significant.

On the Ides of March we convoyed, with two companies, to Baqubah to assist the cavalry unit there. The next day we started an area familiarization in the city.

Two hours into the mission my friend was dead.

In Mosul and Baghdad, we lost a man each, but I didn't know them. Maybe I'm just not very social, but I only know people from my company, but I recognize dudes from other companies.

I didn't recognize the two dead. Instead I recognized the body bag being unfolded next to the corkscrewed Stryker that lay on its side. I recognized the school ablaze next to it with dead and dying kids.

I recognized that we were so strained by the fight that we had no time to mourn the fallen.

It came back to routine.

Everywhere we were beforehand, there was a rotation in place so you could rest at some point. Two companies holding a city does not allow that.

This is how serious the situation is: Al Qaeda moved their headquarters to this city, to this province. It's their Alamo. In response, not even a whole battalion was sent to put out the fire. Out of twelve dead in the deployment, ten have been killed in Baqubah since March 14.

We can never match the days in with the days out. We just returned from eight days in the city, battling the heat, bugs and insurgents. If we are lucky, we will finish out three days back in the rear, to rest and recuperate.

Soon, the shortsightedness of sending two companies here will be corrected by the arrival of reinforcements. And to think, it only took the deaths of ten men for someone to see the folly in that.

It was nine until last night, June 5, but this city, this province, this adventure in the desert, they are all black holes of progress. Another day, another slain soldier.

What can you say? When you hear someone has died, you feel numb. Unless you were there, you don't know who it was. He was from another company, but I knew him.

In Mosul, I was tasked to be a radio operator at an outpost for two weeks. It was my job to record significant acts in the city, plot them on a map and deliver messages. He showed me the tricks of the trade and I quickly managed the routine. He was a quirky dude. We talked about computer games and the laptop he bought with his reenlistment bonus. I made fun of his big goofy glasses he wore. Since Mosul, I saw him a few times here, and we exchanged hellos. It was our progress.

Today is June 6, D-Day. Month twelve for our deployment.

Before coming to Baqubah I decided Iraq wasn't as bad as it was on the nightly news.

Now, the few days we make it back in are spent going to memorials for those killed.

We had one two days ago and soon enough we'll be going to another.

I'm just a lowly enlisted dude, so I don't have the privilege of reading reports from generals and colonels saying how we're sticking it to the enemy, or of how many schools we've built in the last year, or anything of the sort.

But from what I can see, the only progress that is absolute is the progression of time, moving like a glacier to that day when we fulfill our obligation and make our way back home.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“You Cannot Impose A Government From Outside Against A People's Will”

[Thanks to Pham Binh, who sent this in. He writes: How can this bloody failure be regarded as a good war?]

August 23, 2007 by Seumas Milne, The Guardian [Excerpt]

Britain is now fighting its fourth war in Afghanistan in 170 years, and might have learned by now that you cannot impose a government from outside against a people's will.

Earlier this summer the Afghan senate called for a date to be set for the withdrawal of foreign troops and negotiations with the Taliban, as did the Pakistani foreign minister, Khurshid Kasuri, this month.

TROOP NEWS

“As Soldiers, We All Took An Oath To Defend The Constitution From All Enemies, Foreign And Domestic”

“We Truly Want What's Best For Our Country, And Understand That Sometimes That Means To Stand Against Our Government”



If we would not accept another country (or its corporations) exploiting our natural resources, promoting civil unrest, militarily occupying our home soil, invading the sanctity of our homes, and inhumanely treating our citizens, then how can we justify treating other countries accordingly??

August 26, 2007 By Ted Goodnight, Iraq Veteran [Excerpts]

As soldiers, we all took an oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic. We all understood the need to sacrifice our lives for the welfare of our country, our countrymen.

However, that oath did not excuse us of our responsibility to justify our actions on duty, especially in a time of war, or command us to obey all orders whether right or wrong.

We have the moral obligation to question our chain of command all the way to the top before ever taking lethal action against any person or other country.

I, personally, was always told that we soldiers had the obligation to conduct ourselves to higher levels of conduct than regular citizens or even politicians.

That was the case until the current administration took office. Since then, our only directive has been to follow orders, no matter what--don't ask questions, don't act independently, and don't think for yourself.

Yesterday, I had the honor and pleasure to march [in Washington DC] against the occupations of the "War on Terror" and the government who condones these atrocities in the presence of a dozen fellow veterans of this very war - members of Iraq Veterans Against War.

Collectively, we shared a more accurate perspective of what the "War on Terror" is really about than any civilian or other veteran who has not served in combat since September 11.

We have made it our duty to speak out against the misinformation being fed to the population, to speak the truth to both the government and the people.

Though we differ in our background and experience, we have reached the same conclusion that the "War on Terror"--the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan are illegal and unjustified; that the US policy of interrogation is unconstitutional and in violation of international law; that our nation's aggressive behavior around the world is making America less safe and is itself serving to de-stabilize the Middle East; that our economic foreign policy is the epitome of greed and injustice in how it serves to oppress foreign populations and exploit their natural resources.

Whenever we analyze any situation, it is important to realize that there are always more than one side, more than one perspective to any given event.

Historically, the government's perspective always differs from that of the people, especially in regards to tyranny. Under tyranny, the people's issues are not heard by the government or oppressive entity.

After suffering with no relief, they resort to revolutionary acts to free themselves of oppression and tyranny.

As the greater military force is invariably on the side of the tyrant, the people are forced to resort to guerrilla warfare and other attacks that inflict damage on the tyrant's economic structure.

This is integral to the revolutionary philosophy of all peoples, even our own Founding Fathers. Kwame Nkrumah, an African expert on Imperialism, laid this out in his book, *The Handbook of Revolutionary Warfare*.

His writings, combined with those of Noam Chomsky, give clear insight to the real nature of Imperialism and its use of propaganda to manipulate the people into accepting governmental policies, both foreign and domestic, that exploit, oppress, and ultimately enslave populations.

Our operations in Afghanistan and Iraq amount to Neo-Colonialism -- the last stage of Imperialism.

As the people are preoccupied with war and emotional, knee-jerk issues like abortion and same-sex marriage, our administration is stripping away our civil liberties. They have passed legislation that essentially nullifies the Constitution at the whim of the President.

They have attempted to legalize torture, but could not manage to get that one past their conservative-stacked Supreme Court. They have enacted a domestic spying program that is indiscriminate in its scope. Now, they are attempting to prohibit protests, our most sacred means of self-expression.

Yesterday's protest was to be the last, legal, protest in Kennebunkport. Could there be any clearer indication in how unwilling the president and his wealthy cronies are to hear the people's appeals for relief?

Further, they have violated the Posse Comitatus Act and have conditioned the people into being controlled by the military.

As if Operation Noble Eagle wasn't enough, Operation Katrina blatantly demonstrated the lengths of which this administration is willing to use brute military force to oppress the citizens of our own country. Imagine, in light of that, what it may be like in Iraq!

Despite what some may say about members of IVAW or Veterans For Peace, we are not rejects, or those who could not cut it in the military. We all served honorably, with conviction and courage. It was our own conscience that led us to leave the military.

With me, it was after fifteen years of service.

Let me just say that it came as a shock to my Chain of Command when I informed them, while in Mississippi, two weeks before my Enlistment Termination of Service (ETS), that I would not re-enlist.

To ensure that my conscience didn't "infect" the rest of my unit, they put me on a plane back to my home station the next day.

Mine is just one example of the true Patriotism exhibited by members of IVAW. We truly want what's best for our country, and understand that sometimes that means to stand against our government.

This government has lied to us, and been caught therein, too many times.

Now, in matters of national security, humanity, and decency, how can we afford to trust them any further?

We must demand that we bring our troops home now and cease and desist all exploitative commercial dealings with other countries.

Only by treating other nations with compassion, decency, and respect can we make more friends than enemies, or make friends out of our enemies. The more friends we have abroad, the safer we are at home. It is time we collectively remember the Golden Rule, in whatever form you know it: Treat others as you would want to be treated.

If we would not accept another country (or its corporations) exploiting our natural resources, promoting civil unrest, militarily occupying our home soil, invading the sanctity of our homes, and inhumanely treating our citizens, then how can we justify treating other countries accordingly??

Reflect, introspect, and find peace within so that it may grow around us all.



Photo By Bill Perry, Veterans For Peace
"March to the Arch" St. Louis, Missouri 8.19.07

“A Brewing Conflict Between The Army’s Junior And Senior Officer Corps” Lieutenants And Captains On One Hand, Generals On The Other

August 26, 2007 By FRED KAPLAN, New York Times Magazine [Excerpts]

On Aug. 1, Gen. Richard Cody, the United States Army’s vice chief of staff, flew to the sprawling base at Fort Knox, Ky., to talk with the officers enrolled in the Captains Career Course. These are the Army’s elite junior officers. Of the 127 captains taking the five-week course, 119 had served one or two tours of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan, mainly as lieutenants. Nearly all would soon be going back as company commanders.

One asked why the top generals failed to give political leaders full and frank advice on how many troops would be needed in Iraq. One asked whether any generals “should be held accountable” for the war’s failures. One asked if the Army should change the way it selected generals.

Another said that general officers were so far removed from the fighting, they wound up “sheltered from the truth” and “don’t know what’s going on.”

Challenges like this are rare in the military, which depends on obedience and hierarchy. Yet the scene at Fort Knox reflected a brewing conflict between the Army’s junior and senior officer corps — lieutenants and captains on one hand, generals on the other, with majors and colonels (“field-grade officers”) straddling the divide and sometimes taking sides.

The cause of this tension is the war in Iraq, but the consequences are broader.

Col. Don Snider, a longtime professor at West Point, sees a “trust gap” between junior and senior officers. There has always been a gap, to some degree.

What’s different now is that many of the juniors have more combat experience than the seniors. They have come to trust their own instincts more than they trust orders. They look at the hand they’ve been dealt by their superiors’ decisions, and they feel let down.

The gap is widening further, Snider told me, because of this war’s operating tempo, the “unrelenting pace” at which soldiers are rotated into Iraq for longer tours — and a greater number of tours — than they signed up for.

Many soldiers, even those who support the war, are wearying of the endless cycle.

The junior and field-grade officers, who command at the battalion level and below, deal with unstructured problems — adapting to the insurgents’ ever-changing tactics — as a matter of course.

Many generals don’t, and never had to, deal with such problems, either in war or in their training drills. Many of them may not fully recognize just how distinct and difficult these problems are.

**“Large Numbers Of Service Members
On Psychoactive Medications Are
Still Being Deployed, Including Many
On Anti-Psychotic Medications And
Anticonvulsants”**

**“Many Key Military Health Organizations
Are Led By Careerists With Little
Experience In This Type Of Work”**

Instead, medics in the field are instructed to record medical information using outdated handheld computers that often break down or run out of power.

More often than not, medics simply don't use them, leaving no trace of medical care and giving the impression of a falsely low rate of disease and illness among deployed troops.

August 26, 2007 By REMINGTON NEVIN, The Hartford Courant. [Excerpts] Capt. Remington Nevin is a Johns Hopkins-trained Army public health physician currently serving in Afghanistan. His opinions do not reflect those of the Department of Defense.

Military hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan are forced to use relatively archaic systems that don't communicate in real time with the rest of the electronic medical record. These systems don't even talk among themselves.

Doctors treating patients transported between facilities on the battlefield often can't access electronic records written by surgeons minutes earlier.

Frustration has been so intense that doctors treating patients evacuated through Germany have developed a separate Web-based system to work around the problem. Confusion over which system the doctors in the field are supposed to be using continues, compromising the quality of the health data.

One solution, off-the-shelf Web-based technology - such as VPNs (virtual private networks), used commonly by corporations to allow remote access to computer networks - has yet to reach the battlefield.

Service members stationed in Afghanistan on remote snowy mountainsides routinely access their personal e-mail on the Web, but medics are not empowered by the Defense Department to use the Web to view and interact with vital medical records stored on systems in the United States.

Instead, medics in the field are instructed to record medical information using outdated handheld computers that often break down or run out of power.

More often than not, medics simply don't use them, leaving no trace of medical care and giving the impression of a falsely low rate of disease and illness among deployed troops.

Despite these problems, the Defense Department reassures Congress and the American public that service members have their health comprehensively monitored, including a lengthy reassessment a few months after they return from deployment.

These assessments are little more than poorly worded, multi-page forms of little use to clinicians and epidemiologists in screening for diseases.

The reassessments have demonstrated little efficacy in increasing access to military mental or physical health care.

They often distract doctors, nurses and other health workers from providing therapeutic patient care.

And now the requirement to complete this lengthy reassessment form is being waived for soldiers sent back into the war zone after serving more than a year there.

Tragically, these overworked service members - the ones who need the most careful physical and psychological assessments - are often deploying again after completing a token two-page form containing only a single mental health question.

Often, no one confirms both the accuracy of the information and the suitability of the service member for repeated deployment.

Because of this, large numbers of service members on psychoactive medications are still being deployed, including many on anti-psychotic medications and anticonvulsants.

As many as one in seven deployed service members has a recent history of psychoactive medication use.

But just which of these deploying service members have potentially serious psychiatric disorders is unclear, because the data systems that monitor pharmacy prescriptions are not linked to the Defense Department's deployment database.

Nor are these linked to the larger medical surveillance database that tracks medical diagnoses.

The Defense Department would be hard-pressed to quickly identify the service members deployed this year with a history of treatment for bipolar disorder or psychosis - in direct violation of its new policy.

Sadly, many key military health organizations are led by careerists with little experience in this type of work.

There is little incentive, and significant risk, for Defense Department health leaders to point out problems, to explore controversial findings or to contradict military leadership when the health of service members is at stake.

Monitoring the health of service members is a responsibility too important to be left to a military leadership distracted by the exigencies of war. Responsibility for monitoring health should be consolidated under a new Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center, under the direction of an independent civilian expert in public health. Service members cannot wait another 15 years.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action



An Iraqi [collaborator] soldier looks inside an armored personnel carrier with a dead Iraqi soldier in the foreground near the city of Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad Aug. 28, 2007. Three died after their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo)

August 28, 2007 Associated Press Writer & Reuters & VDR

Guerrilla fighters killed a police lieutenant-colonel in al-Bu Ajeel village near Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, on Monday night, police said.

In Fallujah, 11 were killed and 10 wounded in an attack which police said targeted a sheik who had just returned from Syria, and was working with United States forces.

Insurgents killed a policeman and wounded his brother in Mussayab, 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, on Monday night, police said.

At least two policemen and a civilian were wounded when guerrilla fighters opened fire on their car in southern northern city of Kirkuk, police said.

Nationalist soldiers opened fire and wounded a policeman and his wife inside their car in northern city of Kirkuk, police said.

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

August 29, 1970: In Memoriam The Los Angeles Police Murder Ruben Salazar As Thousands Of Chicanos Demonstrate Against The War On Vietnam



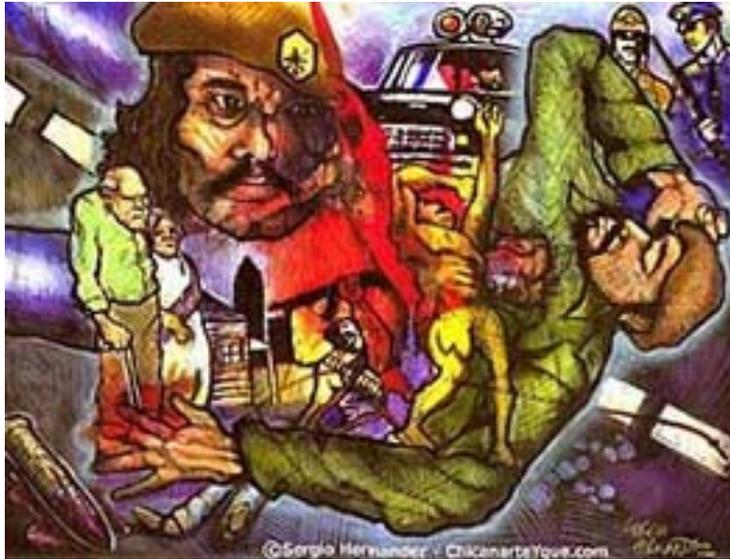
Carl Bunin Peace History Aug 27-Sept 2

Between 15 and 30 thousand predominantly Chicanos (Americans of Mexican descent) gathered in East LA's Laguna Park as the culmination of the Chicano National Moratorium.

It was organized to protest the disproportionate number of deaths of Chicano soldiers in Vietnam (more than double their numbers in the population). There had been more than 20 other such demonstrations across the southwest.

Three died when the anti-war march turned violent.

The Los Angeles Police Department attacked and one gunshot, fired into Silver Dollar Bar, killed Ruben Salazar, a Los Angeles Times columnist and a commentator on KMEX-TV (he had been accused by the LAPD of inciting the Chicano community).



OCCUPATION REPORT

***Good News For The Iraqi
Resistance!!***

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

BEFORE



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division threatens an Iraqi citizen while others search his family's house during a home invasion in the Amariyah neighborhood of west Baghdad, Aug. 13, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

AFTER



Umm Abdul Zahra peers through the wreckage of her home after an overnight raid by U.S. troops in Sadr City in Baghdad, Aug. 12, 2007. Police and residents said U.S.

troops backed by helicopters broke into east Baghdad neighborhood houses in the middle of the night, killing two people and wounding 4 others. (AP Photo/ Karim Kadim)

[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."

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

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**[This Is Not A Satire]
New York City Cops Report How
To Spot A Terrorist:
"Becoming More Religious, Growing
A Beard, Taking Part In Activities
Like Paint-Ball War Games And
Expressing Significant
Dissatisfaction With The U.S."**

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, The Military Project, who sent this in. She writes:

“and then I say I can't believe it! Read this article and the report the NYPD issued. It blew my mind to think they could say that growing a beard, hanging out with more religious sects, and following Islam leads to fundamentalists that are dangerous!

And they spent tax dollars to violate every single right they are supposed to be protecting. 87 damn pages of bashing Muslims.

I am stunned that they are getting away with issuing a public report!

Isn't anyone going to sue or something?

How can they not only infiltrate a religious group, make specious determinations, and then publish it!

Yikes, just when I think it is bad, it gets really bad.

August 16th 2007 BY TINA MOORE and ALISON GENDAR, N.Y. DAILY NEWS
POLICE BUREAU [Excerpts]

They grew beards, gave up women and booze, surfed the Web for radical Islamic sites and turned their back on American pop culture.

All red flags, according to a new NYPD analysis that details how otherwise "unremarkable" young Muslim men morph from middle-class nobodies with no criminal records into homegrown terrorists, posing a threat as dangerous as that from Al Qaeda.

The warning signs include becoming more religious, growing a beard, taking part in activities like paint-ball war games and expressing significant dissatisfaction with the U.S.

NYPD Assistant Commissioner for Intelligence Lawrence Sanchez described the report as "a guide to know what to look for, what to watch for and how to interpret what you see. It is a start, a way to a look at a series of benign activities, to try to decide what is really benign and what is virulent."

But critics said the assessment is designed to be a road map for racial profiling. They also noted that the NYPD focused on young Muslim men with no known criminal record.

"Not everyone (who) grows a beard or wears a cap is a terrorist," said Muhsin Alidina, 64, director of education services at the city's largest Shiite mosque, the Al-Khoei Islamic Center in Jamaica, Queens.

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.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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/)

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Please say how many you wish sent.

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

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