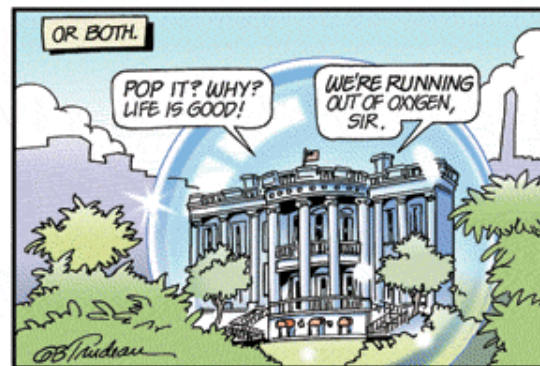
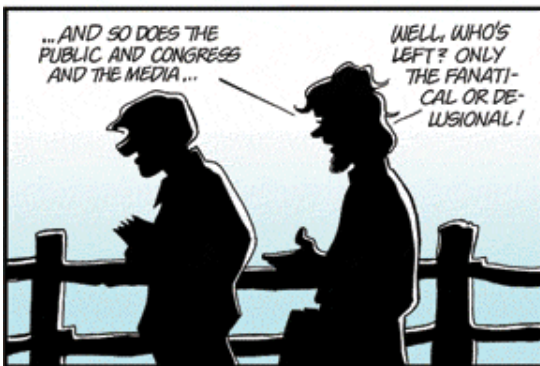
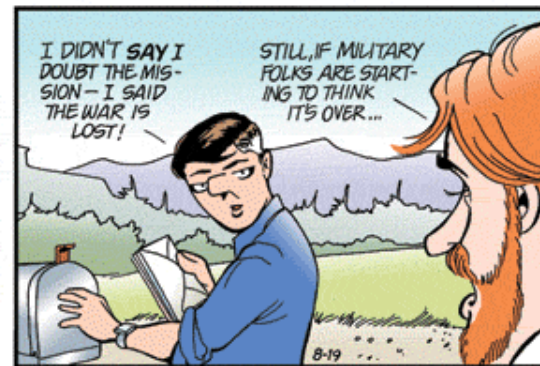
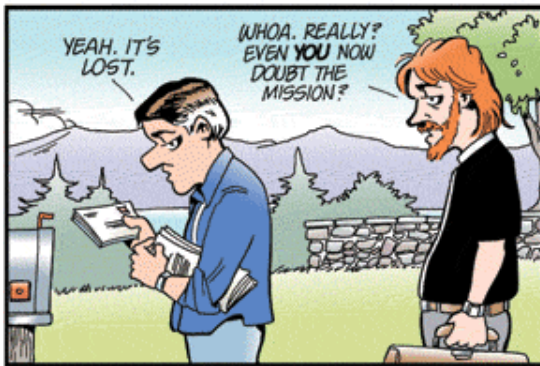
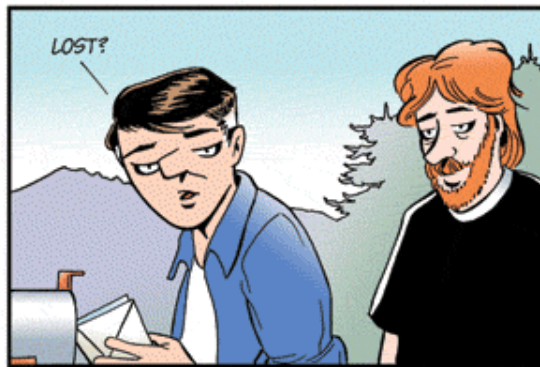
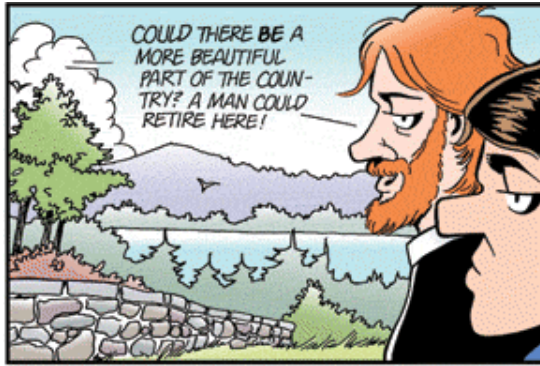


GI SPECIAL 5H26:



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

Here It Is Again; Extension Over 15 Months “On The Table”

[Thanks to Katherine Gorell, The Military Project, for sending in.]

27 August 2007 By Andrew O. Selsky, The Associated Press

[Gen. George] Casey has said he would not be comfortable extending troops beyond their 15-month deployments.

But other military officials acknowledged privately that option is on the table.

MORE:

**“One-Year National Guard Tour Of
Duty In Iraq Had Been Extended
Indefinitely”**
**“I Felt Our Guys Were Kidnapped And
Held Hostage”**



Iraq war veteran U.S. Army Specialist Evan Knappenberger, the "Tower Guard," demonstrating against involuntary extensions during an anti-war rally on the National Mall in Washington August 28, 2007. REUTERS/Stelios Varias

[Thanks to Katherine Gorell, The Military Project, for sending in.]

27 August 2007 By Andrew O. Selsky, The Associated Press

San Juan, Puerto Rico - The Pentagon is asking National Guard troops and their families to make sacrifices like never before in Iraq and other hot spots, the Army's chief of staff told a conference bringing together citizen-soldiers from across the country.

But some fellow Guard soldiers - and their families - feel they have done enough.

For Linda Anderson, the last straw came when she learned her husband's one-year National Guard tour of duty in Iraq had been extended indefinitely.

Outraged that many families had learned about the extended deployment from television, Anderson fired off an e-mail to Guard commanders, saying the "raw deal" handed to her husband, Sgt. Randy Hatch, and some 2,600 fellow Minnesota Guard troops in Iraq would spell doom for the state's force.

"If you think you had a retention problem before, brother, you just made a whole lot of families so angry you'll NEVER get our soldiers back once we finally get them home," Anderson wrote in January, copying in the White House on her e-mail.

"I was out of my mind. I was furious," Anderson recalled in a telephone interview from Princeton, Minn. "I was like, 'How could they?' I felt our guys were kidnapped and held hostage."

Hatch recently returned with the other Minnesotans after 16 months in Iraq. Even before Iraq, they had spent six months training in Mississippi.

One of the first things Hatch did upon returning to the United States was submit his retirement papers. He should be out of the National Guard in September, Anderson said.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed Near Kirkuk

29 August 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070829-07

BAGHDAD – One Multi-National Corps – Iraq Soldier died of wounds suffered during combat operations in the vicinity of Kirkuk Aug. 28.

Lake Mary High Grad Killed In Iraq

August 24, 2007 Bianca Prieto, The Orlando Sentinel

Sarah Arnold knew something was wrong with her son, Army Staff Sgt. Sandy Britt, when he joined his family in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in June while on leave from Iraq.

Britt was on edge, Arnold said, and was worried about returning to war. Things were getting much worse, he told her.

On Tuesday, the 30-year-old Lake Mary graduate died after his unit was hit with an improvised explosive device near Baghdad. It was his first tour in Iraq.

'My son will be a hero to me forever,' Arnold said.

On Thursday, the wife of a soldier who was injured in the same explosion called Britt's widow, Valorie, and relayed the following message from her husband: 'Tell my wife and son, Taylor, and mom I love them.'

Then, Arnold said, her son died.

Britt, her only child, graduated from Lake Mary High School in 1994. He played soccer for the school and enjoyed martial arts and surfing.

'The beach was something that would relax him,' Arnold said from her Apopka home Thursday night. 'That's why we met in Myrtle Beach.'

His aunt, Jane Owen of Orlando, said she never expected Britt to become a casualty of the war.

'I never thought that Sandy wouldn't have made it back because of how he was,' she said. 'Sandy didn't show fear.'

Before joining the Army, Britt served with a Navy underwater-demolition unit, his mother said.

'He had been on special missions while he was in the Navy,' she said. 'There was a lot I wasn't allowed to know, but I know he was in Afghanistan and other places on secret missions.'

At the time of his death, Britt was a paratrooper with the 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division based in Fort Bragg, N.C.

After serving four years in the Navy, Britt moved back to Central Florida where he met Valorie. Their son, Taylor, is 5.

In 2002, Britt became a member of the Army Special Forces.

Arnold last spoke to her son Sunday while her daughter-in-law and grandson were at her Apopka home for a visit.

'I got a call from his captain at Fort Bragg about how much he will be missed,' Arnold said. 'He said he was an exemplary soldier who always tried to do more.'

Britt was the 152nd Floridian killed in the Iraq war.

Decorated Soldier Among 3 Killed By IED In Iraq

Aug. 18, 2007 BY MICK WALSH, Ledger-Enquirer

Staff Sgt. Eric D. Cottrell of Pittsview, Ala., is one of three Fort Bliss, Texas, soldiers killed Monday in Qayyarah, Iraq, when their Humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device. Cottrell, Pfc. Juan M. Lopez Jr., and Pfc. Paulomarko U. Pacificador were assigned to the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Cottrell, 39, was a medic who re-entered the Army in 2004 after a break in service. He was previously stationed at Fort Benning.

His military awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal and Meritorious Unit Commendation.

He is survived by his wife, Sherri, and four children. The family lives in El Paso.

All three soldiers were posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. A memorial ceremony in honor of the fallen soldiers will be coordinated and announced at a later date. The 4th Brigade deployed to Iraq in late October 2006 to provide stability and security operations.

The three deaths bring the total number of casualties sustained by the brigade to 23.

**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR
HEALTH;
COME HOME, NOW**



Thanks to Kevin Ramirez, CCCO. He writes: Pics showing what happens when US bases get mortared/rocketed. Obviously taken by a GI. I found them online, and don't know who took them.

**“Most People Would Elect A
Biracial Lesbian President Before
Having Us Stay Here One More
Day”**

**“Every Month The Bombs In The
Road Get Bigger, Every Month The
Enemy Gets Wise To Our Tactics And**

Exploit Them, To The Chagrin Of Colonels With Slipping Track Records”

“Too Bad The Group That Was Elected To Be The Voice Of The People Has Been Mute For Four Years”

Instead of letting you know what a bum you'll become if you leave the Army after your enlistment, they put it in simple terms: if you don't re-enlist, you'll be thrown in 5th Brigade, the Stryker unit on Ft. Lewis that was being stood up, and yes, they were deploying as soon as they could.

In short, the thanks we got for serving our country was being forced into a game of Russian Roulette. Take the risk, pull the trigger. See what happens.

July 03, 2007 By AH, Army of Dude

God, I was a naive brat.

In my younger years I was seduced by images of war and combat. When kids my age were watching Ninja Turtles and Dick Tracy, I was memorizing lines from Patton and The Longest Day. When I was in high school and my grades were falling faster than a bunker buster, I didn't bring my homework to my fast food job. I packed a copy of Black Hawk Down.

I was that kid; so sure my future was in the military that I damned any other possibilities. Some were wearing letter jackets and Texas A&M sweaters; I was wearing my dad's worn Navy field jacket. So it should come to no surprise that I wasn't the popular kid in class.

Sure, I had a few friends here and there. But I had no sense of belonging. I felt like I was riding out my time until I could join the Army. A band of outsiders! If movies have taught me anything beyond the fact that Hong Kong cops don't play by the rules, it's that soldiers come from different walks of life to come together and serve a purpose greater than themselves.

Remember what JFK said? Ask what you can do for your country. It was 2003 when I was graduating, and we were just invading Iraq. Support for the war was overwhelming back then. I was a 17 year old who thought it was a swell idea. Soon it'd be my chance to experience war with my own eyes and heart. How exciting it must be! I'd go from a hapless kid to a respected man in twelve months.

Recruiters across the country must be thanking their lucky stars for Hollywood. Half their job is done when a middle class high school dropout buys Band of Brothers on DVD.

There's a cold hard fact that hits everyone when they get to their unit fresh out of basic training. In the great scheme of the Army, you're nothing. You're puke.

You're not a patriot serving your country, you're unproven waste of space.

Shit! That wasn't in the brochure. After awhile you start to form those cliché bonds you see in 50s war movies, though it only applies to those of the same rank or just a little lower and higher.

My team leader knows what my favorite movie is, but I doubt my battalion commander can put a name to my face. That's how it has to be.

Do you think Bill Gates knows the hopes and aspirations of the guy who empties the trash in his office? The higher the rank, the more impersonal it gets. To some general I'm not Alex, reader and movie aficionado. I'm Rifleman in Company B, Third Brigade, Second Infantry Division, First Corps, America's Corps, The Only Corps!

To a dude who has lieutenants make his coffee, it must be startlingly easy to hand down orders and directives that destroy plans you thought you had for the future. That's called thinking out of your pay grade.

Ask anyone besides Donald Rumsfeld about the progress of the war and they'll tell you: it's going badly.

Most people would elect a biracial lesbian president before having us stay here one more day.

Too bad the group that was elected to be the voice of the people has been mute for four years.

Every month the bombs in the road get bigger, every month the enemy gets wise to our tactics and exploit them, to the chagrin of colonels with slipping track records.

People with sixteen, seventeen years in the Army are getting out a few years short of retirement.

They'd rather not risk another deployment that is now fifteen months long, because you can't enjoy retirement benefits when kids are stomping on what used to be your intestines after a five hundred pound bomb disintegrated the Humvee you were in because, oh beans, the Army thought it was too expensive to put armor underneath it.

That money was better spent putting Velcro pockets on our new uniforms.

We roll our eyes every time we hear the term 're-enlistment brief.' Ugh.

Since before we deployed, we've been collectively forced to attend a meeting every few months where some dude lays out the news: stay in the Army, and you'll be handsomely rewarded. \$15,000, college time, Airborne school, the works.

Serve your country for a few more years, come on. They have a big sheet with everyone's name, kind of like a grocery list. They check yes, no or maybe next to your name.

When you tell them no, it was always the same chilly reply: you'll fail on the outside. You're just a vet with no skills, who would hire you?

Before we left we must have had the lowest re-enlistment rate in the division. The only people convinced to re-enlist were those with families, who couldn't risk getting out and suddenly not having a monthly check and health insurance.

For the single guys, forget about it. Three or four years were enough for us. I knew the military life wasn't for me.

Four years of war and this Army is a skeleton of its former self.

Equipment is broken or obsolete, thousands are dead and wounded and many of us can't wait to get off the Hindenburg.

For awhile, deployments were kept to a year, with at least twelve months back home to recuperate, to get new equipment, to bury the dead.

To keep the surge going, deployments have been extended to fifteen months to keep the year at home from shrinking down to nine or less months.

The number of people getting out was devastating, so the Army needed a new plan to keep people in. New slogan and advertising campaign? Check. Stop loss program? Check. Bigger bonuses? Check.

Guaranteeing non-deployable positions at training posts and recruiting stations, acknowledging people are scared stiff to go to Iraq? Check.

Still the numbers are low.

After watching too many 80s gang movies, someone thought of such a simple, foolproof idea: good ol' fashioned blackmail.

Before we left Baghdad, the re-enlistment briefs got a little more disturbing. Instead of letting you know what a bum you'll become if you leave the Army after your enlistment, they put it in simple terms: if you don't re-enlist, you'll be thrown in 5th Brigade, the Stryker unit on Ft. Lewis that was being stood up, and yes, they were deploying as soon as they could.

So you might as well stay where your friends are and come back to Iraq with them.

Otherwise, you'll be taking your chances by getting your ass stop-lossed and sent to Iraq in as little as six months to a year after you returned.

Better off with the sure thing. Here's a pen, junior. If you got out after July 2008, you were screwed.

I, on the other hand, was in the clear since I was getting out at the end of 2007. The options were re-enlist, extend to meet the unit's needs, or take no action. I checked take no action, which meant my name would be added to the pool of possible candidates for 5th Brigade. No matter. It was of no consequence if I separated from the Army in 3rd or 5th Brigade.

A lot of us were in that boat. Still, it spooked us that someone could come to us with a list and a smile and say in so many words that we were fucked into another deployment unless we added years to our contracts.

In short, the thanks we got for serving our country was being forced into a game of Russian Roulette. Take the risk, pull the trigger. See what happens.

Month thirteen into our deployment and someone is getting desperate. They pick the best times to hold these briefs.

We just spent a week straight in western Baqubah, where the explosions haven't let up since Operation Arrowhead Ripper began weeks ago. Mercifully they brought us in for 48 hours to sleep in a bed in lieu of a muggy rooftop.

The next morning a certain group was to meet for a re-enlistment brief. Those selected had the same thing in common: they all said no to re-enlistment at one time, and they all are set to get out of the Army from October 2008 to around October 2009.

Privates to Specialists to Staff Sergeants, all in the same sinking boat of deceit.

They were told that those not re-enlisting would receive orders to a new unit 24 hours after returning to Ft. Lewis.

In a month they would be going to another post after fifteen months of time spent in Iraq, to a unit that could be deploying in the next sixty days!

That meant either an Airborne unit or a regular light infantry outfit, meaning Bradleys or Humvees (which have a poor track record against wired propane tanks and landmines buried in the road).

So here's the deal, clear cut:

Re-Enlist

College Time

Bonus Money

We Love You

Don't Re-Enlist

30 Out of The Next 32 Months Spent In Iraq

Humvee or Bradley Unit

You're Going To Die

After all of this, I consider myself lucky. If I had joined the Army nine months later, I'd be at a crossroads.

Those not so lucky are facing a fifteen month tour either way. Whether or not they stay with this unit, go to be a recruiter or drill sergeant, or just take their chances, is up to them.

Shoot yourself in the foot or stab yourself in the hand.

Oh, the possibilities.

**[Just So There's No Regrettable
Misunderstandings About Who
You're Supposed To Die For]
Say Hello To Those Good People At "The
First Iraq Business And Investment
Conference"**



Iraq Vice -President Adil Abd-Al-Mahdi (R) and United Arab Emirates Minister of Development and Public Sector Sultan Al Mansoori leave the First Iraq Business and Investment conference in Dubai August 29, 2007. REUTERS/Ahmed

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Three Foreign Occupation Soldiers Wounded In Shah Wali Kot

29 Aug 2007 The Scotsman

Fighting erupted when militants ambushed a joint Afghan-US force in southern Kandahar province's Shah Wali Kot district and tried to overrun their position several times, before being strafed by airstrikes.

The battle left three coalition and three Afghan soldiers wounded.

Assorted Resistance Action

August 27, 2007 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer & 29 Aug 2007 The Scotsman & Ynetnews

In the eastern province of Nangarhar, a roadside blast hit a vehicle carrying Afghan National Army soldiers on Monday, killing four troops, a statement from Defense Ministry said.

A bomber blew himself up in a town in Afghanistan's southeastern province of Paktika on Wednesday killing two Afghan soldiers, the provincial governor said.

The attack happened in the Barmal district which is close to the border with neighboring Pakistan, the governor, Akram Khpelwak, said.

TROOP NEWS

**“What Will End This War?”
Asked Aaron Hughes, An
Illinois National Guardsman”**

“We Can’t Keep Listening To These Politicians And Believing In Them” “Support Our Troops’ Own Opposition To The War”



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

August 22, 2007 by John Stauber, PR Watch [Excerpts]

“What will end this war?” asked Aaron Hughes, an Illinois National Guardsman who drove trucks in Iraq in a mission he once supported.

“I’m not waiting for an election to end this war.

“We elected candidates to Congress and we really had faith that funding would be cut and they played this line that said ‘we can’t cut funding because that would mean we are not supporting the troops.’ Excuse me?

“We can’t keep listening to these politicians and believing in them. We need to listen to each other.”

At our Yearly Kos event, Hughes and his IVAW colleagues -- Garrett Reppenhagen, Josh Lansdale and Geoffrey Millard – answered questions for more than an hour.

These vets study how the Vietnam War was ended, and they well know the power of their words and actions.

IVAW was founded in 2004 and today it is a rapidly growing, grassroots, independent anti-war group with members active in 43 states and deployed on bases in Iraq.

These rank and file soldiers are not partisans; they are Americans who have seen first hand the greatest political betrayal of our lifetime, the US attack on Iraq and the long occupation.

Iraq Veterans Against the War are not the concoction of a liberal think tank or PR firm; they have very little funding; they are not avoiding criticism of Democrats; and they are not playing political games trying to bank-shot Democratic candidates into the White House and Congress in 2008.

Many IVAW soldiers are on active duty opposing the war openly and at personal risk; such is their conviction.

On Saturday August 18, 90 IVAW soldiers demonstrated in St. Louis against a recruiting exhibit at a business expo, conducting the largest single action yet organized by anti-war veterans of Iraq .

Go to the IVAW website at <http://www.IVAW.org> and contact them directly.

Support our troops' own opposition to the war.

These American soldiers are determined to end the war. For them it has never been a "gift."

They are not waiting for an election, nor should anyone else.

"The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops." Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

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



A U.S. soldier at the emergency room of the 28th Combat Support hospital in Baghdad
August 19, 2007. REUTERS/Damir Sagolj

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Two Comments On The Missing Weapons Investigation

#1:

**“Can’t Have An ‘Enemy’, If They Don’t
Have Weapons To Kill Our Troops With”**

From: Ward Reilly [Veteran]

Sent: August 29, 2007

Subject: RE: More on the missing weapons investigation - MSNBC.com

U.S. policy, combined with the weapons industry, has armed both “sides” in most major political/military conflicts in the world for 50 the last years.

The REAL “wmd’s” are, and have always been, in the (very)White House, and at corporate headquarters all over the world.

Can’t have an “enemy”, if they don’t have weapons to kill our troops with.

Kill For Peace from Ward

#2:

**“Lunatics And Asylums Come To Mind
Re The Military Hierarchy”**

From: Felicity Arbuthnot

To: GI Special

Sent: August 29, 2007

Subject: ‘1984’

Re: GI Special 5H25

Ted Goodnight, Iraqi Veteran writes:

'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. '

Here is George Orwell, in his '1984', never more apt as to political spins and lies that 'spun' the US and UK public into this invasion and to their troops dying for the lies: 'Political language ... is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable and give an appearance of solidity to pure wind'.

Orwell's real name, of course, was, ironically, Eric Arthur BLAIR (1903-1950.)

PS What a stunning leader(s) re not Iran but the US selling the weapons to the resistance and whoever. Lunatics and asylums come to mind re the military hierarchy (or Orwell's pigs at financial troughs -as in his 'Animal Farm'.)

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



A foreign occupation soldier from U.S. Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division searches an Iraqi citizens personal

belongings during an armed home invasion in the Amariyah neighborhood of west Baghdad, Aug. 2, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Jousek)

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

Bush Regime Sewer Rats Show The Whole World Iraq Is A U.S. Government Military Dictatorship;



A frame from TV which shows U.S. troops leading a blindfolded and handcuffed Iranian prisoner out of the hotel in central Baghdad, late night Aug. 28, 2007. (AP Photo/APTN)

[When foreign troops arrest diplomats in somebody else's country and do so without permission of anybody, there is not the slightest shred of sovereignty.]

[The government of Iraq is in the White House, Washington DC, firmly in the hands of thieving traitors who order the deaths of U.S. troops and Iraqis in order to fill their own pockets with blood money. T]

29.08.07 Daily Mail

Today Iran made a formal protest to Iraq over the apparent arrest and detention of seven of its nationals by US troops in Baghdad.

Iran summoned a Swiss diplomat, representing American interests in Iraq, to protest the U.S. forces' detention of the Iranians - including, embarrassingly for the US, two diplomats, the Foreign Ministry said.

The men were seized from one of the city's main hotels and led away blindfolded and in handcuffs. They were released several hours later.

Today the Iranian embassy in Baghdad said the seven nationals arrested by the US were experts helping to rebuild electricity power stations in Iraq.

The group was detained at the Sheraton Ishtar Hotel in the city centre. Video footage showed soldiers leading the men out of the building, while other soldiers were carrying what appeared to be luggage and a laptop bag.

The men were released this morning, several hours after being detained, an Iranian embassy official said. He added that the seven Iranians included an embassy staffer and six members of a delegation from his country's electricity ministry.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini called the U.S. action an act of "interference" in Iraq's internal affairs and "inconsistent" with the responsibilities of U.S.-led occupation forces in Iraq.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**“The Treason Of Alberto
Gonzales, And The Treason Of**

The Bush Administration Entire”

**“They Have Attacked And Undercut The
Rule Of Law By Refusing To Submit To
It, And In Doing So Have Brought Us To
The Edge Of Appalling Infamy”**

27 August 2007 By William Rivers Pitt, Truthout Columnist [Excerpts]

Alberto Gonzales is a traitor. That is the only word to explain it.

He is not the only one; there are many more traitors like him in the Bush administration, criminals joined in an act of treason so vast and comprehensive that it beggars comparison.

Nothing quite like this has ever before been attempted in America, and if they are allowed to succeed, there will be nothing of what defines America left to be seen.

Their treason is not in the actual crimes they have committed, but in the way they have chosen to avoid accountability for them.

Their treason is not their refusal to obey the Freedom of Information Act, but in their insistence that they are above the application of that law. Their treason is not in their refusal to obey subpoenas from Congress, but in their claim that they are above the laws behind those subpoenas.

Their treason is not that they fired United States attorneys and then refused to come clean about it, but that they decimated the impartiality of the Department of Justice and turned the rule of law into another partisan weapon.

Their treason is not the NSA surveillance of Americans, but their steadfast refusal to submit to the governing laws and the requirement of oversight.

When George W. Bush asserted a claim of Executive Privilege that made him and his administration immune to all laws and oversight, that was an act of treason because it shattered the rule of law.

When Dick Cheney asserted that the Office of the Vice President was not part of the Executive Branch, because he did not want to obey the laws requiring him to hand over official documents to the Archives, that was an act of treason because it shattered the rule of law.

When Alberto Gonzales chose to surrender the independence of the Department of Justice so he could protect those assertions, that was an act of treason because it shattered the rule of law.

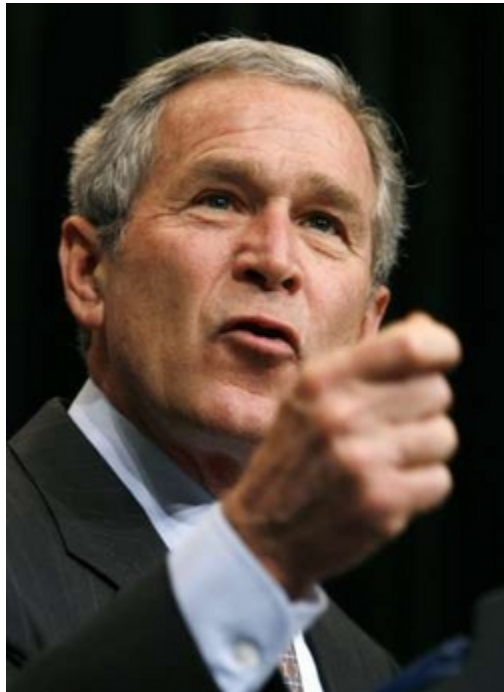
That is the treason of Alberto Gonzales, and the treason of the Bush administration entire.

They have attacked and undercut the rule of law by refusing to submit to it, and in doing so have brought us to the edge of appalling infamy.

Gonzales was more than a poor steward of this trust.

He was a traitor among traitors.

THIS IS THE ENEMY; BRING THE WAR HOME NOW



REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

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.



LOOKING FOR AN HONEST MAN...OR WOMAN

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CLASS WAR REPORTS

Because Miners Trapped Underground Can't Personally Come Sign A Paper, Government Rat Scum Deny Their Families' Request For Union Representation In Investigation

August 28, 2007 Max Follmer, Huffington Post [Excerpts]

The federal agency tasked with investigating the Utah mine collapse denied a request by the families of six trapped miners that the United Mine Workers represent them in the probe of the matter, the union said Monday.

All six of the families had signed documents designating the union as their representative in the investigation, UMWA spokesman Phil Smith said. The Mine Safety and Health Administration told the union's attorneys on Monday that the agency would not heed the request.

"MSHA requires that miners sign these papers, but the miners in question were unable because they are trapped inside the mine," Smith said.

New Orleans:
**"There Were Signs Accusing The
Bush Administration Of Murder"**
**"Bush Was Down Here Again Making More
Promises He Isn't Going To Keep. The
Government Has Failed All Of Us. It's Got To
Stop," She Said**



Welcome To Baghdad On The Mississippi

The Lakeview section of New Orleans, Aug. 29, 2007, on the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. (AP Photo/Bill Haber)

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

8.29.07 By MARY FOSTER, Associated Press Writer

Prayers, protests and a lingering disgust with the government's response to Hurricane Katrina marked the disaster's second anniversary Wednesday, with a presidential visit doing little to mollify those still displaced by the storm.

Clarence Russ, 64, took a dim view of politicians' promises as he tried to put the finishing touches on his repaired home in the city's devastated Lower 9th Ward.

"There was supposed to be all this money, but where'd it go? None of us got any," said Russ, whose house was the only restored home on an otherwise desolate block.

Not far away, President Bush visited a school. "We're still paying attention. We understand," he said before heading to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, also devastated by Katrina.

But Gina Martin, who is still living in Houston after Katrina destroyed her New Orleans home, was unconvinced. "Bush was down here again making more promises he isn't going to keep. The government has failed all of us. It's got to stop," she said.

Martin was among an estimated 1,000 people taking part in a protest march that started in the Lower 9th Ward. It was a uniquely New Orleans-style protest:



Bush' motorcade passes in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, Louisiana, August 29, 2007, the two-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. REUTERS/Lee Celano

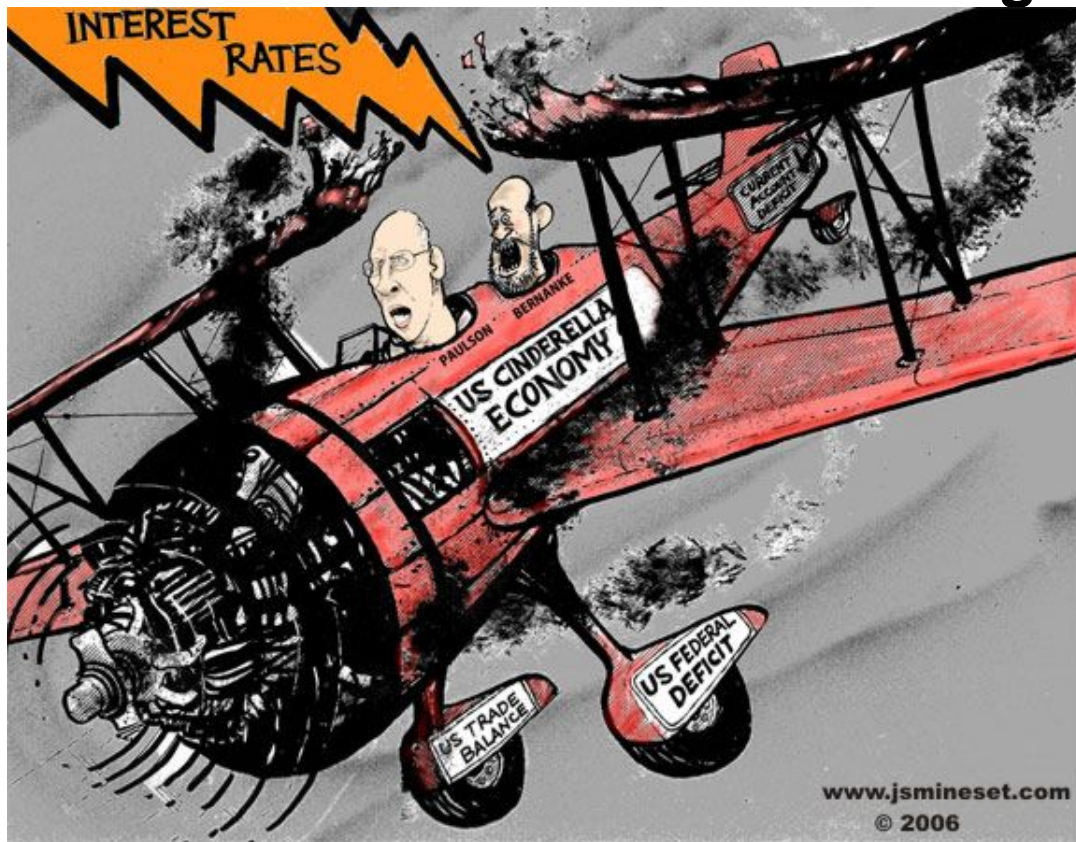
There were signs accusing the Bush administration of murder and angry chants about the failure of government.

The city's population has reached an estimated 277,000, about 60 percent its pre-storm level of 455,000.

But vast stretches of the city show little or no recovery. A housing shortage and high rents have hampered business growth. The homeless population has almost doubled since the storm, and many of those squat in an estimated 80,000 vacant dwellings.

Bush, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco all have drawn harsh criticism in the storm's aftermath. Blanco, who appeared with the president at the 9th Ward school, opted not to run for re-election this year after polls showed her popularity at rock bottom.

The Answer To What Can Be Done To Solve The Credit Crisis: Nothing



August 22, 2007 By Jim Sinclair, MineSet [Excerpts]

I spoke to a qualified legal authority who read the categories of a top rated commercial paper instrument to me. It is made up of 9 percent mortgage backed and 91% over the counter derivative credit and default specific performance DERIVATIVES.

I would say if that was not rolled over and went into liquidation, it would result in 6% good assets and the other 94% would be totally without value.

This is the problem. The system is loaded with trillions and trillions of dollars of ROTTEN paper, better known as over the counter credit and default derivatives.

Right now the tool of choice is financial public relations, some liquidity and leaking of a further reduction in the discount rate with the Fed window open for business. That is the stuff that rallies the stock market with a great deal of help from its friends.

The mistake is that this is not an equity market problem. Bulling equities will not make a credit problem of this sort go away. While time is being wasted trying to PR the problem to death people are for the first time taking a look at what stands behind commercial paper.

I would prefer the problem to just go away but it will not. Even if they manage to sneak through this one, the rot is still there and now too many people know it.

As Justin said yesterday so well, the dollar market will tell you how these derivative problems are rolling out. If the dollar goes to a new low, which it will, then it says the Fed playing the market perception hand lost this one. If we lose the battle to keep credit and default derivative in the dark, hidden and not understood, then the problems will require so much liquidity that the world will drown in it.

I had the backing of a commercial paper instrument in terms of categories read to me today. What I had long believed is absolutely true. Our financial system has by default been set on a stage of unfunded special performance contracts upon which the financial viability depends on the balance sheet of the LOSER in the arrangement.

Just a reminder:

The REAL problem is not sub prime loans. That is a cover word for the first melt down in credit and default derivatives as withdrawals from hedge funds demand liquidation of instruments that cannot be liquidated. Commercial paper holders have become inquisitive why they got a 9% return when the best return of the same time term was 5% lower. Looking into the backings of the Commercial Credits even of the highest possible credit rating revealed financial weapons of mass destruction credit and default derivatives to be the slam dunk majority.

Because of this the commercial paper market went into a catatonic state.

Over the counter derivatives now totaling more than USD\$20 trillion floating in the category of only credit and default around the globe are:

Without regulation.

Without listing on public exchanges.

Without standards.

Therefore not in the least bit transparent.

Therefore without an open market of the bid/ask type.

Dealt in by private treaty negotiations.

Without a clearinghouse.

Unfunded without financial guarantee of any kind.
Functioning as contracts of specific performance.

Financial character or ability to perform is totally dependent on the balance sheet of the loser in the arrangement.

Evaluated by computer assumptions made by geek, non market experienced mathematicians who assume religiously that all markets return to their normal relationships regardless of disruptions.

Now in the credit and default category alone considered by accepted authorities as totaling more than USD\$20 trillion in notional value.

Notional value becomes real value when the agreement is forced to find a real market for ending the obligation which is how one says sell it.

The madness of over the counter derivatives of all kinds are becoming a known fact.

What can put that realization back in the bag of ignorance for any significant amount of time?

The answer unfortunately is nothing.

MORE:

**“Now That This “FICTITIOUS CAPITAL”
Is Rising Up Like Cadavers Out Of The
Sci-Fi Swamp, We Will Be Shortly
Treated To The Results Of The Credit
Crunch That Has Been Created”**

To GI Special
By Mycroft
August 19, 2007 10:38 PM

Concerning the GI Special quote from Marx about the lack of ready money:

It seems we don't export goods so much anymore, but we do a thriving, land-office business in contriving aggregations of different colors and flavors of fictitious capital, otherwise known to us moderns as "BAD PAPER".

We have been particularly adept at selling this illusory material to the naive and unsuspecting by wagging the notion of "HIGHER YIELD" in front of their eyes.

The college fund managers, money market fund managers, silly foreigners emboldened by avarice, and the list goes on and on, all jumped at the opportunity to be fleeced like bleating sheep.

So now we have the real estate speculators, condo flippers, no doc home owners, ARM mortgage holders, endless lines of frightened holders of "marked to model" assets of now dubious to zero value, all being heaved into the barber shop to be scalped.

Now that this "FICTITIOUS CAPITAL" is rising up like cadavers out of the sci-fi swamp, we will be shortly treated to the results of the credit crunch that has been created. "Want a loan, Sir? Just put down 20 percent, please, and leave your children as collateral."

Now we get the incredible shrinking economy, with the Fed lowering interest rates and creating "LIQUIDITY" like there's no tomorrow. That's when we see the dollar take a swan dive into the pail of water 100 feet down.

Presumably gold will go higher in this case.

I would only add the possibility that the 400 trillion derivatives portfolio may crash the party also, pixilated and teetering.

In fact we may already have several trading worthies with desks at the big banks, having been given unlimited credit lines, sweating bullets, wringing their hands, and praying that their positions will recover from their present unfathomable losses.

At any rate, it was refreshing to read a classic, nineteenth century examination of our current predicament, which serves to remind us that BAD PAPER is still BAD PAPER, then and now, whichever way you slice, dice, or "tranch" it.

MORE:

Marking To Myth

8.19.07 By Warren Buffet, Chairman and CEO, Berkshire Hathaway

Many institutions that publicly report precise market values for their holdings of CDOs and CMOs are in truth reporting fiction.

They are marking to model rather than marking to market. The recent meltdown in much of the debt market, moreover, has transformed this process into marking to myth.

Because many of these institutions are highly leveraged, the difference between “model” and “market” could deliver a huge whack to shareholders’ equity.

Indeed, for a few institutions, the difference in valuations is the difference between what purports to be robust health and insolvency. For these institutions, pinning down market values would not be difficult:

They should simply sell 5% of all the large positions they hold. That kind of sale would establish a true value, though one still higher, no doubt, than would be realized for 100% of an oversized and illiquid holding.

In one way, I’m sympathetic to the institutional reluctance to face the music.

I’d give a lot to mark my weight to “model” rather than to “market.”

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 to contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

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<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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