

GI SPECIAL 5H9:



**“We’re Dying More An
More The Longer We
Stay Here”**

**“What Progress Are They
Talking About?”**

From: [Soldier Iraq]
To: GI Special
Sent: August 09, 2007

i read a report on yahoo news recently which said the bush critics are admitting they have seen some military progress.

they must be fucking blind or only interpret what they want to from the reports
from what i see and hear all day we're dying more and more the longer we stay
here.

what progress are they talking about?

MORE:

What Progress?

Here's The Progress!

U.S. Troops In Iraq Dying So Corrupt Governments Of Iran, Saudi Arabia And The USA Can Make A Deal:

**“The Talks In Baghdad Are About
Determining Whether There Is A Way
For The United States And Iran To
Achieve Their New Mutual Goal”**

**“It Is In The Interests Of The United
States, Iran And Saudi Arabia That The
Iraq Situation Stabilize, Simply Because
They Cannot Predict The Outcome -- And
The Worst-Case Scenario For Each Is
Too Frightening To Contemplate”**

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

More important for the three powers, the United States could draw down its troops to minimal levels much more quickly than is currently being discussed, the

Iranians would have a neutral, nonaggressive Iraq on their western border and the Saudis would have a buffer zone from the Iranians.

08.07.2007 By George Friedman, Stratfor [Excerpts]

U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker met Aug. 6 with Iranian Ambassador to Iraq Hassan Kazemi Qomi and Iraqi National Security Adviser Muwaffaq al-Rubaie. Separately, a committee of Iranian, Iraqi and U.S. officials held its first meeting on Iraqi security, following up on an agreement reached at a July ambassadorial-level meeting.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman described the talks as “frank and serious,” saying they “focused, as agreed, on security problems in Iraq.” Generally, “frank and serious” means nasty, though they probably did get down to the heart of the matter.

The participants agreed to hold a second meeting, which means this one didn’t blow up.

Longtime Stratfor readers will recall that we have been tracing these Iranian-American talks from the back-channel negotiations to the high-level publicly announced talks, and now to this working group on security. A multilateral regional meeting on Iraq’s future was held March 10 in Baghdad, followed by a regional meeting May 4 in Egypt. Then there were ambassadorial-level meetings in Baghdad on May 28 and July 24. Now, not quite two weeks later, the three sides have met again.

That the discussions were frank and serious shouldn’t surprise anyone. That they continue in spite of obvious deep tensions between the parties is, in our view, extremely significant. The prior ambassadorial talk lasted about seven hours. The Aug. 6 working group session lasted about four hours.

These are not simply courtesy calls. The parties are spending a great deal of time talking about something.

This is not some sort of public relations stunt either.

First, neither Washington nor Tehran would bother to help the other’s public image. Second, neither side’s public image is much helped by these talks anyway.

This is the “Great Satan” talking to one-half of what is left of the “Axis of Evil.”

If ever there were two countries that have reason not to let the world know they are meeting, it is these two. Yet, they are meeting, and they have made the fact public.

The U.S. media have not ignored these meetings, but they have not treated them as what they actually are -- an extraordinary diplomatic and strategic evolution in Iraq.

It is understandable that neither Washington nor Tehran would want to draw undue attention to the talks.

The fact that the Americans and the Iranians are downplaying the talks, and that newspapers are not printing banner headlines about them, does not mean the meetings are not vitally important.

It simply means that the conventional wisdom, guided by the lack of official exuberance, doesn't know what to make of these talks.

There are three major powers with intense interest in the future of Iraq: the United States, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The United States, having toppled Saddam Hussein, has completely mismanaged the war. Nevertheless, a unilateral withdrawal would create an unacceptable situation in which Iran, possibly competing with Turkey in the North, would become the dominant military power in the region and would be in a position to impose itself at least on southern Iraq -- and potentially all of it.

Certainly there would be resistance, but Iran has a large military (even if it is poorly equipped), giving it a decided advantage in controlling a country such as Iraq.

In addition, Iran is not nearly as casualty-averse as the United States. Iran fought a war with Iraq in the 1980s that cost it about a million casualties. The longtime Iranian fear has been that the United States will somehow create a pro-American regime in Baghdad, rearm the Iraqis and thus pose for Iran round two of what was its national nightmare.

It is no accident that the day before these meetings, U.S. sources speculated about the possible return of the Iraqi air force to the Iraqis. Washington was playing on Tehran's worst nightmare.

Saudi Arabia's worst nightmare would be watching Iran become the dominant power in Iraq or southern Iraq. It cannot defend itself against Iran, nor does it want to be defended by U.S. troops on Saudi soil.

The Saudis want Iraq as a buffer zone between Iran and their oil fields. They opposed the original invasion, fearing just this outcome, but now that the invasion has taken place, they don't want Iran as the ultimate victor.

The Saudis, therefore, are playing a complex game, both supporting Sunni co-religionists and criticizing the American presence as an occupation -- yet urgently wanting U.S. troops to remain.

The United States wants to withdraw, though it doesn't see a way out because an outright unilateral withdrawal would set the stage for Iranian domination. At the same time, the United States must have an endgame -- something the next U.S. president will have to deal with.

The Iranians no longer believe the United States is capable of creating a stable, anti-Iranian, pro-American government in Baghdad. Instead, they are terrified the United States will spoil their plans to consolidate influence within Iraq.

So, while they are doing everything they can to destabilize the regime, they are negotiating with Washington.

If this sounds complicated, it is. The United States is fighting Sunnis and Shia, making peace with some Sunnis and encouraging some Shia to split off -- all the time waging an offensive against most everyone. The Iranians support many, but not all, of the Shiite groups in Iraq. In fact, many of the Iraqi Shia have grown quite wary of the Iranians. And for their part, the Saudis are condemning the Americans while hoping they stay -- and supporting Sunnis who might or might not be fighting the Americans.

The situation not only is totally out of hand, but the chance that anyone will come out of it with what they really want is slim.

The United States probably will not get a pro-American government and the Iranians probably will not get to impose their will on all or part of Iraq. The Saudis, meanwhile, are feeling themselves being sucked into the Sunni quagmire.

This situation is one of the factors driving the talks.

By no means out of any friendliness, a mutual need is emerging.

No one is in control of the situation.

No one is likely to get control of the situation in any long-term serious way.

It is in the interests of the United States, Iran and Saudi Arabia that the Iraq situation stabilize, simply because they cannot predict the outcome -- and the worst-case scenario for each is too frightening to contemplate.

None of the three powers can bring the situation under control.

Even by working together, the three will be unable to completely stabilize Iraq and end the violence. But by working together they can increase security to the point that none of their nightmare scenarios comes true.

In return, the United States will have to do without a pro-American government in Baghdad and the Iranians will have to forgo having an Iraqi satellite.

Hence, we see a four-hour meeting of Iranian and U.S. security experts on stabilizing the situation in Iraq.

Given the little good will between the two countries, defining roles and missions in a stabilization program will require frank and serious talks indeed. Ultimately, however, there is sufficient convergence of interests that holding these talks makes sense.

The missions are clear.

The Iranian task will be to suppress the Shiite militias that are unwilling to abide by an agreement -- or any that oppose Iranian domination.

The Saudi mission will be to underwrite the cost of Sunni acceptance of a political compromise, as well as a Sunni war against the jihadists. Saudi intelligence in this area is pretty good and, while the Saudis do have compunctions, they will gladly give the intelligence to the Americans to work out the problem.

The U.S. role will be to impose a government in Baghdad that meets Iran's basic requirements, and to use its forces to grind down the major insurgent and militia groups. This will be a cooperative effort -- meaning whacking Saudi and Iranian friends will be off the table.

No one power can resolve the security crisis in Iraq -- as four years of U.S. efforts there clearly demonstrate.

But if the United States and Iran, plus Saudi Arabia, work together -- with no one providing cover for or supplies to targeted groups -- the situation can be brought under what passes for reasonable control in Iraq.

More important for the three powers, the United States could draw down its troops to minimal levels much more quickly than is currently being discussed, the Iranians would have a neutral, nonaggressive Iraq on their western border and the Saudis would have a buffer zone from the Iranians.

The buffer zone is the key, because what happens in the buffer zone stays in the buffer zone.

The talks in Baghdad are about determining whether there is a way for the United States and Iran to achieve their new mutual goal.

The question is whether their fear of the worst-case scenario outweighs their distrust of each other. Then there is the matter of agreeing on the details -- determining the nature of the government in Baghdad, which groups to protect and which to target, how to deal with intelligence sharing and so on.

These talks can fail in any number of ways.

More and more, however, the United States and Iran are unable to tolerate their failure.

The tremendous complexity of the situation has precluded either side from achieving a successful outcome. They now have to craft the minimal level of failure they can mutually accept.

These talks not only are enormously important but they also are, in some ways, more important than the daily reports on combat and terrorism.

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

British Soldier Killed In Jusyalay Area; Another Wounded

10 Aug 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with much sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in Afghanistan today, Friday 10 August 2007.

The soldier was killed during a fighting patrol to disrupt enemy activity and reassure the local population in the area of Jusyalay, north east of Sangin, in Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan.

Shortly before 0600 hours local time the patrol, which was en-route to check on a local irrigation project, came under fire from Taliban fighters. It was during this engagement that two soldiers were injured.

An emergency response helicopter was requested, but sadly one of the soldiers was pronounced dead at the scene. Both were flown to the ISAF medical facility at Camp Bastion. The injuries sustained by the second soldier are not life threatening.

Soldier Remembered For His Smile

August 02, 2007 By BRUCE RUSHTON, STAFF WRITER, The State Journal-Register

They called him Sgt. Howdy. As in Howdy Doody, the television character with a perpetual smile. That was Sgt. William Howdeshell.

"They always come up with names for everyone," Kimberly Howdeshell, his wife, recalled Wednesday. "He was a big joker. They did a lot of that over there. They keep their sanity by playing jokes."

The funeral is scheduled for Tuesday, but that's tentative. It depends on when Howdeshell's body gets back from Iraq.

"They might be flying him home tomorrow," Kimberly said.

Howdeshell never graduated from high school, but he wasn't just another kid from Illinois with an ear for Metallica and Slayer. He was sharp, smart enough to ace his ASVAB exams when he enlisted in the Navy two years before meeting his future bride. He was 26 when he signed up.

"He qualified for anything," Kimberly said. "He had many, many choices when he joined."

Back then, Howdeshell was living in Springfield, where he was born. He became an aviation electrician and set out to see the world. He'd always wanted to be a soldier, but an allergy to ants forced him to pick another branch.

Not yet used to being a widow, Kimberly switches from the past to the present tense and back again as she talks about the man she loved. She knew how it was going to be almost from the time they met, when he showed up one day to fix her roommate's computer back in Norfolk, Va. He was a computer geek. Loved the shoot-'em-up games.

"He's a smart aleck," Kimberly says. "He had a smart-alecky answer for everything. I grew up with that. He had a weird sense of humor - that was the main thing."

Less than a month after the two met, Kimberly married Howdeshell in a simple civil ceremony in Virginia, while a hurricane brewed. They picked Aug. 26 - after all, her birthday is June 26, and he was born on Feb. 26.

"We were soul mates," she said. "He just looked at me and said, 'Let's get married now.' I said, 'OK.'"

Howdeshell was also married to the military. On Oct. 26, 2005, he realized his dream and joined the Army via a program that allows service members to transfer to different branches, allergies to ants notwithstanding.

"He loved the service, but he liked the Army a lot better," Kimberly said. "He didn't want a 9-to-5 job. He wanted to be out in the middle of everything. I was worried, but I supported him 110 percent."

Howdeshell became a cavalry scout. The man who'd always loved shooting pretend guns on computers was soon riding in Humvees and shooting guns for real.

He went to Iraq in January. Kimberly last saw him in June, when he came home for a two-week leave.

"We went to Disney," she said. "We went to Busch Garden. We were trying to see all of the family. We spent a couple of days by ourselves. It was too fast."

By month's end, Howdeshell was back in harm's way.

"I talked to him online the day before it happened," Kimberly said. "He told me they were going on a dangerous mission. He wasn't allowed to give me any more information."

Army officials have filled in some blanks.

"His vehicle was first in line," Kimberly said. "They hit an IED. I don't know how to spell or pronounce the name of the town. He was killed immediately. He didn't know anything. He felt nothing."

Two other soldiers, Charles E. Bilbrey, 21, and Jaime Rodriguez, 19, died in the blast. Howdeshell, 37, was commanding the Humvee.

Howdeshell's family is trying to locate his father, Michael, whose last known address is in Springfield.

Howdeshell's 8-year-old son, Robert, is coping as best he can.

"He's having his stages," Kimberly said. "He's been crying. He's been talking to his daddy. He keeps coming up to all of us and hugging us and telling us, 'It's OK. We can talk to Daddy.'"

Remarkably poised, Kimberly says she and her husband knew his military career could end in tragedy. Nonetheless, he had just re-enlisted for six years, she said. "He was in complete support of President Bush and the war and what we're doing," Kimberly said. "He loved what we were doing. The military was his life."

Besides a Purple Heart, Kimberly said the Army has told her her husband will be awarded a Bronze Star. He will be cremated and interred at Arlington National Cemetery after a funeral in St. Petersburg, Fla., where his wife and son live.

She won't renew her wedding vows with Howdeshell on their 10th anniversary next year, as they'd planned. It was going to be a big party, but the date they were wed and the dates they were born have new meaning.

Sgt. William R. Howdeshell died on July 26.

Glendale Mourns Loss Of 'A Popular Kid'

July 29, 2007 KATE LINTHICUM, The Oregonian Staff

It was fall 2005, and Daniel Leckel had just told his parents he was dropping out of college to join the Army.

They knew his motives were right -- he wanted to serve his country and make money to help pay for his education -- but they couldn't stomach the thought of him going to war.

"We tried to discourage him," said his stepfather, Richard LeCrone, a disabled Vietnam veteran who lives in Grants Pass. "I've been there, and done that, and I didn't want him to go."

At 9 p.m. Wednesday, when LeCrone and Leckel's mother, Cathy LeCrone, heard knocks on the door, their stomachs sank. An Army chaplain stood on the stoop. "We opened the door and saw him, and we knew," said Cathy LeCrone. "We just knew."

The chaplain told them Leckel, 19, had been killed in small-arms fire in southern Baghdad.

Based out of Fort Riley, Kan., Leckel is the 109th service member from Oregon or southwest Washington to die in conflicts since Sept. 11, 2001.

Born in Portland, he moved to Glendale in middle school and graduated from Glendale High in 2005.

Leckel was beloved, and news of his death has sped across the small town of Glendale. "He was a popular kid," remembered Steven Prock, the head of the high school's athletic department. "He didn't have a mean bone in his body."

Leckel was close to Prock, who coached the school's football and baseball teams. "He just loved sports, but he didn't have a lick of talent," Prock said. But instead of giving up, Leckel volunteered to help manage the teams. "He acted more like a coach than a player," Prock said. "I would always joke that Daniel Leckel was the only one we couldn't replace."

Prock said Leckel had an easy way about him, and that he never complained. "I took him home every night after practice," Prock said. "I looked forward to ending my day with him because he had a pretty good outlook."

After Leckel graduated, he spent a semester at Rogue Community College. He hoped to become a sports writer, and had once shadowed a local sports reporter. But in late 2005 he put those dreams on hold.

Prock remembers when Leckel returned to Glendale after months of basic training. "He came down to the baseball diamond in his uniform and strutted around a bit," he said, laughing. "He was proud."

In January 2007, Leckel was sent to Iraq. He wrote his parents detailed accounts of his life there, describing the dangers of Baghdad but also the fun experiences. "One Iraqi family invited him to dinner, and he wrote us everything he ate," his stepfather said. "They had rice and lamb stew and pita bread; he seemed to like it."

Leckel had a particular affection for Iraqi kids. His MySpace profile has a photo of children waving. And recently he asked his parents to send him candy to hand out to Iraqi kids. The LeCrones shipped 6 pounds of sweets to Baghdad.

Richard LeCrone said Leckel told his family that he loved the brotherhood of his unit. "He always liked being part of a team," LeCrone said. "And those squads are teams."

The LeCrones are trying to heal, but they're plagued by near-constant regret. Richard LeCrone remembers one of Leckel's dreams that now will never be realized. "He loved the Atlanta Braves and he always wanted to get back there to see one of their games," LeCrone said, his voice trailing off.

"He was a great kid," he said. "He deserved better than this."

**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:
PACK UP
GO HOME
NOW**



U.S. soldier gets on a Humvee to leave the combat outpost of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division in the Amariyah neighborhood of west Baghdad July 30, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

British Soldier Killed In Jusyalay Area

10 Aug 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with much sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a soldier from the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in Afghanistan today, Friday 10 August 2007.

The soldier was killed during a fighting patrol to disrupt enemy activity and reassure the local population in the area of Jusyalay, north east of Sangin, in Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan.

Shortly before 0600 hours local time the patrol, which was en-route to check on a local irrigation project, came under fire from Taliban fighters. It was during this engagement that two soldiers were injured.

An emergency response helicopter was requested, but sadly one of the soldiers was pronounced dead at the scene.

Neighbors Remember S. Fla. Soldier Killed In Afghanistan “It’s The Wrong Place At The Wrong Time. I Don’t Think We Should Be There”



Juan Restrepo

July 27, 2007 WTVJ-TV

PEMBROKE PINES, Fla. - Residents of a Pembroke Pines neighborhood watched Juan Restrepo grow from a boy into a young man. They remember his love for music and were surprised when he became a soldier. They were even more surprised to learn of his untimely death.

The Department of Defense said Restrepo died from his injuries in Afghanistan on Sunday after insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire.

Restrepo, 20, was an airborne combat medic, a single father who said he was working to provide for his beautiful baby girl. He will be missed by those who knew him best. Neighbor Micki Cochran said that growing up, Restrepo was a typical teenager with dreams of becoming a musician. “He loved music. He played in a band. Sometimes his next door neighbors wanted him to cut it out, but he was a good kid,” Cochran said.

Neighbor Mark Kalinsky said he was shocked when Restrepo joined the army.

"It was a very recent thing. It was a surprise when he went into the service," Kalinsky said.

Since his deployment earlier this summer, Restrepo is the fifth soldier to die from his combat team in Afghanistan and the second South Florida soldier to die in less than a week.

Restrepo's neighbors told NBC 6's Tisha Lewis that the family's home on the 193rd block of Southwest 5th Street will never be the same.

The family moved to the United States from Colombia in search of a better life. Family members and friends now find themselves coping with a war that's hitting too close to home. "You have these radicals that dress their 2-year-old up in these suicide bomber outfits.

"It's the wrong place at the wrong time. I don't think we should be there," Kalinsky said.

Meanwhile, the American Flag flies high on Restrepo's Pembroke Pines street, in honor of a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice. Restrepo will be buried in Colombia.

TROOP NEWS

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



The body of Marine Cpl. Matthew Zindars after his funeral service Aug. 3, 2007, at the Lutheran Preparatory School in Watertown Wis. Zindars was killed by a roadside bomb July 24, 2007, during his second tour of duty in Iraq. (AP Photo/Darren Hauck)

160 Mississippi Guardsmen Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

Aug 10, 2007 The Associated Press

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — Military leaders at Camp Shelby were holding a deployment ceremony Friday for a group of Mississippi Army National Guard soldiers headed to Iraq.

Dozens of family and friends were expected to join state and local leaders in sending off the 160 members of the Greenville-based 1387th Quartermaster unit.

Maj. Gen. Harold A. Cross, Mississippi's adjutant general, announced in May that the Greenville-based 1387th and two other units had received mobilization orders.

Training for members of the 1387th included urban warfare, cordon searches and how to deal with improvised explosive devices, Sanders said.

[The only successful way to “deal with improvised explosive devices” is not to go to Iraq. One soldier who refuses to go is arrested, tried, and most likely going to military prison, which is not an effective tactic leading to a desirable outcome. 160 who decide to do that, all together, would shake the country, and millions would come to their defense. T.]

Sanders said the unit will head to Iraq within the next couple of days.

People Who Say Troops Are Stupid Are Stupid: The Proof: National Guard Retention Down Huge

Aug 10, 2007 Army Times [Excerpt]

The Army National Guard has cut enlistment and retention bonuses for everyone except soldiers deploying in 2008 or 2009, and the component's recruiting efforts will be shut off at the end of August if Congress doesn't come through soon with funding.

That's a problem because Congress is in recess for the summer. Meanwhile, it's unclear what options, if any, are available for Guard members whose re-up window closes before legislative action is taken.

The Guard is at 103 percent of its year-to-date retention goal, but in July, retention dropped to 75 percent of the goal.

Soldiers Hurt By Costs Of New Uniforms; “How Is One Supposed To Maintain A Suitable Home For Their Dependents?”

[Hey, how do you think the war profiteers are supposed to get their profits from the constant changes in required clothing and equipment. What, you think the DoD suits have any intention of paying for all of that when they can take it out of your hide?]

August 6, 2007
Letters To The Editor
Army Times

Something I have just noticed since I am approaching my second anniversary is that the clothing allowances haven't been changed to reflect the new Army Combat Uniforms.

This isn't a huge issue for some with all of the deployments, but for some of us who came into the Army around June or July 2005, we got issued battle dress uniforms, and so far have had to purchase every little bit of ACU equipment out of pocket.

I will be receiving \$370.80 for my two-year clothing allowance, which, at the current price of almost \$82 per set (not including T-shirts or accessories), would only allow me to purchase 4 1/2 sets.

Where's the money for the boots, belt, patches and name tapes?

And what about my PT uniforms -.how am I supposed to get the money to replace those, as well?

I realize that a lot of this seems a little petty, but when you're a married soldier living in post housing and you're only making \$276 more than what a comparably ranked single soldier living in the barracks makes, how is one supposed to maintain a suitable home for their dependents?

Spc Brian Clark
Fort Campbell, Ky.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Hammer Gets Hammered: **They Can Do This Unopposed In** **Daylight:** **Time To Get The Fuck Out** **NOW**



Insurgents setting up 49 rockets aimed at Forward Operating Base Hammer, about 30 kilometers (20 miles) east of Baghdad, Iraq, which were launched July 11, 2007, killing one soldier and wounding 15. The video also shows the set-up and execution of an Aug. 5 rocket attack against the base. The video was captured in a raid on, Aug. 7, 2007. (AP Photo/U.S. Army, HO)

Assorted Resistance Action:

09 Aug 2007 Reuters & 8.11.07 AFP

Militants blew up two bridges in Salahuddin province in the past 24 hours, police said.

Guerrillas shot and wounded three Iraqi soldiers in western Baghdad's Yarmouk district, police said.

The governor and police chief of Iraq's Qadisiyah province were both killed in an IED bomb attack on their convoy on Saturday, local security and health officials said.



The rubble of a collapsed Civil Defence building after a car bomb attack in Baiji, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, August 11, 2007. The car bomb exploded inside the compound of the Civil Defence headquarters in Baiji on Saturday, wounding two people, police said. REUTERS/Sabah al-Bazee

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Welcome To Iraq: This Could Save Your Life!

(Via Ewa J.)

Iraq is a dangerous environment for U. S. troops, especially new arrivals who know nothing of the local language.

If you find yourself at risk of harm from pissed off Iraqis, and there are several million of them, yelling these simple phrases may save your life:

Yekhrob beit Bush! (May Bush's house fall down and be destroyed.)

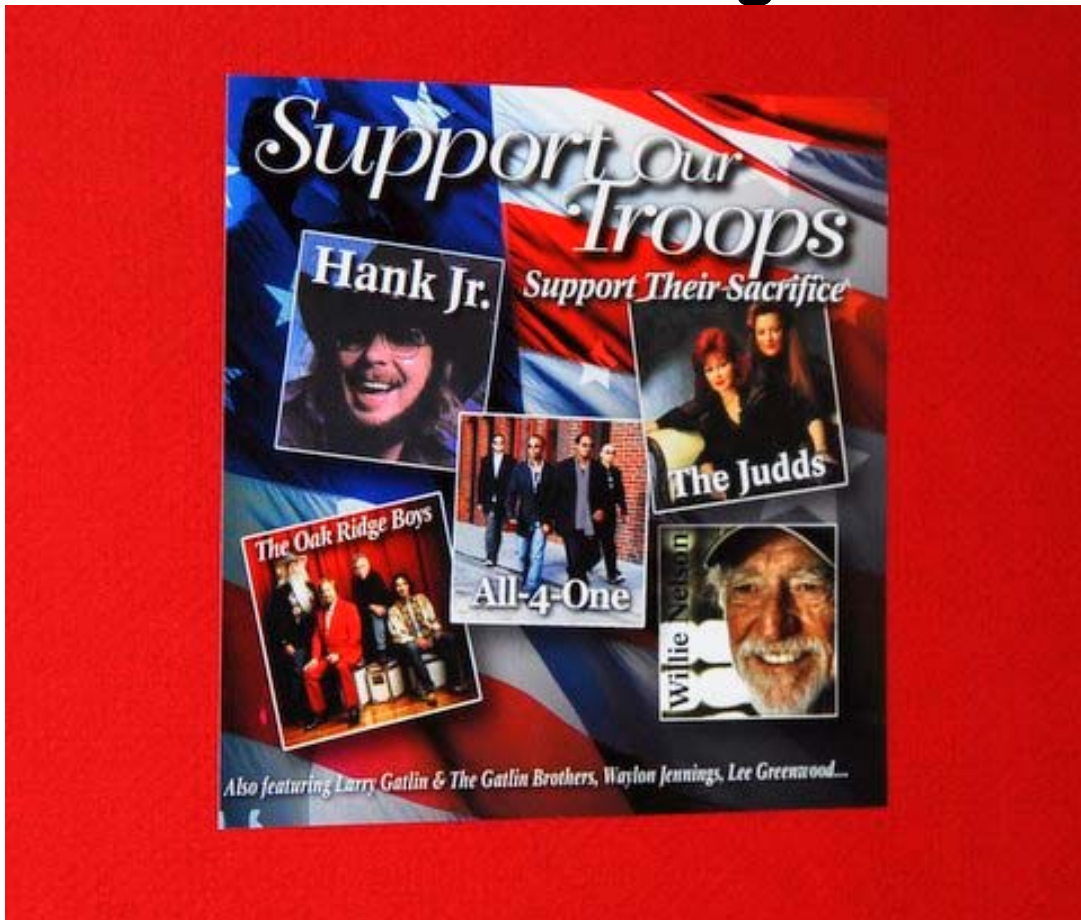
Khurr'ub Bush! (Shit on Bush.)

Try them out on some kids to get the pronunciation right, and just watch the big smiles come. Somebody might actually throw a flower.

And, provided you do not display hostile intent, and yell loudly enough, you might not get fired upon.

Also useful for other occasions. Use your imagination.

Patriotic Songs



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: August 07, 2007
Subject: Patriotic Songs

Patriotic Songs

**You know cowboy,
If you are going to write patriotic songs to Support The Troops and their sacrifices,
maybe you need to take your cowboy boots off,
and put some combat boots on.**

That way,
when you make eye contact with dead American soldiers,
and innocent civilians,
you'll know what a lot of us veterans have been through.

If you haven't been there,
don't write about it.

There is nothing worse than a singing cowboy
with shit in his boots.

I did not serve in Vietnam for the cause of freedom,
I served Big Business in America for the cause of profit.

Iraq is no different.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
August 7, 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.

No It Won't

Comment: T

There have been several articles in the past weeks, from various writers in and around the Pentagon, explaining how it would take years to get U.S. troops and supplies withdrawn from Iraq, even if that decision were taken now.

One might do well to remember that the Germany Army needed only months to leave France in 1944.

The point being that armies can move quickly when motivated.

U.S. troops are highly motivated to leave Iraq.

It may be suspected that the writers who moan about it taking years to pack up and leave have some vested interested in not seeing the process move with as much speed as possible -- perhaps merely another multi-billion contract to various private corporate war profiteers for arranging the packing and transportation of everything out of Iraq, dragging it out as long as possible to rack up as much cost-plus money as possible.

As for these writers' repeated theme that it will also take a huge long time to leave because great numbers of Iraqis would slow an announced withdrawal of all occupation forces by firing on them, that's merely a restatement of the racist view that Iraqis are stupid insane savages.

Some individuals here or there might be pissed off enough to open fire, but the leadership of the resistance groups have their eyes firmly fixed on post-occupation wealth and power for themselves, and understand perfectly the faster the foreign occupation troops leave, the faster they can start filling their own pockets.

The truly stupid savages run the Imperial government in Washington DC, not the resistance in Iraq.

The resistance is winning, the Imperial government is losing, and U.S. troops keep on dying in vain.

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR;

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



Iraqi citizens walking down the street are stopped at gunpoint and forced to submit to body searches by foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. Army Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at a checkpoint in the Amariyah neighborhood in west Baghdad Aug. 4, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)



An Iraqi citizen going about his business on the street is stopped at gunpoint and forced to submit to body search by foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. Army Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at a checkpoint in the Amariyah neighborhood in west Baghdad Aug. 4, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

[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!**

Silly U.S. General In Command Of Concentration Camp Tries Using Koran To Teach Iraqi Prisoners U.S. Imperial Military Dictatorship Is A Good Thing; "Real Islam" Means Kissing Bush's Ass

Aug 9, 2007 By Babak Dehghanpisheh, Newsweek [Excerpts]

This isn't an ordinary high school. The teens, all decked out in orange uniforms, are detainees at Camp Cropper, the high-security facility in Iraq that once held Saddam Hussein.

Last week, NEWSWEEK was given an exclusive tour of the facility and allowed to sit in on classes. The program was started two months ago and the classes are taught by imams, psychiatrists and counselors, all Iraqis, who are trying to bring the most hardened youth back into the fold. It's an uphill battle.

The number of detainees in U.S. custody has increased by 56 percent since January to a whopping 23,083.

A disproportionate number of those in custody, roughly 85 percent, are Sunni. A large part of this is due to the stepped-up security operations linked to the "surge" and the Baghdad security plan.

Detainees are now being brought into Cropper at the rate of roughly 60 a day.

As the detainees come in, the insurgents already in custody fan out, looking for new recruits. Many detainees may leave the facility more radicalized than the day they came in.

Until now, American detainee ops, still carrying the baggage of the Abu Ghraib scandal, have been a major contributor to losing hearts and minds in Iraq. These days, it's the Iraqi security forces, particularly the police, who are often accused of abusing detainees.

"Certainly there's an improvement," says an independent monitor who has inspected Iraqi-run detention facilities, and who asked for anonymity in order to maintain access to prisons. "But if everything is getting better why don't they open up the facilities to more scrutiny?"

This class is part of the broader counterinsurgency efforts within the detention system.

The premise is simple: imams use the Koran and Hadith to teach extremist detainees that their beliefs are not supported by Islam.

"This is not only a problem for Iraq, it can be a problem for Europe or the U.S.," Jabbar says.

"We have to succeed to show them what is the real Islam."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Chinese Ruling Class Threatens To Set Off A Dollar Collapse In International Currency Markets If U.S. Government Hits Them With Trade Sanctions

[Thanks to an individual associated with the armed forces via Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier.]

10/08/2007 By Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, The Telegraph UK [Excerpts]

The Chinese government has begun a concerted campaign of economic threats against the United States, hinting that it may liquidate its vast holding of US treasuries if Washington imposes trade sanctions to force a yuan revaluation.

Two officials at leading Communist Party bodies have given interviews in recent days warning - for the first time - that Beijing may use its \$1.33 trillion of foreign reserves as a political weapon to counter pressure from the US Congress.

Shifts in Chinese policy are often announced through key think tanks and academies.

Described as China's "nuclear option" in the state media, such action could trigger a dollar crash at a time when the US currency is already breaking down through historic support levels.

It would also cause a spike in US bond yields, hammering the US housing market and perhaps tipping the economy into recession. It is estimated that China holds over \$900bn in a mix of US bonds.

Xia Bin, finance chief at the Development Research Centre (which has cabinet rank), kicked off what now appears to be government policy with a comment last week that Beijing's foreign reserves should be used as a "bargaining chip" in talks with the US.

"Of course, China doesn't want any undesirable phenomenon in the global financial order," he added.

He Fan, an official at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, went even further today, letting it be known that Beijing had the power to set off a dollar collapse if it choose to do so.

"China has accumulated a large sum of US dollars. Such a big sum, of which a considerable portion is in US treasury bonds, contributes a great deal to maintaining the position of the dollar as a reserve currency. Russia, Switzerland, and several other countries have reduced the their dollar holdings.

"China is unlikely to follow suit as long as the yuan's exchange rate is stable against the dollar. The Chinese central bank will be forced to sell dollars once the yuan appreciated dramatically, which might lead to a mass depreciation of the dollar," he told China Daily.

Simon Derrick, a currency strategist at the Bank of New York Mellon, said the comments were a message to the US Senate as Capitol Hill prepares legislation for the Autumn session.

"The words are alarming and unambiguous. This carries a clear political threat and could have very serious consequences at a time when the credit markets are already afraid of contagion from the subprime troubles," he said.

A bill drafted by a group of US senators, and backed by the Senate Finance Committee, calls for trade tariffs against Chinese goods as retaliation for alleged currency manipulation.

The yuan has appreciated 9% against the dollar over the last two years under a crawling peg but it has failed to halt the rise of China's trade surplus, which reached \$26.9bn in June.



© The Commercial Appeal. Dist. by UFS, Inc.

Received:

**“Support The Victims Of Agent Orange By
Signing The Petition”**

From: Len Aldis
To: GI Special
Sent: August 09, 2007
Subject: A Plea for Justice

**A PLEA TO THE JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL, NEW
YORK**

Judge Peter W. Hall; Judge Roger J. Miner: Judge Robert D. Sack

Sirs,

On Monday 18th June of this year you presided over the appeal from US Veterans and Vietnamese against the ruling by Judge Jack Weinstein.

The four Vietnamese present in the court were representing over three million of their countrymen; women and children affected by the chemicals used by US forces in the Vietnam War.

One, a 24-year old son of a veteran, and like his companions is suffering from the effects of the chemicals, in particular Agent Orange.

Perhaps they caught your eye as you listened to the arguments of the lawyers for the chemical companies. What were your thoughts when the argument was put that the companies were “fulfilling their military contracts according to specifications, and that there is no proof that Agent Orange caused the illnesses”?

In my earlier letter to you that the Clerk to the Court refused to accept but is on my website: www.lenaldis.co.uk, I suggested that before you decide on your ruling you might consider making a visit to Vietnam and see for yourself some of the people affected by Agent Orange. I gave as a reason for that suggestion that many of the victims are not able to travel beyond their homes, let alone from Vietnam to New York – it is a tiring journey for a fit person, more so for a person ill with Agent Orange.

Sadly, what I feared has occurred, two of the four Vietnamese that were present in your court, died shortly after returning home.

Both will not hear or read your ruling whenever it is given.

Both, along with many thousands who have died from the chemicals, have been denied the justice they so richly deserved and campaigned for.

Death - and the failure of successive US Governments and the chemicals companies such as Monsanto, Dow Chemicals to accept their responsibility for Agent Orange - cruelly snatched it from them.

In addition to the US veterans, there are over three million Vietnamese waiting for your ruling.

While I cannot ask you to rush in your judgement, I would plead with you to consider the many years that have already elapsed - thirty-six years - since the spraying of Agent Orange on South Vietnam ended.

For many thousands, your ruling will come too late, as we witnessed in the tragic deaths of Ms Hong and Mr Quy.

But what of the children of the third generation who's parents, and grandparents were directly affected by Agent Orange and are today suffering from illnesses and severe disabilities.

These are the innocents born many years after the spraying stopped in 1971 and the war that ended in 1975.

How many of them will die before justice is finally won?

The answer rests with you and your ruling. I sincerely hope that your decision will be swift and above all JUST.

Yours sincerely

Len Aldis. Secretary
Britain-Vietnam Friendship Society
London UK

PS. As my previous letter was not placed before you, I have no choice but to make this letter public. This is no disrespect to you.

Len Aldis. Secretary
Britain-Vietnam Friendship Society
Flat 2, 26 Tomlins Grove
London E3 4NX
Tel & Fax: 0208 980 7146
Mobile: 0779 657 1017
Website: www.lenaldis.co.uk

**Support the victims of Agent Orange by signing the petition at
www.petitiononline.com/AOVN
and add your comment to: www.friction.tv/debate.php?debateno=672**

Received:

Help Requested For Vietnam GI Resisters Pacific Memorial Project

From: Max Watts [Australia]
To: GI Special
Sent: August 10, 2007
Subject: PACIFIC PROJECT(S)

PACIFIC PROJECT(S)

**DURING THE VIETNAM WAR (AND AFTERWARDS) THOUSANDS OF GI'S AND
ACTIVISTS CONTACTED AND WORKED WITH FRIENDS - SOMETIMES CALLED
"THE HOBBITS" -IN THE PACIFIC THEATER - VIETNAM, JAPAN - OKINAWA -
HONG KONG - THE PHILIPPINES - AND OTHER PACIFIC RIM COUNTRIES**

**GI'S LEFT VIETNAM FOR DIFFERENT COUNTRIES - INCLUDING SWEDEN - SOME
VIA THE SOVIET UNION.**

TERRY WHITMORE - ONE OF THEM - JUST DIED IN MEMPHIS.

IT'S TIME TO GET SOME OF THESE MEMORIES ORGANISED, WRITTEN UP,
WRITTEN DOWN!

ANYONE WITH MEMORIES, IDEAS - SEND THEM TO MAX WATTS PLEASE:
ROSIEK@BIGPOND.COM

[For those not familiar, this is Max Watts: LEFT FACE, Soldier Unions and
Resistance Movements in Modern Armies, By DAVID CORTRIGHT AND MAX
WATTS; Contributions in Military Studies, Number 107; GREENWOOD PRESS,
New York • Westport, Connecticut • London. T]

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/)

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

<http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>; http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;

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

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.