

GI SPECIAL 5/10:

**IRAQ VETERAN ARRESTED FOR ANTI-
WAR POSTERS
[Thanks For Your Service]
[Welcome Home To Occupied America]**



A Park Police officer, right, arrests Adam Kokesch of Iraq Veterans Against the War, , Sept. 6, 2006, in Lafayette Park across from the White House in Washington, after he put up anti-war posters. (AP Photo/Ron Edmonds)

**More Petraeus Lies
[What Else Is New?]**

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

09 September 2007 By Frank Rich, The New York Times [Excerpt]

Though both General Petraeus and a White House fact sheet have recently boasted of a 75 percent decline in sectarian attacks, this number turns out to be as cooked as those tallies of Saddam's weapons sites once peddled by WHIG.

As The Washington Post reported on Thursday, it excludes Shiite-on-Shiite and Sunni-on-Sunni violence.

The Government Accountability Office, which rejected that fuzzy math, found overall violence unchanged using the methodology practiced by the C.I.A. and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad; Two More & Terp Wounded

9.9.07 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070909-08

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed and two others wounded during combat operations in a western section of the Iraqi capital Sept. 9. An Iraqi interpreter was also wounded in the attack.

South Park Native Killed In Iraq



Michael J. Tully

August 26, 2007 By Mark Houser, TRIBUNE-REVIEW

A South Park native and Green Beret combat medic who was killed in Iraq was both a proud soldier and a compassionate man, his father said Saturday.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Tully, 33, died Thursday in Baghdad when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb. Sgt. 1st Class Adrian M. Elizalde, 30, of North Bend, Ind., was also killed.

Tully's father, John Tully, said he treasures a recent snapshot of his son comforting a young Iraqi girl, who was burned. "You could see his hand reaching for her to say, 'Honey, don't be afraid,'" John Tully said.

Michael Tully was born in St. Clair Hospital and lived in South Park until the age of 7, when his parents divorced. He and his brother stayed with their father in Upper St. Clair and Bridgeville. The family eventually settled in Falls Creek, Jefferson County.

Tully still has relatives in Pittsburgh, including an aunt, Jean Jankowski, who lives in Sheraden. His mother, Dolores Newman, lives in Glendale, Ariz.

Despite the distances separating them, Michael Tully was very close to his parents and to his son Slade, 12, who lives in Florida.

He called frequently, the last time on Thursday morning, John Tully said.

"He was telling us, 'I gotta go get a shower and get ready for work,' but he just wanted to say that he loved me, and, 'Don't worry about me. I'll be fine,'" his father said.

A National Honor Society student at Brockway High School, Jefferson County, Tully joined the Marine Corps immediately after graduation and trained as a scuba diver.

After serving four years in the Marines, Michael Tully switched to the Army. He trained as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne, then became a Ranger. Later he was selected for the Army special forces, known as the Green Berets, and became a combat medic.

During his training in U.S. hospitals, he delivered a baby one night, which his father said was one of the happiest moments of his son's life.

John Tully said when his oldest son, John R. Tully, got a look at his younger brother in uniform after basic training, he enlisted in the Army the next day. Both were stationed in Iraq, and the older brother is accompanying his younger brother's body back to Falls Creek, where he will be buried.

"People have to understand there are a lot of people out there like Michael, who do this every day. We've got to be proud of people like that," Tully said.

“Non-Combat-Related” Death Of Marine In Anbar

September 9, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070909-01

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Multi National Force-West died Sept. 7 in a non-combat related incident in Al Anbar Province.

Mahdi Army Leader Says “If You Count All The Americans In Iraq, They Are Really Just Prisoners” U.S. Sgt. Says “It’s Bad And It’s Not Going To Get Better”

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

September 9, 2007 By DAMIEN CAVE and STEPHEN FARRELL, New York Times
[Excerpts]

Abu Sajat, [one of several Mahdi leaders], 36, a former pushcart vendor who said he spent seven years in prison under Saddam Hussein, insisted that he had no interest in money.

He said the militia’s earnings from Huriya often went to less fortunate Shiites.

Last week, he said his command contributed 23 million Iraqi dinars, or \$18,400, to Sadr City families whose homes had been damaged or whose relatives had been killed in American military raids.

The Americans soldiers in Huriya acknowledge that trying to dismantle the Mahdi network has been a struggle.

Several months ago, a photograph of another Mahdi leader, Haider Kadhim, — “the No. 1 action guy in Huriya,” a soldier said — hung on the walls of the windowless joint security station where they live. He was someone whom the soldiers hoped to arrest or kill. Last week, his mugshot was still there.

Abu Sajat said Mr. Kadhim was busy in Topchi, out of the unit’s reach. “If you count all the Americans in Iraq, they are really just prisoners.”

Captain Feese, the Company A commander, said Huriya residents felt safer without thugs like Mr. Kadhim on the streets.

But even with the extra troops, there are parts of Baghdad, like the northern neighborhood of Shula, where militias roam with impunity.

There, at one of its refugee camps, the Mahdi Army now brazenly issues laminated badges to those it deems worthy of admittance.

A recent American report concluded that Mahdi Army leaders in Shula enjoy “freedom of movement” in part “because of a lack of permanent CF presence,” referring to coalition forces.

Colonel Miska, who oversees Shula, Huriya and other Shiite-dominant areas, said units regularly entered the neighborhood for raids, which had killed or captured many prominent Mahdi fighters.

But, he said, referring to joint security stations, “We do not have a J.S.S. in Shula, due to lack of combat power.”

In Huriya, Captain Feese’s men have tried to erase the militia’s signs of strength. They have not touched the new Sadr monuments, but they initially tore down posters of Mr. Sadr at the market, only to see them reappear.

Many Iraqis, Captain Feese said, hesitate to work closely with the Americans because “they know I’m going home.”

Even now, most Iraqis in Huriya still do not believe that the Americans can protect them in a city where, two weeks ago, the Shiite head of a neighborhood just southeast of Huriya was shot dead in a Mahdi-controlled Shiite area.

The killing was understood to be punishment for working with the Americans.

“You can put pressure on it,” said Captain Feese, “but you can’t claim victory.”

First Sgt. Timothy Johnson’s experience of the National Police is particularly stark. Driving in mid-June past a National Police checkpoint, Sergeant Johnson, a 43-year-old from El Paso, waved at the smiling Iraqis he knew well, and received friendly waves back.

Barely 50 feet later a sophisticated roadside bomb known as an explosively formed penetrator hit the rear of his Humvee, missing the crew but blowing his luggage out into the road.

The same smiling police officers promptly stole his computer, mobile phone and camera and demanded a \$40 bribe to give the computer back.

“I don’t trust them,” he said. “They will smile in your face and stab you in the back. They were just too close to that E.F.P. not to have known.”

Asked if things have improved since then, he shook his head emphatically.

“No, they are the same,” he said.

“It’s bad and it’s not going to get better. We’re not going to make a difference, not in the short term. “Maybe if we stayed here forever.”

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; COME HOME NOW



A U.S. military helicopter lands in the village of Qahtaniya, 75 miles west of Mosul, Aug. 19, 2007. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two Soldiers From 2nd Battalion, Killed In Helmand Ambush, “A Number” Wounded, Two Seriously

8 Sep 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep regret that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the deaths of two soldiers from 2nd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment (Worcesters and Foresters) in Afghanistan earlier today, Saturday 8 September 2007.

A number of other soldiers were also injured in the incident, two are in a serious condition. The soldiers were taking part in a pre-planned operation to disrupt Taliban activity, south of Garmsir, southern Helmand Province, when their patrol was attacked by enemy fighters shortly after 0045 hours local time.

Sadly the two soldiers were killed during the subsequent heavy firefight to repel the enemy and a number of Taliban were also killed. The injured soldiers were evacuated to the ISAF medical facilities at Camp Bastion and Kandahar Airfield by emergency response helicopters where they were treated.

IED Kills Foreign Occupation Soldier In Helmand, Four Wounded; Nationality Not Announced

9.9.07 AP

In southern Afghanistan, a roadside bomb killed a coalition soldier and wounded four on Sunday, the U.S.-led coalition said.

The attack in Helmand province, the world's largest opium poppy-growing region, came while the forces were carrying out combat operations about 10 kilometers (5 miles) west of Sangin. The soldiers' nationalities were not released pending notification of family members.

Mercenary Killed; Three Wounded In Helmand

9.9.07 AP

Late Saturday in Helmand an attacker on a motorbike, targeting an American security firm, killed one employee and wounded three, the Interior Ministry said.

Also on Saturday, suspected Taliban militants attacked a World Food Program convoy in Nimroz province, and a subsequent battle left two police and 11 insurgents dead, said Gov. Ghulam Dastager Azad.

Collaborator President Runs Away As Shots Fired

9 September 2007 Euro News & The Associated Press

The president of Afghanistan has been forced to cut short a speech in front of thousands of people amid a security scare.

The sound of gunfire rang out as Karzai abruptly ended his speech at Kabul's central sports stadium, sending a murmur through the crowd inside and prompting some in the audience to start to flee.

The president then abruptly closed, saying, "Dear sisters and brothers, respect for all of you. We're ending the session, goodbye."

A bodyguard made Hamid Karzai aware of a disturbance outside the sports arena where he was delivering his address in Kabul. He was escorted to safety.

Some reports say shots were fired as a restless crowd tried to force its way in.

Officials told the crowd to remain calm, and said someone had thrown stones against a metal door.

Chaotic scenes followed as people ran for cover, fearing an attack.

Shortly after being rushed off the podium President Hamid Karzai said security in Afghanistan is deteriorating and renewed a call for negotiations with Taliban militants.

Afghan Politician Says Collaborator Government Would Be Gone In “Six Minutes” Without Occupation Troops

Sep 9 (AFP)

The distance between people and the government is growing, [ex-foreign minister] Abdullah Abdullah said as the country marked the sixth anniversary of the assassination of famous commander Ahmed Shah Massoud, who fought the Taliban and Soviet occupation.

In 2002, for example, Afghanistan could have coped for “at least a few months” without the international troops now here to fight the Taliban.

“Today we cannot afford this for six minutes,” Abdullah said.

“The Taliban, from a situation in late 2002 and 2003 when they used to cross the border from time to time to conduct operations, today they have bases inside Afghanistan,” he added.

TROOP NEWS

Several Of The National Guard Whispered As We Crossed The

Bridge, “I Like Your Shirt And The Message” (We Were Both Wearing Impeach Bush/Cheney T-Shirts)



[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, who sent this in.]

From: Martin's {Michigan}

Date: September 3, 2007

Subject: LABOR DAY PEACE VIGIL AT BRIDGE NOTES

HELLO PEACE LOVERS,

What a wonderful day we had on the south side of the Mighty Mac Bridge today.
Weather: PERFECT

Peace demonstrators: 12-20 at any given time.

Folks from Traverse City, Petoskey the U.P., Cheboygan, and near Gaylord attended.

I haven't heard the "official" estimate of number of people crossing the bridge today, but it almost always is 30,000 or so.

There were peace folks in place for the first persons to cross the bridge, which included the Governor's group.

My sister and I walked the bridge and were about ten minutes behind the governor.

Okay now for the “notes” I’ve put together for the response we received.

As expected many people show no reaction at such things.

There were however, hundreds, maybe thousands who gave thumbs up, peace signs, applauded us, said “wooo”, and others thanked us.

Some specific comments included: from a little old gal about 4 feet tall, about 70 years old; she said to me...”IMPEACH BUSH, TORTURE CHENEY”.

Several of the National Guard whispered as we crossed the bridge, “I like your shirt and the message” to my sister (we were both wearing Impeach Bush/chenev T-shirts).

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

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



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

REUTERS/Damir Sagolj

Bush's Last Card:
The Silly Myth Of Al-Qaeda In Iraq:
“It Was Kind Of A Running Joke In
Our Office,” He Recalls. “We Would
Sarcastically Refer To Everybody As
Al-Qaeda”
“That’s Not How Anyone Learned To
Play The Game When We Were Officers
Coming Up The Ranks, And We Were
Taught To Provide Clear Battlefield
Analysis”

By Andrew Tilghman. October 2007 Washington Monthly [Excerpts]. Andrew Tilghman was an Iraq correspondent for the Stars and Stripes newspaper in 2005 and 2006.

Fighting al-Qaeda in Iraq is the last big argument for keeping U.S. troops in the country. But the military’s estimation of the threat is alarmingly wrong.

The fact that a detainee possesses al-Qaeda pamphlets or a laptop computer with cached jihadist Web sites, for example, is at times enough for analysts to link a detainee to al-Qaeda.

Yet those who have worked on estimates inside the system take a more circumspect view.

Alex Rossmiller, who worked in Iraq as an intelligence officer for the Department of Defense, says that real uncertainties exist in assigning responsibility for attacks.

“It was kind of a running joke in our office,” he recalls. “We would sarcastically refer to everybody as al-Qaeda.”

“Sometimes it’s as simple as an anonymous tip that al-Qaeda is active in a certain village, so they will go out on an operation and whoever they roll up, we call them al-Qaeda,” says Alex Rossmiller.

“People can get labeled al-Qaeda anywhere along in the chain of events, and it’s really hard to unlabel them.”

Even when the military backs off explicit statements that AQI is responsible, as with the Tal Afar truck bombings, the perception that an attack is the work of al-Qaeda is rarely corrected.

The result can be baffling for the troops working on the ground, who hear the leadership characterizing the conflict in Iraq in ways that do not necessarily match what they see in the dusty and danger-laden villages.

Michael Zacchea, a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Reserves who was deployed to Iraq, said he was sometimes skeptical of upper-level analysis emphasizing al-Qaeda in Iraq rather than the insurgency’s local roots.

“It’s very, very frustrating for everyone involved who is trying to do the right thing,” he said.

“That’s not how anyone learned to play the game when we were officers coming up the ranks, and we were taught to provide clear battlefield analysis.”

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.

**“Some Are Sent Back To Fight
With Their Brain Injuries
Undetected, Especially If They Had
No Obvious Wounds”**

“People Don’t Want To Lose These Guys From Their Command -- They Can’t Replace Them Fast Enough”

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn’t care less. To repeat for the 3,512th time, there is no enemy in Iraq. Iraqis and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started this war of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn’t tell the truth: this war was about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, NY City Labor Against The War & The Military Project, who sent this in.]

September 9, 2007 By MARILYNN MARCHIONE, AP Medical Writer [Excerpts] Associated Press writer Christine Simmons in Washington contributed to this report.

The war in Iraq is not over, but one legacy is already here in this city and others across America: an epidemic of brain-damaged soldiers.

“I’ve been in the field for 20-plus years dealing with TBI. I have a very experienced staff. And they’re saying to me, ‘We’re seeing things we’ve never seen before,’” said Sandy Schneider, director of Vanderbilt University’s brain injury rehabilitation program.

Many troops get no care at all. Some are sent back to fight with their brain injuries undetected, especially if they had no obvious wounds.

What happened to Eric O’Brien and Bryan Malone shows the scope of this problem.

O’Brien, a 32-year-old Army staff sergeant from Iowa’s Quad Cities, was teasing Malone, 22, a specialist from Haughton, La., in a Baghdad gym last summer.

“I told him and his workout partner: ‘Put some more weight on it,’” prompting the men to get up. Seconds later, a rocket hit where they had sat. They survived, but a pressure wave from the blast coursed through their brains.

“I patted myself down head to toe, making sure I wasn’t missing a limb,” and felt odd, like “I must be missing a chunk of my head,” O’Brien said. He remembers little else except walking through debris to pick up his iPod and sunglasses.

As for Malone, an air conditioning vent had fallen on his head and he had shrapnel wounds. He had multiple surgeries, spent several months in Walter Reed Army Medical Center and now has titanium mesh reinforcing his skull.

O'Brien, however, had shrapnel removed from his scalp and then was sent back to his unit -- "no antibiotics, no pain medication or anything. They just sent me on my way."

When he later complained of pain, doctors gave him Motrin.

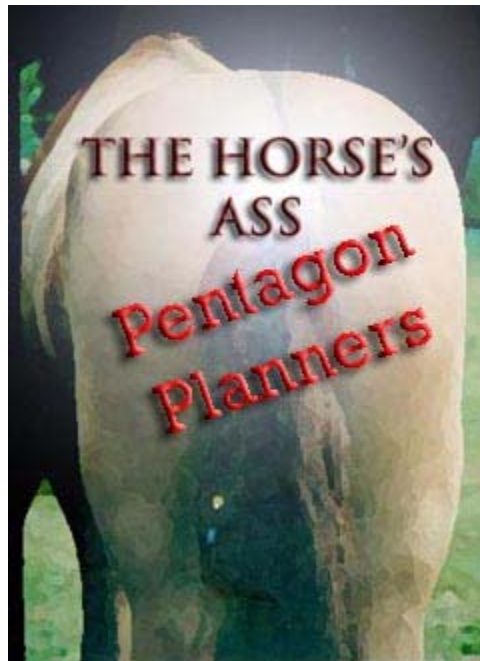
When he discovered a trickle of blood from his hip, they said he would be fine.

Six weeks later, when he could barely walk, tests revealed shrapnel in his hip. By then, he was having headaches and trouble sleeping.

O'Brien had been through multiple previous explosions -- troops average one a month, a study found -- and each raises the risk that the next one will do harm.

Officers also face pressure to return troops to duty, said Jordan Grafman, a neuroscientist who studies TBI at the National Institutes of Health.

"People don't want to lose these guys from their command -- they can't replace them fast enough," he said.



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

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

Sep 8, 2007 (Reuters) & Sep 9, 2007 Deutsche Presse-Agentur & Reuters

Four policemen and two civilians were wounded in a mortar attack in the New Baghdad district in the east of the capital, police said.

Guerrillas attacked and destroyed a police station, killing seven policemen and wounding two others in a village near Baiji, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. The villagers arrested six of the attackers.

At least four Iraqi soldiers were killed and 15 injured Sunday in a bombing outside a military checkpoint in the town of Balad, an Iraqi military official said.

Deputy governor of Balad Amir Abdel Hadi told Deutsche Presse-Agentur a bomber driving a large truck blew himself up outside a checkpoint on a bridge linking Baghdad to Balad, 70 kilometres north of the capital.

Emergency teams and US forces were searching for more people under the rubble, Abdel-Hadi said.

Human remains and mutilated bodies were found, the official said adding that the number of soldiers who were at the checkpoint at the time of the blast was not known.

A car bomb exploded near a police station in the Shi'ite Turkmen town of Basheer, 20 km (12 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said. One police source said one policeman was killed, while a second said two died.

Guerrillas killed three policemen in a drive-by shooting on Friday in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents shot dead a woman employee in the Communications Ministry outside her house in Hilla, 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad, on Friday, police said.

Get The Message?



Mahdi Army militiamen celebrate the withdrawal of British troops from Basra Sept. 7, 2007. Hundreds of supporters of nationalist Moqtada al-Sadr took to the streets on Friday, celebrating the British handover of presidential palaces to the Iraqis.
REUTERS/Atef Hassan

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

**"If Someone Occupied My Hometown
In The Same Manner Americans
Occupy Iraq, I'd Be Killing Them Any
Way I Could"**

**"And I Would Be Called A Hero By My
Own People, Not A Terrorist"**

Political sloganeering has so trumped reality that any political backlash that is generated from the so-called "Petraeus Report" will be limited to how the Democrats could better sustain a conflict that kills American troops, since no mainstream Democratic leader has expressed a true "get out of Iraq now" policy.

Sep 6, 2007 By Scott Ritter, Truth Dig [Excerpts]

He was commissioned as an intelligence officer in the United States Marine Corps in May 1984. He served in this capacity for twelve years.

It should come as no surprise that the Bush administration's newest military-man-of-substance-turned- political lapdog, General Petraeus, maintains that the situation in Iraq is not only salvageable, but actually improving, due to the "surge" of U.S. combat troops into Iraq over the past year.

All the president and his collection of GI Joe hand-puppets ask for is more time, more money and more troops.

There is no reason to believe that the compliant war facilitators who comprise the “anti-war” Democratic majority in Congress will do anything other than give the president what he is asking for.

No one seems to want to debate, in any meaningful fashion, what is really going on in Iraq.

Why would they?

The Democrats, like their Republican counterparts, have invested too much political capital into fictionalizing the problem with slogans like “support the troops,” “we’re fighting the enemy there so we don’t have to fight them here,” and my all-time favorite, “leaving Iraq would hand victory to al-Qaida.”

There simply is no incentive to put fact on the table and formulate policy that actually seeks a solution to a properly defined problem.

Like the Republicans before them, the Democrats today seek not to govern with the best interests of the people in mind, but rather to game the system in order to consolidate political power.

Political sloganeering has so trumped reality that any political backlash that is generated from the so-called “Petraeus Report” will be limited to how the Democrats could better sustain a conflict that kills American troops, since no mainstream Democratic leader has expressed a true “get out of Iraq now” policy.

“Why do Americans keep dying?”

Simple:

Because we are in Iraq. We don’t belong there.

“Who is killing them?” Another easy answer: Iraqis.

We are occupying their homeland. We are violating their sovereignty. We are butchering, abusing and torturing their citizens.

If someone occupied my hometown in the same manner Americans occupy Iraq, I’d be killing them any way I could.

And I would be called a hero by my own people, not a terrorist.

In short, Americans will keep dying in Iraq as long as we remain in Iraq.

The Bush administration, in an effort to deflect public attention away from this reality, has created the fiction of a massive al-Qaida presence in Iraq, working in parallel with a similarly large Iranian Revolutionary Guard Command presence,

which apparently is responsible for the majority of anti-American violence and dead U.S. troops.

Rhetoric aside, however, American officials who make these claims have been unable to back them up with hard facts and figures.

There is an al-Qaida presence in Iraq. However, the majority of what is known as “al-Qaida in Iraq” is composed of Iraqis, not foreigners. The whole phenomenon is a direct result of the American occupation of Iraq, and would dissipate the moment America left the country.

Likewise, the accusation of direct Iranian involvement in anti-American violence is questionable.

Iranian political support of Iraqi Shiite groups who violently oppose the American occupation of Iraq is real, but then again we know this: We invited the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq to join us in toppling Saddam.

Based out of Iran, functioning as a de facto arm of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Command, SCIRI did as we asked.

Why, then, are we shocked when SCIRI maintains ties with the very entity that created and nurtured it?

It is Iraqi Shiites who are killing Americans, not Iranians.

And they would kill us with or without the support of Iran.

I WILL SALUTE NO MORE FOREVER

[Thanks to James Starowicz, Veterans For Peace, who sent this in.]

September 5, 2007 by Mike Ferner. St. Louis

His government broke his heart but it could not break Air Force veteran Charles Powell's spirit. Fighting back tears, the 64 year-old vet stood tall and resolute in front of 400 of his comrades, describing in verse the final steps of a painful disillusionment.

Each summer during the national convention of Veterans For Peace, time is reserved for a Veterans' Speakout, where any member can rise to say whatever is on their mind.

When the veterans gathered in 2002, prior to the invasion of Iraq, George Bush and the hawks of Washington were pounding away on the war drums.

That year, Powell, who had served on a Titan ICBM launch crew during the Cuban missile crisis, read his poem titled, "I Won't Let Them Take My Flag." He noted the warmongers were "again waving my flag as a buildup to invasion, and he countered what he felt was a manipulation of the national symbol with the following lines reminiscent of the great Langston Hughes.

"But to me 'Old Glory' still stands for the liberty, justice and solidarity yet to come. So I still wave it too. I wave it for health care, education, housing and food for all. I wave it for peace and love and I wave it for hope. Most of all, I wave it for the America yet to be."

After four and a half years of war in Iraq, Veterans For Peace convened again this summer and Charles Powell was there as always.

As his turn came at the Speakout microphone he struggled a few seconds to compose himself.

Then, in a clear voice growing more determined as he spoke, Powell mirrored the pain, regret and anger in the hearts of so many who listened:

I WILL SALUTE NO MORE FOREVER

By Charles Powell

As a child I learned to Worship that piece of colored cloth.

My family, my school, the movies, TV taught me to believe that fragment of fabric stood for good things.

I watched my father, a World War II Army veteran, give homage to that wad of material.

As an airman I saluted that banner for the four years I served in the Air Force where I stood ready to help launch Titan Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles on command.

Then I became aware that the wonderful things for which that clump of colors is suppose to represent, have not been achieved.

I came to know that awful, unlawful, unwise and immoral acts have occurred under the stars and stripes.

But I still clung onto the belief and hope that someday, somehow conditions would change and the good things for which that rag is still supposed to stand would yet be realized.

However, I've been forced to come to my senses.

Now we have: preemptive war, the Patriot Act, the Military Commissions Act, stop loss, neglect of returning veterans, ignored infrastructure, billions of dollars squandered on war and occupation, extraordinary rendition, secret imprisonment, warrantless domestic spying, disenfranchisement of voters, stolen elections, torture, suspension of habeas corpus and denial of due process.

So, even though hearing “America The Beautiful” still increases my heartbeat.

Although seeing those stripes still brings a lump to my throat.

Even though the sight of those stars continues to bring tears to my eyes.

I won't pledge to it anymore.

I won't remove my cap.

I won't stand in respect.

I won't wave it.

I will salute no more forever.

GI SPECIALS BY MAIL FREE FOR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A SELECTION OF GI SPECIALS MAILED TO YOU, EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO: CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG OR DROP A LINE TO: BOX 126, 2576 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025-5657 USA

Please say how many you wish sent.

NOTE WELL: They will all be different issues of GI Special to satisfy DOD regs that you may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue.*

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/)

Vietnam Days

SUPPORT the GI MOVEMENT
join us **MAY 15!** Saturday

at GREAT LAKES NAVAL TRAINING CENTER

ARMED FARCES DAY

May 15 is Armed Forces Day.
The military brass wants to show off.
It won't work.
All over the country, GIs and civilians will be holding counter-Armed Forces Day rallies and celebrations.
Armed Farces Day at Great Lakes Naval Training Center will be:

MORNING:

If the base is open, GI-led tours of places of interest, highlights of resistance and fascism.

If the base is closed - march around the base.

AFTERNOON:

Rally in Foss Park, just north of the base and on the lake, North Chicago (see map on back). Music, guerilla theatre, food, raps. Celebrate Armed Farces Day, show our solidarity with the GIs and the Vietnamese and our support for the People's Peace Treaty.

DON'T BELIEVE THE NEWS MEDIA: Last year when the Navy was forced to cancel their Armed Forces Day, they falsely announced that our off-base Armed Farces Day festivities were cancelled, too. Our celebration will be held whether or not the base is closed.

For further information contact:

MDM

(Great Lakes Movement For a Democratic Military)
689-2525



CAMP

(Chicago Area Military Project)
327-9044



CVC

(Chicago Veterans Coalition)
664-6967



OCCUPATION REPORT

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



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. 3-509 Para-Infantry Regiment interrogate a *temporarily detained* Iraqi citizen south of Baghdad, August 2007. He is put in handcuffs and made to kneel down before the foreign soldiers while questioned. (AFP/File/David Furst)



An disabled Iraqi citizen sits on the back of an Iraqi Police truck after he was arrested by U.S. soldiers from the Delta 112 Cav. Battalion on suspicion that he was an insurgent during home invasions near the city of Baqouba, 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Aug. 31, 2007. (AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo)

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

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

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

AS BUSH'S SUPPORTERS REPEATEDLY REMIND US, THERE HASN'T BEEN A BIG TERRORIST ATTACK SINCE 9/11. HE'S KEEPING US SAFE! BUT EVEN THEY'RE SELLING HIM SHORT. LOTS OF OTHER STUFF HASN'T HAPPENED SINCE BUSH TOOK OFFICE:



**“The Democrats Control Congress”
“All They Need To Do Is Block A Vote”
“Make Sure Every Democrat Knows That
Their Party Is Just As Responsible As The
Republican Party In The Iraq War”**

Good News - Bad News



September 09, 2007 By Todd Boyle via Veterans For Peace discussion

Bush and his giant propaganda noise machine will ask for \$171 Billion funding this month, to extend the war in Iraq.

The Democrats control congress.

All they need to do is block a vote. Keep it off the floor of the congress. And send Bush a much smaller amount, necessary to fund withdrawal from Iraq.

I only ask ONE THING from you, my fellow veterans.

Make sure the whole country knows this, and that the Democratic Party pays a price for waging war in the middle east.

Make sure every Democrat knows that their party is just as responsible as the Republican Party in the Iraq war.

MORE:

“Consider How Many Times Congressional Democrats Have Uttered Some Variant Of ‘It’s Time We Stopped Giving Bush A Blank Check For Iraq’ As They Signed A Series Of Blank Checks For Iraq”

Ultimately, while Congress is sidelining itself on the most important issue of our time, it will be the Iraqis -- Iraqis from across the country’s political spectrum -- who will eventually force a U.S. withdrawal, either by negotiation or by violence, just as they kicked out the Brits before us and the Turkmen, Ottomans and Safavids before them.

September 6, 2007 By Joshua Holland, AlterNet [Excerpts]

Next week, Ryan Crocker, the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, and General David Petraeus, the army’s counter-insurgency guru, will brief Congress on the Bush administration’s claims of progress in Iraq.

At stake is not only the upper hand in the political debate over the continuing occupation, but an enormous amount of money -- \$147 billion -- that was supposedly conditioned on tangible measures of progress, specifically 18 “benchmarks” attached to the 2007 supplemental spending bill.

But despite the reality on the ground, the administration last week threw a Hail-Mary pass, announcing that it would ask for another \$50 billion for war-fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan through next Spring. That’s in addition to \$147 billion already requested for the two countries.

There’s no reason to believe the administration won’t get it -- consider how many times congressional Democrats have uttered some variant of “It’s time we stopped giving Bush a blank check for Iraq” as they signed a series of blank checks for Iraq.

It’s much like the surge itself, a stop-gap measure that nobody seriously believed had a chance of changing the ugly situation in Iraq.

At that point, the tacit understanding was that Congress would rise up and demand an end to the war if the 18 benchmarks weren’t met.

Now that September is here, we're supposed to focus on the next shiny object.

The Democrats are reacting to this charade by conceding the battle before it begins, with Michigan's Carl Levin offering to remove a deadline from the amendment he and Jack Reed, D-R.I., co-sponsored (the deadline was already riddled with loopholes) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid offering to "compromise" with Senate Republicans by dropping his already watered-down demand for a spring "withdrawal."

As Dick Durbin, the senate majority whip, told the Chicago Tribune, "When it comes to the budget, I face a dilemma that some of my colleagues do." He opposes the war, but "felt that I should always provide the resources for the troops in the field."

That mean throwing good money (and lives) after bad.

Ultimately, while Congress is sidelining itself on the most important issue of our time, it will be the Iraqis -- Iraqis from across the country's political spectrum -- who will eventually force a U.S. withdrawal, either by negotiation or by violence, just as they kicked out the Brits before us and the Turkmen, Ottomans and Safavids before them.

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.

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Defend The Local 10 Brothers
Assaulted By Cops On The
Sacramento Docks!
"This Is The Ugly Face Of The 'War
On Terror" On The Docks'"**

AUG. 31, 2007 Local 10 Via New York City Labor Against The War Digest Number 698

On August 23, West Sacramento police and private security guards viciously attacked, maced and arrested two Local 10 brothers, Jason Ruffin #101168 and Aaron Harrison #101167, coming back to work on the SSA terminal after lunch.

When the guards insisted on searching their car, the longshoremen questioned their authority to do so and called the Local 10 business agent.

While one was talking on the phone to the BA and without provocation, they were assaulted, dragged from the car, handcuffed, jailed and charged with “trespassing” and “obstructing a police officer”.

How the hell can longshoremen be “trespassing”, returning to work after lunch, having already shown their PMA ID cards to guards at the terminal.

Was it racial profiling because the two longshoremen were black?

Authorities citing a new maritime security regulation that permits vehicle inspection doesn't mean maritime workers can't question it.

It doesn't take away a union member's right to call his union business agent, And it certainly doesn't give authorities, private or government, the right to assault and arrest you without provocation.

This is the ugly face of the “war on terror” on the docks.

And it'll get worse unless we come together and take action to defend these brothers.

Their court date is set for October 4 at 8:30AM in Yolo County Superior Court; 213 Third St.; Woodland, CA.

An injury to two is an injury to all!

We, Executive Board and Local 10 members, called for an Emergency Executive Board meeting Tuesday September 4 to resolve this urgent matter.

Melvin McKay #9268 Trent Willis #9182 Lonnie Francis #9274 Lawrence Thibeaux #7541 Jahn Overstreet #9189 Jack Heyman #8780 Erick Wright #8946

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