

GI SPECIAL 512:

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



The ripped uniform of a wounded U.S. soldier outside the emergency room of the 28th Combat Support hospital as doctors treat his wounds in Baghdad August 19, 2007.
REUTERS/Damir Sagolj

**“We Risked Our Lives
So The Army Could
Throw A Rose Colored
Lens Onto A News
Camera”**

“My Biggest Fans Are In My Platoon”

“The Most Common Thing I Hear From Them Is, This Is What I’ve Been Thinking The Whole Time”

We were ordered to stay out of any pictures taken. Why? To falsely show that the Iraqi Army was in charge and we were on the sidelines.

August 29, 2007 By Alex Horton, Armyofdude.blogspot.com/

I must say, this past week has been quite exciting.

On the morning of August 25, half my company convoyed in filthy and battered Strykers from Baqubah to Taji, our final mission of the deployment.

Taji was our second home in Iraq and our springboard into Baghdad during the winter months. Now it acts as a staging area to get equipment, vehicles and men home next month.

Every trivial action was exhilarating when you realize it’s the last time you’ll ever do it. Loading a magazine, chambering a round, catching a warm desert breeze in your face going down the road for the final time. The air of finality is intoxicating, and you can feel it in your bones and see it in the face of everyone around you.

A great burden was lifted as soon as we pulled into the wire and safety of Taji. We flew from Kuwait to Mosul on July 21, 2006, 72 hours after my twenty-first birthday. We ended operations on August 25, 2007.

For exactly 400 days we held onto our humanity the best we could, sometimes forgetting we had it.

The day we got to Baqubah and a Stryker had already been destroyed by an IED, I was on a rooftop with a bird’s eye view of everything around. Rockets and tracers were going overhead and buildings were catching fire.

I looked at the carnage happening below, with my heart in my throat, and repeated in my head, how are we going to get out of this? How are we going to get out of this? I didn’t even know my friend was dead yet.

But everything that has a beginning has an end. After 400 days, we’re done. Over with! For my French readers, Le Fin.

In a few short weeks we'll return home with happy, yet heavy, hearts. Thanks to the recent L.A. Times article that quoted me and likely brought you here, my readership has grown exponentially.

And with it, come the doubters and naysayers who question the accuracy and integrity of my writing (a soldier who doesn't spew administration talking points? Has the whole world gone bonkers?!).

All this attention is new and strange to me, so I googled myself to see what is out there. I came across a message board thread on a military website titled: Army of Dude: Is Alex Horton a real person?

Why, yes. Yes I am. I am not a figment of someone's imagination and I'm not a fiction writer. I wish I was that creative.

In light of Beauchamp's recent adventures, some have sneered that I should write for The New Republic (a shot at my supposedly doubtful credibility). I'm not sure my word means anything on the internet, but if you're really adamant about busting me, blogosphere, give it a try!

I'm glad to have a bigger forum than a week ago, regardless of the critical fallout. The intention of this blog from day one was to chronicle my experiences in a way for people to understand and interpret what was going on beyond what was being filtered, distilled and spat out of the mainstream media.

When the deputy prime minister came to Baqubah for the first time a few weeks ago, an envoy of officers followed. Captains, lieutenant colonels and generals all took part in the tour of the local shops and visits with the residents.

We were ordered to stay out of any pictures taken.

Why?

To falsely show that the Iraqi Army was in charge and we were on the sidelines.

In the last month of the deployment, on one of our few days off, we risked our lives so the Army, at some level, could throw a rose colored lens onto a news camera for the benefit of...I don't know who.

Later on that day, a two star general got on our truck to be escorted back to the base.

The captains and colonels around him talked about how Diyala was really shaping up and that Baqubah would be a shining example of the surge in no time, thanks in part by the 1920s!

This was great for me to see and hear, because I finally got it. It took me fifteen months, but my epiphany was complete.

Generals see Iraq in a unique way for two reasons.

One, they take the word of anyone under them, which will almost always be positive no matter what. I doubt many have the guts to tell a general that things aren't going exactly as planned.

And two, they view Iraq in quick spurts with over-the-top security measures.

I took a picture of the mob next to the deputy prime minister's SUV, and there was an entourage of no less than fifteen American and Iraqi soldiers in a span of ten feet.

Needless to say, the two star was well protected.

We've walked the most dangerous streets on planet earth with less people. Surprise, some of us have a different perspective on the way this country is going.

I'm not a radical or an extremist, as you might think.

My biggest fans are in my platoon.

The most common thing I hear from them is, this is what I've been thinking the whole time.

So my thoughts and ruminations aren't entirely unique. I just simply have the attention of people to tell it to in the country we left behind fifteen months ago.

President Eisenhower warned of the growing military industrial complex in his farewell address.

Since Dick Cheney can now afford solid gold oil derricks, it's safe to say we failed Ike miserably.

After losing two friends and over a dozen comrades, I have this to say:

Do not wage war unless it is absolutely, positively the last ditch effort for survival.

I was a struggling senior in high school when the invasion took place, and I supported it.

I was mesmerized by the way we raced across the desert and took Baghdad in less than a month. War was a sleek, glossy commercial on TV, and we always won at the end.

It's easy to be for a war when you have absolutely no connection with it.

Patriotism lead me to believe what we were doing was right and noble. What a difference a deployment can make.

The public can do something about this. It doesn't have to be a hopeless cause forever.

Write your Congressmen, go to a rally, read as much as you can about Iraq to see it for what it is: a place men go to lose their minds and their lives.

And most importantly, love your children.

Teach them that war is not honorable, it's no plaything cast with an indifferent hand. It's the most terrible thing man ever brought to the world.

My generation didn't learn from Vietnam, but the next one can learn from us.

The memories and spirit of Chevy and Jesse compel you, America.

Do not forget your fallen sons.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Thousands Paid Tribute To Fallen Soldier



08/23/2007 by: Courtney Gousman, WEHT

EVANSVILLE - Thousands paid tribute to a fallen soldier who returned home from Iraq Thursday. Twenty-one year-old Evansville native, Army Corporal Willard Powell-Kerchief was killed in action last Thursday in Balad, Iraq.

Powell-Kerchief graduated from Reitz High School in 2005. He was deployed to Iraq in April. He was apart of the 4th battalion, 9th infantry regiment, based in Fort Lewis, Washington. Friends say Will had a passion for sports and was very involved in his church.

"He fought for our country and it's the least that we can do for him," said Amy Mohr, a family friend.

People line the streets holding flags, their hearts, and signs of love, all for Will.

Will's body arrived at Tri-State Aero around eleven Thursday morning where dozens of Patriot Riders and Rolling Thunder members met to escort him and his family to Browning Funeral Home, where visitation services will be held.

Many did not even know the soldier, but they stood silent, cars pulled over on Highway 41, and children held their flags, while the procession rolled at a steady 20 miles per hour. "We have to remember that these people have chosen to serve they did not get drafted," said Pete Smith a Patriot Guard Riders.

As the bagpipes played as many reflected over what Will meant to them. He was a soldier, a friend, a hero.

"He was amazing. He was extremely hyper very well rounded, outgoing person," said Amber Steele, a friend of Will's.

We checked with the Department of Defense and discovered, Powell-Kerchief is the 5th soldier from Evansville to die in combat since Operation Iraqi Freedom has begun.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers from the 2nd battalion, 32nd Field Artillery brigade take position as shots were fired at the main road used by Iraqi pilgrims on their way to attend a Shi'ite religious ritual in Baghdad August 9, 2007. REUTERS/Damir Sagolj

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Army Sgt. Princess Samuels at Arlington National Cemetery Aug. 31, 2007. Samuels, 22, of Mitchellville, Md. was killed in Taji, Iraq from indirect enemy fire. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

Home Safe: Only 159,999 To Go



Sgt. Kirby Gulley of Pine Bluff, Ark., with the Arkansas Army Reserves 360th Chemical Unit, is greeted by his wife, Neshia, left, and their kids, after Gulley and members of his unit arrived at the Little Rock National Airport, Friday, Aug. 31, 2007, in Little Rock, Ark., after being stationed in Iraq for over a year. (AP Photo/Mike Wintroath)

Keep Copies Of Your Medical Records!

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
September 03, 2007

Your wound, injury or illness takes you to a hospital, dispensary or aid station. A formal record is made of your treatment.

When you leave the service and the VA doesn't have those medical records that you depended on to substantiate a wound or injury, VA has no responsibility for finding them other than searching its own agency.

It's your responsibility alone to find those medical records that were lost, missing or destroyed.

I have contacted countless agencies and written numerous letters, to include my senators, concerning my missing medical records for two short periods of time: April to July 1946, and August 1950 to April 1952, while in Korea.

A fire at the National Personnel Records Center, the repository for military records, burned or destroyed many records for World War II-era personnel.

My many medical appointments at the Fort Benning, Ga., hospital for a back injury and perforated ear drum while in Officer Candidate School are missing. There are no medical records for a gunshot wound or back injuries I received while in combat in Korea.

Let this be a warning to all active-duty personnel.

Make a copy of your medical records, especially those that may have a bearing on a disability or other benefit. Ask the attending physician to make a copy for you of what he prepares. Tell him why.

It appears the lost, missing or destroyed medical records will never be found. No agency will claim responsibility.

Col. Lee Mason (ret.)
Kailua, Hawaii

“Active-Duty Personnel Are Speaking Publicly And Critically

As Never Before About An Ongoing War”

“The Blogosphere Is Filled With Soldiers Grumbling, Not Only About Lengthy Repeated Tours But Also About The Wisdom Of Invading Iraq In The First Place”

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

“I have to tell you as somebody who deals frequently with the military, there’s been a lot of disagreement for a long time about this war,” he adds. “It just tends to get expressed obliquely and in private.”

August 29, 2007 By Brad Knickerbocker, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

In books and professional journals, blogs, and newspapers, active-duty military personnel are speaking publicly and critically as never before about an ongoing war.

Respectfully, but with a directness and gritty authenticity that comes from combat experience – sometimes written from the battlefield – they offer a view of current strategy, military leadership, and the situation on the ground that is more stark than Pentagon and White House pronouncements.

Part of this reflects weariness with the war. But it also represents a shift in military culture where speaking up publicly is more usual and acceptable than in previous conflicts, experts say, thanks to changes in technology and society.

“This is the first post-Internet, post-digital-camera war” in which “the line between private lives and public lives has been blurred,” says Eugene Fidell, a former military lawyer who teaches military justice at Yale.

Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), as long as uniformed critics do not speak or write using “contemptuous words” regarding the president or other senior officials, they are free to voice their opinions, notes Mr. Fidell, president of the National Institute of Military Justice. “We’re a nation built on free expression, and it can get pretty noisy.”

Part of this criticism reflects weariness with the war, especially among those serving multiple extended combat tours.

“You could almost construct an equation to predict the rate at which dissension in the ranks will reach the public as support for a war sours,” says military analyst Loren Thompson of the Lexington Institute, a public policy think tank in Arlington, Va.

“I have to tell you as somebody who deals frequently with the military, there’s been a lot of disagreement for a long time about this war,” he adds. “It just tends to get expressed obliquely and in private.”

The blogosphere is filled with soldiers grumbling, not only about lengthy repeated tours but also about the wisdom of invading Iraq in the first place.

But here, enlisted men and women may have more freedom to speak out since the “contemptuous words” provision applies exclusively to officers.

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

“We Have Grenades Going Off And IEDs, And Then We’re Told To Go Back And Rest For Six Hours And Then Come Back Out Again”

August 31, 2007 PBS Newshour [Excerpts]

KEME NZEREM, Guardian Newspaper Correspondent: Saturday, May the 19th.

It’s late afternoon in Baghdad. Photojournalist Sean Smith captures this image.

Inside a Bradley armored car, six U.S. soldiers and their translator are burning to death.

FORMER LT. COMMANDER HEIDI KRAFT, Psychologist: I think the thing, as I watched that clip, that resonated the most with me was overarching exhaustion.

I watched these soldiers as they moved through those minutes out there, and we went with them on those missions.

And I felt like they just got more and more exhausted as the clip went on.

MARGARET WARNER: And the chronic nature of that hostile environment was something that one of the young soldiers talked about.

And, Heidi Kraft, I just want to ask you about what he had to say.

He said, "Well, you know, we have grenades going off and IEDs, and then we're told to go back and rest for six hours and then come back out again."

And he said, "We don't have the time to come down." You're always with that heightened sense of alertness. You don't have time to rest.

Is that actually physically true and psychologically true that they don't get to come down?

HEIDI KRAFT: It is absolutely true, most definitely.

The level of arousal in which a person is placed in a situation like that is very, very high. And it is really difficult, both physiologically but especially emotionally, to actually have the recovery process from that level of arousal.

Six hours just isn't going to even start to do it.

And yet, as I mentioned, the operational tempo a lot of times doesn't allow them what they really need, which is the time to completely what we call reset, allow their physiology and their emotional cognitive processes to return to normal and heal during that short period of time, and in order to be able to go back.

**Another Iraq War Soldier
Fucked Over By Pentagon
Traitors:
Kicked Out With No Benefits, And
Forced To Pay Back Signing
Bonus;
"A Line Of Attack For The Military To
Save Money"**

“When You Get Back, They Take Everything They Have Given You For What You Have Done”



[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,511th 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 Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

8/13 KGET

A Tehachapi soldier said he was cheated by the United States Army when his benefits and enlistment bonus was taken away after he was honorably discharged.

PFC Richard Smith said this military disgrace is unfair, and lawmakers could soon make a change.

Smith said a misdiagnosis sent him home from the Iraq War.

“There are so many people that are coming home and this is happening to them,” Smith said. “It’s just not right.”

He said like many soldiers, he was suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), but the U.S. Army discharged him due to a pre-existing “personality disorder.”

“It follows me around forever,” said Smith. “It’s on my record. My future employers will see it. It says right there, ‘Honorably discharged for personality disorder.’”

Smith is forced to pay back his signing bonus and may lose his military benefits, as well.

“They charged me \$7,000.48, and they are doing an interest on it until I pay it back,” he said.

Smith’s not alone. The Department of Defense reported in the last six years, 5,600 soldiers were discharged due to “personality disorders.”

The Iraq War Veterans Organization said this is a common misdiagnosis for PTSD and a line of attack for the military to save money.

The military does not provide benefits for pre-existing conditions, including personality disorders.

“When you get back, they take everything they have given you for what you have done,” said Smith. “It’s a losing situation.”

The House Veterans Affairs Committee is investigating personality disorder discharges, and may vote to review every case so soldiers, like Smith, can get their earned benefits.

Smith is currently working full-time to pay back the Army, and hopes to attend Bakersfield College in the fall if he can afford it.

More Thieving Commanders Arrested

10th Mountain Officer Charged In Bribery

September 03, 2007 Army Times

As a field ordering officer in Baghdad, Capt. Austin Key was responsible for overseeing the administration of service and supply contracts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Federal prosecutors said the 10th Mountain Division officer used that position to demand thousands of dollars in bribes to help a company secure military contracts in Iraq. Key, 27, of Watertown, N.Y., was arrested Aug. 22 and charged with one count of bribery, which carries a potential penalty of up to 15 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Key’s defense lawyer, Raymond R. Granger, declined comment outside court.

Key was accused of demanding \$125,000 in July from a U.S. citizen who owns a business that provides services and supplies in Iraq through Army contracts, according to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

According to the complaint, Key admitted in a written statement to federal agents that he had agreed to steer contracts to an informant in return for a \$50,000 bribe. He was arrested after a meeting with the informant.

MORE:

Major, His Wife Indicted In Bribe Case

An Army major and his wife, accused of taking bribes from Defense Department contractors in 2004 and 2005, were indicted Aug. 22 in federal court.

Maj. John Cockerham, a contract officer, and his wife, Melissa Cockerham, are accused of taking at least \$9.6 million in bribes while Cockerham was stationed in Kuwait and responsible for contracts for Defense Department services, including bottled water for soldiers.

The charges include bribery, conspiracy, money laundering and obstruction. Jimmy Parks Jr., who represents Maj. Cockerham, was not immediately reachable for comment.

Soldier Who Paid To Get Shot Rather Than Deploy To Iraq Again Gets General Discharge

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro who sent this in.]

August 17th 2007 BY CHRISENA COLEMAN, DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Bronx soldier Jonathan Aponte, who hired someone to shoot him rather than return to Iraq, says he'll be free of the Army today - and he can't wait to come home.

"I am very thankful," Aponte, 21, told the Daily News.

"It's going to take some time for me to get back to myself after being on the front line in Iraq."

Speaking by phone from Fort Hood in Killeen, Tex., Aponte said he is getting a general discharge, though the Army wouldn't confirm that.

Aponte, who had spent 10 months in Iraq, admitted he and his wife paid a hit man \$500 to shoot him in the leg July 9 - the day he was supposed to go back.

U.S. Command In Iraq Plays Stupid Deception Games With Visiting U.S. Politicians; Shown “Only What The Pentagon And The Bush Administration” Wanted Them To See; Iraq’s National Security Adviser Caught Watching Children’s Cartoons

At one point, as Moran, Tauscher and Rep. Jon Porter (R-Nev.) were heading to lunch in the fortified Green Zone, an American urgently tried to get their attention, apparently to voice concerns about the war effort, the participants said. Security whisked the man away before he could make his point.

August 31, 2007 By Jonathan Weisman, Washington Post Staff Writer

The sheets of paper seemed to be everywhere the lawmakers went in the Green Zone, distributed to Iraqi officials, U.S. officials and uniformed military of no particular rank.

So when Rep. James P. Moran Jr. (D-Va.) asked a soldier last weekend just what he was holding, the congressman was taken aback to find out.

In the soldier’s hand was a thumbnail biography, distributed before each of the congressmen’s meetings in Baghdad, which let meeting participants such as that soldier know where each of the lawmakers stands on the war. “Moran on Iraq policy,” read one section, going on to cite some the congressman’s most incendiary statements, such as, “This has been the worst foreign policy fiasco in American history.”

The bio of Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher (D-Calif.),” the bio helpfully relates -- was no less pointed, even if she once supported the war and has taken heat from liberal Bay Area constituents who remain wary of her position. “Our forces are caught in the middle of an escalating sectarian conflict in Iraq, with no end in sight,” the bio quotes.

More than two dozen House members and senators have used the August recess to travel to Iraq in the hope of getting a firsthand view of the war ahead of commanding Gen. David H. Petraeus’s progress report in two weeks on Capitol Hill. But it appears

that the trips have been as much about Iraqi and U.S. officials sizing up Congress as the members of Congress sizing up the war.

Brief, choreographed and carefully controlled, the codels (short for congressional delegations) often have showed only what the Pentagon and the Bush administration have wanted the lawmakers to see.

At one point, as Moran, Tauscher and Rep. Jon Porter (R-Nev.) were heading to lunch in the fortified Green Zone, an American urgently tried to get their attention, apparently to voice concerns about the war effort, the participants said. Security whisked the man away before he could make his point.

Tauscher called it “the Green Zone fog.”

“Spin City,” Moran grumbled. “The Iraqis and the Americans were all singing from the same song sheet, and it was deliberately manipulated.”

But even such tight control could not always filter out the bizarre world inside the barricades.

At one point, the three were trying to discuss the state of Iraqi security forces with Iraq’s national security adviser, Mowaffak al-Rubaie, but the large, flat-panel television set facing the official proved to be a distraction.

Rubaie was watching children’s cartoons.

When Moran asked him to turn it off, Rubaie protested with a laugh and said, “But this is my favorite television show,” Moran recalled.

Porter confirmed the incident, although he tried to paint the scene in the best light, noting that at least they had electricity.

“I don’t disagree it was an odd moment, but I did take a deep breath and say, ‘Wait a minute, at least they are using the latest technology, and they are monitoring the world,’” Porter said. “But, yes, it was pretty annoying.”

It was the bio sheets that seemed to annoy the members of Congress the most. Just who assembled them is not clear.

E-mails to U.S. Central Command’s public affairs office in Baghdad this week went unanswered.

“I had never seen that in the past. That’s new,” said Porter, who was on his fourth trip to Iraq. “Now I want to see what they’re saying about me,” he added, when he learned of the contents of his travel companions’ rap sheets.

For one, the quotations appeared to be selected to divide the visitors into those who are with the war effort and those who are against.

For another, they were not exactly accurate.

Under “latest Iraq vote,” Tauscher’s bio noted that she had voted in favor of legislation requiring the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq within 120 days of the bill’s enactment.

She did vote that way -- in May.

On Aug. 2, Tauscher voted in favor of her own bill, which mandates that troops be granted a leave from combat at least as long as their last combat deployment before being shipped back to Iraq.

That vote might have been a little too popular with the soldiers she was meeting, Tauscher said.

DOD OPSEC Worse Than Soldier Blogs: Army Audits Found 1,813 Violations on Official Websites, Only 28 on Blogs



RAMADI, IRAQ - Soldiers go online at the Rock Hard Cafe. [Joe Raedle/Getty]

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

August 17, 2007 Iraq Slogger & By Noah Shachtman, blog.wired.com

For years, members of the military brass have been warning that soldiers’ blogs could pose a security threat by leaking sensitive wartime information.

But a series of online audits, conducted by the Army, suggests that official Defense Department websites post far more potentially-harmful than blogs do.

The audits, performed by the Army Web Risk Assessment Cell between January 2006 and January 2007, found at least 1,813 violations of operational security policy on 878 official military websites.

In contrast, the 10-man, Manassas, Virginia, unit discovered 28 breaches, at most, on 594 individual blogs during the same period.

"It's clear that official Army websites are the real security problem, not blogs," said EFF staff attorney Marcia Hofmann.

"Bloggers, on the whole, have been very careful and conscientious. It's a pretty major disparity."

The findings stand in stark contrast to Army statements about the risks that blogs pose.

"Some soldiers continue to post sensitive information to internet websites and blogs," then-Army Chief of Staff Peter Schoomaker wrote in a 2005 memo. "Such OPSEC (operational security) violations needlessly place lives at risk." That same year, commanders in Iraq ordered troops to register their blogs "with the unit chain of command."

Originally formed in 2002 to police official Defense Department websites, the Army Web Risk Assessment Cell, or AWRAC, expanded its mission in 2005.

A handful of military bloggers, including then-Spec. Colby Buzzell, were seen as providing too many details of firefights in Iraq. Buzzell, for one, was banned from patrols and confined to base after one such incident, and AWRAC began looking for others like him on blogs and .com sites.

But AWRAC hunted for more than overly vivid battle descriptions.

It scoured pages for all kinds of information: personal data, like home addresses and Social Security numbers; restricted and classified documents; even pictures of weapons. When these violations were found, AWRAC contacted the webmaster or blog editor, and asked that they change their sites.

"Big Brother is not watching you, but 10 members of a Virginia National Guard unit might be," an official Army news story warned bloggers.

Within the Army, some worried that the blog-monitoring had compromised AWRAC's original goal.

"My suspicion ... is that the AWRAC's attention is being diverted by the new mission of reviewing all the Army blogs," reads an e-mail from the office of the Army Chief Information Officer obtained in EFF's FOIA lawsuit.

"In the past they did a good job of detecting and correcting (website policy compliance) violations, but that is currently not the case."

Recent Army regulations advised soldiers they were required to have any blog postings or other public communications cleared by superiors before posting.

Military leaders have been so insistent on the need to crack down on soldiers' ability to freely communicate in public venues, they're likely going to be embarrassed by the public revelation that Army audits have shown official DOD websites have committed far more violations of operational security than military blogs.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

31 Aug 2007 Reuters & 01 Sep 2007 Reuters & Xinhua

A roadside bomb killed five Iraqi soldiers on patrol in northern Mosul, army Brigadier-General Noor Al-Deen Hussain said.

Police found the body of a member of the judicial council of Mosul in the west of the city, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. He had been shot several times.

Guerrillas killed one soldier and wounded a civilian in a drive-by shooting on the road between the town of Riyadh and Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A car bomb killed four police commandos and wounded seven others when it targeted their patrol in al-Jallam village near Samarra, 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two tribesmen and four militants were killed in clashes on Thursday in the town of Haqlaniya near Haditha, 250 km (150 miles) west of Baghdad.

Insurgents killed an employee of the customs office in Hawija, 70 km (43 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

A bomber blew up his explosive-laden car near an Iraqi army checkpoint in a neighborhood in the southern part of the Mosul city, wounding two soldiers

The blast destroyed a military vehicle.

<p>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**“Iraq Veterans Against The War
Are The Most Legitimate Voice Of
The Anti War Movement, Period”
“It’s Time To ‘Storm The Bastille’”**



IVAW members in St Louis, 8-18-07 [Photo By Ward Reilly, Veteran]

From: Ward Reilly [Veteran]
To: GI Special
Sent: August 21, 2007
Subject: The NEW U.S. Exit Strategy from Iraq

Here is an exclusive picture for the GIS, to go with the short piece I sent last night... I call it “The NEW U.S. Exit Strategy from Iraq”.

These guys are ready to storm the Bastille...80 IVAW members attended...I wish you could have been there with us, but in a way, you were...they've come a long way from Ft. Bragg-March, 2005....

All respect,
peace from Ward

“The NEW U.S. Exit Strategy from Iraq”

August 27, 2007 by Ward Reilly

“War Is Not A Game!”, I heard 75 members of “Iraq Veterans Against the War” scream out, as they stood at attention in company formation at a protest they planned, taking place near a display of military vehicles, recruiters, civilians, and active duty troops in St. Louis on Saturday, August 18th.

IVAW members were attending their 2nd national meeting, and they decided to do a street action, when they learned of the military exhibition going on nearby. It was a beautiful action, done in military style, except using reality as ammo.

Truth. The NEW U.S. Exit Strategy from Iraq.

Seriously, this is the most important fight of the century, folks. In one corner, it's Iraq Veterans Against the War, also known as “The Truth”, and in the other corner it's the Neocons, also known as the “Death Machine”.

WWF you ask? Hardly. This is the war for peace. The prize for the winner of this battle will not be a trophy or a belt, rather it will be the concept of the United States, and what the common people believe in.

This fight will NOT be seen on FOX television.

The losers, should it be IVAW, will be EVERY U.S. citizen that lives today, for we will forever be known as the “New Nazis”, in the eyes of the world. If Bush and Cheney are allowed by Congress, and we the people, to get away with their genocide, without justice being served to them, our nation is finished, period.

By default, IVAW can only win if Bush and Cheney are brought to justice before the next presidential inauguration. Anything short of a resignation and/or their indictment before then, means that the Constitution is lost forever. The USA will be DOA. Preventive warfare will now be the world standard, and who poses the biggest threat to world today with 25,000 nuclear bombs? We do, of course.

Iraq Veterans Against the War are the most legitimate voice of the anti war movement, period. Young men and women that have been to Iraq or Afghanistan, and know the truth about what is happening there.

Brave, beautiful, and mad. Intelligent, damaged, and spit out by a lying administration. Sickened by what they know to be the real story of Iraq, that being that the U.S. military is being used as an oppressive police and occupation force, to protect the mercenary oil-army of the Neocons, at the cost of our soldier's sanity.

IVAW has served.

Their enemy (all residing in Washington) is ruthless. Their enemy is bloodthirsty. Their enemy is clueless to reality. Their enemy never served anything but themselves, but controls the military.

IVAW is ready to make a stand. They are organized, willing, and able to lead the anti war movement to victory.

We can only help them as much as possible, and hope that they can win this fight for peace and justice.

"War Is Not A Game", and IVAW isn't in the mood to play any longer.

I encourage every so-called leader, of EVERY organization against the war, to seek them out.

Send them money.

Bring their members to your people and to your actions.

Watch, listen, and learn about how we can stop the war pigs, by allowing IVAW into their rightful, and hard earned position, as leaders of the anti war movement.

They lead with the truth, and they are all on-message.

We need these Iraq and Afghanistan vets speaking in Congress NOW. We need them on 60 Minutes NOW. By my way of thinking, as of August, we have 17 months until the next presidential inauguration, which means IVAW, and the USA, has 17 months left to win, to save the nation, and to survive this Neocon-induced disgrace, aka the occupation of the Middle East.

The time for any political correctness has come and gone. We marched against this war before it started, and the politicians said F#@K YOU!

We voted that the war to be stopped last November, and the politicians told all 300 million of us F#@K YOU!

We've done everything that we could, by peaceful means. Now we must change tactics.

It's time to "storm the Bastille".

IVAW represents the America we dream of. The Bush administration are war criminals, that resemble Hitler in action, and they will bring us ALL down in shame if we don't stop them BEFORE they retire into the (bloody) sunset.

“WAR IS NOT A GAME” I heard IVAW scream.

“The surge is a success” I hear General Betray-us whimper.

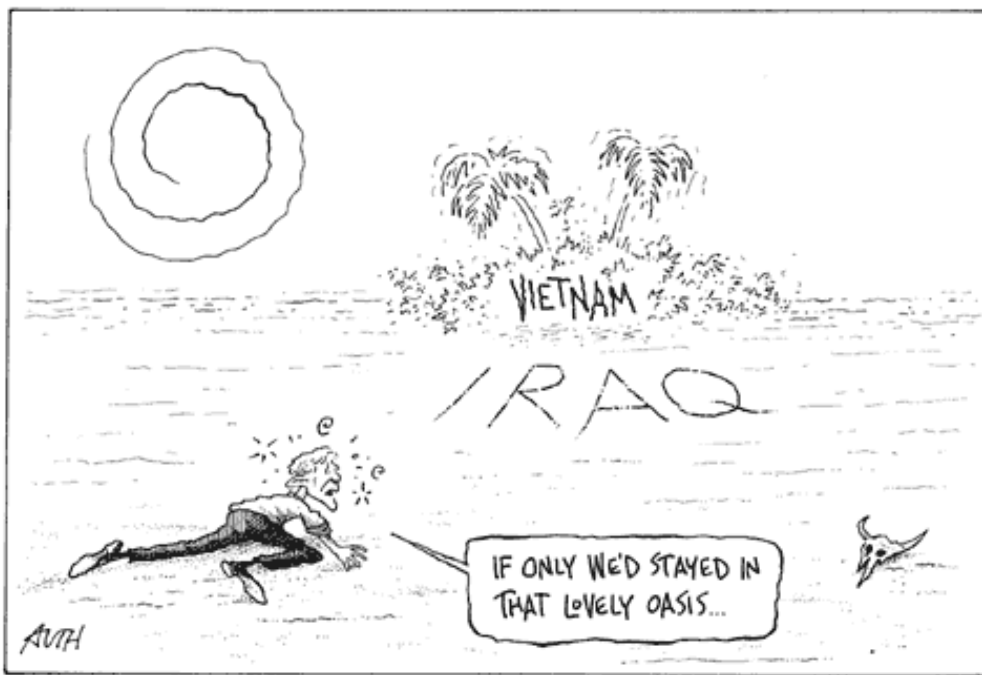
It’s David vs. Goliath, and Goliath has 25,000 nuclear bombs at his disposal... but David has the truth.

It’s winner-take-all time folks, and it’s time to rise from your seats and work for “The Truth”.

If I recall the story correctly, David wins.

Peace is not a game, either.

“The Real Lessons Of Vietnam” “Build Within The Ranks Of The Military Itself”



August 31, 2007 Socialist Worker Editorial [Excerpts]

GEORGE BUSH served up a heaping platter of self-serving distortions and discredited right-wing myths in his much-hyped speech comparing the war that the U.S. lost in Vietnam to the one it’s losing in Iraq.

Even foreign policy establishment types were appalled by Bush's speech--albeit because they fear Bush had managed to contaminate U.S. policy in the Middle East with the "Vietnam syndrome," which limited popular support for U.S. intervention for decades after America was kicked out of Vietnam.

THE HOSTILE response to Bush's speech should have been another nail in the coffin of his Iraq policy--now rejected by 75 percent of the country--on the eve of the September report by military commanders on what has taken place since the "surge" of U.S. troops announced at the start of the year.

All this underscores the importance of the real lessons of Vietnam: that the mightiest occupying imperial army cannot subdue a nationalist resistance forever, and that to be effective, the antiwar movement in the U.S. must mobilize independently of the politicians, and build within the ranks of the military itself.

"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

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.

Those Missing 190,000 AK-47s? "Losing Your 'Piece,' When I Enlisted Was A Mortal Sin!"

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

8.14.07 The Fayetteville Citizen

190,000 AK-47s

Pentagon admits that many are "missing" in Iraq.

If the Pentagon admits that many, then from my experience with their information, there must be twice that many missing!

There has been about three quarters of a million soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan---so maybe they forgot their guns?

Losing your "piece," when I enlisted was a mortal sin!

Where are we educating our generals that they will follow such orders issued by an administration who is obviously so ignorant that they are dangerous?

Lose guns, let millions of IED materials loose into the population upon taking Baghdad, have no plan for terrorists at all, have far too few soldiers to occupy, on and on and on!!!

Where are our real heroes who tell these stupid war managers where to stick their orders?

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



Iraqi children watch as foreign occupation soldiers from the 2nd battalion, 32nd Field Artillery brigade search their house during an armed home invasion in Baghdad August 11, 2007. REUTERS/Damir Sagolj

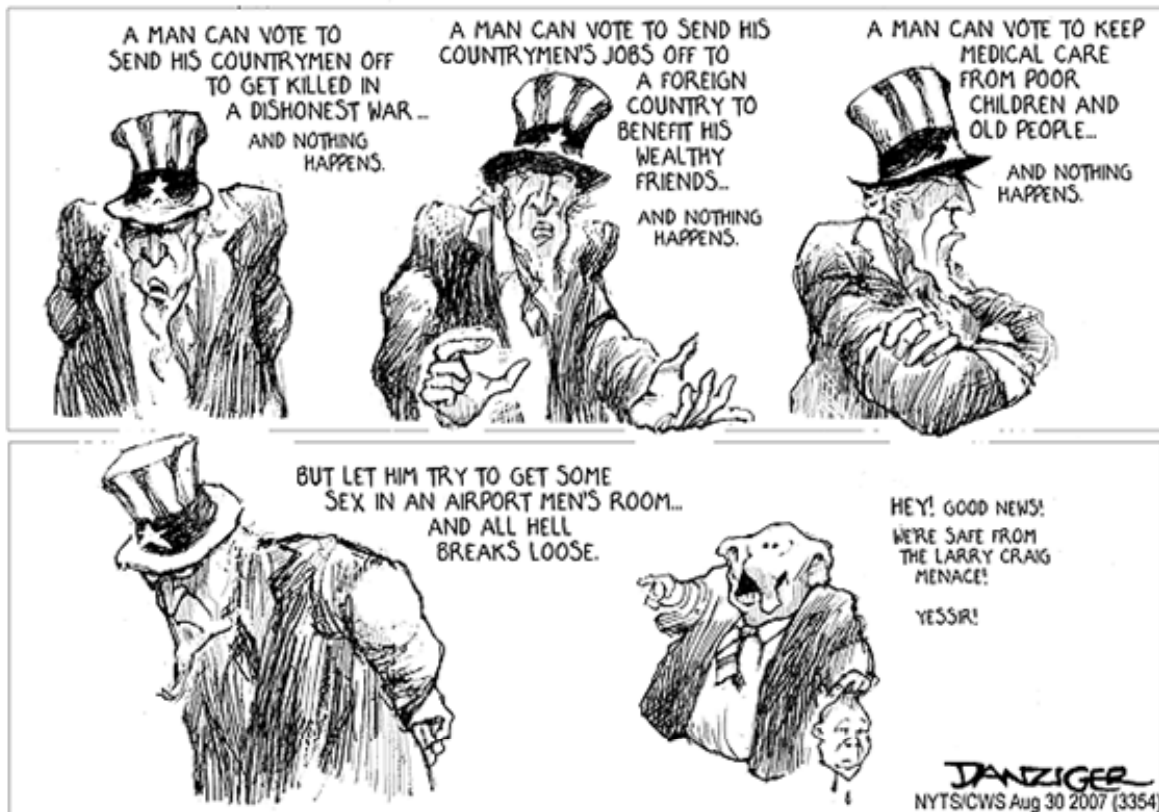
[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't 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?]

The women and children were moved into a room, where they huddled together in silence. The men had been forced down onto their knees wherever they were apprehended, their hands secured behind their backs with plastic handcuffs and their eyes covered by makeshift blindfolds. YOCHI J. DREAZEN, Wall St. Journal, 3.12.07

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Bush Pledges Immediate Withdrawal Of U.S. Troops From Iraq

9.1.07 Wall St. Journal

Bush met with military leaders concerned about the strain on troops because of repeated tours in Iraq and pledged to provide what the armed forces need.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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

“We Just Sit Around Here With Life Slipping By”
“They Don’t Have Places For Old People In New Orleans Yet”
“I Don’t Want To Die In A Little Trailer In The Middle Of A Field Somewhere”

August 31, 2007 By ELIZABETH SCHULTE, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

WHEN HURRICANE Katrina hit the Gulf Coast two years ago, 79-year-old Carrie Lewis had to flee her assisted-living home in New Orleans. Two years later, she’s still living in a trailer, 100 miles northwest of New Orleans.

"I want to go home," Lewis told a reporter. "They don't have places for old people in New Orleans yet. What am I supposed to do? I don't want to die in a little trailer in the middle of a field somewhere."

When Katrina hit, 65-year-old Phyllis Taylor also had to evacuate. But for Taylor, that meant leaving behind her downtown penthouse apartment for her 40,000-acre ranch in Foxworth, Miss.

Taylor is the richest woman in the second-poorest state in the country. She became chair and CEO of Taylor Energy company--the largest privately held oil and gas company on the Gulf of Mexico--after her oilman husband died in 2004. In 2007, Forbes magazine estimated her net worth at \$1.6 billion.

After the storm, a window was broken in Taylor's penthouse, and the air-conditioning was out. Carrie Lewis lost everything.

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina exposed to the world the reality of two Americas, standing side by side--one rich and one poor. Two years later, that harsh reality remains--but Katrina's victims are gone from the media's attention.

Carrie Lewis is like tens of thousands of people still living in trailers supplied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)--45,000 trailers in Louisiana, 20,000 in Mississippi, 17,000 in Texas and 400 in Alabama--because there is nowhere else for them to go.

Pamela Lomis lives in a FEMA trailer with her two children at the Sugar Hill trailer park, in the middle of the cane fields near Convent, La. Somewhere between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, she's 20 miles from the nearest grocery store. There's only one bus that goes there. It leaves at 9 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m.

"We just sit around here with life slipping by," Lomis said. "We're just on hold. Just waiting for something that never comes."

With no homes to go back to--since no one put a priority on rebuilding the low-income housing that many of the poor and elderly once lived in--many are reaching the breaking point.

"I want out of this trailer, out of this place," said Helen Felton, a resident of Renaissance Village trailer park. "But I get my little Social Security check. Do you know how far \$660 goes?"

And the Katrina refugees can expect matters to get worse--people still living in trailers in 2008 will have to start paying rent to FEMA.

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/magalat/english/gi-special.htm>

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