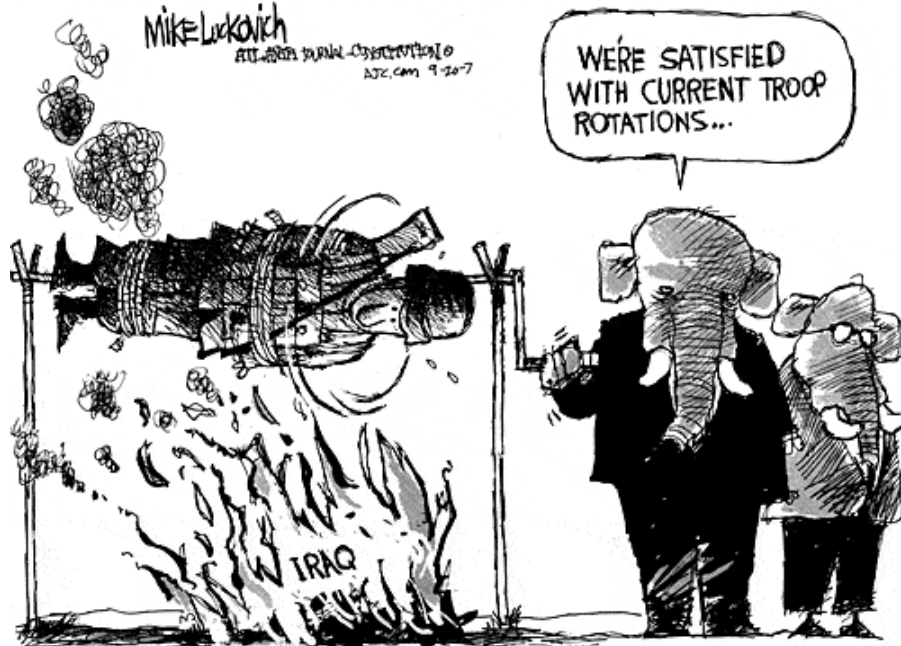


GI SPECIAL 5125:



**“The Veterans
Administration
Determined He Was 80 %
Disabled”**

**“We Were In The Middle Of Getting
The VA Paperwork Filed With The
Marines When They Tried Calling
Him Back For A Third Tour”**

“He Was Telling Me About How The Occupation Was Destroying People’s Lives”

[Thanks to Frank Millspaugh, who sent this in.]

13 September 2007 By Amber Healy, The Fairfax Connection [Excerpts]

Tina Richards fought with the Department of Defense for nine months to prevent her son, who had already served two tours in Iraq, from returning to battle after the Veterans Administration determined he was 80 percent disabled from post-traumatic stress disorder.

“We were in the middle of getting the VA paperwork filed with the Marines when they tried calling him back for a third tour,” said Richards, now an activist on behalf of veterans who return home from Iraq with mental health issues that directly result from their duty overseas.

“When my son first came home, he was telling me about how the occupation was destroying people’s lives and I knew I had to do what I could to stop it,” she said.

Adam Kokesh joined the Marines when he was 17 in 1999, fresh out of high school and eager to serve.

Kokesh and his division were among the first on the ground in Iraq, eyewitness to the raids on Fallujah in 2004.

“It was a very interesting time,” he said. “We were there for the battle in April, we were there when Saddam was taken out of power and we held our position through the alleged transfer of power to the Iraqi parliament.”

FROM THAT VANTAGE point, Kokesh said he saw the rise in the number of insurgent attacks against American soldiers who were stationed in the city to protect Iraqi homes and streets.

Early on, he said, he believed the mission in Fallujah was “a failure.”

“We waited until August to disband and until November to try to get into the city from the outer perimeter because Bush couldn’t get elected with 20 Marines dead in Fallujah,” he said.

“We saw two or three guys die each day patrolling the city.”

Kokesh gained a measure of national notoriety earlier this year when he was stripped of his honorable discharge from the Marines for wearing parts of his uniform during protests in Washington in March. He’s also become a leader of Iraq Veterans Against

the War, a national organization of veterans and currently enlisted members of the military who want troops to begin coming home soon.

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

Services Held In The Memory Of Nick Patterson; “Bring Our Boys Back Home Where They Need To Be”

Sep 19, 2007 WNDU

Rochester, IN

A big show of support in Rochester on Wednesday as the small town said goodbye to a soldier who was a son, a husband and a father.

Army Sergeant Nick Patterson, 24 years old, died last week with six of his fellow soldiers.

Although some funeral goers may not have known him, they were still able to appreciate and celebrate his life.

About fifty men and women on their motorcycles, members of the Patriot Guard, led a slow procession through Rochester on Wednesday. They came to pay their respects to a soldier who most did not know personally, but they do know the weight of his and his family's sacrifice.

“I don't absolutely need to know the circumstances, I know that a young man died defending our country, they make the call and we come,” said Jeff Lantz, a Patriot Guard rider.

Patterson was a 2001 graduate of Rochester High School. He married his high school sweetheart, Jaimie. The couple has a four-year-old son, Riley.

In the small town of Rochester, Patterson was a familiar face. So was Sgt. Jeff McLochlin, who died in Iraq last July.

“You see those families in town just shopping in Wal-Mart or grocery shopping... you’re just at a loss for words, you don’t know what to say to them,” said Diana Irwin.

And even if they did not know what to say, lots of people in Rochester came to show the Patterson family their support.

They are also supporting the men and women who remain overseas -- thinking about them and worrying.

“We have a son-in-law serving as a combat medic, and it’s just real difficult that our boys are losing our lives,” said Sherri Durham, a family friend of the Pattersons.

And wishing they could stop worrying.

“Bring our boys back home where they need to be,” said John Durham.

Patterson was killed last week when his vehicle rolled over in a non-combat related accident.

South Dakota Staff Sgt. Killed In Iraq



82nd Airborne Division Staff Sgt. Zachary Tomczak, 24, of Huron, S.D., 24, was shot and killed while on patrol in a suburb of Baghdad Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2007. (AP Photo/82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg)

Oklahoma Staff Sgt. Killed In Iraq



Staff Sgt. Kevin Brown. Brown, 38, of Harrah, Okla., died Sept. 25, 2007, in Iraq, after an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/Family)

Paratrooper Killed In Iraq Crash Recalled As Loyal, Athletic: “He Also Could See Firsthand That A Lot Of What Was Going On Wasn’t Working”

September 14, 2007 By Associated Press

ABINGDON, Md. - A soldier who went to high school in Western Massachusetts was one of seven paratroopers killed when their vehicle rolled over in Iraq, the Department of Defense said yesterday.

Specialist Ari Brown-Weeks, 23, a military radio operator from Abingdon, Md., was killed in Monday’s accident in western Baghdad. The seven soldiers were members of the 82d Airborne Division’s Second Brigade, based at Fort Bragg, N.C..

The soldiers were returning from a raid when their truck “veered off an elevated highway” and fell about 30 feet, division spokesman Major Tom Earnhardt said.

Brown-Weeks excelled academically and athletically, loved his family, and embodied loyalty, family members said.

He joined the 82d Airborne Division in December and was deployed to Iraq in the first wave of the surge of troops into the country in January, a month after getting married.

His father - Jon Weeks of Leyden, Mass. - said he was scheduled to return home in November.

Brown-Weeks was the only child of Weeks and Karyn Brown. His parents told The Republican in Springfield that their son was good at sports and academics and liked to write poetry.

“He loved his family above all and was loyal to the end with his friends,” Weeks said. “He loved being around people and always needed to be where the action was.”

His decision to enlist was influenced by the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, his father said.

“He believed they were fighting terrorists there so they won’t come here,” Weeks told The Recorder in Greenfield.

“He did believe that. But he also could see firsthand that a lot of what was going on wasn’t working.”

Brown-Weeks went to Pioneer Valley Regional School in Northfield before getting his GED. He met his wife, Ashley, at a wholesale business in Massachusetts. He attended schools and college in the state for one semester before joining the Army.

He was living in Maryland at the time of his enlistment, according to military records, and his funeral will be there. The family has not completed funeral plans.

U.S. Apache Shot Down Near Baghdad

27 Sep 2007 Reuters & Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

A U.S. Apache Task Force Marne AH-64 attack helicopter was hit by small arms fire while assisting troops fighting gunmen on Wednesday crashed at a military base south of Baghdad, the military said. No one on board was hurt.

Mortar Attack On British Basra Base

Sept 28 (KUNA)

A British military base at Basra Airport was hit by mortars Thursday night, the British troops in southern Iraq said on Friday.

Unidentified gunmen shelled with mortars the British military base at Basra Airport but no damage or casualties were reported, a spokesman of the British troops said in a statement.

This is the second attack against the British troops in the south since they withdrew from the Basra Palace in mid August.(

***60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops
Dead: Big Surprise***
**The Massacre In Abu Dshir:
Seven Killed For Playing A Game
Outdoors:
“May God Revenge The Bloodshed Of
Those Martyrs”**



A funeral was held Friday for Iraqis killed in an American airstrike on Thursday in the Abu Dshir district of Baghdad. Marko Georgiev for The New York Times

September 29, 2007 By ALISSA J. RUBIN, The New York Times

BAGHDAD, Sept. 28 — For the battered working-class district of Abu Dshir, Ramadan evenings bring a rare air of festivity. The temperature is still warm, but the heat of summer has abated.

Families stroll outdoors, and young men play nightly matches of a traditional Ramadan game called mihaidis, in which teams try to find a hidden ring.

As the teams lined up Thursday for the game, neighborhood residents said, a crowd of men gathered to watch. They lighted a large oil lamp which illuminated the street, a small shopping area where grocers and fruit vendors stay open late this time of year.

Two American helicopters hovered overhead, witnesses said.

Moments after the game began, the helicopters opened fire on the crowd, the witnesses said.

Seven men were killed, Sayyid Malik Abadi, the head of the district security committee, who arrived at the scene shortly after the episode, said Friday.

He said perhaps an eighth man had died as well, but too many body parts were scattered about to be certain exactly how many were killed.

“The helicopters watched, and they thought it was a gathering and fired on it,” Mr. Abadi said. “They fired rockets. When people started to run, the helicopters’ machine guns began shooting at the people who were running.”

The Abu Dshir district, a district that is majority Shiite, is largely controlled by the Mahdi Army, the militia loyal to the anti-American cleric Moktada al-Sadr, according to people who live there.

However, members of the Mahdi Army in Abu Dshir have been observing the cease-fire ordered by Mr. Sadr in August, neighbors said. No one in the neighborhood appeared to be armed during a reporter’s visit on Friday, although a few wore the black shirt and pants that the Mahdi Army often favors.

Hussein Jassim, 61, a shop owner, said the militia members in the area were no longer active. “All the world knows that the Mahdi Army has been frozen on the orders of our leader Sayyied Moktada al-Sadr, so targeting this gathering, and saying they are Mahdi Army fighters, is all a lie,” he said.

On Friday morning, relatives and neighbors gathered to escort the men’s coffins to the neighborhood’s Shiite mosque. The coffins arrived at the mosque in the back of pickup trucks.

A crowd of men in loose T-shirts and sandals stood silently watching the trucks as they approached. Men from the family stood among the coffins. On one truck was a boy, crying hysterically.

Mr. Abadi said three of the boy’s brothers had been killed.

The violence on Thursday occurred a little before 8 p.m., after families had finished breaking the daily Ramadan fast, according to eyewitnesses.

For Ahmed Abdullah, 37, a taxi driver, who was also near the scene, confusion mixed with anger and grief. On Friday, he stood watching the coffins being loaded back onto the trucks to be driven for burial to Najaf, a city holy to Shiites.

“It was a real massacre of innocent people, without clear reason,” he said.

“I lost my brother-in-law — he was the father of three kids and he was just watching the game.

“May God revenge the bloodshed of those martyrs.”

[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]

MORE:

Another Great Moment In U.S. Military History: Attacks Kill 9 Terrorist Women And Kids & A Preacher In Bahbahani

27/09/2007 Reuters

US forces are investigating an air strike in southern Iraq this week which local police said killed five women and four children, a US military statement said today.

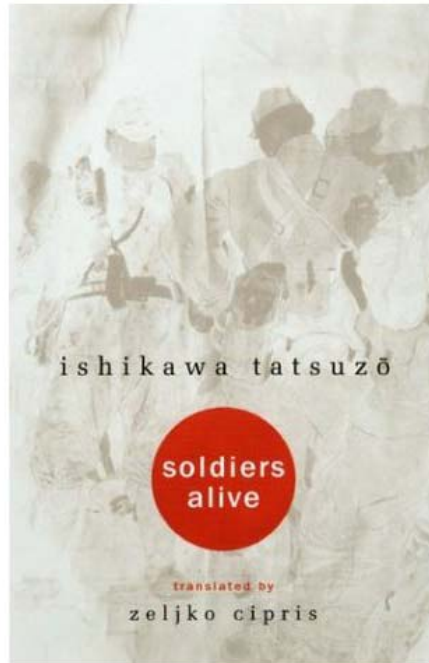
Amer Zamil, an employee in Mussayib hospital, said two of the children were decapitated, evidently in the bombing.

The US attack took place on Tuesday in the village of Bahbahani, about 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad.

Asked then about civilian casualties reported by local police, the spokeswoman said the US military had no reports that civilians were killed.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information, said ground forces raided a local mosque and the preacher, Imam Hassan Abboud al-Janabi, also was killed.

Ishikawa and Kuroshima would understand: insert troops into a hell on earth and there's no way to prevent atrocities. Yet the real fiends in their capital suites are never spattered with a single drop of blood. Solidarity, Z



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two Danish Soldiers Killed In Helmand

Sep 27, 2007 (Reuters) & DPA

Two Danish soldiers have been killed in fighting with Taliban insurgents in the Helmand province in southern Afghanistan, the Danish Central Army Command said on Thursday.

The Danish army said in a statement the soldiers were killed when Taliban forces attacked Danish positions several times over a two-hour period on Wednesday evening.

A third Danish soldier was injured but his injuries were not life-threatening, the Army Operational Command said.

Two Canadians Wounded In Panjwaii Ambush

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - Two Canadian soldiers are recovering in hospital following a Taliban ambush.

The soldiers were part of an operation in the Panjwaii district where Canadians are re-establishing a police substation in an area known to be a stronghold for Taliban insurgents.

One of the wounded soldiers was shot in the leg. The other received shrapnel wounds from a rocket-propelled grenade at around 8:45 a.m. local time today.

Both are in stable condition in hospital at Kandahar Airfield.

After Car Bomb Attack, U.S. Troops Fire Wildly At Everybody: Shit-Mouth Major Joe Klopple Gets Caught Telling Stupid Lies About What Happened

27 September 2007 (Reuters)

Three suicide bombers in one vehicle attacked a US convoy in the village of Bati Kot, 15 km (9 miles) east of Jalalabad, but none of the soldiers was hurt.

Two of the bombers were killed immediately in the blast. The third, dressed in a police uniform, survived only to be shot dead by troops, the US military and a Reuters witness said.

A fire brigade vehicle speeding to the scene then rammed into the US and Afghan vehicles.

“I saw everything,” said Reuters correspondent Noor Mohammad Sherzai. “I saw the suicide bomb attack ...

“I saw the fire brigade vehicle rushing to the area at top speed. Somehow its brakes failed and hit one police vehicle and coalition vehicles, then the Americans started firing,” he said.

A spokesman for US-led coalition forces said only one soldier had opened fire. "A US servicemen fired two shots and those shots were away from the crowd and not directed toward the crowd," said Major Joe Kloppe.

Sherzai and other reporters at the scene said many shots were fired and Afghan police were among those fleeing the scene.

"I was running away as fast as I could, but some of the police overtook me," Sherzai said.

The police, he said, "were very angry because the Americans were shooting and wanted to shoot back but others stopped them".

"A bullet hit the ground between my legs while I was running," said Takiullah Taki, a cameraman for private Afghan channel Tolo TV.

"Some Afghan national police wanted to shoot back, but others said that would make the situation deteriorate further so they did not."

Sherzai said he later saw two people being taken away in an ambulance.

Collaborator Clusterfuck: **Resistance Spokesman Qari Yousef** **Arrested But Cop Says "I Don't Know** **Which Qari Yousef It Was Or How** **Many There Are"** **[Resistance Fighter Qari Yousef Tells** **Reporter It's Not Him]**

9.27.07 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan - A man claiming to be a leading Taliban spokesman on Thursday denied a government report that he had been arrested, while a police official said it was possible the person being held just happened to have the same name.

The Interior Ministry said Qari Yousef Ahmadi was taken into custody with his brother during a police operation Wednesday in Sufiyan village in southern Helmand province.

But a man claiming to be Ahmadi called an Associated Press reporter who recognized his voice, saying the Interior Ministry's report was incorrect.

“I’ve not been arrested,” he said. “I don’t know if they arrested some innocent villager with the same name.”

Helmand provincial Police Chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwai said it was possible that the man held just shared the Taliban spokesman’s name.

“We have arrested Qari Yousef and his brother from a house yesterday, but I don’t know which Qari Yousef it was or how many there are,” Andiwai said.

Recently there have been two spokesmen — Ahmadi, who covers southern Afghanistan, and Zabiullah Mujahid, who speaks on the militia’s activities in the north and east. Mujahid also disputed the Interior Ministry report, saying Ahmadi was free.

TROOP NEWS

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



The burial service for Army Staff Sgt. Jason M. Butkus, 34, of West Milford, N.J., Sept. 24, 2007, at Arlington National Cemetery. Butkus was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, out of Fort Riley, Kan. Butkus died Aug. 30 when his Humvee was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade in Baghdad. (AP Photo/Haraz N. Ghanbari)

**GUESS WHO’S WORRIED
GUESS WHO ISN’T**

GUESS WHY BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers from A company 2-23 Infantry Battalion patrol streets in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, 60 miles north of Baghdad, Sept. 13, 2007. (AP Photo / Karel Prinsloo)

“My Unit As A Whole Feels Cheated Out Of Training” “We Fear That Further Training Here Will Ultimately Cause Future Casualties On The Battlefield”

After firing my qualification on the .50-cal range, I was yelled at for not putting the weapon on the safe setting. I tried to explain to the sergeant first class that the weapon does not have a safe setting. He would not listen and then tried to show me where the safety was.

Letters To The Editor
Army Times
9.24.07

I am concerned about the way National Guard troops are being trained during their mobilization period in Camp Shelby, Miss. I am in the final weeks of a three-month mobilization at Camp Shelby in preparation for a deployment to Iraq.

Here at Camp Shelby, they have a “check the box” mentality about training, and will push units through the motions without allowing them time to grasp some concepts.

The observer/controllers should not be in a position to educate soldiers.

One example: After firing my qualification on the .50-cal range, I was yelled at for not putting the weapon on the safe setting.

I tried to explain to the sergeant first class that the weapon does not have a safe setting. He would not listen and then tried to show me where the safety was. He never found it.

In the three months of training I have had, I have learned maybe one or two things important to my deployment. My unit as a whole feels cheated out of training.

It is my feeling and the feeling of my fellow soldiers that Camp Shelby is a distortion of what Army training should be, and we fear that further training here will ultimately cause future casualties on the battlefield.

Spc. Joseph Bergamino
Virginia Beach, Va.

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.

**Iraq Veterans Against The War
Party And Fundraiser 7:30 PM To 10PM
Staten Island, NY**

When: Saturday September 29 6PM-10PM

Where:

Unitarian Church Parish Hall (at 312 Fillmore, corner of Clinton)

After the general Peace Action of Staten Island meeting we are having a dessert and drinks fundraiser for the Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW).

The IVAW has taken a lead role in stopping this war.

Please come celebrate and support their invaluable contribution to the peace movement.

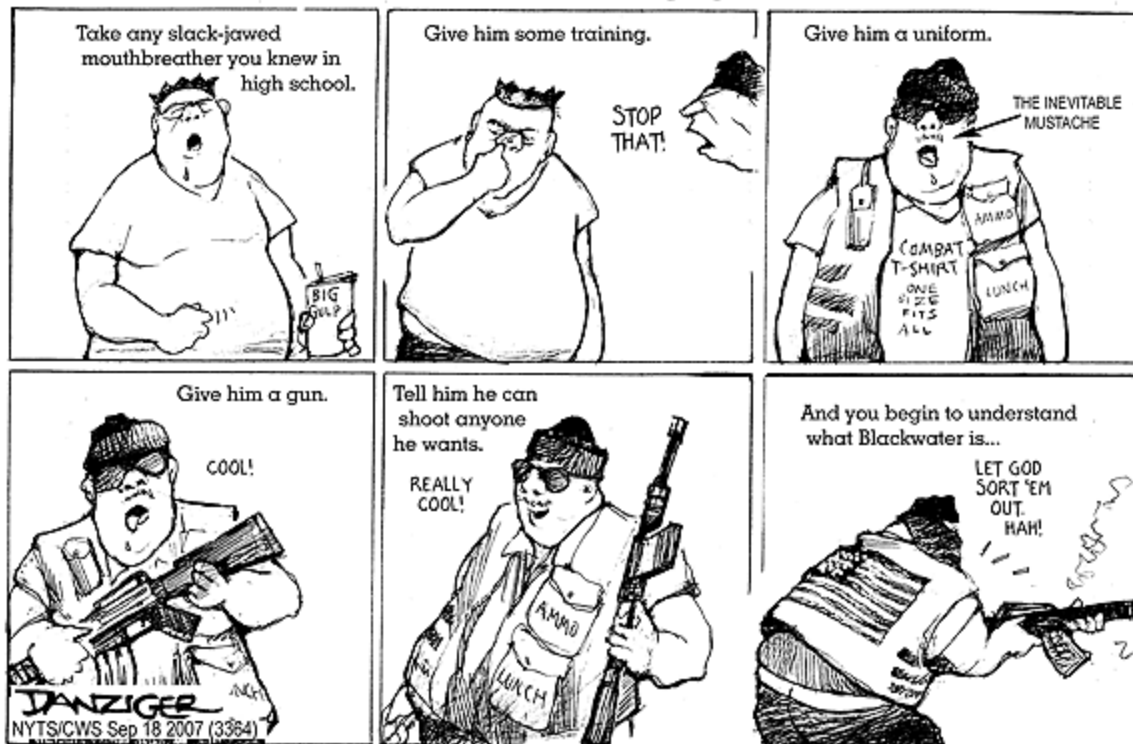
It is a good opportunity for us to have fun together and support a good cause.

How Blackwater Kill Freaks Butchered Unarmed Iraqi Civilians:

“To Attack Body-Armored Vehicles With Bullets? No One Can Believe This,’ The Police Official Said”

“Dead And Wounded Were Found In Almost Every Direction, Police Said”

Blackwater Private Security Explained



September 29, 2007 By Sudarsan Raghavan and Karen DeYoung, Washington Post Foreign Service

BAGHDAD, Sept 28 -- Five eyewitnesses to a Sept. 16 shooting incident in Baghdad involving the private security firm Blackwater USA insisted that company guards fired

without provocation, forcing civilians and Iraqi police to run for cover, and that the Iraqi officers did not return fire.

The eyewitnesses and a senior Iraqi police official close to an investigation of the incident contradicted initial accounts provided by the company and the State Department, which employs Blackwater to protect U.S. diplomats.

At least 11 Iraqis died in the shootings, which have focused attention on the actions of largely unregulated security companies operating in Iraq.

“The Iraqi security forces had the right to shoot at them when they saw the (Blackwater) convoy shooting at the people, but they did not shoot at the convoy,” said Ahmed Ali Jassim, 19, a maintenance worker who saw the shooting.

“When they see Iraqis getting shot like that, their blood would be boiling. But no one crossed the limits.” [Lesson learned. Next time, cross the limit. Open fire. It’s called self defense.]

The eyewitnesses -- three traffic policemen and two maintenance workers who were interviewed separately -- offered a dramatically different account of the events in Nisoor Square.

Traffic police officer Sarhan Thiab said that shortly after noon he saw two Blackwater convoys, minutes apart, come through the traffic circle. Following procedure, he and other traffic officers ordered cars to stop entering the circle to allow the convoys to pass.

Fifteen minutes later, a third Blackwater convoy of four gray REVA armored vehicles arrived.

Unlike the two previous convoys, this one swerved left and rolled into the circle against the flow of traffic, the eyewitnesses said. Such a move made it more difficult for the traffic policemen to slow down vehicles that were driving directly into the convoy.

The Blackwater guards threw water bottles in the circle to halt traffic, Thiab said. He and another officer, Ali Khalaf, walked into two intersections to stop traffic heading toward the convoy, which had stopped in a semicircle.

Suddenly, guards fired on a white sedan that did not slow down quickly enough, the witnesses said. The car kept moving forward, but not in a threatening way, said Khalaf, who has given his account to U.S. and Iraqi investigators.

“The car went on rolling slowly. But they kept on shooting,” said Khalaf, who ran for cover. Thiab and other witnesses said that they heard loud booms and that the vehicle burst into flames, killing the female passenger.

In seconds, there was shooting in all directions, eyewitnesses said.

People were fleeing their cars and running for cover.

Afterward, dead and wounded were found in almost every direction, police said.

Eyewitnesses also disputed the Blackwater guards' account that civilians were firing from a red bus.

Hussam Abdul Rahman, 25, another traffic policeman who was near the bus, said passengers were kicking out the windows in a desperate attempt to escape the firing.

"There were many on this bus. They were hardly able to walk and they were screaming," Khalaf said.

The senior Iraqi police official also rejected Blackwater's account of being ambushed by gunmen.

Nisoor Square, he said, sits in front of the National Police headquarters. There were checkpoints, Iraqi army and police, nearby in nearly every direction, making it hard for gunmen to take positions to ambush the convoy.

The police guards in the square, he added, would not shoot without orders.

The square is a common route for dozens of heavily armored U.S. military and embassy convoys.

Anyone planning an attack would use heavy weapons such as rocket-propelled grenades -- not guns, the official said.

"To attack body-armored vehicles with bullets? No one can believe this," the police official said.

MORE:

Blackwater: Murderers Inc. **Official Investigation Reports How Greedy, Stupid North Carolina Management Killed Their Own And Then Tried To Defy Congress To Cover Up**

One problem was the lack of armored vehicles, which were required by the contract. Blackwater's internal report quotes a company employee as saying that the contract "paid for armor vehicles," but that "management in North Carolina... made the decision to go with soft skin due to the cost."

September 27, 2007 By BILL SIZEMORE, The Virginian-Pilot

A congressional investigation has found Blackwater USA at fault on multiple levels in the infamous 2004 Fallujah convoy ambush in which four of its operatives were killed by Iraqi insurgents.

The report by investigators on the staff of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee says Blackwater “ignored multiple warnings about the dangers of traveling through Fallujah, cut essential personnel from the mission, and failed to supply its team with armored vehicles, machine guns, sufficient threat intelligence, or even maps of the area.”

Based on reports from Blackwater, the company that held the contract previously, the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the investigation found details of the incident “disturbing, revealing an unprepared and disorderly organization operating in a hostile environment. Mistake apparently compounded mistake.”

One of the four sections in the 18-page report was labeled “Impediments to the Committee Investigation.”

The report says Blackwater consistently delayed and impeded the inquiry, erroneously claiming that the relevant documents were classified and then seeking to get them retroactively classified.

The committee finally issued a subpoena for the documents, but Blackwater still refused to comply. It was only after the committee threatened a vote to hold Blackwater in contempt of Congress that the company produced the documents, according to the report.

The committee report quotes Blackwater employees, whose names were withheld for security reasons, describing the Fallujah operation as “flat out sloppy” and a “ship about to sink.”

One problem was the lack of armored vehicles, which were required by the contract. Blackwater’s internal report quotes a company employee as saying that the contract “paid for armor vehicles,” but that “management in North Carolina... made the decision to go with soft skin due to the cost.”

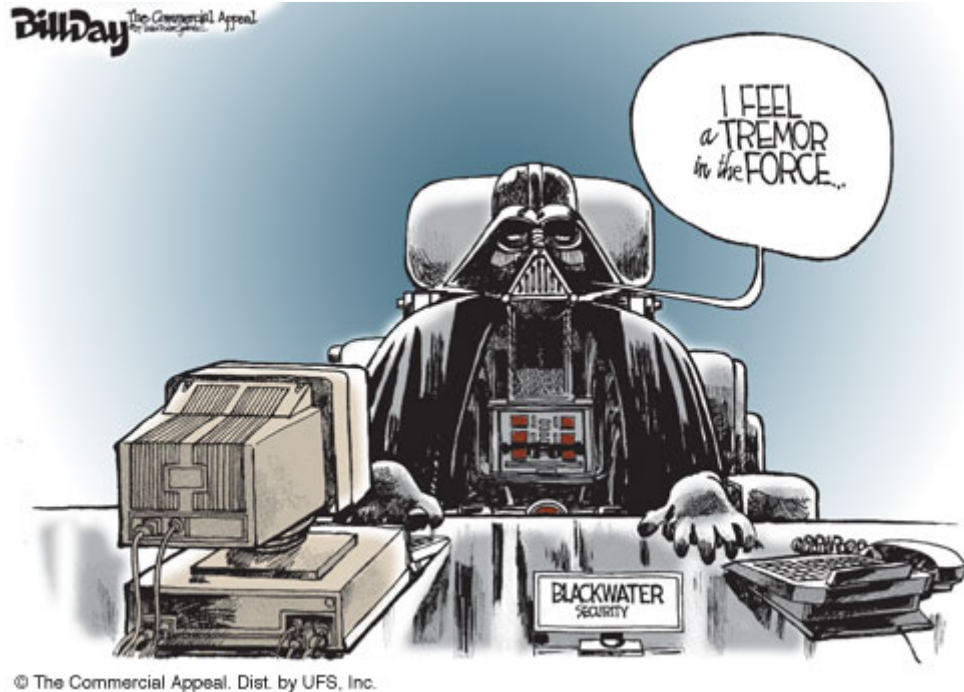
Another problem was reduced staffing. Blackwater’s internal report says the size of the convoy team was cut on the eve of the mission from six operators to four, meaning there was no rear gunner to defend against attacks.

The committee’s findings mirror, virtually point by point, a wrongful-death lawsuit filed nearly three years ago by the families of the four dead contractors: Wesley Batalona, Scott Helvenston, Michael Teague and Jerry Zovko.

Blackwater has put up an aggressive defense, claiming immunity from liability and filing a \$10 million counterclaim. The case is now pending in the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Zovko's mother, Donna Zovko, said Thursday that the committee's findings are a vindication for the families.

"Now they can't call us loony and crazy and paranoid," she said. "Now they can see that we were telling the truth."



IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

September 27, 2007 The Associated Press & Reuters & 28 Sep 2007 Reuters

An internal pipeline carrying crude oil to the Baiji refinery was ruptured by a suspected improvised explosive device near the town of Riyadh, 50 km (30 miles) southwest of Kirkuk in northern Iraq, police said.

A driver detonated a truck near the home of a Sunni Arab tribal leader near Sinjar. Hospital director Kifah Mohammed said 10 people were killed, including the sheik's son, who worked as a government contractor, and nine wounded, including the sheik. The U.S. military said the sheik had spoken out for the U.S. backed government.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed two policemen and wounded three near Nassiriya, 375 miles (235 km) southeast of Baghdad, a hospital source said.

Guerrillas killed an off-duty soldier in a drive-by shooting on Wednesday in the city of Kirkuk, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed a police officer and wounded three on Wednesday in the town of Hawija, 70 km (40 miles) southwest of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb in Hilla, 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad, killed two Iraqi special forces and wounded three Iraqi special forces and one civilian, police said.

The bodies of an Iraqi police lieutenant and his wife were found on Tuesday in a garbage dump with gunshot wounds in Baghdad's district of Adhamiya, the U.S. military said.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



Pro-War Protesters Assault Father Of Soldier Killed in Iraq “I Rebuke The Anti-War Cowards, Who Did NOT Come To His Defense”

9.24.07 Tabacco.blog [Excerpts]

A counter-demonstration was also held by supporters of the war [in DC 9.15].

One prominent peace activist, Carlos Arredondo, was beaten by pro-war activists.

Arredondo's son Alex died in Iraq three years ago. To honor Alex's memory, Carlos has been crisscrossing the country pulling a flag-draped coffin. He marched with the coffin on Saturday and then left the march to return the coffin to his truck.

That's when a pro-war supporter tried to rip a photo of Carlos' son from the coffin. When Carlos tried to save the photograph, he said a group of pro-war activists attacked him.

Carlos Arredondo: “I was assaulted by a group of pro-war people. They come onto the ground, and they kicked me and punched me. As a citizen of this country, it's my duty and my responsibility to participate.

“As a father, who lost my son in Iraq, I got to honor my son.”

WHERE WAS CARLOS' SUPPORT!

The right to be stupid is tolerable; the right to be complicit in GENOCIDE is not! There are times when talk and marching is not enough! With due respect to Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Anti-War Activists need to be ready to take “an eye for an eye”!

The day of quiet, gentlemanly debate is over. The MEEK will NOT INHERIT THE EARTH!

The earth belongs to those, who are willing to take it.

If you haven't learned anything from the Romans, the French, the Nazis and the Bush Regime, then keep on praying and sticking your heads in the ground Ostrich-style!

The Anti-War protestors failed to stand up for one of our own!

Tabacco salutes the courage, resourcefulness and honor of Carlos Arredondo.

I rebuke the Anti-War Cowards, who did NOT come to his defense.

100,000 In DC For 9.15 Iraq War Protest?

No. Stupid Bullshit: [And Stupid Bullshit About Anti-War Protest Numbers Serves George W. Bush]

9.21.07 Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

ANSWER vastly over-reported the number of people who participated in the [9.15] day of events, claiming that 100,000 people attended the march and 5,000 participated in the die-in.

Exaggerating the numbers at a protest won't build the strength or confidence of antiwar forces; in fact, it does the opposite.

Only an honest assessment of where the antiwar movement is at and what kind of organizing is needed to get more people involved will make it stronger.

MORE:

A Classic Example Of Stupid Incoherent Bullshit

[This quote below is from a comment circulating on the Internet after the 9.15 demonstration. T]

"The Washington Post was "live-blogging" the demo with several reporters.

"The lead reporter (Marc Fisher) claims to have counted the demonstration and arrived at the seemingly preposterous (and much too precise) 6,850, but did peg the counterprotest accurately as "several hundred."

"Other estimates of the counterprotest I saw and heard went from "just under a thousand" to "two thousand," which, based on what I could see on C-SPAN (pictured above), was a vast overestimate.

[So, when the reporter is accurate about the pro-Bush demonstrators, saying there were only "several hundred," this fool approves and says it's accurate, pointing out other media exaggerated their numbers.

[But when the very same reporter gives his count of the anti-war protestors as 6850, then it's "preposterous" and "much too precise."

[Dumbfuck doesn't know anybody can stand as a demonstration passes with a hand held click counter, and get a very precise count indeed.

[And Dumbfuck is clueless about how absurd his raving looks to anybody who isn't brain-dead: when it serves him, the count is right; when it doesn't serve him, then he ridicules the counter.

[Stupid lying bullshit looks like what it is: stupid lying bullshit.

[It dishonors the cause. T]

As If They Weren't Enough



Iraq Veterans Against the War lead demonstrators on a march through the streets of Washington to the steps of the Capitol Building on September 15. Photos Tyler Dave

Iraq Veterans Against The War:
**“Recent Veterans Provide The Best
Direct Links To Finding Active-Duty**

Military Personnel Who Are Willing And Ready To Organize”



9.21.07 By Eric Ruder, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

At the January 27 mobilization in Washington this year, Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) recruited a dozen new members.

And recent veterans provide the best direct links to finding active-duty military personnel who are willing and ready to organize.

Many opponents of the Iraq war feel an understandable frustration as Bush's surge grinds on with such limited opposition. Unfortunately, though, this has boiled down in some cases into exhortations to "put your body on the line"--in order to carry out a civil disobedience action the politicians can't ignore.

But civil disobedience, even when it involves hundreds of people, can be ignored in the absence of a confident, growing and sustained mass movement.

Thus, the challenge facing the antiwar movement, given the weakness of the forces involved at the moment, is to combine large national mobilizations with a focus on strengthening the local, grassroots base of the movement.

This means careful attention to building local chapters of Iraq Veterans Against the War, campus antiwar coalitions and citywide antiwar networks.

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR;

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



An Iraqi citizen handcuffed by foreign occupation soldiers from US Army, Alpha Company, 1/38 Infantry Regiment is brought to combat outpost outside Baquba for "questioning." (AFP/Alexander Nemenov)

[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!**

U.S. Occupation Forces Kill Oil Engineer Talib Naji Abboud In The Rumaila Oilfields

20 September 2007 Naftana Press Release Via New York City Labor Against The War

The Iraqi Federation of Oil Unions (IFOU) has announced that US occupation forces carried out an unprovoked attack against a crew of workers in the Rumaila oilfields in Basra on the morning of Monday 18 September.

As a result of this cowardly and criminal act, Chief Engineer Talib Naji Abboud was wounded and taken to hospital where he died in the evening of Tuesday 19 September.

The IFOU has called on the Iraqi Government to take action to protect the lives of Iraqi citizens, and the Federation held a protest rally at the Southern Oil Company headquarters in Basra today at 10am local time to condemn this premeditated murder and the continuing occupation of Iraq.

In the meantime, the Minister of Oil Hussain Al-Shahristani has remained silent about the latest criminal attack directed at workers who are under his direct remit and who were ambushed while going about their normal business of running this vital industry.

Indeed, the latest attack seems to be designed to show that the occupation forces will act with impunity, and that there is going to be little distinction between mercenaries and regular US troops.

The attack in the oilfields seems also to be designed to push the Iraqi Government to take further harsh and repressive measures against the oil workers at a time when they are resisting the privatization of the industry.

The murder of Chief Engineer Talib Naji Abboud should also be laid at the door of the oil corporations that are trying to force their way into Iraq and to control its resources at any cost. We call upon the Trade Union and anti-war movements in Britain to condemn this heinous crime and send letters of protest to the Foreign Office and the US embassy.

For further information contact:

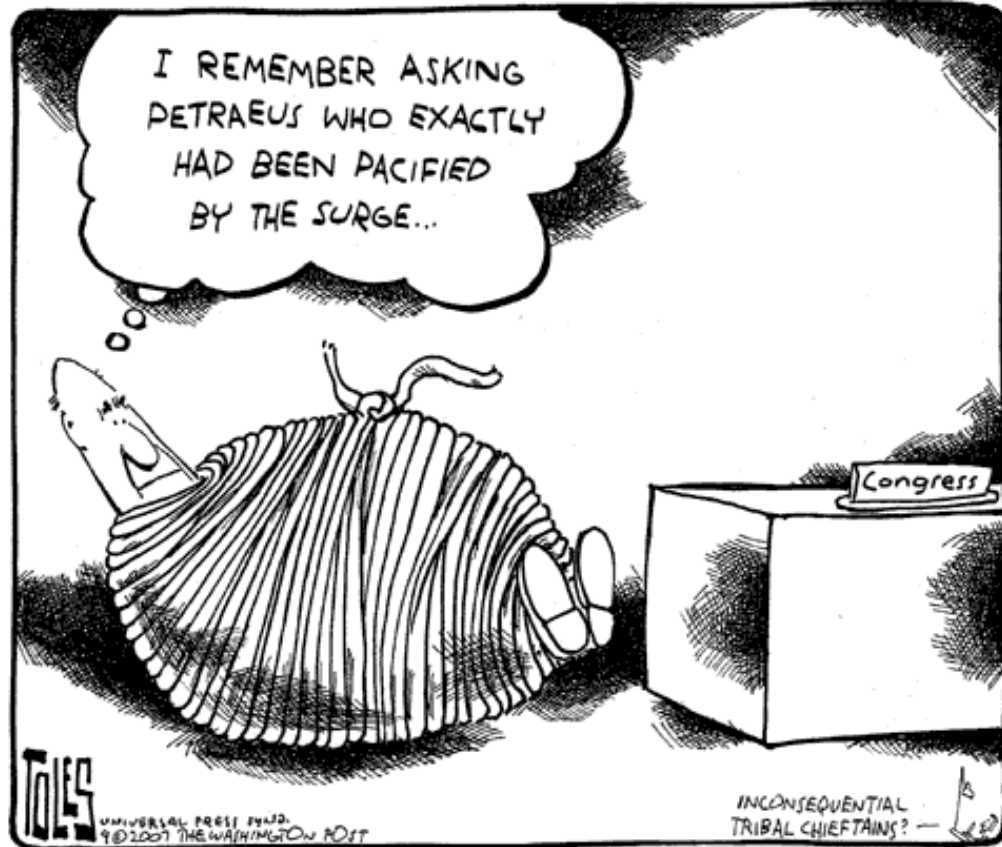
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Naftana ('Our Oil' in Arabic) is an independent UK-based committee supporting democratic trade unionism in Iraq. It works in solidarity with the IFOU. It strives to publicise the union's struggle for Iraqi social and economic rights and its stand against the privatisation of Iraqi oil demanded by the occupying powers

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Ahmadinejad Invites U.N. Inspectors To Search For Homosexuals

September 27, 2007 The Borowitz Report

Just days after asserting that there are no homosexuals in Iran, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad today invited United Nations inspectors into his country to search for homosexuals.

“We have nothing to hide,” Mr. Ahmadinejad said in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly. “You can search the entire country – even the airport bathrooms.”

While some senior U.S. diplomats expressed skepticism about the Iranian president’s offer to allow U.N. inspectors to search his country for homosexuals, Mr. Ahmadinejad attempted to silence the skeptics by permitting the use of “advanced gaydar technology”

as part of the proposed inspections. "In Iran we have the most advanced gaydar in the world and we are prepared to share it with you," he said.

In the immediate aftermath of Mr. Ahmadinejad's speech, it was unclear as to who would lead the U.N.'s inspection efforts, but most diplomats assumed that the task would fall to Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

At a press conference at the United Nations, Mr. ElBaradei acknowledged that he had no previous experience searching for homosexuals, but said that if chosen to lead the inspection effort he would make sure that the inspections were "rigorous and thorough."

"The possibility that Iran may possess homosexuals is a serious matter to the world community," Mr. ElBaradei said.

"There has been evidence for some time that Iran may be attempting to build a Broadway musical."

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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