

## GI SPECIAL 5J10:

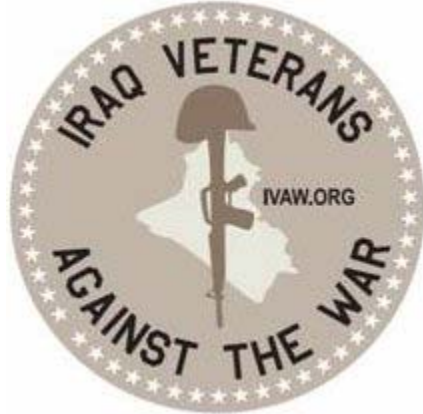


### SCAR-SPANGLED BANNER

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

**“I Started To See The  
Men Who Planted Bombs  
To Kill Me As Sovereign  
Soldiers, Fighting An  
Occupying Force”**

**“How Alike We Would Be If  
Someone Invaded The United  
States”**



10/07/2007 by Justin C. Cliburn [Iraq Veterans Against The War: <http://www.ivaw.org/>]  
[Excerpts]

Branch of service: Army National Guard of the United States (ARNG)

Unit: 1st Battalion 158th FA Oklahoma ARNG

Rank: SPC

Home: Lawton, Oklahoma

Served in: LSA Anaconda: MSR Patrol, one month. Camp Liberty, Baghdad: PSD/IP Training, ten and a half months.

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My what a difference a couple years, some international travel, a combat deployment, and an open mind makes.

**My almost lifelong friend sent me a message this week.**

**It was a message she had saved on August 14, 2005 after I presumably blew her away with a mixture of arrogance and ignorance.**

**This message is as follows:**

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*No offense, but I think activists and ignorant attention whore pussies are about the same thing, at least when it comes to war. I love how "activists" with (apparently) no knowledge of the military tell me about the treatment of prisoners and the Geneva conventions. NEWSFLASH: If you are not wearing the military uniform of a sovereign nation that is a member of the Geneva or Hague Conventions then the Geneva and Hague Conventions, along with the International Law of Land Warfare, DO NOT apply to you; period.*

*We get beheaded; they get humiliated. We get vilified; they get compassion. Doesn't make a lot of sense to me. If you feel we made a mistake by going to war, that's one thing. But if you start bashing the way we are conducting ourselves at Abu Ghraib, Gitmo*

*(aka Club Med), or anywhere else, then you can kiss my ass. Again, no offense, but you have made yourself abundantly clear as to where you stand and I am just reciprocating. We will disagree on this forever, so other than this topic, I will be glad to keep in touch with you.*

*Justin*

I had no idea how crass and closed-minded I had sounded . . . "we will disagree on this forever"? I was quite sure of things in the world, wasn't I?

I now represent an almost 180 degree turn in my positions on just about everything, but how and when did it happen?

My change started slowly at Fort Lewis when we performed detainee operations at a simulated prison. I saw how easily it was for authority figures to take advantage of the imprisoned and how power-hungry even the most even-keeled could become. I heard soldiers say that these men were terrorists and therefore deserved nothing in the form of human rights . . . even as the instructors told us that the men were rounded up en masse and may or may not be guilty.

I saw soldiers sleep or joke their way through Iraqi cultural training (this doesn't exclude me), and I heard more proclamations of how many Iraqis we were going to kill than I'd like to admit.

By the time we had boarded the plane for Kuwait, I was wondering exactly what we were going over there to do and who I was doing it with. Just a few days into country, I was being told of stories of murder, humiliation, and abuse from the previous unit and I pondered what, if anything, they had done to make the situation in their AO any better for the people they were there to protect.

**I started to see the men who planted bombs to kill me as sovereign soldiers, fighting an occupying force and realized how alike we would be if someone invaded the United States.**

I wasn't giving anyone a pass, and I would have killed anyone that I caught trying to kill me, but I no longer demonized them as simple terrorists.

Suddenly, it didn't seem so crazy that they should be afforded the rights given under the Geneva Conventions, even if they wouldn't do the same for me. Many countries don't follow the International Law of Land Warfare, but we are supposed to be a world leader in human rights.

It wasn't overnight, but in two years I went from the quintessential asshole chickenhawk to who I am today.

I am not proud of who I was or what I said, but I take solace in the fact that if I can make the change, so can anyone else.

Where there is passion, there is someone who cares, whether it's for the ideal you want them to or not. Positions change; passion doesn't.

One thing is for certain: my position may have changed, but my passion has never waned. Neither has the passion of those soldiers that we have to help re-direct their dedication.

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**

### **Two U.S. Soldiers Killed By Mortar Attack “Near Baghdad” Five Wounded**

October 13, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071013-11

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Two 15th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers were killed and five others were wounded during a mortar attack in the vicinity of Baghdad Oct. 10.

The wounded service members were transported to a nearby military medical facility for emergency treatment and further evaluation. The incident is under investigation.

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### **U.S. Soldier Killed By Baghdad IED; Three Wounded**

October 14, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071014-07

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier was killed and three were wounded during combat operations when an improvised explosive device detonated in a southern area of the Iraqi capital Oct. 14.

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### **North Side Man Killed By Iraq Rocket Attack**



Spc. Pearson

10/12/07 Columbus Dispatch: North Side man killed in Iraq rocket attack  
A Far North Side man...was one of two members of the U.S.-led coalition killed when rockets struck Camp Victory, the U.S. military headquarters near Baghdad Airport...Army Reserve Spc. Samuel Pearson, 28, had been in Iraq for six weeks

October 12, 2007 By Matthew Marx, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

A Far North Side man who graduated from Otterbein College was one of two members of the U.S.-led coalition killed when rockets struck Camp Victory, the U.S. military headquarters near Baghdad Airport, relatives said last night.

Army Reserve Spc. Samuel Pearson, 28, had been in Iraq for six weeks, sister-in-law Lindsay Pearson of Dayton said. His parents, Randi and Carolyn Pearson of Piqua, Ohio, learned from the military yesterday morning that their oldest of five children had been killed in the Wednesday attack.

Pearson was a "quiet guy, but a sweet guy," Lindsay Pearson said. "He was always there for his family."

After graduating from Piqua High School in 1998, Pearson went to Otterbein College, where he played football and majored in economics.

"Someone who works hard for their education and then represents their country -- it's just a tragedy," said Otterbein Athletics Director Dick Reynolds last night. "Having been in Vietnam myself, I know the tragedy of this thing. It's kind of hard to express."

Pearson graduated from Otterbein in 2003. He worked at several businesses in Columbus, but he wasn't satisfied.

"He wasn't doing what he wanted to do," Lindsay Pearson said.

After he signed up in September 2006, Pearson "really took a sense of pride" that he was serving in the reserve, his sister-in-law said.

He was deployed to Iraq in late August after completing basic combat training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C. He was a specialist in the Army's finance corps, she said.

In addition to his parents and sister-in-law, Pearson is survived by his brothers, John, Andy and Rich, and his sister, Laura Pearson.

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# Improvised Explosive Device Kills Lima-Area Soldier, 19, In Baghdad



Pfc. Christian M. Neff of Shawnee Township joined the Army in 2006.

September 21, 2007 By JANE SCHMUCKER, BLADE STAFF WRITER

A 19-year-old Army soldier from Allen County's Shawnee Township died Wednesday in Baghdad of wounds from an improvised explosive device, the U.S. Department of Defense announced yesterday.

Pfc. Christian M. Neff was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, headquartered at Fort Stewart, Ga.

Private Neff joined the Army months before graduating from Apollo Career Center and Shawnee High School in 2006, said Darin Grimm, who teaches Apollo's computer applications programming, which Private Neff studied.

"That's what he wanted to do. He wanted to serve his country," Mr. Grimm said of Private Neff's decision to join the Army, along with one of his close friends.

When Private Neff came home on leaves, he returned to the school - in full uniform - to visit his teacher, often addressing Mr. Grimm's students about preparing for the future.

"His thing was, 'You need to apply yourself at everything you do - whether you think it's relevant or not,' " Mr. Grimm said.

As a student at Apollo, where Private Neff was known as Chris, he represented the computer applications class on student council, held an office in the local Business Professionals of America chapter, and was on the honor roll.

"He was all about the grades," his friend Allison Pollock said, remembering how much emphasis he put on academics as well as organizing food drives, fund-raisers for local charities, and recycling days at the career center through its student organizations.

His death struck his teacher as a tragedy. "He didn't have an opportunity to live his life," Mr. Grimm said. "But I know he really loved what he was doing."

Apollo Superintendent Chris Pfister said that if Private Neff's family is agreeable, school leaders want to plant a tree in his memory in Apollo's veterans memorial garden. Alan Pollock, a teacher at Apollo and the father of Allison Pollock, said a stone monument in the garden also is being considered for Private Neff, who is the career center's first graduate to die in Iraq.

"We just found out, but everyone's thinking right away what we might do," Mr. Pfister said.

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## Family Mourns Loss of Fallen Soldier



10/2/07 KCBD

The South Plains has lost its fourth soldier this year to the War on Terror.

Sergeant Randell Olguin died Sunday in Baghdad, after insurgents attacked his unit. The 24-year-old was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment out of Germany, but he grew up in Ralls, and is a graduate of Ralls High School.

Everyone we spoke with Tuesday told News Channel 11 that Sergeant Olguin always wanted to serve his country. His father says this was Olguin's second tour of duty in Iraq, but that he was able to come home before heading back overseas.

"They sent him back last August, and he was here before he got shipped back to Germany, and that's the last we saw him," Olguin's father Senaido Olguin said.

The memories come easy.

"We spent the weekend on Lake Stanford, had fun for a weekend," Senaido said.

The words, though...

"Words are hard to come by," Senaido said.

Olguin had a passion to serve, and not only his country.

"Baseball, he played football for us, ran cross-country, track, just pretty much involved with everything he could be involved with, band," Olguin's former coach Billy Villarreal said.

Even with all his activities, Villarreal says Olguin always wanted to do more.

"You know, even after 9-11 and everything that had happened, he even talked about it a whole lot more and he graduated in '03, so he knew what he was getting into, which really speaks volumes of Randy and what he was about," Villarreal said.

"Through the service he met his wife, and they got married. This coming December it will be two years," Senaido said. "He was a young man that was fighting for our county, and just like he did out on the football field or the baseball field for us, laying it on the line, he did it for our country," Villarreal said.

"We were and are still proud of him," Senaido said.

Family members are still making funeral arrangements, but they tell us they hope to lay their son to rest this weekend. Meanwhile, Olguin's wife, who lives in Germany, is making arrangements to fly here for the service.

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## Ladysmith Soldier Laid To Rest

October 15, 2007 AP

LADYSMITH, Wis. -- Hundreds of people packed the Ladysmith High School gymnasium over the weekend to mourn the death of a U.S. Army reservist who was severely injured in Iraq last May and died at his home a week ago.

Sfc. Anthony Raymond Wasielewski, 50, had been recovering from injuries suffered in a roadside bombing at Ramadi. He was with C Company, 397th Engineer Battalion in Wausau.

Wasielewski previously served a year in Afghanistan, and he had more than 20 years in the Army Reserve when the unit was reactivated in July 2006.

Relatives said that he could have retired from the military then but chose to stay with his unit.

Sfc. Patrick Lesik said Wasielewski was like a father figure to the younger soldiers and will be greatly missed.

Wasielewski suffered severe back injuries in the bombing. He underwent surgery in Germany and then was treated for several months at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and at a Veterans Administration hospital in Minnesota before returning to his Ladysmith home.



The funeral was held on Saturday.

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## **Soldier's Widow, Sister Remember His 'Big Heart'**

September 24, 2007 NBC

An Ocean County soldier was the latest local casualty in the war in Iraq.

He leaves behind a wife and a newborn baby.

"He was fun loving, the most fun loving person you'd ever meet. He had a big heart," Stephanie Marciante, soldier's widow, said.

Marciante's husband, 25-year-old Army Cpl. Luigi Marciante Jr. of Jackson Township lost his life in Iraq. "He's a hero. He sacrificed his life for us and his country," she said.

"We're very lucky he was here with us, our lives are all better for having had Louie. It's such a huge loss to not have him," Enza Jacobowitz, Marciante's sister, said.

The infantryman was killed Thursday when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle.

Marciante, the youngest of four siblings, was deployed to Iraq in May but returned to Ocean County last month for the birth of his now 6-week-old son, Lorenzo.

"He was overwhelmed with just finally having him in his arms. It was just the most, the happiest day of our lives," Marciante said.

"In the time that he had him, he was the happiest man in the world. I've never seen Louie so happy. He was a father. He was so excited to hold that little boy. He just beamed with pride and love," Jacobowitz said.

He returned to Iraq two weeks after his son was born.

"Emotionally he didn't want to go, but he knew he had to fulfill his duty," Marciante said.

The couple married in August of last year, just two months after meeting in the military while both were stationed in Fort Lewis, Wash.

They named little Lorenzo after Marciante's sister, Enza.

"It just blew me away, that's the greatest feeling to know that they did that. Louie will live on in Lorenzo. We'll always have a part of him in Lorenzo," Jacobowitz said.

"He'll know who his father was and what he gave, what he sacrificed," Marciante said.

Marciante's deployment was scheduled to end next summer. His family planned to lay him to rest later this week.

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# Spc. Aaron J. Walker Died In Baghdad

September 23, 2007 By Amanda Kim Stairrett, Killeen Daily Herald

Aaron J. Walker had many talents, but singing wasn't necessarily one of them.

His sister, Andee, was playing the piano one day and singing "I Can Only Imagine." Aaron, or A.J., was listening and asked his little sister to teach him the song.

Andee showed him how to play the song, and he began to play and sing. When A.J. got to the chorus of the song, he beat on the piano keys like he was playing the drums and belted out the lyrics.

It didn't sound so good, she said with a smile. While the music was not great, A.J.'s heart was in it.

"I wish I could hear him sing again," Andee said.

Spc. Aaron J. Walker died Tuesday in southern Baghdad, Iraq, when his unit came under small-arms fire, according to the Defense Department. The 23-year-old Harker Heights resident was serving with the 1st Armored Division's 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, based in Vilseck, Germany.

He leaves behind his wife of a little more than a year, Amber; Darryl and Annie, his mother and father; Andee; and a younger brother, Alex.

Family and friends gathered at Grace Christian Center in Killeen – Darryl and Annie are youth pastors – on Saturday afternoon for a memorial service in honor of A.J. His funeral service is set for Thursday in Peoria, Ariz., which is near Phoenix.

Andee sang a portion of "I Can Only Imagine" during a eulogy for her big brother and said she would only imagine what kind of passion A.J. had for the angels he was singing with in heaven. She said he has the honorable position of being A.J.'s sister. "I wish you would not pity me, but envy me," she told the people sitting before her.

A.J. was defined by his passion, humility, respect, honor, and most of all, love, Alex said. If there was one thing Alex learned from his brother, it was to love. "I only pray I can live the way A.J. loved," he said.

A.J. had a huge heart and gave in life and in death, said his uncle, Ron Walker. "He gave for his family, he gave for his friends, he gave for his country, and he gave for the Lord. He gave for people he didn't know, and he just gave," Ron said. "He just gave."

Another of A.J.'s uncles, John McLaughlin, said he was grateful for who his nephew was and "who he wanted all of us to be." A.J. was smart, strong and unwavering in his beliefs, John said, and very insightful for a 23-year-old. "I want to be a better husband, father and Christian knowing he's in heaven looking down on me," John said. "I want to be better because I know you want that for me."

Darryl talked about A.J.'s wife, Amber, saying there was "no more perfect spouse for our son."

A.J. and Amber were both church youth leaders when the Walkers lived in Arkansas. They continued to keep in contact when the family moved to Harker Heights in 2004, and were married in July 2006.

A.J. deployed to Iraq last month.

The last few days have been the hardest of Darryl's life, he said. When the family first heard the news of A.J.'s death, they huddled together on the couch, unable to sleep.

When the sun came up that next morning, Annie pointed out that the Earth moves, but the sky stays the same. The sun they saw rising in the sky was the same sun A.J. saw in Iraq on his last day.

It's the same sun that connects us, Darryl said.

The Walkers will get through A.J.'s loss one day at a time – sunrise to sunrise, Darryl said. "Our hearts are broken, but our faith is not shaken," he said.

"I know things will never be normal again, but we will redefine normal."

The family knows that one day they will see him again, Darryl said, "but this day we miss him."

"A.J.," he said, closing his eyes and choking back tears. "I love you, my beautiful boy. We're gonna get through this. We're gonna get through this."

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## **Two Polish Soldiers Wounded, Helicopter Hit In Attack On Base At Diwaniyah; U.S. Base Nearby Also Attacked**

10.15.07 (AFP) & By Aseel Kami, Reuters

Militants attacked a mainly Polish military base in central Iraq with mortars and machine guns on Monday, killing five civilians and wounding two Polish soldiers during the attack on the military base at Diwaniyah, 180 kilometres (110 miles) south of Baghdad, an Iraqi security official told AFP.

"Four mortars were fired at the base. There was heavy firing," the official said,

A Polish helicopter was hit by machinegun fire during the attacks but managed to land safely, said Lieutenant-Colonel Wlodek Glogowski, spokesman for Polish forces in Iraq.

Glogowski said militants also fired mortar rounds at Camp Echo, which is just south of Diwaniya and houses U.S. and other multinational forces and is under Polish command. There were no casualties in that attack.

"Coalition and Iraqi security forces engaged the attackers who fled to a wooded area near the base. The attackers remain at large," a US military statement said.

The attack on the base in the eastern Diwaniyah neighbourhood of Al-Iskan, where some 900 Polish soldiers are stationed.

"Eight mortars were fired in the first attack, which came at around 9 am (0600 GMT)," the security official said.

In video obtained by Reuters Television, the Imam Hussein Brigades and Imam Moussa al-Kadhim Brigades said Poland had allied with the "devil" America to kill Iraqis and accused Polish troops of torturing detainees.

**"We want to tell Poland that all its interests in Iraq will be targeted by our resistance, including the diplomats, companies and troops. We only exclude journalists," said one of four masked gunmen who appeared in the video.**

A column of smoke rose from Iskan, where the base sits amid one-storey houses, while the rattle of sustained machinegun fire could be heard nearby.

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## **U.S. Forces Attack Pro-Occupation Collaborators**

Oct 15, 2007 DPA

Baghdad - US troops killed by mistake three tribal fighters in Doualiya city in Salahaddin province, a media report said Monday

A US aircraft shelled areas linked to Doualiya tribal forces while it was chasing militants Sunday evening, killing three U.S. allied forces, injuring one and damaging a vehicle.

Tribal councils have been formed across Iraq to fight militants through organized forces backed by the Iraqi government and the US military.

The US military did not comment on the incident.

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## **“AFTER NEWS LEAKED THAT 9 CHILDREN WERE KILLED IN THE RAID,**

# **GEN. PETRAEUS WARNED IRAN ONCE MORE TO STOP SUPPLYING LETHAL CHILDREN TO THE IRAQ INSURGENCY”**

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

Oct 11 By STEVEN R. HURST, Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD - A U.S. attack killed 19 insurgents and 15 civilians, including nine children, northwest of the capital Thursday — one of the heaviest civilian death tolls in an American operation in recent months.

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## **GUESS WHO’S WORRIED GUESS WHO ISN’T GUESS WHY: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A group of Iraqi teenagers look on as U.S. soldiers from A Company 2-23 Infantry Battalion patrol a street in Muqadiyah, Iraq Sept. 13, 2007. (AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# West High School Graduate Killed In Afghanistan



Zachary D. Tellier, shown here in an image taken from video shot during his high school days in the early 1990s, was active with Manchester Community Television.

Oct. 3, 2007 By JOHN WHITSON, New Hampshire Union Leader Staff

Manchester – Zachary D. Tellier may have had a spark of interest in world affairs and helping people overseas before working at Manchester Community Television. But the early days of MCTV were certainly where those flames were fanned.

Sgt. Tellier, 31, a 1994 West High School graduate who was killed Saturday in a firefight while on patrol with the 82nd Airborne in Afghanistan, interviewed Bosnian refugees and traveled to Europe one summer as an MCTV volunteer.

"This is what we do best here," said Grace Sullivan, the local access station's executive director. "We educate kids to believe in this country. He believed in democracy, that what he did with his life was important."

Tellier worked in front of and behind the camera at MCTV. Sullivan said he volunteered countless hours as a high school student filming board meetings at City Hall, seeing his work as a vital service to the community.

"There was a core group of kids who would do that, and Zach was part of that core group. Zach was a remarkable, creative young man," Sullivan said through tears yesterday. "I am so heartbroken."

One day in the early 1990s, she said, three young Bosnian refugees showed up at the station hoping to spread the word about ethnic troubles in their homeland.

"Zach said, 'I'll talk to them,'" Sullivan recalled. "Talking to those young girls his age about what it was like to be in a war. He did it with such respect; a soft voice and respectful."

In the summer of 1993, Sullivan said, a group from Poland came looking for a student videographer to shoot a documentary from a young person's perspective. Sullivan suggested Tellier, and he jumped at the chance.

She said he came back with video from Europe and later won an award for his work before leaving Manchester for American University in Washington. "Zach was in that first group of kids that started this," Sullivan said. "He was very essential in laying a foundation for MCTV being education-oriented."

Sullivan and others at the station were busy yesterday culling their files to put together a tribute to Tellier, with images he created for the station and shots of himself on camera.

Sullivan said she wasn't surprised to learn Tellier had volunteered for military duty during wartime when he was nearly 30 years old.

"This, to me, was a remarkable young man. People use the term hero pretty loosely these days. Well, you know ...," Sullivan said, her voice trailing off.

A paratrooper, Tellier died of gunshot wounds during a prolonged gunfight with the Taliban, according to his wife, Sara, who lives in Charlotte, N.C.

He was awarded the Bronze Star medal with valor and the Purple Heart after rescuing two fellow paratroopers from a burning vehicle earlier this year, despite suffering severe burns himself.

News of Tellier's death triggered a flood of tributes from friends and strangers at UnionLeader.com yesterday.

"Zach and I were in the same grade together and shared a lot of classes as well," wrote Jamison LaGuardia of Miami Beach, Fla. "I heard this morning what happened from another one of my friends back home. It is a tragic and horrible thing to happen to such a great person."

"Zach was a tender and kind friend that would do anything for anyone," wrote Natalie Paris of New Smyrna Beach, Fla. "He will be greatly missed." "We are grateful to Zachary and many others like him for fighting for our freedom," wrote Les and Maureen Chisholm of Wilmington, Mass. "You are all in our thoughts and prayers today."

"Zach has been a very dear friend of mine since we were both 15 years old in high school. ... He is one of the sweetest people I have ever known in my life," wrote Jen Drociak of Manchester.

"His laughter is what I remember most - I can still hear it," wrote Noelle Franey of East Hampton, N.Y. "The happiest I saw Zach was the moment he kissed Sara on their wedding day. I'll never forget that." "Thank you Zach for my life and my freedom," wrote Paula Green of Hampstead. "I will not forget you or all of our servicemen."

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# Columbine Was 'Defining Moment' For Navy Medic Who Died A Hero

September 28, 2007 By Jean Torkelson, Rocky Mountain News

Charles Luke Milam may have been inspired to follow a hero's path because of a day he never talked about, a terrible April day in 1999 when he was a student at Columbine High School. "He wasn't shot or wounded or shot at," his brother, Keith, said Thursday, "but absolutely, it was the defining moment of his life."

Two months after the Columbine killings, Milam, 26, enlisted in the Navy, following in the footsteps of his brother and two grandfathers.

This week, the decorated hospital corpsman - known to everybody as Luke - died in combat in Afghanistan. It was his fourth tour of duty. He had served three tours in Iraq, and would have gone back however many times it took to get the job done, his brother said.

"He felt it was his duty to do whatever he could to help people in the military," Milam said. "He was a hero in every sense of the term."

His brother surmises that living through the Columbine horror helped shape his brother's future. "It wasn't something Luke ever talked about, but the fact he chose to become a hospital corpsman may have had something to do with (Columbine)."

What was clear - something transformed Luke after he graduated.

"He did OK in high school, but after he joined the military he was a star," his brother said.

Milam was the first in his family to enter a medical field, dedicating himself to helping people deal with injuries and death in combat situations.

"Luke was responsible for the health and well-being of the men in his platoon," Keith Milam said. "He basically served as their doc - from everyday aches and pains to severe combat trauma."

Recognition followed. The Purple Heart was just one of many awards. Another - one the family is especially proud of - was being named Special Operations Command Operator of the Year.

Milam chose the military as his career. But he never lost a chance to return to Colorado for his favorite sports, from mountain biking and hiking, to scuba diving and sky diving.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Drinkwine Mortuary in Littleton, followed by a 1 p.m. graveside service at Fort Logan National Cemetery.

Milam's commanding officer is escorting his body back to Colorado from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.



As word of Milam's death spreads to childhood friends, his old Scout troop and to military buddies, the anticipated crowd continues to grow larger and larger, his brother said.

"I think that speaks to how valuable Luke was to his organization," his older brother said. "He was the best of the best."

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## **“A Dozen” Foreign Occupation Soldier Wounded In Wardak Ambush; Nationality Not Announced**

October 15, 2007 The Associated Press

In central Afghanistan, Taliban militants ambushed a NATO patrol on Sunday, leaving about a dozen soldiers wounded, said a NATO official.

Troops called for an airstrike on the militants in Wardak province, but there were no immediate reports of casualties, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, as he was not authorized to speak on the matter.

The official did not identify the nationality of the wounded troops. Most of the troops in Wardak province, which borders Kabul, are Turkish.

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## **Resistance Action**

Oct 12 (AFP) & Al Hilal Publishing & 10/14/07 AP & CanWest News Service

A suicide bomber on a motorcycle targeted a truck carrying Afghan National Border Police. Seven policemen died and 36 were injured in the attack on a post-Ramada fair on Saturday at Spin Boldak, near the border with Pakistan, where the Quebec-based Royal 12th Armoured Regiment has a small reconnaissance base.

The bomber was on a motorcycle with a vest full of explosives and ball bearings," Maj. Pierre Huet, the reconnaissance squadron commander, said on Sunday. "We found ball bearings all over the place, a few parts of the motorcycle and body parts that were collected and brought to our base."

"Most of those injuries were shrapnel wounds, penetrating wounds," according to Maj. Jocelyn Dodaro, a doctor who was taken by helicopter to Spin Boldak to provide emergency care. "The most seriously injured were those closest to the bomber."

A bomb exploded Friday in Gereshk district southern Afghanistan. The blast happened in a bazaar close to a mosque in the town of Gereshk in the province of Helmand.

The explosion killed four policemen and wounded four more.

"It was a roadside bomb detonated against one of our vehicles remotely," police chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwal told AFP.

In eastern Afghanistan, a Taliban ambush in Nuristan province left two officers dead, said police officer Mohammad Daud.

Two officers were killed and two others were wounded when a bomb exploded under their car in Yaqoubi district in Khost province on Saturday, said police chief Wazir Pacha.

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## TROOP NEWS

# 2500 UK Troops Wounded This Year

October 11, 2007 Associated Newspapers Limited

This year has already been the most damaging on record for British forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

More than 2,500 troops serving in the two war zones have been injured, according to the Ministry of Defence.

**The numbers of injured are all higher than last year – statistics for earlier years are either not available or are incomplete. This year's figures cover only the period up to September 15.**

They show that 1,463 British forces have been wounded in Iraq; of these, 930 were treated in field hospitals while 469 were flown home.

1,069 have been injured in Afghanistan this year. Of these, 456 were flown home for treatment.

The figures have been growing since British troops were stationed in the notoriously dangerous Helmand province in January last year.

Deaths in Afghanistan already stand at 38 so far this year and are likely to exceed last year's total of 39.

Campaigner Diane Dernie, the mother of 23-year-old Ben Parkinson, who lost both legs and suffered brain damage in Afghanistan last year, dismissed yesterday's changes to compensation rules as 'cheap'.

She said she saw dozens of injured being brought into hospital.

'That's when you realise what's truly happening in Iraq and Afghanistan,' she added.

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



The burial service for Army Sgt. John W. Mele, 25, of Bunnell, Fla., Sept. 27, 2007, at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Va. Mele died Sept. 14 in Arab Jabour, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations. Mele was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division in Fort Stewart, Ga. (AP Photo/Haraz N. Ghanbari)

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## **Arlington Cemetery To Begin Major Expansion; “The Steady Death Toll From Iraq And Afghanistan Has Added To The Numbers”**

[Thanks to James Starowicz, Veterans For Peace

October 7, 2007 (AP)

Arlington National Cemetery is about to begin a \$35 million expansion that will push graves beyond its borders for the first time since the 1960s.

Officials say the extra space will provide room for 14,000 ground burials and 22,000 inurnments in a large columbarium complex.

The expansion comes on the heels of extensive work to utilize 40 acres of unused space in the cemetery, creating room for 26,000 more graves and 5,000 inurnments.

The expansions are partly in response to the deaths of members of the country's World War II generation. The steady death toll from Iraq and Afghanistan has added to the numbers.

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## **“The VA Backlog Is More Than 600,000 Cases” “255 Days To Complete A Claim”**

October 12, 2007 Times Herald-Record [Excerpts]

What a congressional subcommittee heard this week about the failures of the Department of Veterans Affairs to help wounded soldiers was not new. And that's the problem.

If you listen to the soldiers and the people responsible for getting them care, not much has changed outside the hospital. In fact, it might be getting worse.

According to Rep. John Hall, who has made veterans issues a central part of his work in Washington and who brought the hearings to New Windsor, the VA backlog is more than 600,000 cases with the New York City regional office contributing about 10,000, putting it among the worst.

The city's regional office takes 255 days to complete a claim and even a VA official could not promise much better performance, saying that veterans should not expect claims to be handled for at least 120 days.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Action**

11 Oct 2007 by Andrew Gully (AFP) & Reuters & Oct 12, 2007 Reuters & 10.13 (KUNA) & Reuters & AP & Reuters 14 Oct 2007 & Oct 15 (KUNA) & Sapa-DPA

**An armed group opened fire at dawn on Monday on two cars carrying Iraqi journalists on a road in south-west Kirkuk province, killing one and injuring two, a**

**security source said. The victims worked for the newspaper Salahaddin, which is funded by US forces in Iraq and has been published since 2005.**

An attacker has rammed a car packed with explosives into residence of a police officer in Al-Anbar west of Baghdad killing him and four of his family members, a security source said on Monday. The source said eight persons were also wounded in the attack that occurred near Heit in the province.

Six tribesmen were killed and eight others injured in a suicide bombing in north Baghdad, the Iraqi police said here Monday. The bombing explosion took place at a checkpoint near a fuel station at Balad, 80 kilometers north of Baghdad, an Iraqi police source told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) by phone. The bomber exploded the car as soon as he approached the checkpoint, which belonged to a local council formed of chief tribesmen to work with Iraqi security forces to fight militants in Salaheddin Province, the source added.

**Police fatally shot a bomber as he approached the police headquarters in Samarra on Saturday but his explosives-laden fuel truck exploded. Immediately after the blast, about 20 vehicles with at least 60 gunmen drove up to the site and fought with police, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to media.**

At least three police officers were wounded in the ensuing fighting, which ended after U.S. military helicopters flew overhead.

A roadside bomb killed one policeman and wounded two others in an attack on their patrol in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Police Commander of the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk escaped an assassination attempt, while one of his escorts died and three others injured when the commander's motorcade came under an attack on Saturday.

An explosive device was detonated while the motorcade of Brigadier Torhan Abdulrahman passed through Al Quds street in this oil rich Iraqi city, a police source told KUNA.

A dead policeman was found handcuffed and blindfold in Latifya, 40 kms (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A truck bomber attacked a Kurdish army checkpoint in northeastern Mosul, wounding four Kurdish soldiers and four civilians, police said.

Guerrillas attacked a police station near Tuz Khurmato, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, and killed a first lieutenant, police said.

Friday, a car bomb ripped through a police patrol in a crowded square in central Baghdad, killing two policemen. The attack came around noon (0900 GMT) when Tahrir square was crowded with shoppers stocking up for Eid.

A car bomb killed two policemen when it targeted a police patrol in the commercial district of Bab al-Sharji in central Baghdad, police said.

Police major Waheed Dulaimi and four members of his family were killed in a car bomb attack on his house in the town of Baghdadi northwest of Ramadi in western Anbar province, police said. Eight other people were wounded.

Insurgents attacked the house of a policeman, killing him and wounding his wife near the city of Kut, 170 km (105 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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**“New Political Alliance Does Not  
Recognise The Government Led By  
Nuri Al-Maliki”  
“Says That All Laws And Treaties Agreed  
Under The Occupation Would Be  
Rescinded”**

October 12, 2007 Ewen MacAskill in Washington, The Guardian [Excerpts]

Six Iraqi insurgent groups took a step towards unifying the factions fighting the US yesterday by announcing the creation of a political umbrella organisation. A spokesman for the new alliance, his face blacked out, made the announcement on a video broadcast by al-Jazeera. He described the alliance as "the political council of the Iraqi resistance".

The six Sunni groups have been in discussion about the move for months. The aim is to reduce the fragmented nature of the insurgency but also to try to claim a slice of the political agenda after the expected US withdrawal.

The talks about the alliance were disclosed by the Guardian in July. The groups had been close to making an announcement at that time but delayed because of disagreements over how to respond to the US policy of doing deals with Iraqi tribal leaders.

In a lengthy statement published yesterday, the six groups listed a 14-point political programme, of which the first was continued action against US forces.

"The occupation of Iraq is an act of aggression and an act of gross injustice which is rejected Islamically, legally and rationally, and which all laws grant the right to oppose and resist," it said.

It declared all laws passed by the Iraq government null and void.

The new political alliance does not recognise the government led by Nuri al-Maliki.

In its 14-point plan it says that all laws and treaties agreed under the occupation would be rescinded.

The statement also claimed that the country would not be ruled by a "single element" that represented any ethnic or sectarian interest, presumably a reference to the Shia Muslim-dominated government.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **The Army Joins The Revolution; 14 Oct 1917: “All Other Major Political Groups Lost Credibility Because Of Their Association With The Government And Their Insistence On Patient Sacrifice In The Interests Of The War Effort”**

September 28, 2007 By PAUL D'AMATO, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

RUSSIA WAS the first and only country to achieve a socialist revolution--that is, a society in which ordinary people had their hands on the levers of power.

For that reason alone, the capitalist rulers of the world cannot allow it to stand on its own merits. The later degeneration of the revolution into bureaucratic, one-party totalitarian rule must be read back into the past to “prove” that the revolution was doomed to fail.

This is the purpose of the hundreds of studies published by Russia “experts” that portray Lenin and the Bolshevik Party as ruthless, nasty and authoritarian. The revolution, in most accounts, did not involve the masses in determining their own destiny, but was the work of individuals bent on exploiting mass discontent for their own purposes.

This framework serves two purposes: to elevate the role of individuals in the making of history, and simultaneously to denigrate the role of ordinary workers, who are seen as naïve dupes.

Lenin is portrayed as a superhuman madman, bent on one-man dictatorship--and possessing an irresistible will to power. Historian Robert Payne, for example, writes absurdly of Lenin, "His fanatical will was like a lever which attempted to throw the whole globe into an orbit more to his liking; and because he pressed so hard on the lever, the earth still shudders."

The reality is that the Bolshevik Party became a mass party in the course of the revolution, winning the allegiance of the most militant workers. Far from being Lenin's cat's paw, the Bolsheviks were a party alive with debate and disagreement, with different factions fighting over the revolution's course.

Lenin was certainly the most respected leader in the party, but it was a respect earned by his role as a theoretician and practical leader, not by hypnosis or fiat. Indeed, Lenin often found himself in the minority and had to fight hard for his positions. Moreover, in a number of cases, Lenin's views, particularly on tactical questions, were wrong, and were rejected or adjusted by the party.

When Lenin returned to Russia in April, his views--transfer all power to the Soviets--were considered by other Bolsheviks to be completely out of touch and even anarchist. It took him some weeks of hard argument to win over the party.

Lenin also had to fight tooth and nail to convince the party of the necessity of preparing for an insurrection once the Bolsheviks had won over a majority in the Moscow and Petrograd soviets.

On the other hand, Lenin proved to be wrong after the July Days when he argued that the soviets were now bankrupt institutions. The party, though it officially voted to abandon the slogan "All power to the soviets," never really abandoned it at the local level and soon restored it.

Lenin was also wrong in his views that the insurrection might begin in Moscow--Petrograd was clearly the leading revolutionary citadel in Russia--and in his insistence that the insurrection should be organized through the Bolshevik Party, independently of the soviets. Other leaders, such as Leon Trotsky, were able to set a better course on these questions.

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THE ARGUMENT that the Bolsheviks "hijacked" the revolution fails to take into account that the Bolsheviks were only one political party among many competing for the support of the Russian people.

The fact that the Bolsheviks were able to win mass support away from the Social Revolutionaries and Mensheviks flowed not from their superior persuasive powers or ability to command blind obedience, but because of their program.

**They were the only party that demanded land to the peasants, factories to the workers, all power to the soviets [elected workers' councils] and an end to the war.**



**“All other major political groups,” writes historian Alexander Rabinowitch, “lost credibility because of their association with the government and their insistence on patient sacrifice in the interests of the war effort.”**

In short, whereas the other parties acted as a brake on the revolution, the Bolsheviks wanted to see it through to the end.

At the same time, the party was not for some kind of minority putsch against the Provisional Government led by Kerensky. Lenin and other party leaders worked to restrain the movement when they felt that a premature revolt threatened the movement as a whole with defeat.

It must be remembered that Lenin’s position was that the party must “patiently explain” their demands and win over the majority of the working class before it could move toward decisive action against the Provisional Government.

Lenin’s bold and determined leadership, as well as the Bolsheviks’ relative unity and discipline compared to other political parties, were key factors in the revolution’s success.

But this unity and discipline was not bureaucratic--it was organic and political. The party debated and voted on all key questions, and local organizations of the party possessed a great deal of leeway to carry on their own independent initiatives.

Rabinowitch attributes much of the Bolsheviks’ success in transforming themselves from a party of 25,000 on the eve of the February Revolution into a mass party capable of leading a successful struggle for power with a membership of a quarter million to “the party’s internally relatively democratic, tolerant and decentralized structure and method of operation, as well as its essentially open and mass character.”

The conspiratorial, clandestine forms of organization of the Bolsheviks that preceded the revolutionary period were imposed by necessity on all illegal parties as a result of the repressive conditions of Tsarism. The Bolsheviks were always prepared, when conditions changed, to move toward open, democratic methods of organization.

This little fact is practically ignored by most historians.

The dreaded “democratic centralism” of the Bolshevik Party was exactly what the term implies: the fullest and freest debate, combined with strict adherence to decisions once made. This is what gave the party its ability to “read” what was happening in the disparate sectors of struggle, generalize from that experience and offer guidance to it.

Democracy without centralism is a talk shop. Centralism without democracy creates bureaucratism and isolates the leaders from the ranks.

As Trotsky later wrote:

“How could a genuinely revolutionary organization, setting itself the task of overthrowing the world and uniting under its banner the most audacious iconoclasts, fighters and insurgents, live and develop without intellectual conflicts, without groups and temporary faction formations?...

“The Central Committee relied upon this seething democratic support. From this, it derived the audacity to make decision and give orders. The obvious correctness of the leadership at all critical stages gave it that high authority which is the priceless capital of centralism.”

Rabinowitch, in his book *The Bolsheviks Come to Power*, is able to demonstrate in rich detail that “within the Bolshevik Petrograd organization at all levels in 1917, there was continuing free and lively discussion and debate over the most basic theoretical and tactical issues,” and that the party had shifting left, center and moderate tendencies within it, right through the revolutionary period.

“Leaders who differed with the majority were at liberty to fight for their views, and not infrequently, Lenin was the loser in those struggles.”

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SURPRISING THOUGH these insights are to most bourgeois or anarchist commentators, the Bolsheviks’ open and democratic character flowed from its commitment to workers’ self-emancipation.

Lenin’s insistence on the need to build a disciplined party of revolutionaries is usually presented as a product of his “distrust” of the working class’s revolutionary potential--when, in fact, Lenin’s entire political career was based on the proposition, established in the early years of the Russian Marxist movement, that, “(t)he revolutionary movement in Russia can triumph only as the revolutionary movement of the workers.”

Nikolai Sukhanov, by no means a Bolshevik supporter in 1917, but who witnessed the party at close quarters in the days leading up to the October Revolution, observed the interconnectedness between the party and the working class:

The Bolsheviks were working stubbornly and without letup. They were among the masses, at the factory benches, every day without a pause. Tens of speakers, big and little, were speaking in Petersburg, at the factories and in the barracks, every blessed day.

For the masses, they had become their own people, because they were always there, taking the lead in details as well as in the most important affairs of the factory or barracks. They had become the sole hope...The mass lived and breathed together with the Bolsheviks.

What Sukhanov seemed not to understand is that the Bolsheviks themselves were workers--leaders on the ground in the day-to-day struggle.

They did not parachute in from somewhere else; they were already there.

As early as June, for example, Bolshevik delegates dominated the conferences of the factory committees. The Bolshevik vanguard was not an isolated elite, but organized working-class militants tempered by shared experience and shared politics, developed through interaction with their fellow workers.

One lesson of the Russian Revolution is that workers can take over the running of society; revolutions can win. Of course, the lesson of many failed workers' revolutions (1905 in Russia or 1919-23 in Germany, for example) is that such victories are by no means guaranteed.

Another, equally important lesson is that such a revolution can only win, as it did in Russia, if the working class organizes its own revolutionary party to guide its path to power.



Revolutionary Army: (Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

#### **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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.**

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

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



Foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. army from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry order an Iraqi citizen to get out of his own house during a night armed home invasion in the Radwaniyah area of southern Baghdad Oct. 11, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

**"You go up the stairs. You grab the man of the house. You rip him out of bed in front of his wife. You put him up against the wall.**

**"You have junior-level troops, PFCs, specialists will run into the other rooms and grab the family, and you'll group them all together. Then you go into a room and you tear the room to shreds and you make sure there's no weapons or anything that they can use to attack us.**

**"You get the interpreter and you get the man of the home, and you have him at gunpoint, and you'll ask the interpreter to ask him: 'Do you have any weapons?'**

Do you have any anti-US propaganda, anything at all--anything--anything in here that would lead us to believe that you are somehow involved in insurgent activity or anti-coalition forces activity?'

"Normally they'll say no, because that's normally the truth," Sergeant Bruhns said.

"So what you'll do is you'll take his sofa cushions and you'll dump them. If he has a couch, you'll turn the couch upside down.

"You'll go into the fridge, if he has a fridge, and you'll throw everything on the floor, and you'll take his drawers and you'll dump them.... You'll open up his closet and you'll throw all the clothes on the floor and basically leave his house looking like a hurricane just hit it.

"And if you find something, then you'll detain him. If not, you'll say, 'Sorry to disturb you. Have a nice evening.'

"So you've just humiliated this man in front of his entire family and terrorized his entire family and you've destroyed his home. And then you go right next door and you do the same thing in a hundred homes."

Sgt. John Bruhns

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

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

**Remember General Betrayus  
Babbling Bullshit About  
"Success" In Anbar?**

# **Iraqi Trains Don't Dare Leave The U.S. Base; "The Marine Commander Cannot Guarantee Safe Passage For The Trains" "Instability In Central Iraq Has Cut Al- Qaim Off From Iraq's Main Supply Lines"**

**Gen. David H. Petraeus, the senior Army officer in Iraq, and his No. 2 commander, Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, also of the Army, have described Anbar Province as a significant success story. THOM SHANKER, New York Times, October 11, 2007**

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12/10/2007 By Damien McElroy at al-Qaim Railhead, Anbar Province; Telegraph Media Group Limited [Excerpts]

The unending suspension of Iraq's national railway stands as a stark symbol of the failure to rebuild the nation.

Freight trains carrying supplies for a phosphorous plant are the only service offered at al-Qaim, which is also the main American base.

**"It's difficult to get restarted since we are targets because of our close ties to coalition forces," said the station manager Insp Khaled Waled Majeed.**

"Half our employees still refuse to come to work. Fear for their lives keeps them at home."

Mr Majeed and his deputy, Insaief Mohammad have big plans for their stock of 30 trains, purchased under former regimes from seven nations.

**But even the obstacles to a test run inside the base are formidable.**

The train must stop at a Marine guardpost, wait to be waved through and stop a second time for an onboard inspection with a sniffer dog.

When a driver ignored a signal to stop earlier this year, the guards opened fire with explosive shells.

The driver panicked and derailed the vehicle, putting the track used to haul materials to cement factories out of use.

**The incident eventually ruined American hopes of restarting train services in western Iraq this summer.**

**Lieutenant-Colonel Jason Bohm, the Marine commander in al-Qaim, remains a cheerleader for restoration of rail services but outside his area, he cannot guarantee safe passage for the trains.**

**Instability in central Iraq has cut al-Qaim off from Iraq's main supply lines.**

Lt-Col Bohm would like to use trains to transport oil from the Baiji oil refinery to ease a fuel shortage.

Insp Majeed and his colleagues take great pride in having kept the railway stock intact in one of Iraq's insurgent hotspots.

But when asked if the Baghdad government had lent its weight to the effort to re-open the railway, the inspectors could only shrug.

**When the train rolls away towing 18 empty freight cars, the circular return to the starting point sums up the lonely futility of their daily effort.**

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