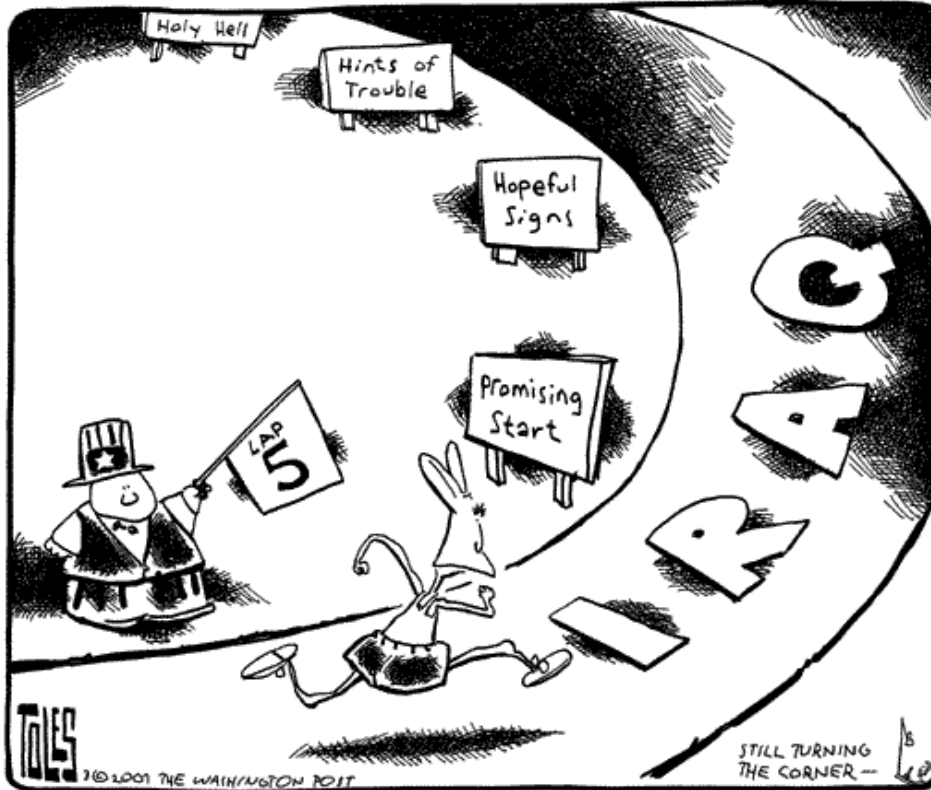


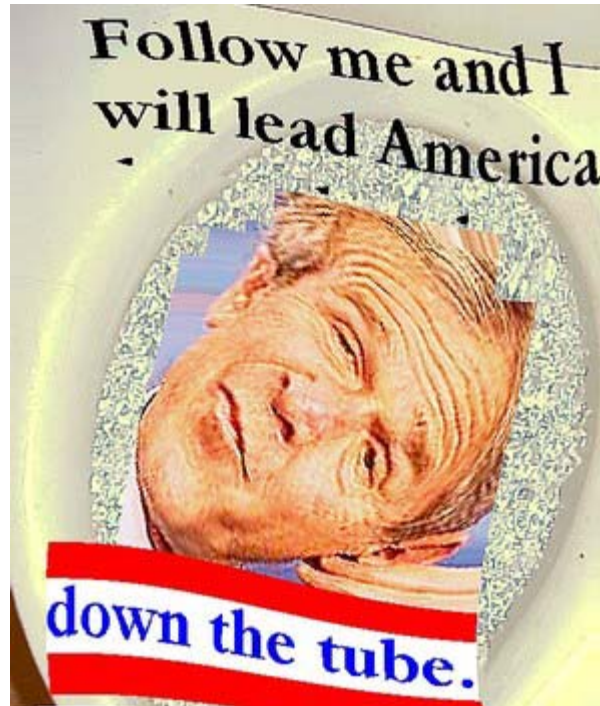
GI SPECIAL 5J13:



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

**Highly Intelligent,
Disgusted And Pissed
Off American Majority
Gets It Right:
Poll Reports Congress And
Bush At Record Lows;**

[Next Time You Run Into One Of Those Snotty Shit-Eating Elitist Rats Who Call Us “Sheeple” And Accuse Americans Of Being Stupid And Apathetic, Cram This Up Their Ass With A Sharp Stick]



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

[Thanks to AH, who sent this in.]

Oct 17, 2007 By John Whitesides, Political Correspondent; (Reuters)

Deepening unhappiness with President George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress soured the mood of Americans and sent Bush's approval rating to another record low this month, according to a Reuters/Zogby poll released on Wednesday.

The Reuters/Zogby Index, which measures the mood of the country, also fell from 98.8 to 96 -- the second consecutive month it has dropped.

The number of Americans who believe the country is on the wrong track jumped four points to 66 percent.

Bush's job approval rating fell to 24 percent from last month's record low for a Zogby poll of 29 percent.

A paltry 11 percent gave Congress a positive grade, tying last month's record low.

Pollster John Zogby said "They tell us they want action on health care, education, the war and immigration, but they don't believe they are going to get it."

The poll found declining confidence in U.S. economic and foreign policy.

About 18 percent gave positive marks to foreign policy, down from 24 percent, and 26 percent rated economic policy positively, down from 30 percent.

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

ACTION REPORTS

Military Project National Guard Armory Outreach 10/12/07

From: Z, Associate Member, The Military Project

To: GI Special

Sent: October 17, 2007 9:53 AM

Subject: Report from Military Project National Guard armory outreach 10/12/07

On Friday October 12, 2007 at 5:45 PM, A, N, VFP member E and Z outreached the National Guard Armory on [XXXXXX].

We stood by each of the two entrances and in total distributed 65 handouts and 15 "Sir No Sir" DVDs as well as almost all the cookies (37 snack bags of 2). Many of the reservists were familiar with the group as well as the cookies which they clearly like and remember.

The reservists were friendly and no one objected to our presence at either entrance of the armory.

I observed what appeared to be a productive night with more conversation than usual (or ever?) with some of the men of higher rank who seemed to be in positions of authority.

A note about the cookies. As this was the first time I'd participated in a reach out, I understand the what had not been clear: the power of the cookie. They make an impact, an impression that may serve two purposes.

The first is they are the logo, the image to match with the name of the group [The Military Project] and the familiar faces. It may take a few tries for the flier to be read but if the cookies are always there, sooner or later the paper they came with is going to receive attention.

Should they suddenly disappear for good, the way one would approach and engage people would have to be altered and it would probably a little harder.

If there is an element of rhythm from in the interaction with reservists, the cookies are a pivotal part of the beat.

MORE:

Military Project Railroad Station Outreach 10/16/07; “The Break Room For The Troops Now Has Multi Copies Of Our Handouts Handy And Ready To Read”

From: Alan Stolzer, The Military Project
To: GI Special
Sent: October 17, 2007 11:07 AM

Upon revisiting [XXXX] Station yesterday, ready with another supply of informational handouts including GI Specials and the “Sir No Sir” DVD, I found out something interesting

A highly communicative National Guardswoman I recognized, having given her other material recently, told me the break room for the troops now has multi copies of our handouts handy and ready to read. Moreover, she said some of the material was good! Libraries are always worthwhile.

Also, last night [10.18] while passing the [XXXX] (8th Ave. side) I saw a National Guardswoman waiting for a cab on the taxi line.

Once she finished her cell phone call I approached and gave her our lit (a GI Special, and the latest National Guard informational package) and a "Sir No Sir" DVD.

While we were chatting a man passed by and gave her \$10 for cab fare. It appears the troops are in focus.

MORE:

Australian Veteran Calls For Organizing To Reach Out To Australian Troops; “Building Resistance To These Wars Within The ADF”

[Thanks to Max Watts, who sent this in.]

From: Hamish Chitts hamish@ripper.com.au

Sent: October 18, 2007

Subject: [GreenLeft discussion] An open letter to all activists who have served in any armed forces

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL ACTIVISTS WHO HAVE SERVED IN ANY ARMED FORCES,

By Hamish Chitts, Former infantry soldier (Australian Army), INTERFET campaign and U.N. mission to East Timor veteran, Brisbane, Queensland, [Australia]

The recent successful tour by Matt Howard from U.S. based group Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) has highlighted the extra weight that veterans and former military personnel can add to the anti-war movement in this country.

IVAW's key strategy, and one which assisted the anti-Vietnam War movement, is organising resistance within U.S. armed forces.

The setting up in Australia of a group of former soldiers/guerrillas, sailors and air force personnel against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan could be an important step in building resistance to these wars within the ADF [Australian Defense Forces].

You know through personal experience that the words and actions of former service personnel carry far more resonance with current serving members than the words and actions of 'civilians'.

Such a group can also be an effective counter to the idea that the Government likes to portray, "If you're against the war, you're against the individual service people involved."

A group like this will not appear spontaneously. It is up to veterans and former service personnel already organised through groups within the anti-war movement to make this happen. The question is; are there enough of us out there within activist groups to make this work?

If you are a veteran, or have served in the armed forces of any country, are already part of the anti-war movement in Australia and you think it is worthwhile to have such a group contact me at hamish@ripper.com.au so I can find out who's out there, where they are and how many of us there are.

Organised together I think we can add to and strengthen the anti-war movement.

Mail to: hamish@ripper.com.au

MORE:

MORE ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the war.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

One U.S. Soldier Killed, One Wounded By Baghdad IED

October 19, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071019-12

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed and one other wounded when their unit was attacked by an improvised explosive device and small arms fire in a southern section of the Iraqi capital Oct. 18.

U.S. Soldier Killed, Three Wounded In Salah Ad Din

October 18, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071018

TIKRIT, Iraq - A Task Force Lightning Soldier was killed in Salah ad Din province Wednesday when an explosion occurred near the vehicle.

Three Soldiers were also wounded and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

‘Gung-Ho’ Soldier Left Tough Streets Of D.C. For The Army

October 5, 2007 By Clarence Williams, Washington Post Staff Writer

After surviving some of the roughest streets the District has to offer, Randy L. Johnson Jr. chose the military as his route to a better life. For more than a dozen years, the strategy worked.

Growing up amid neighborhood warfare in Southeast and Northeast Washington, Johnson was never pulled astray by the street life. And although his relatives said that as a teenager he preferred watching karate movies to hanging out on the streets, they had no doubt: He was tough. That attribute, along with a desire to get ahead, led him to join the Army and eventually to serve in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Johnson, 34, was on his third tour in Iraq, commanding a Bradley Fighting Vehicle unit in Baghdad, when a roadside bomb detonated near his vehicle Sept. 27, killing him.

"You don't find too many in the city who aren't streetwise. And Randy wasn't a streetwise guy," his brother, Vernon Johnson, said last night. "He was one of those cats who would never let that distract what he was. He was a regular guy."

Johnson grew up in a tight-knit family with nine siblings and stepsiblings. He and Vernon, who is about a year younger, spent their teenage years at the Carver Terrace complex in Northeast with their grandmother, who doted on Johnson.

"He was super-spoiled. Randy was her pet. Randy went everywhere she went. When she jumped, he jumped," said his father, Randy Johnson Sr.

Johnson worked summer jobs as a lifeguard at the swimming pool at the Barry Farm housing complex in Southeast and played wide receiver on the football team at Spingarn High School, from which he graduated. He wasn't very tall or fast, but he had good hands and remained determined.

"He was a tough-nosed little guy. He had the heart of a 7-footer," Vernon Johnson said, adding that his brother was a "math whiz" who used to do homework for his little brother.

Last year, Johnson was training troops in Washington state when a desire to be with his unit sent him back to his cavalry regiment in Vilseck, Germany, and then to Iraq, although his relatives said he didn't think that U.S. troops should be there. They said that makes his death even harder to take.

"I don't understand why he was back over there," his father said. "He got that gung-ho attitude about his fellow soldiers, and he wanted to be with them."

Still, his father said, the military life made his son happy and made the family proud of the man he had become. The Army offered him travels around the world and led him to marry his German wife, Claudia.

The couple have two boys, Devin, 5, and Aaron, 1, who has not met his family in the United States.

Soldier Who Grew Up In Los Osos Dies In Iraq

October 08, 2007 Topix LLC

U.S. Army Sgt. Robert T. Ayres III, 23, who grew up in Los Osos, was killed Sept. 29 while serving in Iraq. He died from wounds suffered during an attack on his unit in Baghdad.

His mother, Michelle Ayres, a 19-year resident of Los Osos, said her son enlisted in the Army after graduating from high school in Southern California in 2003.

'He was a happy, funny and just a really sweet boy,' Ayres said. 'He was fighting for the country and the people that he loved.'

Ayres was born July 26, 1984, in Santa Monica. He moved with his mother, twin brother and sister to Los Osos in 1988.

He is survived by four siblings ages 17 to 27. His twin brother, Jackson, lives in Atascadero, and his 17-year-old sister, Mimi, lives in Los Osos.

Other family members in San Luis Obispo County include his maternal aunt and uncle, Stevie and Rodger Anderson. Rodger Anderson is a former mayor of Morro Bay.

Robert Ayres attended Bay-wood and Monarch Grove elementary schools in Los Osos, San Benito Elementary School in Atascadero and Los Osos Middle School before moving to Brentwood when he was 15 to live with his father, Robert Ayres II.

'He told me he wanted to join the Army right out of high school,' said Michelle Ayres, 53.

She remembers him at age 5, with blond hair and blue eyes. He was a child who always had his eyes open, was constantly smiling, who would ride a bicycle without touching the handlebars, she said.

'He'd close his eyes just to see what he would run into,' she said. She worried, but he kept saying: 'Don't worry Mom, I'm made out of rubber.'

Although she hadn't seen her son in more than two years, Ayres remembered phone conversations with him in recent months as well as his last visit to the Central Coast in 2005. During that visit he celebrated his 21st birthday with his brother, Jackson, at the Sweet Springs Saloon in Los Osos.

That was the last time she saw her son before he left for Germany and then Baghdad in June 2007. It was his second deployment to Iraq since he joined the Army, according to family members.

Ayres was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, based in Vilseck, Germany.

During their sporadic phone calls, Michelle Ayres said she remembered sharing stories of her son's childhood. He'd tell her not to worry about him.

'He would never tell me that he was getting shot at,' she said. 'Instead, he would say 'Mommy, I love you.'''

Even from afar, Robert Ayres could still make her laugh. They'd tell each other to hang up after their conversations, but after 20 minutes, Michelle Ayres said, they'd still be on the phone.

As they joked back and forth, she remembered her son saying that he loved her.

'I can feel how badly he wanted to come home and just be a little kid again,' she said. 'Now every time I get sad, I can hear him.'

A memorial service for Robert Ayres III will be held Wednesday in Los Angeles. Arrangements are being made for a memorial service at Camp San Luis Obispo later this week.

Miami Soldier Killed In Iraq Spent Career In Military

October 2, 2007 Associated Press

MIAMI -- A career soldier killed in his second tour of duty in Iraq had talked about joining the military almost from the time he first began speaking, relatives said.

Staff Sgt. Donnie D. Dixon of Miami had toy soldiers as a boy, reminded his family at his high school graduation in 1988 that he wanted to enlist and left for boot camp on his 18th birthday, relatives said.

"He died doing what he always wanted to do: serve his country," said his mother, Dessie Dixon of Miami Gardens.

Dixon, 37, died Saturday in Baloor, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire, Pentagon officials said.

He drove a tank and was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. He planned to retire in three years, relatives said.

Dixon's mother last talked to him on his birthday, Sept. 20, when he called home. Other relatives sang him "Happy Birthday" and promised him a care package.

"At least we know he was laughing the last time we spoke to him, as we sang to him," his sister, Valencia Dixon, said.

Dixon told his family he had been patrolling buildings to make sure they were protected. He expected to be home by December.

Along with his mother, sister and younger brother, Dixon is survived by his wife and their four children, who live in Texas.

Glenwood Soldier Dies In Iraq Bomb Blast

October 10, 2007 By NIGEL DUARA and DAN PILLER, REGISTER STAFF WRITERS

A 2002 graduate of Glenwood High School in western Iowa was killed Friday in Iraq when a roadside bomb exploded near his unit as it searched for weapons in Baghdad.

Sgt. Joseph B. Milledge, 23, leaves behind a wife of three years, Amanda, and a 1-year-old son, Joseph Jr.

"He loved his family and his little boy, and he didn't want to go back to Iraq because of them," Milledge's mother, Carla, said Tuesday evening. "But he knew it was his duty."

Milledge had served a previous tour of duty in Iraq, from October 2004 to September 2005.

Milledge was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, in Vilseck, Germany, according to a news release from the Department of Defense.

He is the 62nd person with ties to Iowa to die from injuries in Iraq or Afghanistan since March 2003.

Another soldier was killed in the Friday explosion - 26-year-old Spc. Jason Marchand of Greenwood, W.Va.

Carla Milledge said that her son was born in Council Bluffs and that the family later moved to Glenwood, in Mills County. Through high school, Joseph Milledge's hobbies were reading and karate.

"His biggest thing was literacy," said Milledge's sister Jaclyn Dunkirk.

"He read everything that was important. School wasn't hard for him, but he was more into reading."

Milledge read books on philosophy, Dunkirk said, even naming two of his dogs Socrates, and wrote an unpublished book of poetry that he gave to his wife in July.

In addition to his wife, son and Dunkirk, he is survived by two brothers, Eric and Nathan, and another sister, Mary.

Carla Milledge said her son's body likely would be taken to the Tacoma area of Washington state, the home of his wife, for burial.

No date has been set for the funeral.

Joseph Milledge enlisted in the Army in August 2003, about a year after graduating from Glenwood High School. After training in Texas he was sent to Iraq for his first tour of duty about a year later. After that tour ended in 2005, Milledge was stationed in Germany before being sent to Iraq for a second tour.

Amanda Milledge gave birth to the couple's son, Joseph Bradley Ryan Jr., in August 2006. When Milledge was home this summer, they had their son baptized.

"He'll know his daddy was a hero and died for what he believed in," Carla Milledge said.

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



A US Soldier takes inventory of his platoon's weapon at their combat outpost Baquba.
(AFP/Alexander Nemenov)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**9 Foreign Occupation Troops Wounded
Near Kandahar;
Nationality Not Announced**

10/18/2007 AP

Taliban used heavy machine guns and rocket propelled grenades to ambush a U.S.-led coalition patrol in southern Afghanistan that wounded nine troops, a coalition statement said Thursday.

The insurgents attacked the patrol near Kandahar city Wednesday, the statement said.

Resistance Action

10/18/2007 AP & DPA & 10/19/07 AFP

Four policemen were killed near the border with Pakistan when a remotely detonated bomb blew up their vehicle as they were patrolling a remote area of the eastern province of Khost, police said.

Three more policemen were wounded in the blast, police spokesman Wazir Badshah said without saying who might have been behind the attack.

In another attack, two members of a militia working with the US military were killed in rugged northeastern Kunar when a bomb exploded on a road they were walking along, provincial police chief Abdul Jalal Jalal said.

In the east, a roadside bomb on a police vehicle close to the border with Pakistan killed an officer and wounded three others in Khost province, said Sher Ahmad Kochi, a police officer.

Their vehicle was blown up by a remote-controlled mine in Alinegar area in Khost province on Thursday morning, Wazir Badshah, spokesman for the provincial police chief told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

Afghanistan Foreign Minister Says Occupation Commander A Liar

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

Oct 19 HERAT, Afghanistan (Reuters)

The commander of NATO-led troops in Afghanistan said on Thursday a shipment of hi-tech roadside bombs intercepted in Afghanistan on September 5 had originated in Iran and it was difficult to conceive Tehran's military did not know about it.

"Iran is our neighbor, is our friend and Iran has had major role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan," Foreign Minister Rangeen Dadfar Spanta said during a visit to the western city of Herat on the border with Iran.

"The government of Afghanistan has no documents (to show) that Iran's government is involved in the shipment of arms," he told Reuters.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket during the group burial at Arlington National Cemetery October 12, 2007, for 12 U.S. soldiers killed when their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Iraq on January 20, 2007. The single casket holds the remains of all 12 soldiers.
REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

North Carolina National Guard Chosen For Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

October 19, 2007 (AP)

The Pentagon says a North Carolina National Guard unit will be deployed to Iraq starting next summer to replace active duty soldiers.

The 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team will be one of seven Army National Guard brigades that will go overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The North Carolina unit is one of two that will be involved in what's being called a full spectrum of operations on the ground in Iraq.

Earlier this week, The Associated Press reported that the Guard units would be used to maintain needed troop levels in the region and ease the strain on active duty Army units that would be rotated out of the country.

National Guard Troops Royally Fucked Over, Again: Most Of Units Called Up For Bush's Slaughterhouse Have Been There Before

October 19, 2007 Associated Press

5 of the seven Army National Guard brigades alerted today for likely deployments to Iraq in 2008 and 2009 did combat tours earlier in the war.

Scheduled to mobilize in June is Oklahoma's 45th Fires Brigade, based in Enid, with units from Oklahoma and Utah.

It's expected to deploy to Iraq on a security force mission in fall 2008. 2 of the brigade's battalions served in Iraq in 2003.

Next would be the 56th Brigade Combat Team of the Texas 36th Infantry Division, mobilizing in July and deploying as a security force in fall 2008.

It served in Iraq from December 2004 through December 2005.

Some U.S. Troops In Iraq Get Preview Of New Film About Iraqi Resistance: "It Tells Us A Lot About The Culture And How They Pretty Much Feel About Us"

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

October 19, 2007 By Catherine Mitchell, CNN [Excerpts]

NEW YORK (CNN) -- A new documentary that focuses on the motivations of Iraqi insurgents opens later this week in the United States, but reviews are already coming in from a surprising source: U.S. troops serving in Iraq.

At a recent screening in Baghdad's Al Faw Palace, American soldiers listened to their enemies talking about why they want them dead.

"It tells us a lot about the culture and how they pretty much feel about us. Well, not the entire Iraqi culture, just the insurgents, and how pretty much their faith is pretty strong," Staff Sgt. Jason Privitera said.

[Reality check: 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.]

The documentary, "Meeting Resistance," was shot just after the fall of Baghdad in 2003. The filmmakers, Molly Bingham and Steve Connors, spent months following a handful of Iraqi insurgents. They say it's a fractured group united by both fierce nationalism and by a religious obligation to expel a non-Muslim occupying force.

"If someone comes and occupies another man's home and takes away his food, money and property, how could he not defend himself?" one Iraqi insurgent asks in the film. "A person who doesn't fight for himself or his country shouldn't be called a human being."

Before the war he was a teacher. Now, he said, his job is killing American troops.

The men and women in the film are obscured to protect their identities and go by simple names -- the Wife, the Teacher, the Warrior -- ordinary Iraqis who say they were peaceful people before the U.S. occupation of Iraq, and who now say they are simply defending their homeland.

"It's about not wanting to be occupied. And I think people all over the world, all throughout history have been occupied and resisting occupation is not an abnormal response to that," Bingham said.

The insurgent known in the film as The Warrior said that while he was tortured during Saddam Hussein's rule, he is now fighting American troops. "When they occupied Iraq, they subjugated me, subjugated my sister, subjugated my mother, subjugated my brother, my homeland."

The Wife, an insurgent who smuggles weapons under her robes, said she does it because her country is more precious than even her children or her soul.

All of the insurgents in the documentary talk of the humiliation of occupation. Connors said "honor" was a word he heard frequently from the fighters. They also talk about the concept of a jihad that requires them to fight a foreign invader who is not Muslim.

"Meeting Resistance" opens Friday in New York and Washington and nationwide later in November. But the film has already been screened by the toughest of critics -- U.S. troops.

The screening was arranged by the military's Red Team -- a special unit tasked with learning about the insurgency.

The filmmakers say it's important for the troops and the American public to think about why the enemy is fighting.

And to think about how they would answer this question, posed by an imam in the film:

"Suppose Iraq invaded America. An Iraqi soldier was on a tank passing through an American street, waving his gun at people, threatening them, raiding and trashing houses. Would you accept that?"

Blackwater Thieves Grabbed Two Iraqi Military Aircraft

The New Republican Guard Overpaid, Overweight and Over There



October 19, 2007 AP

WASHINGTON: Blackwater USA tried to take at least two Iraqi military aircraft out of Iraq two years ago and refused to give the planes back when Iraqi officials sought to reclaim them, according to a congressional committee investigating the private security contractor.

Democratic Rep. Henry Waxman, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, wants the company to provide all documents related to the attempted shipment and to explain where the aircraft are now.

In a letter sent Friday to Erik Prince, Blackwater's top executive, Waxman said he learned of the 2005 attempt from a military official who contacted the committee. That official is not identified in the letter, nor is the type of aircraft.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Blows Up Pipelines As Usual; This Time, Collaborator Troops Ambushed As They Respond

October 20, 2007 By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr., New York Times

In the latest bout of violence around the contested northern oil city of Kirkuk, suspected insurgents today blew up a pipeline carrying oil to the Bayji refinery.

The explosion of the pipeline, which carries oil from the rich fields around Kirkuk to the largest refinery in northern Iraq in Bayji, caused officials to shut the pipeline down as firefighters wrestled with the huge fire. The explosion occurred near the village of Safra, about 35 miles west of Kirkuk, sending huge plumes of fire into the air.

A thick cloud of black smoke drifted all the way to Kirkuk, said Lt. Col. Sadr Abdullah of the Iraqi Army. He said initial reports on the blast suggested that insurgents had sabotaged the pipeline using an improvised explosive device.

Mateen Ghafour, an engineer with the Northern Oil Company, said investigators would not be able to make a final determination of the cause of the explosion until firefighters extinguished the blaze. "Teams are trying to control the situation, and we expect that within the next few hours the teams will be able to put out the fire," he said.

Reuters also reported that insurgents today attacked a pipeline that sends oil from Iraq's southern fields to the Dora refinery in Baghdad, but that the damage was quickly contained and repaired.

However, the news agency quoted an Iraqi Army general as saying that Iraqi soldiers were ambushed when they went to the scene of the pipeline blast, and that their convoy was later struck by a roadside bomb that wounded one soldier.

Resistance Action

10.19.07 Reuters & (KUNA) & October 20, 2007 By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr., New York Times

Suspected insurgents attacked a convoy carrying bodyguards of Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih

Mr. Salih, a Kurd, was not in the convoy, according to a security official in Kirkuk. But the ambush, which came around 10 a.m., and the fighting that followed lasted almost an hour and killed at least one bodyguard while wounding another, according to an official from Mr. Salih's office.

The clash occurred about 60 miles south of Kirkuk on the road to Baghdad, the security official said.

One Iraqi soldier was killed and three others wounded in a roadside bomb attack on their vehicle in Arab al-Jabour on the southern outskirts of Baghdad, police said.

A parked car bomb wounded three soldiers when it targeted an army patrol in central Hawija, 70 km (40 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

Guerrillas killed three members of a local "Awakenings Council" aligned to U.S. forces, in a drive-by shooting in Dhuluiya, 70 km (45 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two policemen were killed when a roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol in the northern city of Mosul, police said.

Two Iraqi policemen were injured in an ambush targeting Captain Abdullah Al-Jabouri, the police chief of Al-Riyadh area, southwest Kirkuk, Friday. Unknown militants opened fire at the convoy of the senior police officer who escaped unhurt, an insider of the Joint Coordination Center of Iraqi Police in the northern city told KUNA. The police captain survived the attack, but two of his guards were wounded, and the insurgents escaped.

Al-Jabouri was heading for his work when the attack took place, the source added.

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

Nationalists Fighting It Out With Pro-Iranian Militia Allied With The U.S. Occupation

Oct. 19, 2007 By DARRIN MORTENSON, TIME [Excerpts]

Diwaniyah now nearly rivals Basra as a vicious free-for-all in the growing civil war among the Shi'a.

The local government and security forces of Diwaniyah are largely controlled by the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council (SIIC) and its armed wing, the Badr Corps, who are challenged almost daily in the streets by members of the rival Jaish al Mahdi, the militia [led by] Moqtada al Sadr.

(The SIIC was formerly known as the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, with the initials SCIRI.) While both groups are engaged in a raw and bloody fight for dominance in the region, they are also pitted against each other by basic political positions that are key to the Shi'ite majority in search of a national identity and place in Iraq's future.

In general, the SIIC and Badr militia, who have shown more willingness to work with both the Coalition and Iran in their bid for power, advocate a soft partitioning of Iraq and the creation of a semi-autonomous political region in the South that they, of course, would control.

The Sadrists, for their part, wrap themselves in a nationalist banner and advocate a strong central government in Baghdad...

"What's happening in this town is like a political duel over who's going to govern," said Ali al Mayali, a Sadrist member of the Iraqi Parliament. "It's a fight to control the street."

Besides Sadr's Jaish al Mahdi and Hakim's Badr Corps, a new group has recently surfaced in the city called the Brigade of Hussein, named after the 7th Century Shi'ite martyr Imam Hussein, the central figure of Shi'a Islam.

The group claimed responsibility for the recent attack on the Polish ambassador in Baghdad, a coordinated ambush that included a series of timed explosions and pre-planned gunfire that wounded the ambassador and killed one of his security guards.

In Diwaniyah, locals say these armed groups may focus their attention on the local Polish base in the city in an effort to push the Coalition out of the city.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**"What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms."
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

Charles Manson



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: October 18, 2007
Subject: Charles Manson

**All the war-propaganda, all the screaming and lies and hatred, comes invariably from people who are not fighting.
George Orwell**

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

A Revolt Of U.S. Soldiers “Can Undermine The Ability Of The U.S. To Continue The War Effort”

October 12, 2007 By Eric Ruder, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

SINCE THE start of the Iraq war, antiwar sentiment has grown dramatically in the U.S.

In 2003, 23 percent of the U.S. population thought the U.S. invasion was a mistake. Today, that figure stands at 58 percent.

Yet the antiwar movement had its largest mobilization before the war began, and more recent demonstrations have been smaller than those held several years previously, before public opinion had turned dramatically against the occupation.

In its call for regional mobilizations on October 27, UFPJ [United for Peace and Justice] stated: "To force a decisive change in government policy, we have to make the antiwar majority more active, more visible, more difficult to ignore.

"We have to stand up vigorously against the cynicism that says: there is nothing we can do."

The mood was very different after the Democrats took control of Congress in the November 2006 elections.

UFPJ had kept a low profile before the 2006 vote--as in 2004, when it rejected holding an explicitly antiwar mobilization, instead joining protests against the Republican National Convention in New York City, while tailoring its message to fit in with the pro-war campaign of John Kerry.

Nevertheless, the Democrats' victory was seen by UFPJ as a vindication of its strategy of "(building) a bipartisan peace bloc in Congress that can set the date for troop withdrawal and force Bush and the Pentagon to end the occupation," Judith Le Blanc, a UFPJ national co-chair and leader of the Communist Party USA, wrote in the People's Weekly World.

But this strategy makes the movement a hostage to the politicians.

Thus, when the "peace bloc in Congress" caved last May and voted for the Bush administration's demand for \$120 billion in war funding, the renewed confidence of UFPJ activists turned to demoralization.

At the UFPJ national assembly in July, delegates expressed a sense of isolation, despite the reinvigoration of local activism following the November election.

Many activists felt betrayed by the Democrats' failure to stand up to the Bush administration, but UFPJ's failed strategic orientation--of tailoring its activities and mobilizations to a Democratic Congress it expects to at least limit, if not end, the Bush administration's ability to prosecute the war--remained unexamined and unchanged.

The problem has emerged in an even more extreme form locally in Chicago. To plan the October 27 protest, the UFPJ affiliate Chicagoans Against War and Injustice (CAWI) held invitation-only organizing meetings that excluded other antiwar organizations.

The movement was presented with an already decided plan for a demonstration that included a speaking invitation for Chicago Mayor Richard Daley--an insult to the hundreds of antiwar marchers illegally arrested by Daley's police on the first night of the war in 2003, and anyone who faced the intimidation tactics of riot cops at protests since.

CAWI leader Carl Davidson, a former figure in Students for a Democratic Society in the 1960s, not only defended the invitation to Daley, but argued that the antiwar movement in general, and the left in particular, needed to "set certain things aside" in order to build alliances with Democrats and even Republicans willing to go against the Bush White House.

What is the antiwar movement expected to set aside?

Essentially, anything that the politicians might object to--even if that means conceding on basic demands for an immediate and complete U.S. withdrawal from Iraq.

This is the exact wrong way to go about trying to end the war.

The key is building a strong grassroots movement, independent of both the Democrats and Republicans, with the power to force the politicians of both parties to abandon their support for the war.

This understanding is especially important now as leaders of the Democratic Party prepare not to end the war but "take it over" from the Bush administration after the 2008 election.

At a recent debate, all three of the party's top presidential contenders--Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John Edwards--refused to say they would have withdrawn U.S. troops from Iraq after a full four years in office.

The emphasis of the antiwar movement shouldn't be on alliances made at the top of the political system in "building a bipartisan peace bloc in Congress," in LeBlanc's words--but on building a struggle from below.

What's needed now is a focus on building local bases of antiwar activism around basic points of unity. These local formations--at colleges and high schools, in neighborhoods and cities, on military bases and in workplaces--provide the best way to help people overcome their sense of isolation, in activities like teach-ins, speakouts and pickets, that bring opponents of the war together.

The guiding principles for the movement can be simple and straightforward--like the three demands of Iraq Veterans Against the War: immediate withdrawal; a commitment to health care and other services for returning veterans; and payment of reparations to the Iraqi people for the damage inflicted by the U.S. occupation.

Strategically, the movement needs to understand that three inter-related ingredients are required to end the war--the resistance of Iraqis to the occupation, a domestic antiwar movement stepping up the pressure at home, and a revolt of U.S. soldiers that can undermine the ability of the U.S. to continue the war effort.

The interplay of these elements ended the U.S. war in Vietnam.

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

No Shit?

October 18th, 2007 Houston Chronicle [Excerpt]

At the Texas headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Austin, state adjutant Roy Grona said military personnel do not vote as a bloc.

“There’s probably a lot of veterans that aren’t happy with the war in Iraq,” he said.

“And On It Went, Ever Since”

From: Felicity Arbuthnot
To: GI Special
Sent: October 13, 2007

My father came from an early day ‘IVAW’ [Iraq Veterans Against The War] stance.

As a young, idealistic Irishman, he joined the British Air Force in WWII, was the second youngest to be awarded the DFC - and wrote home of his compulsion, in one station, on the ocean, ‘to walk the shores, whatever time I return (from a bombing raid) until I see the vast, prehistoric shape of a whale - a sign of continuity, in a world of killing and waste.’

I had an uncle who was a committed pacifist and went to jail for the duration of the war, rather than kill. It, of course split the family, the hero who had a film made about him (my father) in the propaganda mode of those ever since (who was writing agonised letters, whilst ‘doing the right thing’, with huge, searing, doubts) against the ‘coward’ who would not fight - and endured another kind of hell for his stance.

My father was killed bombing the German warship Sharnhorst, in Trondheim Harbour, in 1941 and is buried with his colleagues in the graveyard nearby at Stavne, with its ancient wooden church and yew trees.

His friends, all killed, were between eighteen and twenty three. He was the old man. He was twenty eight.

If he had come back, from his letters, he would have joined the pacifist uncle to try and change the reasons politicians send youth to die.

As we know now, even WWII could have been halted earlier, subsequent Korea was not even necessary, but for regional strategic interests.

And on it went, ever since.

You Want Something To Obsess About? Forget The Iran Bullshit; Think This One Over

October 22, 2007 V Muradian, Army Times [Excerpts]

A recent series of highly classified Joint Staff capability assessments found several instances where U.S. air and sea forces would be more important than ground forces — a finding that defense officials and analysts say will become a weapon in upcoming budget battles.

The Operational Availability '08 assessments test current and planned capabilities of each of the military services against a range of scenarios, from wars against China, North Korea and Iran, to restoring order in a failing Nigeria or securing a destabilized Pakistan's nuclear weapons.

[Andrew Krepinevich, the president of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a retired Army colonel] said "If Pakistan were to become destabilized, concerns over the disposition of its nuclear arsenal and fears of a broad radical Islamist sanctuary would likely compel us to intervene.

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR;

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



A Iraqi mother with her children are forced to get out of their home as foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team 3-1 CAV search through their personal belongings unobserved near the city of Narhwan, about 30km (18 miles) west of Baghdad October 12, 2007. (Fabrizio Bensch/Reuters)

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.

[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?]

"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."

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

After Disputing Bush About Iraq, Counterterrorism Chief Suddenly Resigns To Have Knee Surgery [Presumably He Needs To Have The Bullets Removed]

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in. He writes: Presumably he needs to have the bullets removed.]

October 17, 2007 Justin Rood, ABC News [Excerpts]

Three days after Americans saw the Bush administration's counterterrorism chief say the Iraq war has likely not made the United States safer from terrorism, the official announced his resignation, citing health reasons.

In an e-mail sent to his staff Wednesday afternoon, Adm. Scott Redd, head of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), said he was stepping down to "take care of some long-delayed surgery that I can no longer neglect."

The center serves as an all-source intelligence operation, synthesizing information from the CIA, the Pentagon, the FBI and elsewhere and analyzing the threat of terrorism to the United States.

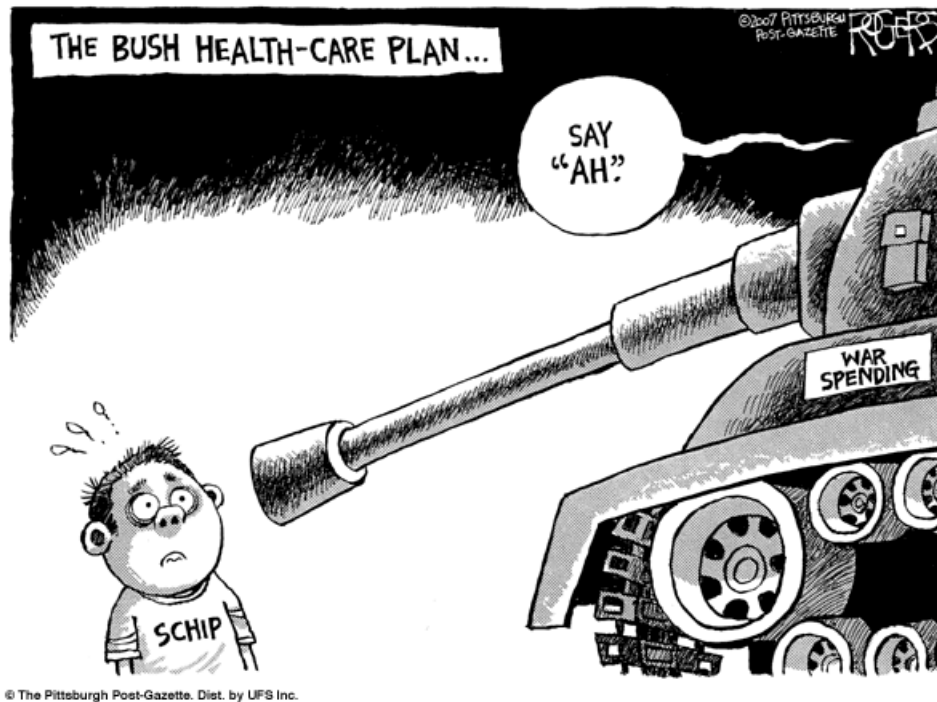
A spokesman said that Redd, 63, needed to have both of his knees replaced, which would require a long period of rehabilitation during which he could not work.

On Monday, NBC News broadcast an interview with Redd in which he said that the U.S. was "probably" not safer from terrorism today than it was before the 2003 invasion of Iraq. In the longer term, he said, "We'll wait and see."

Redd's comment apparently contradicted an assertion made by President Bush's top counterterrorism adviser, Fran Townsend, that the terrorist threat "would have been worse" if the United States had not invaded Iraq.

In a statement released this afternoon, Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell thanked Redd for his service. "I know his decision to step down was difficult," McConnell said.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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