

GI SPECIAL 5J21:

Iraq Veterans Against The War And War Resisters Help Lead San Francisco March



Photo by Jeff Paterson 10.27.07



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Really Bad News: Research Shows Brain Damage Continues Long After IED Explosions; “Metabolism Of Cells Deep Within The Brain Can Be Altered, Causing Them To Die” “A Cascading Effect That Leads To The Premature Aging And Death Of Neurons That Cannot Be Replaced” “These Soldiers Could Have Hidden Injuries With Long-Term Consequences”

This cellular death leads to symptoms that may not surface for months or years, Cernak says. They can include memory deficit, headaches, vertigo, anxiety, and apathy or lethargy.

Military and civilian scientists worry that a generation of service members could emerge from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars with some form of brain damage that becomes steadily more severe.

November 05, 2007 By Greg Zoroya - USA Today

Scientists trying to understand traumatic brain injury from bomb blasts are finding that the wounds are more insidious than they once thought.

They find that even when there are no outward signs of injury from the blast, the metabolism of cells deep within the brain can be altered, causing them to die, said Geoff Ling, an advance-research scientist with the Pentagon.

The new findings are the result of blast experiments in recent years on animals, followed by microscopic examination of brain tissue. The findings could mean that the number of brain-injured soldiers and Marines — many of whom appear unhurt after exposure to a blast — may be far greater than reported, says Ibolja Cernak, a scientist with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

This cellular death leads to symptoms that may not surface for months or years, Cernak says. They can include memory deficit, headaches, vertigo, anxiety, and apathy or lethargy.

“These soldiers could have hidden injuries with long-term consequences,” he said.

Physicians and scientists are calling TBI the “signature wound” of the Iraq war because of its increasing prevalence among troops.

The animal studies have revealed a fundamentally different wound than the “brain concussion” historically linked to undetected brain injuries, researchers said.

A concussion, essentially a bruise on the brain, is a wound that can heal over time.

The newly discovered brain damage at the cellular level can be permanent — especially after repeated exposures to blasts — and lead to lasting neurological deterioration, Ling and Cernak said.

Military and civilian scientists worry that a generation of service members could emerge from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars with some form of brain damage that becomes steadily more severe.

Army Sgt. Gary Boggs may be such a case. When he was wounded by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2003, doctors believed his worst injuries were a blinded left eye, shrapnel wounds to one arm and ruptured eardrums.

No one spoke of brain damage during his hospital treatment and convalescence. Boggs said he never considered the possibility until he took a medical retirement from the Army and started a job this year as a financial adviser.

He found he couldn’t keep up with a job-study program, forgetting paragraphs he had just read.

“It was really getting hard for me,” says Boggs, 32, of Melbourne Beach, Fla. “I finally swallowed my pride and asked for help” from the Department of Veterans Affairs. “I said, ‘I think something is wrong with me.’”

He was diagnosed with mild traumatic brain injury and takes medication to focus his thoughts.

Brain injury experts such as Cernak fear Boggs could be at the front of a new wave of TBI victims.

Her research on blast-related brain injury dates back to the study of wounded soldiers in her native homeland of the former Yugoslavia during the Balkans conflict of the 1990s. It was there she first discovered that soldiers exposed to blasts who suffered no apparent head wounds displayed brain damage symptoms over a period of months or more than a year. “You can give her credit for being a pioneer,” Ling says.

When the war in Iraq began, clinicians treating the wounded began noticing similar symptoms. Some screenings at military bases showed that 10 percent to 20 percent of returning troops may have suffered such head wounds.

“We’ve had patients who have been in a blast, who we tested. They looked OK. And they came back later, and they were not OK,” said Maria Mouratidis, head of brain injury treatment at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

To make matters worse, whatever damage occurred was so microscopic that it could not be found with imaging tests.

“This is a new beast,” said Alisa Gean, a San Francisco-based traumatic brain injury specialist who treated soldiers this year at an Army hospital in Germany.

The microscopic damage changes brain cell metabolism, Cernak says, creating a cascading effect that leads to the premature aging and death of neurons that cannot be replaced.

In a presentation to a panel of the National Academy of Sciences last month, Cernak said the damage was caused by the blast pressure wave, an invisible surge of compressed air traveling near the speed of sound. Kinetic energy from this pressure wave ripples through the body, injuring brain cells, Cernak said.

All of this occurs in less than a second after the blast, she said. Moreover, she said, body armor is no protection against this blast wave.

Ling says other factors can contribute to TBI, not just pressure. “Pressure is our leading candidate for no other reason than it is the one we’ve studied the most,” he said. “We are playing catch-up.”

Concerned about the potential number of wounded, Congress authorized \$150 million this year for brain injury research in an emergency spending bill passed in May for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Improvised explosive devices account for almost 80 percent of all wounds to U.S. troops. Many troops caught near these blasts can suffer symptoms such as perforated eardrums, ringing in the ears, blurred vision, memory lapses and headaches.

Troops often shake off the effects and return to combat.

Iraq and Afghanistan veterans treated by VA say they have been exposed to anywhere from six to 25 bomb blasts during their combat experiences, says Barbara Sigford, VA director of physical medicine.

Ling and other scientists say repeated blast exposure can aggravate any brain damage.

That would be very difficult to do, he said, without having some idea of how many blast exposures are too many.

Pentagon medical policy analysts have grappled with the idea of pulling troops out of combat after being exposed to multiple blasts.

However, the science is too preliminary for such a dramatic change in policy, said Army Col. Tony Carter, one of those analysts.

“If (soldiers) could have damage and they were otherwise functionally OK, but the damage could show up much later, then essentially what we would be saying is, ‘Anybody exposed to blast leaves theater,’” Carter said.

“Half a dozen? One? I mean, what’s the tipping point?” [Let’s find out. Let’s see how many detonations Col. Carter can handle before his brain cells go. Surely the brave Col. would volunteers for that mission, right?]

MORE:

Comment: T

So, the Col. really doesn’t make his priority keeping his troops from having increasing deterioration of their brain cells. His priority is keeping them in theatre. So they can keep on fighting and, if they live, risk even more brain damage in this stupid, evil war for Empire, that everybody knows has no victory at the end of it.

How fortunate troops are taught that planning and organization are necessary to survive in the face of the enemy. By now it’s clear who the enemy is, and the enemy is not in Iraq. Never was.

The men and women who serve in the ranks of the armed forces are, overall, the finest, least corrupted people in America. Courageous, dedicated to doing the right thing. That is now on the agenda. From below. T

Apologies For Delay

Computer monitor failing, slowing up putting together GI Special. New one due for delivery about 11.1.07. High quality, Consumer Report recommended; delay due to heavy demand on manufacturer.

Yeah, you guessed it. Another astounding GI Special Raffle coming to pay for it too, with even more astounding prizes than last time.

Like the 1972 GI Movement Calendar. And issues #1 and 2 of Army@Love. And of course, full sets of Vietnam GI. Hang on with baited breath, whatever the fuck that means.

T

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

IED Kills Three U.S. Soldiers Southeast Of Baghdad

October 30, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071030-10

BAGHDAD – Three Multi-National Division - Center Soldiers were killed when their patrol was struck by an improvised explosive device southeast of Baghdad Oct. 30.

Iraq War Claims One Of Our Own



19 October 2007 Written by Benett Kessler, Sierra Wave

A couple of weeks ago Kim Geiger of Lone Pine put her son's name on the Mom's Club list to receive packages from home. 23 year old Wayne Geiger joined the Army and went to Iraq in September. Friday morning, the Army called Randy and Kim Geiger with the terrible news that their son, Wayne, had been killed by an explosive device.

Sheriff Bill Lutze confirmed this grim news today. Lt. Randy Geiger has long been a member of the Inyo Sheriff's Department and a resident of Lone Pine. His son was 23 year old U.S. Army Specialist, Wayne Geiger, 2nd Platoon, H Company, 3rd Squad, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, stationed at Camp Stryker, Baghdad, Iraq.

Marilyn Nicholson of the MOM's Club - that's Mothers of the Military - said she had just met Kim Geiger when she came to the packing night in Bishop, where local mothers of young people in the military put together packages from home.

Nicholson confirmed that this is the first loss for the Eastern Sierra. She asked that we all pray for the Geiger family and keep them in our thoughts.

Inyo and Mono had been lucky these 4 years during the Iraq war. Luck ran out, and sorrow came to our two counties with this loss.

The Inyo Supervisors directed that all American flags at county facilities be flown at half-staff in honor of Wayne Geiger. Officials said that "this is the first casualty from Inyo County and the Chairperson feels that it is fitting and appropriate to honor this local hero who died in the line of duty, defending his country by flying our nation's flag at half-staff."

Lone Pine VFW Color Guard members planned to carry out a brief ceremony at Lone Pine High's football game Friday night. A bugler was slated to play taps with a period of silence. Wayne Geiger was a 2003 graduate of Lone Pine High School.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in October 2005 and was deployed to Iraq September 1, 2007. Specialist Geiger is survived by his parents, Lt. Randy Geiger and Sheriff's Civil Officer Kim Geiger, along with sister Jessica of Lone Pine and many other relatives and friends. Funeral arrangements for Specialist Geiger are pending.

Soldier Shot By Sniper Showing Signs Of Improvement

October 30, 2007 DETROIT, Maine (AP)

The grandfather of a Maine soldier shot by a sniper in Iraq says the 22-year-old is slowly showing signs of improvement.

William "T-Bob" Buckland of Newport says he has talked to Army Pvt. 1st Class Bradley Buckland and the soldier sounds strong and upbeat. He says the sniper's bullet smashed Buckland's hip, went through his intestines and exited his stomach.

Buckland, who's from Detroit, underwent more than six hours of surgery in Germany before arriving at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he remains in intensive care. His father and his wife are with him at the hospital.

**GUESS WHO'S WORRIED
GUESS WHO ISN'T
GUESS WHY
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Slain Utah Soldier Told Family He Didn't Expect To Survive Sixth Combat Tour

10/25/2007 By Matthew D. LaPlante, The Salt Lake Tribune

WEST VALLEY CITY - Ismael Rougle knew. He served in the Army during the Vietnam War and suffered the loss of good friends there.

Fernando Lopez knew. He served in Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War and helped write the death certificates for several comrades.

And though she liked to pretend otherwise, Nancy Rougle knew, too. Her son feared that this would be his final combat tour and had told her so.

They all knew the cost of war.

“But not like this,” sighed Ismael Rougle as he struggled to consider a world without his eldest son, Larry. “No, not like this.”

Ismael Rougle learned Tuesday afternoon that his son, a 25-year-old U.S. Army sniper, had been shot in the stomach and killed in Afghanistan’s volatile Kunar Province. On Wednesday afternoon, the grieving father was bent under the hood of an old truck, his oil-stained hands contorted behind the leaky radiator as he recalled the day his then-17-year-old son had come home to say that he was going to join the Army.

“I’d never suggested it,” said Ismael Rougle, who had served 25 years in the Army. “But he had it in his mind that this is what he wanted to do. And he was so proud.”

That was in 1999. And though Ismael Rougle knew all too well the consequences of war, his nation wasn’t at war.

“I thought it was a good idea,” the 61-year-old maintenance man for the U.S. Postal Service said.

Two years later, in the wake of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Larry Rougle departed for his first combat tour. He was 19.

Over the six years that have followed, family members said, Larry Rougle served two more tours in Afghanistan and three in Iraq.

“Six tours,” Ismael Rougle said. “Six.”

Family members say Larry Rougle never complained about being called away from home, not even after his then-wife gave birth to a daughter, Carmin Jade, now 3 years old. He loved the girl more than anything, they said, but remained proud to serve and committed to victory.

Along the way, he confided in his uncle, Gulf War veteran Fernando Lopez, about his passion for fighting, his experiences under fire and his fears about the future.

“Unless you’ve been there during the time when the bullets are flying past, you just can’t know what it’s like,” Lopez said. “So we talked about his various experiences. He would talk and I’d listen.”

When Larry Rougle visited his family in Utah last spring, he told his mother that he was returning to Afghanistan again.

“He told me that he didn’t think that he would be making it home this time,” Nancy Rougle said. “I said, ‘No, no, let’s not talk about it.’ I didn’t want to believe it.”

But Larry Rougle was determined to prepare his family for the worst.

“Afghanistan is more dangerous than Iraq,” younger brother David Rougle said. “That is what he told me.”

Indeed, relative to the size of the forces in both nations, coalition troops in Afghanistan have suffered greater numbers of casualties than their counterparts in Iraq in each of the past three months.

Rougle is the sixth Utahn to die in the Afghanistan conflict.

His death brings to 193 the number of coalition forces killed in Afghanistan so far this year, making this the deadliest year for U.S. and allied troops since the war began in 2001.

Though David Rougle had never served in the military, he also had some understanding of the consequences of war - some context in which to place his brother's grave predictions.

As a ramp worker at Salt Lake City International Airport, he'd watched the flag-draped caskets of several service members roll out from the bellies of passenger aircraft.

But he never thought his brother would be inside of one of the boxes. "Never," David Rougle said. "Not for a moment. I thought he was coming home."

Back under the hood of the truck, perhaps simply happy for the distraction it presented, Ismael Rougle sighed again.

"Until it is your own family," he said, "you really don't know."

National Guard Major Killed In Kajaki

October 30, 2007 U.S. Department of Defense Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) News Release No. 1262-07

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a soldier who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Maj. Jeffrey R. Calero, 34, of Queens Village, N.Y., died Oct. 29 in Kajaki, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was on dismounted patrol. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Massachusetts National Guard, Springfield, Mass.

U.S. Soldier Killed, Another Wounded Near Sperwan Ghar

October 30, 2007 Canadian Press & (AFP)

An American soldier was killed and another wounded in a firefight with the Taliban this morning near Sperwan Ghar in Kandahar province.

Canadian Forces Captain Josee Bilodeau said the victims were members of the embedded training team that mentors members of the Afghan National Army.

She said the team was attacked by an unknown number of insurgents and that an Afghan soldier was also slightly injured in the ensuing firefight.

The wounded were eventually transported to hospital at Kandahar Air Field for further treatment.

In addition six rockets were fired on the airport of western Herat province which is the base for the NATO-led troops in western Afghanistan and Afghan forces. The rockets caused no casualties.

Resistance Offensive Takes Gulistan District

October 31, 2007 News Limited

TALIBAN rebels overran a western Afghan district, sparking a fierce battle today that left seven civilians and a policeman dead and 20 militants killed or wounded, officials said.

Around 400 Taliban from the troubled southern province of Helmand joined forces with Islamist fighters in the neighbouring Gulistan district of Farah province last night, provincial police chief Abdul Rehman Sarjang said.

“Police made a tactical retreat, the battle is ongoing now,” Chief Sarjang said.

“One policeman was martyred and three injured so far.”

Taliban spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi claimed the hardline movement’s fighters had captured Gulistan.

“We are in control of the district now,” he said.

But the police chief denied the claim, saying Afghani forces and NATO-led troops are being deployed in support of police “to **retake** total control”.

The Taliban have kept control of at least one district in Helmand province, Musa Qala, for almost a year now.

Resistance Action

Oct 27 (AFP) & Oct 30 (AFP) & Canadian Press

A roadside bomb struck the vehicle of a district intelligence chief of Qarghayi district in Laghman province on Tuesday, killing him and three colleagues, officials said.

The head of the National Directorate of Security for the Qarghai district of Laghman province was on his way to work as his vehicle was blown up, provincial spokesman Nizamudin Mangal told AFP.

A bomber blew himself up near a military base in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday killing four Afghan soldiers and a civilian, officials said.

The attacker dressed in a military uniform walked up to the main gate of the Bermel military base in Paktika province before detonating his explosives, said Ghami Khan, spokesman for the provincial governor.

The military compound is the base for Afghan army soldiers and NATO-led forces in the district which is close to the border with Pakistan.

TROOP NEWS

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



The casket of Army Staff Sgt. Eric T. Duckworth at Arlington National Cemetery Oct. 23, 2007. Duckworth, 26, of Plano, Texas, died Oct. 10 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

OIF Veteran Says “The Whole Idea That We Can Establish Democracy There Through The Barrel Of An M-16 Is Just Bogus”

October 28, 2007 By Gerry Smith, Chicago Tribune [Excerpts]

Leonore Lee was among the thousands rallying in Chicago on Saturday to protest the war in Iraq. Amid the crowd carrying signs marching down Ashland Avenue, the 65-year-old from Milwaukee called the event “the most powerful expression of power to the people.”

“It shows our solidarity and makes me love this country even more,” she said.

Police estimated about 5,000 people attended the event, which began in Chicago’s Union Park before winding through the Loop and ending at Federal Plaza.

James Redden, 31, a former soldier from Oak Park, sided with the anti-war protesters, saying he was against the Iraq war from its inception because he didn’t believe the Bush administration’s link between Al Qaeda and Iraq.

“The whole idea that we can establish democracy there through the barrel of an M-16 is just bogus,” said Redden, who said he served in Kuwait during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

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

“Tampa Bay Veterans Hospitals Turn Away Critically Ill Patients Because Of An Overloaded”

Oct 29, 2007 The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Two Tampa Bay veterans hospitals turn away critically ill patients for huge chunks of the year because of an overloaded veterans' health care system.

James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa and Bay Pines VA Medical Center in St. Petersburg are the nation's busiest and fourth-busiest Veterans Affairs hospitals, respectively.

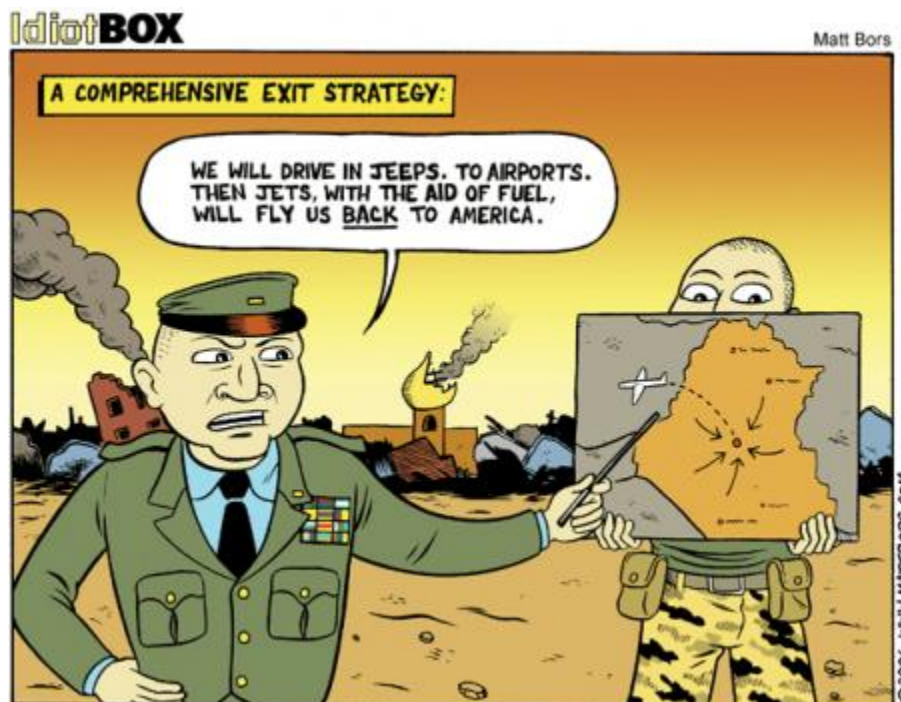
Haley has been on "divert" status for critical patients 27 percent of the time since Jan. 1, 2006, or the equivalent of about 170 days, VA figures reviewed by the St. Petersburg Times show. The hospital diverts all patients regardless of condition 16 percent of the time.

Since 2000, Bay Pines has diverted patients far more frequently than any other hospital in Pinellas County. Last year, it diverted veterans during 1,150 hours about 48 days, or 13 percent of the time, Pinellas paramedic records show.

"The VA has never dealt with its capacity issues seriously," said Bill Geden, district director in west-central Florida for the Blinded Veterans Association. "They're underfunded, undermanned and overloaded."

In one instance, Bay Pines said it "made a rare mistake" last June when it turned away a non-veteran who suffered a fatal heart attack 200 feet from its emergency room.

Haley's diversion numbers have not improved in recent years, though it also has expanded its emergency care and hired three "bed czars."



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

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

RESISTANCE ACTION

28 Oct 2007 Reuters & VOL & AFP & 29 Oct 2007 Reuters & 30 Oct 2007 Reuters

Insurgents wounded a police colonel and his driver when they opened fire on their car in northern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, and killed a policeman in a drive-by shooting in central Hawija, 70 km (43 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

Guerrillas killed a policeman near the city of Falluja, 50 km (35 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

Four policemen were killed and eight others wounded when a car bomb exploded near their patrol in Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed a police lieutenant on Monday in Najaf, 160 km (100 miles) south of Baghdad, police said and killed an off-duty policeman in a drive-by shooting in central Kirkuk, police said..

Two policemen were wounded when a mortar round landed in the Mansour district of western Baghdad, police said.

Three nightguards were wounded, some seriously, in a drive-by shooting about 35 km (22 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

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

Resistance Fighters “Make Their Speedy And Deadly Plans On The Back Of Napkins”

“U.S. Officials Are Trying To Defeat Them With High Technology Funded And Fielded Far More Slowly”

Oct 29, 2007 By William H. McMichael, Army Times

A two-day meeting to talk with industry and academics about better ways to locate and defeat the roadside bombs plaguing U.S. troops illustrates the difficulty of keeping up with the insurgents: While decentralized terror cells make their speedy and deadly plans on the back of napkins, U.S. officials are trying to defeat them with high technology that is funded and fielded far more slowly.

Officials of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization say the process is becoming more streamlined, but obstacles remain — and the enemy is nimble.

“They observe what was successful and what wasn’t. They build or modify things in informal ways.” “So they’re watching what works and what doesn’t work in a neighborhood, and they’re adapting on that basis,” Keesee said.

Iraqi Resistance Sends Message To U.S. GIs; [Nice Try, But No Cigar]

Comment: T

The writer below was doing well enough until “Run away for your life” and “There is no way out for you but surrender to us” fucked it up.

Not only is the “run away for your life” bit an appeal to consider ones’ self a coward, it calls for isolated, individualistic, moralistic action nobody much will pay attention to, nor should they.

As for “no way out but surrender,” George Bush would be pleased to have every troop in Iraq read that one. It’s saying that troops themselves have no way to organize and stop the war, which is exactly what Bush and the rest of the Imperial rats in DC would like you to believe if you’re stuck in the sandbox.

The war in Vietnam wasn't stopped by people who ran away from anything, nor did the troops who stopped that war surrender to anybody. They courageously organized in the ranks, from below, together, until the army rebelled against the war and wouldn't fight it anymore. That stopped the war.

What the Vietnamese resisting the U.S. occupation did sometimes do was arrange informal truces with U.S. patrol level forces in a given area, agreeing neither side would fire on the other.

It would appear not only Americans in the anti-war movement are not in touch with that reality.

Contrast "run away" and "surrender" with what an soldier wrote to GI Special from Iraq:

"There has to be a point when we reach a high enough number of troops in our peace effort that a unified boycott of all military action will have a desired effect."

Get it?

[Thanks to John Catalinotto, Workers World, who sent this in.]

Oct 24, 2007 Workers World

Abu Muhammed, who signed the message below, is a spokesperson for both the post-invasion Ba'ath Party in Iraq and for one of the coalitions that make up the Iraqi resistance, and whose formation was announced Oct. 2. Workers World published an interview in English with Abu Muhammed in our Oct. 25 issue; it appears in Spanish in this issue. There are other coalitions in the Iraqi resistance that also group thousands of resistance fighters.

This new message recognizes the growing dissent among U.S. troops regarding the occupation.

WW has learned of a similar message disseminated by the organization known as the 1920 Brigades, which is in a different coalition.

To all U.S. Army officers and service women and men in Iraq:

You must be aware now that all that your president and his aides told you before pushing you into the Iraqi inferno proved untrue.

Iraq had no links whatsoever to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and terrorists.

Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq had not harmed U.S. citizens and interests.

When you came as invaders, the Iraqi population did not receive you with flowers and candy but with bullets and bombs.

Your fight in Iraq has not been an easy and short one but a lingering bloody and costly nightmare. Many of your mates were sent back to their loved ones in coffins or in wheelchairs or with psychological illnesses and disturbances.

Now what are you fighting for?

Why are you making these sacrifices and facing all these hardships?

To keep Bush, Cheney, Rice and the war party in office?

To help big U.S.-based companies such as Halliburton (headed previously by your Vice President Richard Cheney) make billions of dollars in profits?

To keep fighting until you will be thrown out of Iraq in a humiliating defeat?

We, Iraqi mujahideen (freedom fighters), have no quarrel with Americans.

We have no hatred against Americans.

But we will keep fighting you, as invaders and occupiers of our land, until we crush your army and the mercenaries. We will soon force a repeat of the humiliating U.S. Saigon Embassy desperate escape scene.

This is why we ask you:

End your participation in this shameful lost war.

Put down your gun and leave.

Do not shoot at Iraqi freedom fighters or Iraqi population.

Speak up against this shameful bloody war.

Reject orders of your criminal commanders to kill Iraqis.

Run away for your life.

We, Iraqi mujahideen will soon close in on your unit. There is no way out for you but surrender to us.

We promise to save your life and help you go home to your loved ones.

Abu Muhammed

Political representative of the Ba'ath Party and the Iraqi National, Pan-Arab and Islamic Front
Baghdad, Iraq

October 2007

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.

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.**

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

October 31, 1978: Honorable Anniversary



Striking Iranian oil workers: Photo: December 1978 issue of Resistance, A publication of the Iranian Students Association in the U.S. (ISAUS)

Carl Bunin Peace History Oct 29-Nov 4

Thirty thousand Iranian oil workers went on strike against the repressive rule of the U.S.-installed Shah and for democracy, civil and human rights.

Apathy Is A Maximum Security Prison



From: Richard Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: October 30, 2007
Subject: Apathy Is A Maximum Security Prison

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)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

***The United for Peace and Justice
Agenda?***
**“Protecting The Left Wing Of The
Bird Of Prey, The Democratic Party”**
**“Keeping The Other War Party (The
Dems) In Power”**

October 15, 2007 By JOHN WALSH, CounterPunch Newsletter [Excerpt]

At UFPJ (United for Peace and Justice) and related antiwar meetings the lament routinely goes up that there are few (or more often zero) African Americans in attendance.

And no wonder. Beneath the surface these meetings have as their agenda keeping the other war party (the Dems) in power.

Do the “leaders” of UFPJ not understand that Blacks readily see through this ploy? Are these “leaders” so contemptuous of the Black community?

They ask where are the African-Americans. The answer is easy. They are busy. They are working long and hard to keep their kids out of the death machine peddled by Dems as well as Republicans.

They are striking at the heart of the military machine whereas the UFPJers are protecting the left wing of the bird of prey, the Democratic Party.

Who are the leaders of the peace movement anyway?

The attendees at those deadly boring and very PC UFPJ meetings or those Black parents keeping their kids out of the military and thus undermining the imperial machinery of death.

**“The Real Issue Is The Right Of Iraqis
To Determine Their Own Future”**
**“The UN Isn’t A Neutral Force--That’s
Why The Iraqi Resistance Targeted It
From Early In The Occupation”**

UNDERNEATH ALL of these arguments lies an old imperialist idea: that colonized people are the “white man’s burden,” who need a stern overseer--and certainly aren’t capable of self-government.

October 26, 2007 By ASHLEY SMITH, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

A few Democrats and some liberal opponents of the war agree that the U.S. should get out of Iraq right away, but say that peacekeeping forces from the UN or other countries in the region need to be mobilized in the interests of stability.

For example, Democratic presidential contender Bill Richardson [and Dennis Kucinich let’s not forget] supports such a plan--but for pro-war reasons. He thinks that if the U.S. withdraws from Iraq, it can more successfully wage war against both al-Qaeda and Iran and strengthen American domination of the region.

It is important to remember that the UN isn’t a neutral force--that’s why the Iraqi resistance targeted it from early in the occupation.

Why?

Because the UN was used by the U.S. to administer sanctions that killed over a million people during the 1990s. The U.S. won UN approval for its 2003 invasion and continues to use it to advance its project in Iraq.

Other voices have called for peacekeeping forces from surrounding Muslim countries.

United for Peace and Justice leader Leslie Cagan went so far as to advise “the world’s greatest superpower to encourage and cajole neighboring nations, including other countries of the Middle East, to a conference table to figure out how a multilateral solution could be worked out.”

The obvious problem is that all these countries are U.S. allies, and would only agree to a peacekeeping arrangement on U.S. terms.

UNDERNEATH ALL of these arguments lies an old imperialist idea: that colonized people are the “white man’s burden,” who need a stern overseer--and certainly aren’t capable of self-government.

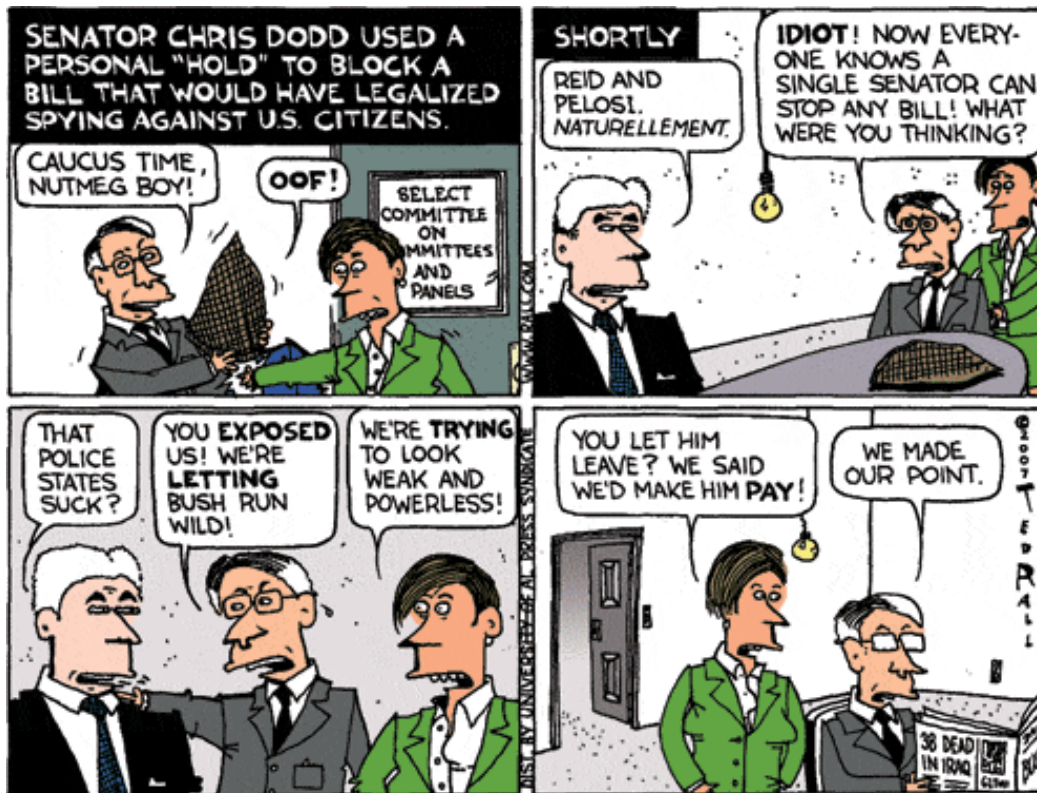
This is why arguments in favor of a continued intervention of any sort, even when made by sincere opponents of the war, are wrong.

The real issue is the right of Iraqis to determine their own future.

Only Iraqis--not the U.S., UN or any other power--can overcome the catastrophe that the U.S. has caused in Iraq.

The damage will not be overdone overnight, but only Iraqis have the right to shape their society and overcome their divisions. The only role for the U.S. government is to pay unconditional reparations for the nightmare it has caused.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

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Louisiana Flood Projects Fall Behind Schedule: Doubt Completion In 2011

10.29.07 USA Today

Dozens of construction projects launched by the Army Corps of Engineers to protect the New Orleans region from the most catastrophic floods are behind schedule by an average of nearly eight months, an internal audit shows, and local officials are concerned that completion dates will have to be pushed back a second time.

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OMISSION CORRECTED WITH APOLOGY:

GI Special 5J19 10.28.07 carried this article: *October 26, 2007 Sherry Wolf interviews Tariq Ali.* Credit to the newspaper which carried the article, *Socialist Worker*, was omitted.

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