

GI SPECIAL 5K11:

The Bush Legacy



**“A GI From Ft. Lewis
Walked Out Of The Port,
Saying He Was Against
The War And Refused To
Transport The War
Equipment”**

November 15, 2007 By Peter Bohmer, Zmag.org [Excerpt]

For 10 days, anti-war activists in Olympia, Washington have slowed down and for two different periods of 12 hours or more, stopped the flow of military weapons and military cargo that were unloaded from a Navy ship that had returned from Iraq. For 24 hours a day, we have used a variety of tactics and actions.

They have included sitting in front of trucks carrying Stryker vehicles and other military equipment from leaving the Port of Olympia, building barricades on the roads where these military vehicles were traveling, anti-war demonstrations through the streets of Olympia and vigils, downtown.

A hearing was held at City Hall, last Sunday, November 11th, 2007 to document the excessive police force used against people who participated in these actions. We testified at the Olympia City Council and at a hearing of the elected Port Commissioners demanding that they take a stand opposing the U.S. war against Iraq by not letting our Port be used to transport war supplies. About 500 people have taken part in some or all of these protests.

Tuesday, November 13th will be a day long remembered by many in Olympia.

In the morning about 20 people sat down at the Port entrance blocking military equipment from moving. For 13 hours no military equipment moved out of the Port. Hence, for a minimum of 30 hours, we stopped Stryker vehicles from returning to Ft. Lewis, a major action and statement. In the evening about 200 people gathered at the Port of Olympia entrance to resist by various and complementary means the war and the militarization of Olympia.

In the midst of this action, a GI from Ft. Lewis who was supposed to be involved in the transport of these military vehicles to Ft. Lewis, walked out of the Port, saying he was against the war and refused to transport the war equipment.

This was a really powerful action and reminded me of the increasing resistance to the Vietnam war by active duty soldiers.

Civilian anti-war and GI cooperation and solidarity is a key to ending this war.

MORE:

“Wes Hamilton, A Vietnam Veteran, Was Shot Repeatedly In The Groin With Pepper Spray Bullets”

NOVEMBER 14, 2007 (4:07 am 10/14)

On Sat morning, after detaining any movement of military equipment for 17 hours and successfully forcing a convoy back into the port, a line of demonstrators held hands in

front of the port gate in nonviolent resistance as police repeatedly attacked them with close range pepper spray.

As video and witness accounts clearly show, police wrenched the demonstrators apart, struck them with batons and threw them into a nearby ditch.

Shocked onlookers who rushed forward to provide help were subsequently attacked. Medics trying to gain access to wounded demonstrators were also pepper sprayed and forced back with batons.

Police heavily pepper sprayed, shoved and kicked demonstrators, as well as medics, legal observers, and bystanders, until they retreated to safety.

Police hit Patricia Hutchison, an Olympia student, with pepper spray and then immediately handcuffed her. She was detained in a police van where she remained for twenty-five minutes. Her repeated requests for medical attention were ignored. "I thought the skin was literally peeling off my face. I was begging for help and no one would help me."

Across the street, Patricia's identical twin sister, Kathleen, also an Olympia student, saw her sister needed help. "The hardest thing was seeing my sister in pain. I was begging them to help her." Police forced Kathleen away from friends and shoved her to the ground before dragging her to the police van.

Both sisters were booked and released without charge. No explanation has been given for their detainment.

Sunday morning a group of women began to lay flowers in the road in front of the port gate in memory of the 48 soldiers from the 3rd Brigade killed in Iraq. As the women were laying their memorial, the police moved in, trampling the flowers and shoving the women back to the curb with batons.

Wes Hamilton, a Vietnam veteran, was shot repeatedly in the groin with pepper spray bullets as he spoke out against the brutality.

Patricia Imani, a longtime Olympia resident, was shocked by what she experienced. "It's unimaginable that police will come in with full riot gear and respond with such violence to women with flowers and shoot a veteran during a Veteran's Day memorial." Witnesses report dozens of instances of police brutality across Olympia throughout the past week.

Peter Cooper says, "When I talk to my family who live in Texas, I try to describe what's been happening, but there's been so much violence against peaceful demonstrators, so many instances that are so horrible, that I can't describe it all in one conversation on the phone."

Still, Olympia resident and community activist Anna-Marie Murano says, "Despite the horror of the police response to our peaceful demonstrations, OlyPMR will continue resisting the use of the soldiers and resources of our community to support an unjust, immoral war."

In a statement released today, Olympia Port Militarization Resistance calls for people everywhere to find the ways that their own communities participate in the war, and to join together to creatively resist that participation: “We are ordinary people who have found a way to organize ourselves in resistance to this unjust war.

“In this way we will act in the interests of the Iraqis, the soldiers, our children, and ourselves.”

MORE:

**THIS IS AN ENEMY COMBATANT AT
WORK IN OLYMPIA, USA:
OUR STREETS ARE INFESTED WITH
THEM;
WE NEED OUR TROOPS HOME TO
REMOVE THEM, PERMANENTLY**



An Olympia Police uses pepper spray on a girl Nov. 15, 2007 during a protest against the shipment of military equipment for the War in Iraq through the port to Fort Lewis, Wash. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

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

U.S. Soldier Killed In Diyala, Four More Wounded

November 15, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071115-03

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Multi-National Division – North Soldier was killed as a result of an explosion while conducting operations in Diyala Province, Nov. 14.

Four additional MND-N Soldiers were wounded in the blast and evacuated to a coalition hospital.

Soldier From Northern Michigan Killed In Iraq

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

A soldier from Clare County has been killed while serving in Iraq.

Pfc. Casey Mason of Lake died on November 13th from wounds suffered during an attack in Iraq.

Pfc. Mason was assigned to the 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Local Soldier Clinging To Life



Staff Sgt. Jon Martin

November 15, 2007, By CATHARINE HADLEY, Staff writer; Central Ohio

A soldier from Bellevue lost his leg and is now in a medically induced coma in a German hospital, according to his sister.

Heather Bollinger, of Port Clinton, sister of Staff Sgt. Jon Martin, 33, said her brother was injured by a bomb Saturday while fighting in Iraq. "They amputated his left leg. That was hit with the most force and he was getting blood clots, so they had to amputate the leg," she said.

Her brother, who had been stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., also suffered a broken nose, pelvis and right arm, Bollinger said. Doctors removed his spleen because of the blood clots and placed netting over his intestines to battle swelling in the area.

One lung was punctured, and his lungs are not deflating properly. He is now on dialysis because his kidneys have stopped working, she said.

"He is in a medical-induced coma right now to keep him stable and not moving," the sergeant's sister said. "He is still in critical condition. The doctors have hope, as well as we do, and he's a fighter. We just try to keep that in the back of our minds at all times."

Bollinger said when she received the first phone call, she only learned her brother's leg was injured and he was unconscious. "Everything has just gone downhill," she said.

"This is Jon's third tour, and the second tour he was in he's already received a purple heart for," Bollinger said.

She said at one point after his injuries, her brother was able to communicate. "After the accident he said that he wasn't going to die," she said. She heard someone covered him with either a blanket or towel with a Superman logo, and that item is still in his hospital room.

Martin's wife, the former Becki Franks of Clyde, and his mother, Laura Martin, of Bellevue, have made the journey to Germany to be by the soldier's side. They are expected to be there for at least two weeks, Bollinger said. Don Martin of Bellevue is Martin's and her father.

Martin and his wife are the parents of 8-year-old Allaina, 5-year-old Allie and 10-month-old Trenton. The girls are staying with their mother's parents, Cindy and Dennie Franks. "The girls are adjusting well, from what I understand," Bollinger said.

Trenton is with Bollinger, her husband, Brad, and their daughter, Taylor, age 2.

Area residents who wish to donate money to the family may do so at a local bank. "We do have an account with First National Bank right now. We're taking donations," Bollinger said. "It's under 'The Jon Martin Fund,' but it's in my name."

She does not know how long the children will be without their parents. "Their birthdays are December, January, February," she said.

If the family does not need to use all the money in the fund, Bollinger said the family will give it to a war veterans fund in Bellevue. "They've been basically absolutely fantastic to us," she said.

FUNDRAISER PLANNED

A lunch to benefit the family of Staff Sgt. Jon Martin of Bellevue is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 25, at the Sports Hut, 938 W. Main St., Bellevue. All proceeds will go to the injured soldier and his family.

***Progress In Baghdad:* "The Attack Occurred In One Of The Most Heavily Protected Areas Of The Capital"**

11.15.07 By LAUREN FRAYER, Associated Press Writer

U.S. authorities said penetrators were used in an attack Wednesday against a U.S. Stryker vehicle near an entrance to the Green Zone, killing one American soldier and wounding five others. Iraqi police said two Iraqi civilians also were killed.

It was the first major attack against a U.S. military vehicle in that area in the last four or five months, Simmons said.

Simmons said the vehicle was struck by "an array" of penetrators.

The attack occurred in one of the most heavily protected areas of the capital, raising questions how the explosives could have been planted without collusion from Iraqi police or soldiers.

Southern Iraq: “All The Population Centers Have Become Virtual Blind Spots For U.S. Forces”

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

Oct. 08, 2007 By Mark Kukis, Baghdad; Time Magazine [Excerpts]

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown this week announced his plan to reduce the British force around the southern city of Basra from 5,000 to 2,500 by next spring.

Drawing less attention, however, is the extent to which American forces have quietly withdrawn from the rest of southern Iraq.

Small contingents of U.S. soldiers enter Karbala and Najaf only for brief visits with local officials these days, and much of the rest of southern Iraq has no American troops at all.

Focused on saving Baghdad, U.S. forces keep up a regular presence with patrols and combat outposts chiefly around the southern reaches of the capital. Meanwhile, the drawdown of British forces in Basra — where the troops have relocated to the local airport outside the city — leaves yet another southern city, with a population of roughly 2 million, unattended by the U.S.-led coalition.

That means virtually all of the vast, populous and oil-rich territory stretching from Karbala to Basra is up for grabs.

Since 2004, American soldiers have treaded lightly in southern Iraq, even though all the territory north of Basra has been ostensibly the responsibility of U.S. forces.

An uneasy truce prevailed in the area between U.S. forces and the Mahdi Army, the militia headed by Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

Both sides seemed eager to avoid a repeat of the open clashes that erupted in 2004 in Karbala and Najaf, where Sadr's militia holds sway. So U.S. troops generally stayed away.

In the fall of 2005, U.S. troops handed bases in Karbala and Najaf to Iraqi military units.

As of late 2006, the only U.S. soldiers in Karbala were a small team of Army trainers and civil affairs officers working with local officials and area police. That ended in January, however, when an attack by unknown gunmen left five U.S. soldiers dead.

Since then, all the population centers in southern Iraq have become virtual blind spots for U.S. forces struggling to keep tabs on the weapons and fighters thought to be moving through the area.

The military's provincial reconstruction teams carry on some work in southern Iraq. And in Diwaniya, a town east of Najaf, military trainers continue to work with local security forces.

But for all practical purposes the Americans and the British have essentially left a region quickly becoming more turbulent in the wake of their departure.

With no evident plans to reenter southern areas, the U.S.-led coalition leaves the fate of some of Iraq's most important territory to others.

Amazing! After British Get Out Of Basra, A “Remarkable And Dramatic Drop In Attacks”

Nov 15 By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD: Attacks against British and Iraqi forces have plunged by 90 percent in southern Iraq since London withdrew its troops from the main city of Basra, the commander of British forces there said Thursday.

The presence of British forces in downtown Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, was the single largest instigator of violence, Maj. Gen. Graham Binns told reporters Thursday on a visit to Baghdad's Green Zone.

“We thought, 'If 90 percent of the violence is directed at us, what would happen if we stepped back?’” Binns said.

Britain's 5,000 troops moved out of a former Saddam Hussein palace at Basra's heart in early September, setting up a garrison at an airport on the city's edge. Since that pullback, there's been a “remarkable and dramatic drop in attacks,” Binns said.

“The motivation for attacking us was gone, because we're no longer patrolling the streets,” he said.

Last spring, British troops' daily patrols through central Basra led to “steady toe to toe battles with militias fighting some of the most tactically demanding battles of the war,”

Binns said. Now British forces rarely enter the city center, an area patrolled only by Iraqis.

With an overwhelmingly Shiite population, Basra has not seen the level of sectarian violence that has torn Iraq apart since the Feb. 2006 bombing of a Shiite shrine north of Baghdad.

But it has seen major fighting between insurgents and coalition troops, as well as between Shiite militias vying for control of the city and its security forces.

British officials expected a spike in such “intra-militia violence” after they pulled back from the city's center, and were surprised to find none, Binns said.

“That's because the Sadrist militia is all powerful here — more powerful than Badr. If Badr was allowed to take on JAM in Basra, they'd lose pretty quickly,” he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Mahdi Army, a militia loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW



U.S. army soldier with Alpha Company 1-64 after a patrol in the neighborhood Adl in Baghdad November 7, 2007. REUTERS/Stefano Rellandini

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Resistance IED Attacks Setting New Record; “They’ve Gone Back To Guerrilla Warfare ... Because It Works,” Rubin Said

Nov 15, 2007 Jim Michaels of USA Today

Taliban militants have staged more roadside bomb and suicide attacks in Afghanistan this year, raising concerns that the insurgents are gaining strength and countering U.S. and NATO tactics.

Through October, the number of improvised explosive devices, including car and suicide bombs, totaled 1,932, up from 1,739 for all last year, according to military statistics. There were 782 such attacks in 2005.

Barnett Rubin, an Afghan expert at New York University, said the greater use of bombs in Afghanistan shows the Taliban is gaining momentum. The militants have recently moved back into some areas of the country, particularly those where Afghanistan’s lucrative opium crop has grown.

“They’ve gone back to guerrilla warfare ... because it works,” Rubin said.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Resistance Opens Offensive On Occupation Troops In The Capital

14 November 2007 By Jean-Philippe Rémy, Le Monde [Excerpts]

Unlike the preceding days, Mogadishu did not experience any significant battles Tuesday, November 13, between insurgents holed up in the Somali capital and their enemies, the Ethiopian troops and their allies from President Abdullahi Yusuf’s Transitional Federal Government (TFG).

The truce has little chance of lasting before the new phase of a war with no front and no rules resumes in Mogadishu, the second battle conducted by the insurgents who unite militias from the majority clans in the capital and fundamentalist groups from the Shabab (youth) galaxy.

They've thrown themselves into a fight to the death against the Ethiopian forces that penetrated Somalia about a year ago to drive out the Islamic Tribunals that had taken power.

The previous battle, in April, left several hundred dead and did not spare the city's residents. Whole sectors of Mogadishu had been ravaged by the crush of Ethiopian heavy artillery.

Then the insurgents, after being flattened under a deluge of fire, withdrew from the capital.

After re-infiltrating it, they have, with several hundred fighters supported by mortars and little cannons, in the course of the last few weeks, resumed frontal attacks in crescendo against the bases and positions of the Ethiopian Army and the TFG.

In response, the Ethiopians have launched a vast search operation that affects at least a third of the city. Its principle is both simple and devastating.

Everywhere the insurgents are suspected of taking shelter, whether in north or in south Mogadishu, the Ethiopian troops and their TFG allies have undertaken a complete emptying out, driving out residents to search houses door-to-door and gleefully looting anything that might be inside.

Those who have the means have already fled to the Mogadishu environs or other neighborhoods in the city, now overcrowded. The most destitute, who have nowhere to go, just as prices for everything are skyrocketing, remain outside their homes: risking death.

In recent weeks, targeted and blind assassinations have charged in as the new tactics in the dirty urban warfare. Cases of decapitation have been reported.

Several sources confirm the existence of elite Ethiopian snipers who cut down anyone who passes through their sights in the neighborhoods the TFG allies want to empty, without respect to age or gender.

Ever since the crowd dragged the bodies of several of their own through the streets of Mogadishu, the Addis-Ababa troops have dispensed with all restraint.

Ethiopian soldiers fire on passersby and have opened tank fire on residential neighborhoods and the Bakara market.

That quarter, the economic lung of a dynamic that inundated all East Africa with products from South-east Asia just a year ago, is deserted and its storehouses looted, according to the scant news that filters in from there. Whoever approaches the area risks finding himself in the sights of a sniper, as happened just this Tuesday.

While the city suffocates, hospitals overflow with the wounded. In Medina, the bodies tell the tale of a war that spares no civilian. One family exhibits a bullet removed from the body of Abdinur Uluso. The projectile's point had been chewed by the shooter, a

technique that makes the wounds even more horrible. Not far away, a teenager stares at the ceiling, dazed by sedatives. A rocket launcher has taken away his right arm.

“The Ethiopians come into our houses and shoot at us, treating us like terrorists,” the women in the hallway scream. One man, wounded in the head, still finds the strength to curse the TFG troops.

TROOP NEWS

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



Hearse carrying Army Sgt. Daniel Shaw at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Orchard Park, N.Y., Nov. 13, 2007. Shaw, of West Seneca, N.Y. was with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team in the 2nd Infantry Division based in Fort Carson, Colo. and was killed in an explosion in Iraq on Nov. 5, 2007. (AP Photo/David Duprey)

The New Issue Of *Traveling Soldier* Is Out!

This issue features:

1. “After four and a half years ... Iraq is still just keeping your fingers crossed and praying that you don’t die or end up permanently disabled from an IED” says a soldier stationed in Baghdad, Iraq.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/11.07.ivaw.php>

2. “We risked our lives so the Army ... could throw a rose colored lens onto a news camera” says recent Iraq vet Alex Horton:

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/11.07.horton.php>

3. “The Army is worn out” says an army public affairs officer in Baghdad:

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/11.07.worn.php>

4. National Guardsmen Like Impeach Bush/Cheney T-Shirts!

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/9.06.choice.php>

5. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at a nearby base:

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS15.pdf>

Army Desertions Highest Since 2001

November 15, 2007 Army Times Daily News Roundup

In a likely reflection of the continued strain of multiple deployments to a 4½-year war, the number of soldiers deserting the Army skyrocketed during the past fiscal year to its highest level since 2001.

All told, 4,698 soldiers were declared deserters, according to Lt. Col. Darryl Darden of the Army’s office of the deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

That is a 42.3 percent increase over the previous fiscal year, and the highest annual total since fiscal year 2001, when 4,399 troops deserted.

Rejection Of Appeal By Canada Supreme Court Clears Way For AWOL U.S. Soldiers’ Immediate Deportation: “If I Was Talking To A Soldier Considering Canada Right Now, I Would Tell Him To Research Every Other Available Place To Go”

Nov. 15, 2007 By Kari Huus, Reporter; MSNBC

The Supreme Court of Canada on Thursday refused to hear an appeal by two U.S. military deserters who sought refuge in the country to avoid deployment to Iraq, a conflict they argued is "immoral and illegal."

The announcement ends a bid by American soldiers Jeremy Hinzman and Brandon Hughey, the plaintiffs in the case, to win refugee status and opens the way for them to be deported to the United States, where they could face court martial for going AWOL and missing troop movements.

It also could lead to deportation of dozens of other American soldiers who have filed formal applications for refugee status. "Theoretically they (are) facing immediate removal," said Jeffry House, a Toronto lawyer who represents most of the U.S. refugee applicants, including Hinzman and Hughey.

The Supreme Court's refusal to hear the case, "vastly advances the government's agenda to remove them," he said.

The rejection also closes off that legal avenue for other U.S. military personnel who have gone to Canada and remained illegally. House estimates there are at least 300 AWOL U.S. soldiers living in Canada.

[T]he current exodus to Canada is small in comparison to the Vietnam era, when an estimated 20,000 to 50,000 Americans moved to Canada to avoid military duty, many of them settling there permanently.

In June, a poll in Ontario found that 64.6 percent of 605 respondents said U.S. soldiers should be allowed to settle in Canada, while 27.2 percent favored sending them home.

For Brad McCall, a 20-year-old American soldier who applied for refugee status after arriving in Canada in September, Thursday's rejection was a surprise and a blow.

"If I was talking to a soldier considering Canada right now, I would tell him to research every other available place to go ... that would accept him as a war resister, because it's still not safe enough here," McCall told msnbc.com, speaking from Vancouver where he is staying with sympathizers. "The Canadian government is obviously not on our side."

Army Recruiter Gets 15 Months Prison For Smuggling Cocaine

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

11.15.2007 By Aaron Mackey, Arizona Daily Star [Excerpts]

A former Army recruiter who visited Tucson high schools was sentenced to 15 months in prison Thursday for smuggling cocaine as part of an undercover FBI sting.

Jason E. Kitzmiller, 28, will also have to pay \$7,000 in fines and attorneys fees for his role in Operation Lively Green, a federal corruption investigation that led to the arrests of dozens of military personnel, U.S. Border Patrol agents and other federal and state officials.

Kitzmiller, who worked out of the Army's recruiting office at 2303 E. Speedway, transported 40 kilograms — roughly 88 pounds — of cocaine from Tucson to Phoenix in August 2002, according to his plea agreement.

Kitzmiller, a corporal at the time, also got another Army recruiter involved in the smuggling ring and was paid \$5,000 in bribe money, the plea agreement said.

The sting operation caught up several military recruiters. They would visit local high schools at the same time they took part in the smuggling ring, though there has been no suggestion in court records that the recruiters provided drugs to students.

During sentencing, Kitzmiller apologized for smuggling cocaine and said he was most sorry for hurting his family.

Kitzmiller's attorney, Richard S. Madril, said his client was only following orders that came from a commander in the recruiting office, who pressured his subordinates into joining the smuggling ring.

It's a defense many of the defendants involved in the case have tried, though U.S. District Court Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson has rejected them.

While acknowledging that Kitzmiller was likely under pressure from his commander, Jorgenson said he should have known better.

"You were out in the high schools — you were a role model for the Army," she said. "You had to know this was not an honorable thing."

A third defendant in the case, Moises Hernandez, was sentenced on Wednesday.

Hernandez, a former Arizona Army National Guard soldier from Nogales, was sentenced to a year in prison and ordered to pay \$7,000 in fines, court records show.

Kitzmiller and Hernandez also will have to serve three years probation after they get out of prison. The defendants who wound up in federal court pleaded guilty to corruption charges as part of an agreement that guaranteed nobody would receive more than a five-year prison sentence.

“His Son, Jay, Killed Himself During Basic Training”

The Recruiter “Urged Him To Lie About His Dependence On The Antidepressant Zoloft”

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

Nov 8, 2007 News Channel 5

A NewsChannel 5 investigation caught recruiters urging a young man to lie to get into the U.S. Army. As a result, top brass promised a full investigation of their Dishonorable Deceptions.

And the Army did discipline four recruiters.

But an insider warned us that investigators would not go any deeper. Now, our chief investigative reporter Phil Williams has obtained the Army's files -- and they show that the insider was right.

For example, one recruiter confides about another soldier who they knew had to sneak medications into boot camp.

Yet, despite her stunning admissions, the report says “the (investigating officer) was not able to question (her) regarding what firsthand information she has” about any misconduct in that case. The report blames her request for a lawyer, who was not available.

And John Mallard suspects he knows why.

His son, Jay, killed himself during basic training after, the family says, another recruiter in that same office urged him to lie about his dependence on the antidepressant Zoloft.

“There's probably more than they want anybody to know about,” Mallard tells Phil Williams. “There's probably a whole lot more than they want anybody to know about.”

In the file, one of the men under investigation blames higher ups for putting almost unbearable pressure on recruiters -- even canceling days off when they did not meet their quotas.

In fact, this recruiter wrote: “The non-commissioned officer is belittled.... If you do not make your numbers..., your family is held hostage, as in not seeing them on the weekends 'til such numbers are made.”

Large sections of the Army's report were blacked out before it was released to NewsChannel 5 Investigates.

But, reading between the lines, it appears that some in the chain of command wanted even harsher punishment for some of the recruiters.

But U.S. Army Recruiting Command, which has to worry about filling the ranks, overrode those recommendations.

U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tennessee

Army Recruiters Try Arguing “They Had Important Places To Go” “The City’s Response Was Simple: Pay Your Parking Fines And You’ll Get Your Vehicles”

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

Nov 15, 2007 The Associated Press

DALLAS — Several Army recruiters found out Tuesday that they can't fight Dallas City Hall.

After five of their vehicles were immobilized with metal boots by Dallas city parking services workers, they went to offices of Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert and City Manager Mary Suhm.

Several city employees told The Dallas Morning News that the soldiers requested meetings, demanded answers and argued they had important places to go.

The city's response was simple: Pay your parking fines and you'll get your vehicles.

City records show that the Army owed more than \$2,635 in unpaid parking tickets and associated fines on the vehicles.

“I'm sorry they were inconvenienced, but everybody's got to pay their tickets. If one of our city employees gets a ticket, they pay it, too,” Suhm said.

The parking ticket scofflaws were caught by using a sport utility vehicle-mounted system that identifies the license plates of vehicles with numerous outstanding parking fines.

Using the system, the city on Tuesday also booted a vehicle belonging to the Marines — the \$1,065 fine was promptly paid — and two other unidentified

government cars, said Zena Fernino, Dallas' parking management and enforcement division manager.

Soldiers are required by the Army to follow all municipal laws while on official business and are responsible for any parking tickets they incur while driving Army vehicles, said Kim Hanson, a public affairs officer for the Army recruiting battalion in Dallas.

While the Army paid off fines on three of the cars, they were unable to clear the others, which Dallas officials towed to the city auto pound, Fernino said Tuesday night.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

RESISTANCE ACTION



A police vehicle after a roadside bomb explosion in east Baghdad's Karrada neighborhood, Nov. 15, 2007. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

15 Nov 2007 Reuters & Xinhua

Two policemen, were killed and 4 wounded when a car bomb targeted the head of the police emergency unit, Khatab Omar, in the city of Kirkuk, 250 km (150 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. Omer was critically wounded and two of his bodyguards were killed by the blast, Wasif said.

A roadside bomb went off near a town in Salahudin province north of Baghdad on Thursday, wounding five Iraqi soldiers, a provincial police source said. The attack took place in the afternoon near the town of Tuz-Khurmato, 90 km east of the provincial capital of Tikrit, and badly damaged a military vehicle, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Two of the wounded soldiers were in serious condition, the source said.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

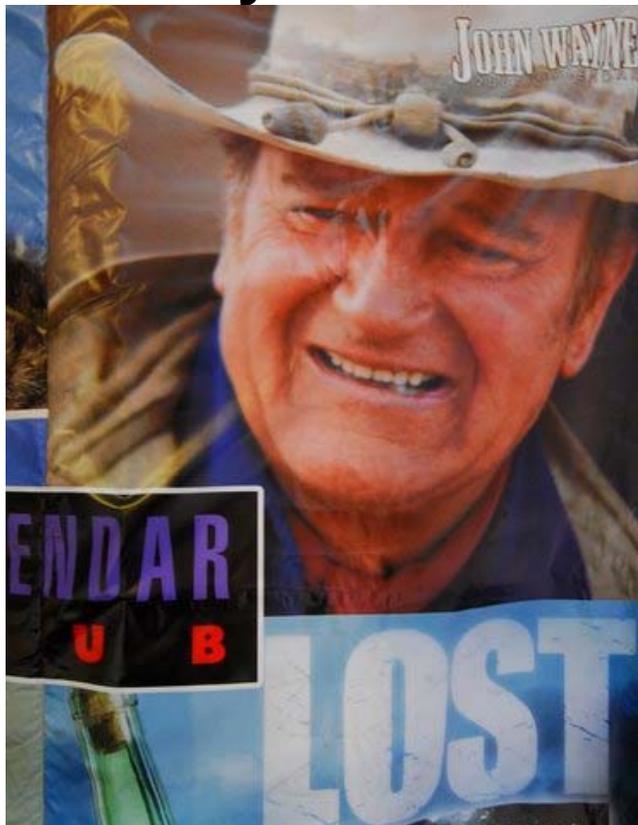
FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

“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.



John Wayne-- U B Lost



From: Richard Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: November 13, 2007
Subject: John Wayne-- U B Lost

John Wayne-- U B Lost

**This image and others like it,
have probably killed more men
than all the diseases combined.**

**Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
November 13, 2007**

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands' Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



Iraqi men are forced at gunpoint to line up for interrogation and inspection by foreign occupation soldiers from U.S. 2nd Platoon, G Company, 3rd Squadron 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment in the neighbourhood Muhalla 832 Mechanik street in Baghdad November 11, 2007. (Stefano Rellandini/Reuters)

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

**U.S. Occupation Command
Showering Money On Frauds,
Warlords And Double Agents In
Frantic Effort To Buy Peace;
"I Have A Weakness For Cuban
Cigars, French Cologne, And
Spanish-Made Loafers,' He Says With
A Wide Grin"
"Smiling Sheikhs Holding Bundles Of
Cash As They Posed With US Military
Officers"**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: GREAT RECORD OF SUCCESS - SADDAM AND THE BRITS: "paying tribes to keep the peace is nothing new. It was one of Mr. Hussein's tools in his selective patronage system designed to weaken and control all institutions outside his Baath party. The British also tried it when they ruled Iraq last century."

He says if US forces were ever to leave the province he would be in the lead of their departing convoy. As tribes got down to settling scores, he says, there would be a “bloodbath.”

Nov 8 By Sam Dagher, Yahoo.com [Excerpts]

Inside a stately guesthouse on the grounds of Saddam Hussein's palace in Tikrit on the banks of the Tigris, sheikh Sabah al-Hassani jokes that the initials “SH” of the former dictator etched on the walls are his.

“I have a weakness for Cuban cigars, French cologne, and Spanish-made loafers,” he says with a wide grin.

Since June, Mr. Hassani, who claims to be one of the princes of the legendary Shammar tribe, which numbers nearly 7 million across the Arab world, says he has received at least \$100,000 in cash and numerous perks from the US military and the Iraqi government.

With his help, at least \$1 million has also been distributed to other tribal sheikhs who have joined his Salahaddin Province “support council,” according to US officers. Together, they have assembled an armed force of about 3,000 tribesmen dubbed the “sahwa (awakening) folks.”

All of these enticements serve one goal: To rally Sunni tribes and their multitude of followers to support coalition forces.

The payments are a drop in the bucket given the billions spent annually in Iraq by the United States.

And paying tribes to keep the peace is nothing new. It was one of Mr. Hussein's tools in his selective patronage system designed to weaken and control all institutions outside his Baath party. The British also tried it when they ruled Iraq last century.

But the strategy is fraught with risks, including the serious potential for wars among the tribes themselves and the creation of militias in die-hard Sunni Arab lands where many continue to question the legitimacy and authority of the Shiite-led central government in Baghdad.

“(The US military) threw money at (the sheiks),” says Col. David Hsu, who heads a team advising Iraq's armed forces in Salahaddin, Saddam's home province.

He shows recent digital photographs he captured of smiling sheikhs holding bundles of cash as they posed with US military officers.

US military officers on the ground say there is tremendous pressure from high above to replicate the successes of the so-called “awakening” against Al Qaeda in the western Anbar Province. The drive reached its apex in the run-up to the

September testimonies to Congress by the top US military commander and diplomat in Iraq, US officers say.

Unwieldy allies?

Humam Hamoudi, a member of parliament from the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council party, says the tribes may ultimately make better political allies than the Sunni political bloc that quit the government in June and has boycotted it since July.

But, he warns “If their connection remains only to the Americans, then they are a time bomb.”

Maj. Gen. Abdul-Jabbar Rabie, who was once a commander in the Saddam-era Army and now heads a brigade of the new Army in Salahaddin, shares that view. Hassani's men lack discipline and loyalty, he says, and could soon become a militia.

“They can spin out of control. They may be double agents and deal with both sides,” says General Rabie.

Based on intelligence provided by Hassani, Rabie says he led a force of Iraqi soldiers and policemen on Oct. 30 to arrest alleged Al Qaeda cell leaders and free hostages at a “kidnap colony” in the province's remote Hamreen mountains.

When they arrived, they discovered that most of the men had been tipped off about the operation.

Hsu, the US officer, says that while Hassani's role in that operation was positive, he may be tempted to “do whatever to continue the flow of money.”

He recounts how in early October Hassani rushed on a whim to the scene of an Iraqi Army-led operation west of the volatile city of Samarra “to try to claim some credit” only to be hit by a roadside bomb that killed two other sheikhs who were accompanying him.

Rumors are swirling that Hassani isn't even a real prince, says Hsu. If the US cultivates a perception that it is funding hucksters, other sheikhs may doubt the “awakening” program's credibility.

On the ground in Salahaddin, a province of 1.3 million of whom nearly 90 percent at one point were once Baathists, attitudes toward the new order and the shifting alliances are complex.

For example, Hassani's archenemy, deputy governor Abdullah Jabara, who was a senior Baathist and hails from the rival Jubour tribe, tried to have the sheikh arrested last month.

For his part, Hassani praises the US support and says he's gotten only “empty promises” from Baghdad.

He says if US forces were ever to leave the province he would be in the lead of their departing convoy. As tribes got down to settling scores, he says, there would be a “bloodbath.”

Sheikh Abdul-Rahman al-Obeidi, one of the chiefs of the Obeid whose fiefdom is in the plains of nearby Kirkuk and extends to Salahaddin, says the US push for these awakening councils is “a recipe for endless blood feuds” among tribes.

He says a commander of US forces in Kirkuk arrested his son and two nephews “on false charges” in September because he refused to form an awakening council.

Meanwhile, many members of his tribe continue to oppose the presence of US forces in Iraq but still advocate joining the Iraqi police and Army.

“This is unspeakable fitna (discord) being sowed by the Americans,” says Mr. Obeidi. “They want you to kill your own cousin and brother.”

On a recent evening, Hassani sat behind a large desk that once belonged to Hussein. Two rifles were propped up against the marble wall behind him. Immense crystal chandeliers hung from the ceiling of the carpeted office.

Four sheikhs arrived. They asked that their chief, Fanar Mubarak al-Farhan al-Obeidi, be released from jail. He is head of the tribe's Albu-Issa clan and was arrested in the Oct. 30 operation. The brother of one of the visiting sheikhs was recently killed by US troops.

Hassani said the tribal chieftain will only be released if they provide information on all insurgents in their area and publicly announce their support for his awakening council. He flashed a photo of a wanted man.

“There's no such thing as resistance,” Hassani told them. “The American is our friend. The enemy is the one that slaughters us ... this man (Col. Hsu) is trying to help us. Join us. Do not waste this opportunity, and I promise you will get moral and financial support.”

There was a momentary silence. Then one of the visitors spoke.

“We can't do it this fast, we just can't,” says Sheikh Nouri Ahmed al-Obeidi. “Our area is hell. There's Al Qaeda, Islamic Army, bandits, you name it.”

MORE:

“Occupation Cannot Be Sustained In A Hostile Environment, And Bribery Won't Change The Way The Iraqis Feel”

November 12, 2007 Charley Reese, Lewrockwell.com [Excerpts]

It's time for the American people to face the question, “What's in it for us?” That's not being selfish. It's our blood and our treasure, so surely the American people have a right to expect some gain for this sacrifice. So what is it?

The answer is nothing. The corporate friends of the Bush-Cheney gang have gained plenty of profits, but they haven't shared them with the dead soldiers.

Regardless of why we went in, it's past time for us to get out.

The Iraqi people don't want us. As long as we stay, we will be looked upon as occupiers, and the insurgents will keep whittling away at our forces.

Occupation cannot be sustained in a hostile environment, and bribery won't change the way the Iraqis feel.

We have done the people of Iraq way too much harm for them to forgive us.

Iraq may or may not have a bloody war after we leave. That's up to the Iraqis. It's no skin off our nose whether they reconcile or draw their knives. It's their country. Let them fight over it if that's what they want to do.

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.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Dems Promise Toothless, Meaningless Opposition Once More

November 14, 2007, By Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project,
Prisonerofstarvation.blogspot.com/

They're at it again.

The Dems are trying to fund the war on the condition Bush execute a very slow withdrawal from Iraq.

Once again, it will either die in the Senate or be vetoed by Bush, and they'll be forced to choose: to fund the war, or not to fund the war?

That is the question.

Obviously, faced with that point-blank choice, they'll vote to keep sending other people's kids to Iraq to die for oil and Empire, as they've done every year since the war started.

They whine that they "don't have the votes" to end the war. Well, they don't have the votes to tie withdrawals to war funding either, but this is the second time they've tried to do it.

If they really were against the war, why haven't Senators Clinton, Obama, Dodd, or Biden filibustered war-funding?

If they seriously opposed Bush on Iraq, they just wouldn't send him a bill to veto and let the war money run out.

But then the U.S. would have to get out of Iraq completely and abandon those permanent bases and the gigantic colonial embassy to the natives, and they couldn't allow that now could they?

Instead, they'll exploit their feigned powerlessness to tell voters that's why a Democrat in the White House is needed. The G.O.P. is not the only party that is willing to keep our troops in harm's way to win elections.

MORE:

There It Is: **Democrat Traitors Vote To Keep Killing U.S. Troops And Iraqis Until The End Of 2008, At Least**

Nov 15, 2007 The Associated Press

House Democrats pushed through a \$50 billion bill for the Iraq war Wednesday night with a goal of ending combat by December 2008.

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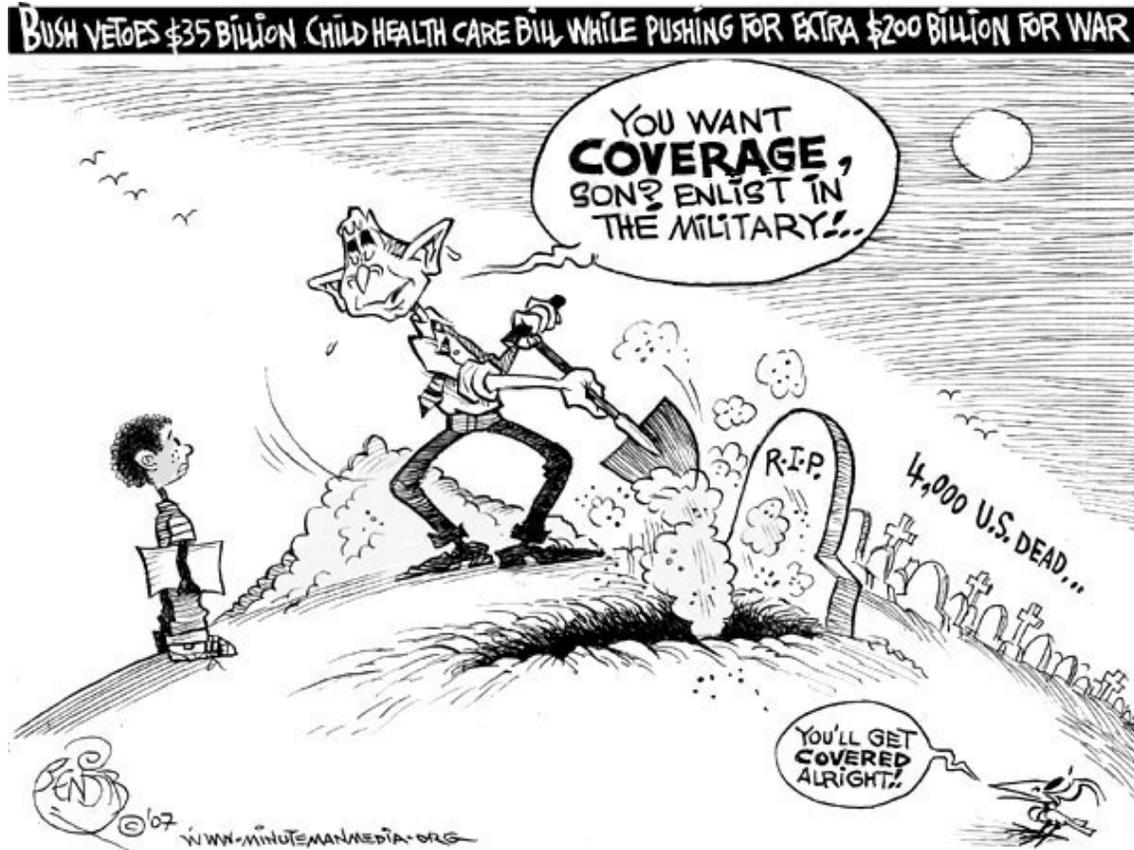
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