

GI SPECIAL 5K3:



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

Volunteer Draft: “Just Kick In The White House Door And Arrest The Cowards Who Avoided The Draft But Drafted You”

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special

Sent: November 04, 2007 9:10 AM
Subject: Volunteer Draft by Dennis

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade,
purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War,
United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

Volunteer Draft

**Calling up the National Guard was a draft
adding a tour is a draft
and another and another is a draft
adding a stop loss is a draft
another tour and another tour is a draft
a corrupt and sly system is a draft
a ball and chain Soldier is the draft
a faded yellow ribbon is a draft
civilians that support endless war
is a draft
as long as it's not them is the draft
civilians patting you on the back
when you come home is the draft
civilians sending you cards and crap
is the draft
driving in the desert is the draft
bullets incoming is a draft
mortars incoming is the draft
hitting an IED is a draft
extending tours is a draft
dying for nothing is a draft
getting wounded is a draft
just wanting go home is the draft
coming home with one arm is a draft
hit with brain damage is the draft
can't get out of the Army is a draft
can't get out of the National Guard
is a draft
fighting forever is a draft
feeling like a prisoner is a draft
search and avoid is the draft
trying to survive is the draft
not wanting to fight anymore is the draft
when everything is all messed up is a draft
refusing orders is a draft
fighting for people who hate you**

is the draft
fighting for oil is the draft
wanting to just go home and be free
is up to you and against the draft
just kick in the White House door
and arrest the cowards
who avoided the draft
but drafted you.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Texas Soldier Killed In Mosul



Spc. Brandon W. Smitherman, 21, of Conroe, Texas, died Oct. 31, 2007 in Mosul, Iraq, of injuries from a roadside bomb. (AP Photo/U.S. Army at Fort Bliss)

IED Kills U.S. Soldier South Of Baghdad

November 3, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071103-03

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Center Soldier was killed when her patrol was struck by an improvised explosive device south of Baghdad Nov. 1.

Michigan Staff Sgt. Killed In Baghdad



Donald L. Munn II, 25, of St. Clair Shores, Mich., died Oct. 11, 2007, in Baghdad when an explosive detonated near his unit. (AP Photo/Bagnasco & Calcaterra Funeral Home)

NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME



U.S. Army soldiers from 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry rest in Hawr Rajab, southern Baghdad, Oct. 9, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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

November 3, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071103-09

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Multi-National Division – North Soldier died in an explosion in Salah ad Din province, Nov. 3.

Additionally, one Soldier was wounded and taken to a CF medical facility.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Uruzgan Friday: Nationality Not Announced

Nov. 2, 2007 The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan - A U.S.-led coalition soldier and an Afghan soldier were killed Friday in clashes with insurgents in southern Afghanistan, a coalition statement said.

Both soldiers died during combat operations in Uruzgan province, the statement said, without giving other details.

Dutch Soldier Killed By IED In Afghanistan, Two More Wounded

Nov 3 AFP

A 21-year-old Dutch soldier was killed in a bomb strike, the Dutch army said.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) had earlier announced that one NATO soldier died and two were wounded in an incident caused by an improvised explosive device (IED).

Two other Dutch ISAF soldiers were hurt in the attack and they are being treated on the Dutch base Tarin Kowt, Dutch army chief Dick Berlijn told a press conference.

The new death takes to 192 the number of foreign soldiers killed in Afghanistan this year, around the same toll for the whole of 2006.

Most of them have been killed in hostile action, with a Taliban-led insurgency intensifying.

At present, 1,649 Dutch soldiers are deployed in Afghanistan's southern Uruzgan province as part of ISAF.

Australian Soldier Seriously Wounded By Afghanistan IED

3 November 2007 AAP

AN AUSTRALIAN soldier has been seriously wounded by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan, the Department of Defence says.

Sergeant Michael Lyddiard was serving with the reconstruction task force when the bomb was discovered.

"He was in the process of attempting to render the device safe when it detonated," defence chief Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston said in a statement today.

"No other soldiers were wounded in the incident."

Sergeant Lyddiard was provided with emergency first aid before being evacuated to a field hospital at the Australian base at Tarin Kowt in Afghanistan's south-central Oruzgan province.

Sergeant Lyddiard's family has been told of his injuries.

The latest injury to an Australian soldier in Afghanistan comes just a day after the funeral of Special Air Service Regiment Sergeant Matthew Locke who died after being shot by the Taliban.

TROOP NEWS

150 From Ft. Hood Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

November 05, 2007 Army Times

Soldiers from the 297th Cargo Transportation Company deployed Oct. 23 from Fort Hood for a 15-month rotation to Iraq.

The 297th Cargo Transportation Company is part of the 180th Transportation Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command.

The company's 150 soldiers are headed to northern and western Iraq, where they will operate cargo transfer stations.

The company has deployed four times for missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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



U.S. soldiers rush an injured comrade towards a Medivac helicopter of the Charlie Company 2-227, Aviation Battalion called "Witchdoctors" in Baghdad October 7, 2007. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

**“Every Iraqi Has Eyes Filled With
Fear, Frustration, Anger And
Hopelessness And No Amount Of
Body Armor I Was Wearing Could
Protect Me From Their Eyes”**

“The Truth Is ‘Iraqi People Are In The Resistance,’ He Said”



October 27 By BOB AUDETTE, Reformer Staff

SAXTONS RIVER -- The war in Iraq is a war of words and manipulated emotions, said former Marine and anti-war crusader Liam Madden, during a speech given to the student body of Vermont Academy Friday.

Madden, a Bellows Falls Union High School graduate, was a communications specialist who served in Iraq from September 2004 to February 2005.

As an example of this war of words, he talked about companies such as Blackwater.

“Don’t call them security contractors,” said Madden. “They are cowboys.”

Their only reason for being in Iraq, he said “is to cause mayhem.”

“They are the worst kind of mercenaries. They are not beholden to any laws. They’re not held accountable to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. They’re not held accountable by U.S. law. And they are not held accountable by Iraqi law. The role they play is criminal.”

Another way the perception of the war has been manipulated, he said, is how Americans have labeled those who have taken up arms against what he called the occupation of Iraq.

“We never really say who is resisting in Iraq,” he said. Though there are plenty of labels -- the enemy, terrorists, al-Qaida, foreign fighters and insurgents -- the truth is “Iraqi people are in the resistance,” he said.

And even more misleading words are used to explain the reasons the United States went to war in Iraq -- weapons of mass destruction, the alleged Iraqi link to Al Qaida and democracy.

“I should die for lies?” he asked.

The war in Iraq, said Madden, is not meant to improve the lives of the people who live there.

“We are in Iraq because control of Middle East oil keeps America the sole and unchallenged superpower,” he said. “Our rivals are the people who need the oil. China, India, Russia and Europe. It’s about being on top of the world’s economic heap.”

And as far as the reasons for not leaving Iraq, said Madden, “your compassion is being manipulated.

“The moral obligation is to do what the people in Iraq want us to do,” and that’s to leave. “People are struggling against the war, but they’re conditioned to think that getting out is not an option.”

Americans should respect the fact that 80 to 90 percent of Iraqis want us out.

“How arrogant to say we should stay because we know what’s best for you,” he said. “Every Iraqi has eyes filled with fear, frustration, anger and hopelessness and no amount of body armor I was wearing could protect me from their eyes.”

Soldiers coming back from Iraq are tired, frustrated and are sick of being in harm’s way, said Madden. And while many of them hope the war will be over soon, a core group of soldiers still back the mission. “Blind obedience is not a healthy loyalty,” said Madden. “It doesn’t create a good citizen.”

He came back from Iraq with more questions than answers, said Madden, especially about how he could make a difference and help end the war.

“We are faced with examining the past,” he said. Throughout America’s history, he said, when people were faced with injustice, they fought back. He cited the abolition, suffragette and civil rights movements as examples.

“Put your energy into a social movement. People who want change without struggle want crops without plowing the ground,” said Madden, quoting abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass. “A good protest sends its impact throughout society.”

Madden, a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, helped to form the Appeal for Redress, a petition signed by active duty soldiers asking Congress to end the war.

Oona Madden, Liam’s mother, said that her son became who he is today because of his experiences in the Marines.

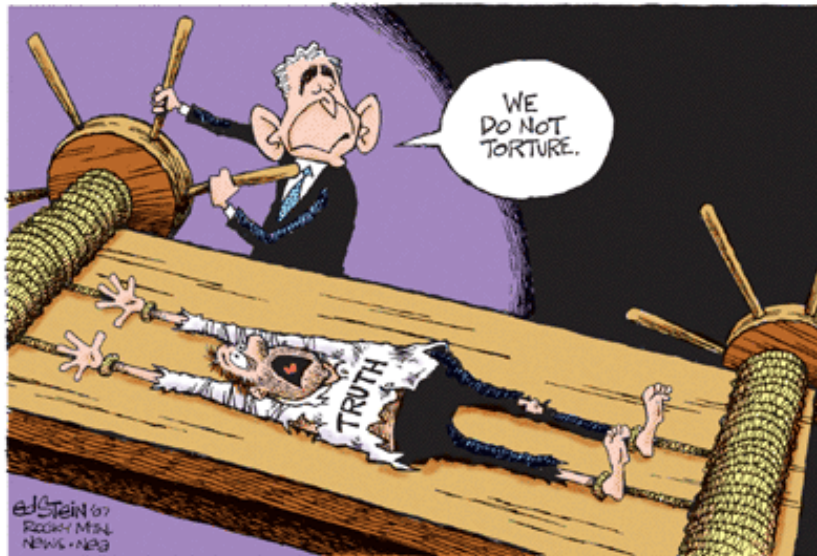
“He needed to do something,” she said. “He wasn’t the best kid in high school. He has really grown up a lot.” Through the Marines, she said, “he learned how to discipline himself.”

A Marine reservist, a Vermont Academy alumnus who was to provide a counter viewpoint to Madden's presentation, was forbidden to appear at Friday's event by his superiors, according to school officials.

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

Retired JAGs Say "Waterboarding Detainees Amounts To Illegal Torture In All Circumstances"



November 3rd Nicole Belle, Crooks and Liars [Excerpts]

Senator Patrick Leahy, Senate Judiciary Committee, received this letter from four retired JAGs:

Dear Chairman Leahy,

In the course of the Senate Judiciary Committee's consideration of President Bush's nominee for the post of Attorney General, there has been much discussion, but little clarity, about the legality of "waterboarding" under United States and international law.

We write Because this issue above all demands clarity: Waterboarding is inhumane, it is torture, and it is illegal.

In 2006 the Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on the authority to prosecute terrorists under the war crimes provisions of Title 18 of the U.S. Code.

In connection with those hearings the sitting Judge Advocates General of the military services were asked to submit written responses to a series of questions regarding "the use of a wet towel and dripping water to induce the misperception of drowning (i.e., waterboarding) . . ."

Major General Scott Black, U.S. Army Judge Advocate General, Major General Jack Rives, U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General, Rear Admiral Bruce MacDonald, U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General, and Brigadier Gen. Kevin Sandkuhler, Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, unanimously and unambiguously agreed that such conduct is inhumane and illegal and would constitute a violation of international law, to include Common Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

We agree with our active duty colleagues.

This is a critically important issue - but it is not, and never has been, a complex issue, and even to suggest otherwise does a terrible disservice to this nation.

All U.S. Government agencies and personnel, and not just America's military forces, must abide by both the spirit and letter of the controlling provisions of international law.

Cruelty and torture - no less than wanton killing - is neither justified nor legal in any circumstance. It is essential to be clear, specific and unambiguous about this fact - as in fact we have been throughout America's history, at least until the last few years. Abu Ghraib and other notorious examples of detainee abuse have been the product, at least in part, of a self-serving and destructive disregard for the well-established legal principles applicable to this issue.

This must end.

The Rule of Law is not a goal which we merely aspire to achieve; it is the floor below which we must not sink. For the Rule of Law to function effectively, however, it must provide actual rules that can be followed.

In this instance, the relevant rule - the law - as long been clear: Waterboarding detainees amounts to illegal torture in all circumstances.

To suggest otherwise - or even to give credence to such a suggestion - represents both an affront to the law and to the core values of our nation.

We respectfully urge you to consider these principles in connection with the nomination of Judge Mukasey.

Sincerely,

**Rear Admiral Donald J. Guter, United States Navy (Ret.)
Judge Advocate General of the Navy, 2000-02**

**Rear Admiral John D. Hutson, United States Navy (Ret.)
Judge Advocate General of the Navy, 1997-2000**

**Major General John L. Fugh, United States Army (Ret.)
Judge Advocate General of the Army, 1991-93**

**Brigadier General David M. Brahms, United States Marine Corps (Ret.)
Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant, 1985-88**

MORE:

Waterboarding During The Philippine-American War: “The Torturing Of Filipinos”

From: PORTSIDE.ORG
Sent: November 03, 2007

From: Jim Zwick

The U.S. military's use of waterboarding began during the Philippine-American War when it was called the "water cure." It was said to be a form of torture the U.S. military "inherited from the Spanish" who had used it since the Inquisition.

In "A Defense of General Funston" Mark Twain wrote:

"Funston's example has bred many imitators, and many ghastly additions to our history: the torturing of Filipinos by the awful 'water-cure,' for instance, to make them confess -- what?

"Truth?

"Or lies?

"How can one know which it is they are telling? For under unendurable pain a man confesses anything that is required of him, true or false, and his evidence is worthless.

“Yet upon such evidence American officers have actually -- but you know about those atrocities which the War Office has been hiding a year or two....”

In 1903, Twain was asked to write about the torture- to-death by “water cure” of Father Augustine, a Filipino priest, by Captain Cornelius Brownell.

Brownell later confessed that “the water cure was administered by my order several times to different natives” and that “every officer and every man, both in my regiment and of every other regiment with which I served, knew when it was given, and I was never criticised by any officer while in the service for administering it.”

Twain began an article about this that was tentatively titled “Brownell’s Conscience.”

Albert Bigelow Paine wrote that he “undertook to give expression to his feelings on this subject, but he boiled so when he touched pen to paper to write of it that it was simply impossible for him to say anything within the bounds of print.”

Veterans’ PTSD Treatment Mysteriously Disappears: “For 3 Months These Vets Have Showed Up For Their Weekly Group Therapy Sessions And Have Been Told Your Appointment Has Been Cancelled” “When Asked Why, The Staff Replied, ‘We Know, But We Can’t Tell You’”

November 03, 2007 Gulf1.typepad.com [Excerpts]

Michael Pulley says,

Recently three different Pensacola VA PTSD groups were told their weekly group sessions have been terminated.

For three months these vets have showed up for their weekly group therapy sessions and have been told your Appointment has been cancelled. When asked why, the staff replied, “We know, but we can’t tell you”.

Appointment letters were mailed to group members stating we had been scheduled for an Oct. 22, 2007 "Chaplain" meeting.

Many veterans affected did not receive an appointment letter, or more would have showed up.

At 10:00 am that day, forty three (43) group members arrived, having no idea what this appointment related to.

A "chaplain" sent from Biloxi opened by telling us, when he left from Biloxi that morning, he was told absolutely nothing about what this appointment pertained to.

I can only assume he was told by someone at our Pensacola Clinic when he arrived. He simply stated, "Your three weekly PTSD groups have been terminated".

He stated he had no reason why.

He stated he did five (5) PTSD groups in Biloxi and when asked if any of them have been cancelled, he stated NO.

Since these three groups have met for years, with the same "facilitator," and this person has not been seen in these three months, I can only assume he's involved in some fashion.

We have inquired about him and his health and gotten, "We know, but we can't tell you".

I was placed in this group in January of this year by a clinic psychiatrist. I am 100%, total & permanent PTSD. I obtained my VA records the next day, going back to January 2007.

My group was listed as "clinic cancelled" twenty three (23) times from Jan. 2007 to September 27, 2007, the last date the clinic listed the weekly group meetings in the records.

These groups are considered "medical treatment" and are no longer in place.

We have no idea if this was a Pensacola VA or Biloxi VA decision.

NO ONE will respond with anything. Not so much as a "wait & see", "we're trying", "we're out of money", NOTHING! As if the groups never existed.

We have submitted paperwork and documents to Congressman Miller and Senator Martinez's offices.

These veterans are suffering and going without "promised medical treatment".

Our position is simple, if the VA can cancel treatment for 60 or more vets, with no explanation, un-challenged, they can cancel anything or everything.

Please remember, today's soldier is tomorrow's Veteran (if he or she lives).



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

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

03 Nov 2007 Reuters & AP & 04/11/2007 Echo Publications & Nov 4, 2007 Deutsche Presse-Agentur & Reuters

An Iraqi soldier and a policeman were killed in Diyala province. The soldier died when guerrillas attacked his patrol in Khalis, 50 miles north of the capital, police said. Three other soldiers were wounded in the attack, they said.

A roadside bomb wounded three police commandos when it targeted their patrol in southeastern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb blew up near a police patrol, killing one policeman and wounding another one in Mahaweel, 75 km (45 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A senior Iraqi army officer and a police chief survived an assassination attempt in Basra on Saturday. An explosive charge targeted the motorcade of Iraqi military operations

commander in Basra Mohan Hafez and provisional police chief Abdul-Jalil Najiya in the city, some 590 kilometres south of Baghdad. Four security guards were wounded, two of them seriously, an Iraqi police spokesman said.

The attack is the second on the military commander and the seventh on the police chief since Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki appointed them three months ago.

A top aide to Iraq's finance ministry was killed in western Baghdad, police said. Qutaiba Badir al-Din Mohammed, an adviser to Iraq's finance minister, died at around 11am when two carloads of fighters showered his vehicle with bullets in the capital's al-Jamia neighbourhood, police said. His driver was also killed in the attack, they said.

Sulaymanyah, Iraq - Three soldiers from troops - known as peshmerga - from Iraq's Kurdish Autonomous Region were killed and five wounded on Sunday in an ambush hitting their patrol near the city of Baquba.

Guerrillas ambushed a group of peshmerga soldiers on the road from Baghdad to the northern city of Sulaymanyah, Kurdish security sources told Deutsche Presse-Agentur.

The attack took place in Habhab, which is part of Baquba, 60 kilometres north-east of Baghdad.

In a separate incident, a senior police officer and two civilians were shot dead on Sunday on a road in Samara, 120 kilometres north of Baghdad. The three bodies with marks of heavy shooting in different parts were found in a car they were riding, sources from the Tikrit police told dpa.

Police found a dead police lieutenant-colonel with gunshot wounds and signs of torture in southern Tikrit, police said.

Guerrillas on motorbikes killed a policeman on Saturday west of Kut, 170 km (105 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

A parked car bomb targeting a police patrol on Saturday killed and wounded a number of policemen, in southern Samarra, 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two bombers, one was driving a car while the other in a truck, struck a police checkpoint in northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Sunday, wounding at least eight policemen. The twin attacks took place in the afternoon in Mosul's western neighborhood of Bab Sinjar,

Guerrillas killed an Iraqi police officer and wounded two others near Salman Pak, southeast of Baghdad.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Black Watch:
**“The Play Shows Great Affection For
The Troops”**
**“Getting Mortared All The Time. Getting
Fucking Ambushed. Getting Killed By
Suicide Bombers. And For What?”**

Oct 24, 2007 by Jeremy McCarter, New York Magazine [Excerpts]

Black Watch: By Gregory Burke. St. Ann’s Warehouse. Through November 11.

Fast, loud, funny, and profane, *Black Watch* is the kind of play that even its subjects might enjoy.

Three years ago, a researcher ventured into a pub to ask a Scottish veteran about his experiences in Iraq. Because she was hot (or so the play implies), a bunch of the soldier’s friends showed up for the next interview, only to be greeted by a reedy male playwright with a messenger bag. (“He looks like a poof” sums up their response.) Yet Gregory Burke survived this bait-and-switch, and came away loaded with stories of the 300-year-old regiment that fought bravely in Iraq only to be folded into another unit on its return home.

The National Theatre of Scotland has taken over what feels like a couple of acres of St. Ann’s Warehouse, running a long, narrow stage between two facing banks of seats.

As the action ricochets from a pub in Fife to a god-awful desert camp outside Fallujah, the soldiers brawl, watch porn, curse—boy, do they curse—and occasionally open up. A little.

The combination of interviews, invented scenes, and the occasional song doesn’t fit into any of the neat little boxes in which war stories usually reside.

Though the play shows great affection for the troops, Burke makes no effort to prettify their faults; while it makes the bungling of the Iraq war vividly clear, it never suggests that these guys are innocents led to slaughter—a depiction that they would take as an insult.

“I want you to fucking know. I wanted to be in the army,” says one of the soldiers early on. “I could have done other stuff. I’m not a fucking knuckle-dragger.”

On the contrary, the troops (played by a gifted, athletic cast of ten) feel pride—fierce, sustaining pride—in the *Black Watch* and its long tradition.

In the show's signature sequence, Cammy (Paul Rattray) narrates the entire history of the regiment while being carried, twirled, and turned upside down by his pals as they dress him in the uniforms of successive centuries. It sets him up, near the end, to make a mature and devastating argument for the damage this war has done to the men and women who agree to risk their lives defending us.

"Getting mortared all the time. Getting fucking ambushed. Getting killed by suicide bombers. And for what?"

For a play this political, *Black Watch* couldn't feel less didactic. Burke's sense of humor is too sharp for that, and John Tiffany's direction is too all-around masterful. Here, you think, is a director who decided he'd press every key, pedal, and knob to see what sounds he could get the organ to make.

His effortless use of projections (as when the soldiers watch giant videos of American planes bombing a village) makes the show contemporary; his mix of explosions with quiet moments makes you feel not that you're watching a battle (as good war movies do) but that you're practically in the middle of one—you jump when the bombs go off. The show stumbles into arty choreography now and then (some kind of sign-language routine when the mail arrives, for instance). Still, this seems merely a spillover of theatrical energy, far easier to forgive than its opposite.

OCCUPATION REPORT

“Embassy Staff Are Required To Wear Flak Jackets And Helmets When Walking Between Buildings”

November 2007 by William Langewiesche, *Vanity Fair* [Excerpts]

In Baghdad the mortar fire is growing more accurate and intense.

After 30 mortar shells hit the Green Zone one afternoon last July, an American diplomat reported that his colleagues were growing angry about being “recklessly exposed to danger”—as if the war should have come with warning labels.

At least the swimming pool has been placed off limits.

Embassy staff are required to wear flak jackets and helmets when walking between buildings, or when occupying those that have not been fortified. On the rare occasion when they want to venture a short distance across the Green Zone to talk to Iraqi officials, they generally have to travel in armored S.U.V.'s, often protected by private security details.

The ambassador, Ryan Crocker, is distributing a range of new protective gear, and is scattering the landscape with 151 concrete “duck and cover” shelters.

Not to be outdone, a Senate report has recommended the installation of a teleconferencing system to “improve interaction” with Iraqis who may be in buildings only a few hundred yards away.

Half of this collective is involved in self-defense.

The other half is so isolated from Iraq that, when it is not dispensing funds into the Iraqi ether, it is engaged in nothing more productive than sustaining itself.

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

“They Throw Bombs, And You Throw Bombs. You Have Airplanes, But They Don’t, So They Blow Themselves Up”



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro]

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

11.01.07 By Ronny Shaked, YNetNews [Excerpts]

In the full interview, to be published Friday, Aloni slams the defense minister over the punitive measures he introduced in the Gaza Strip: "Collective punishment is an inhumane move. Ehud Barak is the most dangerous person in the State of Israel, because of his character, because he's a man of war, and because of his arrogance."

Aloni also lashed out at former Chief of Staff Dan Halutz over claims that Israel used cluster bombs during the Second Lebanon War.

"Whoever uses cluster bombs in an area where civilians reside is a criminal in my mind," Aloni said. "He should be put on trial here first, but if not here, then at the International Court of Justice."

During the interview, the former minister said that a week ago she delivered a lecture at the National Security College and told officers: "Why are you making a big fuss over people with blood on their hands?"

"Each one of you has blood on your hands. They throw bombs, and you throw bombs. You have airplanes, but they don't, so they blow themselves up."

Aloni said that one of those in attendance asked her: "You treat their blood like our blood?"

The former minister reportedly responded: "Yes, it's just as red."

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

The Demorats: **"Planning To Assume The Role Of Managing Current And Future U.S. Wars"**

October 26, 2007 By LANCE SELFA, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

After disappointing supporters in the aftermath of 2006, the Democrats are asking for another chance--this time in 2008.

But if antiwar activists set their sights on getting a Democrat in the White House, they're setting themselves up for an even bigger betrayal.

All three leading contenders for the Democratic nomination have refused to pledge to get troops out of Iraq even by 2013.

The frontrunner, Hillary Clinton, distinguished herself by voting for a bill that can open the door to war with Iran and becoming the favorite candidate of the U.S. arms industry.

When one considers those facts, perhaps the Democrats' congressional stiff-arm to public opinion isn't as hard to understand as it appears.

Rather than take any risks for "peace," they're planning to assume the role of managing current and future U.S. wars.

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.

Bush Gives Musharraf Tips on Eliminating Democracy

November 4, 2007 The Borowitz Report

In what he described as "an emergency mission to help a key ally in the war on terror," President George W. Bush flew to Islamabad today to give General Pervez Musharraf tips on how to eliminate democracy.

Mr. Bush said he scheduled the trip just hours after General Musharraf declared a state of emergency in Pakistan and suspended elections "because when it comes to eliminating democracy, I thought my friend Pervez could benefit from my experience."

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, Mr. Bush said that while he commended General Musharraf's impulse to eliminate democratic institutions, he felt that the military strongman was going about it the wrong way: "When you're getting rid of democracy, the last thing you want to do is tell people you're doing it."

Mr. Bush said that eliminating such things as privacy, freedom of speech and the constitution had to be done "very quietly and stealthy-like."

“If I had gone on TV one day and just ended democracy like Pervez did, I would have caught holy hell from Maureen Dowd,” Mr. Bush chuckled. “You’ve got to be crafty about these things.”

Mr. Bush chalked up Mr. Musharraf’s decision to disclose the elimination of democracy as a “beginner’s mistake,” adding, “I’ve had six-plus years of practice at this.”

He also criticized the Pakistani dictator’s firing of the chief justice of the Supreme Court: “Trust me, if you’re going to get rid of elections, a Supreme Court could come in handy.”



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

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Three Years After Katrina,
Government Rats Keep On
Tormenting The Refugees:
Housing Authority Of New Orleans
Planning To “Destroy Much-Needed
Housing And Leave Displaced New**

Orleanians Stranded Hundreds Of Miles From Home”

November 03, 2007 By Gwen Filosa, New Orleans Times-Picayune [Excerpts]

Public housing residents want a federal judge to prevent any demolition of the brick barracks-style buildings they called home before Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, trying to block the Housing Authority of New Orleans’ plans to start tearing down the aging complexes in December.

The request is the latest legal move by HANO residents who sued this year, days after the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced it would tear down the city’s four largest developments -- St. Bernard, Lafitte, B.W. Cooper and C.J. Peete - to make way for “mixed-income” neighborhoods.

Without court intervention, HUD and HANO will be free to destroy much-needed housing and leave displaced New Orleanians stranded hundreds of miles from home,” said Judith Browne-Dianis, co-director of the Advancement Project, which is helping represent public housing tenants in the lawsuit.

“There is no plan to replace every unit that is demolished.”

“Plaintiffs may succeed on the merits of their case, yet find their homes destroyed,” the court filing says.

[T]he plaintiffs’ attorneys, led by Loyola Law School professor Bill Quigley, haven’t backed down from trying to stop HANO’s redevelopment plans, saying that the government will only provide fewer apartments for the poor once the dust settles.

HANO is failing to provide housing advocates with accurate contact information for former St. Thomas residents, violating an agreement struck in June, said attorney James Perry.

Of the 1,132 addresses of former residents HANO provided, 38 percent stated that the families still lived at St. Thomas, which was demolished in 2001. An additional 20 percent of the contact list states that families live in developments that have been vacant for two years, Perry said.

The inaccuracies call into question HANO’s claims that it has plenty of open units that its families either can’t or won’t return to post-Katrina, Perry said.

HANO maintains it has 400 apartments in its developments ready and waiting until its families can return to New Orleans from cities such as Houston, but the agency hasn’t provided a list of addresses for each unit, despite a request by U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La.

About 5,100 families lived in public housing before Katrina. So far, 1,600 families have returned to the remaining brick buildings.

HANO said it has provided government housing vouchers to families forced from the complexes after Katrina.

The plaintiffs' attorneys say that housing vouchers aren't working. "Housing vouchers do not provide access to acceptable, affordable housing in New Orleans," attorney Ross Bricker wrote on behalf of the public housing residents suing HUD. "On the contrary, such housing is extraordinarily difficult to find."

One plaintiff reported that she is still stuck in Houston from Katrina, in spite of having a voucher and having made "ten trips to New Orleans to try to find an apartment."

Turkey: **"DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM. LONG LIVE SOCIALISM"**



A boy holds a red flag, while protesters shout slogans during a socialist demonstration against U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's attendance at the Iraqi conference in Istanbul, November 3, 2007. Placards read "Down with Imperialism. Long Live Socialism", "Blood suckers will give an accounting." REUTERS/Fatih Saribas

Received:

“Bush Doesn’t Come Here Anymore”

From: Thomas Good

Date: Nov 2, 2007

Subject: Rita Dougherty’s Statement

Rita is the mother of badly wounded 1st LT Ryan D. Miller. Both are Staten Islanders.

Bush doesn’t come here anymore. Individual soldiers have to allow him into their rooms before he can visit and they are all saying ‘keep him the fuck away from me...’

Even though my son is home there’s no way I’m going to stop.

I marched after my brother came home from Viet Nam. I was only 12 at the time but I marched with VVAW and I didn’t stop until Saigon fell.

So I’m not stopping until Baghdad falls.

I’m in this for the long haul.

<p>OCCUPATION ISN’T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!</p>
--

**“One Soldier Told Me How The Army Is Doing
Some Kind Of Staggered Pay System And Not
Everyone Is Regularly Paid Each Month”**

From: Steve Vargo

To: GI Special

Sent: November 03, 2007

Subject: RE: GI Special 5K2: War

Greetings of solidarity.

This morning I helped my friend, The Prissy Patriot at her son’s National Guard armory preparing and serving breakfast for the unit.

Her son has already had one tour in Iraq where he was wounded. The unit name does not matter-they are somewhere in Ohio. Today was the unit's Christmas dinner. They are deploying today to a base in the United States before shipping over to the Middle East (not Iraq).

Prissy asked me not to wear anything anti-war or political; including buttons or anything else. My car is plastered with bumper stickers against the war; Bush; imperialism, but no one commented on it. It kinda stuck out in the parking lot!

We reported for our kitchen police detail at 0730 hours. The Fall morning was cloaked in cool darkness as the GI's wandered in for their meeting. They unloaded knap sacks from their cars; backpacks which they arranged in the main area. Military slogans adorned the walls of course.

The one I liked best was about never leaving anyone behind. That's a good one. In Nam we never left anyone behind, dead or alive. There were times we humped dead GI's wrapped in a pauncho and tied to a bamboo pole down a mountain for days until they could be choppered out.

Prissy had worked hard the night before doing the prep work. Sausage and gravy with biscuits was served along with bacon & egg muffins with cheese. Bacon was available on the side. It was all homemade by her. Lots strong Joe of course!

She introduced us to several members of the unit and of course, the captain, who was the company commander.

Two others helped us, a husband & wife team. He was a former navel reservist. I cut up bacon and panned it; spent the remainder of the duty on side-sink doing the pots and pans and utensils used. We left the mess area cleaner than we found it.

While we did not participate in any 'overt' activist work, I think we did something this day as important. I don't think I will ever forget how grateful the troops were for a simple act of human kindness.

I flashed back to the 'donut dollys' and the USO shows and performers would make their way far out in the boonies to bring us a few moments of normalcy. One time Robert Stack from the hit TV show, The Untouchables visited our unit, 2nd Bn. 173rd Airborne in the Central Highlands and we were in a combat zone. I really admired him for that.

Our detail in the mess hall ran efficiently under Prissy's leadership. The guard unit didn't have enough money to host their own Christmas party; Prissy donated all the food for donations. Everyone ate and of course no one was refused because they didn't have anything to spare for a donation.

One soldier told me how the army is doing some kind of staggered pay system and not everyone is regularly paid each month. The soldiers are supposed to be paid twice monthly but some of them were only getting paid once a month.

They talked about the struggles to go to college or trade school because of being deployed.

Like any military unit, not everyone can eat at the same time. The unit members drifted in as they completed meetings or assignments.

This visit reminded me of the stories I read in the GI special about activists passing out cookies along with DVD's and literature outside some bases.

The most painful thing was when I was introduced as a Vietnam Vet, how many of the troops replied, "oh yea, my grandfather was there." OUCH!!!! Ha! Ha!

It was a pleasure to humbly be of some service and to bring a few moments of solace to the unit.

In solidarity,
Comrade Tribune

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williamsbowles.info/gispecial/2007/index.html>; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>; http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;
<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>



GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.