

GI SPECIAL 5K7:

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



U.S. Army soldiers from Demon Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division under fire; one soldier wounded, right, in western Mosul, Nov. 8, 2007. They came under fire while investigating a blast site. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Deadliest Year For U.S. Troops In Afghanistan: Resistance Ambush Kills 6 In Waygal After They “Searched” Village; Eight More Wounded

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

Nov 10 KABUL (AFP) & msnbc.com

Six U.S. troops were killed in northeast Afghanistan after being ambushed by insurgents in the high mountains of eastern Afghanistan, who inflicted one of their deadliest tolls for years, military officials said Saturday.

The attack, the most lethal against American forces this year, made this year the deadliest for U.S. troops in Afghanistan since the 2001 invasion.

The six deaths brings the number of U.S. troops killed in Afghanistan in 2007 to at least 101, according to a count by The Associated Press — the highest annual death toll for the American military here since it invaded to oust Taliban and al-Qaida fighters after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The war has evolved into an increasingly bloody counterinsurgency campaign.

Mohammad Daoud Nadim, Nuristan deputy police chief, said the ambush happened in the remote province's Waygal district, about 40 miles from the border with Pakistan. Nadim said he had no information on any casualties among the militants.

Nuristani said the combined troops searched two houses after the meeting with village elders and were ambushed while walking back to their base.

"They were attacked from several enemy positions at the same time while returning from the village meeting to their base," said Lieutenant Colonel David Accetta, a spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force and the U.S. military.

"It was a complex ambush."

It was not clear if they were killed in the ambush or subsequent fighting, he said.

It wasn't immediately clear how many militants were involved in the ambush.

Three Afghan soldiers were also killed in Friday's ambush, while eight Americans and 11 Afghans were wounded.

The battle produced the highest number of U.S. casualties — 14 — of any battles in Afghanistan this year, Accetta said.

The incident was the "highest casualty-producing ground engagement" in the east since ISAF took command of the area in February, Accetta added.

Besides air crashes, it was also one of the deadliest incidents involving international and Afghan soldiers who have been fighting an insurgency led by the Taliban, which ruled Afghanistan between 1996 and 2001 when it was ousted by a US-led coalition.

Until this week the north had seen relatively little of the violence which has rocked the insurgency-hit south and east.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed, Three Wounded In Diyala

November 10, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071110-06

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Multi-National Division-North Soldier was killed as a result of injuries sustained from an explosion while conducting operations in Diyala Province, Nov. 9.

Additionally, three Soldiers were wounded and evacuated to a Coalition hospital.

IED Kills U.S. Soldier “South Of Baghdad”

November 8, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071108-03

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Center Soldier was killed as a result of wounds suffered when the dismounted patrol the Soldier was part of encountered an improvised explosive device south of Baghdad Nov. 7.

Cpl. Adam J. Chitjian Services Set



Cpl. Adam J. Chitjian

Oct. 31, 2007 About Philly.com

The funeral for Army Cpl. Adam J. Chitjian, 39, will be held at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Diagiacommo Funeral Home, 1055 Southampton Rd., Philadelphia, where friends may call after 11:30 a.m. Burial will be private.

Cpl. Chitjian died Thursday of injuries from enemy small-arms fire in Balad in northern Iraq. He was due to end his second tour of duty in Iraq next month.

He grew up in the Somerton section of Philadelphia and graduated from George Washington High School. He worked as a commercial painter until joining the Army four years ago in response to 9/11.

Called "Pappy" by the others in his squad because of his maturity, Cpl. Chitjian was promoted from private first class to corporal after his death as a sign of respect, said Shirley Chitjian, his wife of one year.

Cpl. Chitjian was assigned to the Third Battalion, Eighth Cavalry Regiment, Third Brigade Combat Team, First Cavalry Division, based in Fort Hood, Texas.

In addition to his wife, Cpl. Chitjian is survived by his father, Martin; a brother; a sister; and four nieces and nephews. His mother, Edith Curcio Chitjian, died in 1998.

Family Remembers Fallen Southwest Virginia Guardsman



SPC David Lambert, of Cedar Bluff, VA, died in Iraq Friday. -photo courtesy of Lambert family

Oct 29, 2007 BY Josh Green, Reporter; Bristol Herald Courier

Brittany Lambert wondered who would be ringing her doorbell at 6:30 on a Friday morning. The 17 year-old, who lives with her grandparents near Cedar Bluff, VA, was picking out her shoes to wear to school.

"I was hoping that if it was about 'Bo' that maybe he was just hurt," she said.

When she opened the door, two casualty officers from Richmond stood in front of her. They were there about 'Bo'...about Virginia Guardsman SPC David E. Lambert, Brittany's uncle.

They told Brittany and her grandparents that SPC Lambert was in Baghdad when an improvised explosive device hit his convoy. He didn't make it.

David Lambert would have turned 40 next Friday, November 9th.

"It still doesn't seem real," Brittany Lambert said.

SPC Lambert was assigned to the 237th Engineer Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 91st Troop Command of the Virginia National Guard, located in West Point. His family said he had been in Iraq less than a month.

The family still waited on word about when his body might make it back from the Middle East.

"When it gets quiet around here...that's when you start to realize it," Lambert said.

The last time Brittany Lambert saw her uncle was just a few days before her birthday in September. He bought her a manicure and make-up set as a present.

"He hugged and kissed me good-bye and I told him that I better see him again," Brittany Lambert said.

"At least I got to tell him good-bye."

The guardsmen spent part of his life in the same home that his niece is growing up in. She said SPC Lambert's mother and father moved to their current home, just south of Cedar Bluff in the mid-80s.

"He was a health nut," Brittany Lambert said. "He would run all the way up to the red lights and back."

Those red lights on Highway-19 are three miles away.

The "health nut's" sister could never correctly call her brother "bro" so the nickname "Bo" stuck. SPC Lambert graduated from Richlands High School in 1987.

Brittany Lambert said SPC Lambert asked his fiancée, Heather, to marry him last Christmas. The couple wanted to start a family in Grundy.

And as his family waits to lay their soldier to rest, it's the small things this niece will miss the most.

"Every time he came over, there was always cornbread in the microwave and he'd always eat what was left," Lambert said.

Mercenaries Blown Up: Casualties Not Reported



A vehicle belonging to a mercenary company that was hit by a roadside bomb near Beiji, north of Baghdad, Nov. 10, 2007, destroying this vehicle, with no immediate reports on casualties. (AP Photo/Bassem Daham)

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



U.S. Army soldiers from 1st Platoon, Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Task Force Iron, from Fort Lewis,

Wash., run by a burning vehicle in Hussein Hamadi village, Diyala Province, Iraq, Oct. 29, 2007 during Operation Ultra Magnus. (AP Photo/SSG Russell Bassett, US Army)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Army Medic Killed



Spc. Hugo V. Mendoza

10/29/2007 By Stephanie Sanchez, El Paso Times

An Army medic who attended Hanks High School was killed Thursday in Afghanistan while trying to save the life of another soldier who had been shot in an ambush, his family said Sunday.

Army Spc. Hugo V. Mendoza, 29, died from wounds suffered during small arms fire in Korengal Valley, Afghanistan. Mendoza was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Airborne Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, stationed in Vicenza, Italy.

“They were ambushed. A soldier was shot,” said Hugo Mendoza’s brother Jesus Carlos Mendoza Jr. in a telephone interview Sunday. “Hugo tried to get him to safety, and that was when he was shot.”

Jesus Mendoza, of Glendale, Ariz., said funeral services for his brother will be at Fort Bliss National Cemetery this week. He said the family was informed about his brother’s death Friday morning by his brother’s commanding officer. “My brother gave his life for another,” Jesus Mendoza said. “He was trying to save another gentleman, Army brother’s life.”

Jesus Mendoza told of a harrowing battle in the ambush in which Army Sgt. Joshua C. Brennan, 22, of Ontario, Ore., and Hugo Mendoza survived six grenades that were

thrown in their direction. But he said Brennan and his brother eventually were shot. Brennan died Friday in Asadabad, Afghanistan, of those injuries.

Jesus Mendoza said his brother, who wanted to become a firefighter, joined the Army to get money to go to school and to get medic training, he said.

Hugo Mendoza attended Hanks High School until the 11th grade when he left to go live with his brother in Glendale and graduated from Trevor Browne High School in Phoenix, Jesus Mendoza said. The Mendoza family does not have details about funeral services for Hugo Mendoza, only that they will be at Fort Bliss this week, he said.

“My mom’s wishes were to bury him there,” Jesus Mendoza said. “She felt that is where my brother would want to be.”

El Paso friends of Hugo Mendoza remember him as a person who loved to sit around and discuss philosophy. “He loved religion and trying to find the answers to age-old questions,” said Christi Ramirez, 33, a childhood friend from East El Paso. “He was a very loving soul.” She said she, her brother, Danny Ramirez, and Hugo Mendoza were good friends and they always kept in contact, she said.

“He was definitely trying to be the best person he could be,” she said. “He really joined to get medical training and follow his dreams of being a firefighter.”

He is survived by his father, Jesus Carlos Mendoza Sr., his mother, Sara, and his brothers Jesus Carlos and Stevie of El Paso.

Norwegian Soldier Killed, Second Injured By IED Near Maymana

November 8, 2007 The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway: A Norwegian soldier was killed and a second was seriously injured by a roadside bomb in northern Afghanistan on Thursday, the Nordic country’s military said.

A news release said the soldiers, whose names were not immediately released, were in a Norwegian vehicle near their base in the northern Afghan city of Maymana when the bomb went off.

The Norwegian Joint Headquarters said two other Norwegian soldiers following in an accompanying vehicle evacuated the injured soldier to their base, where he was in stable condition. He was being treated by Norwegian and German doctors at the joint base, the statement said.

Resistance Action

Nov. 3 (Xinhua) & November 4, 2007 AP & 9th November 2007 Associated Newspapers Ltd

Around 20 local tribal elders with suspected connection with foreign troops have been killed by the Taliban over the past three months in Ghazni province.

A roadside bomb blast killed four Afghan police on Sunday. The roadside bomb attack came in Ghazni province as police were traveling through the countryside, said Ali Shah Ahmadzai, the provincial police chief. He said two officers were wounded in the attack, which he blamed on Taliban militants.

In the southern Zabul province, Taliban militants on motorbikes ambushed and killed Shahjoy's district chief and two of his bodyguards on Thursday, said Mohammad Rasool Khan, a district police chief. The victims were shopping in a market when four militants on two motorbikes shot them dead, said Khan.

SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

Not A Good Day For Bush's Buddies



Somalis beat the body of an Ethiopian occupation soldier as it is dragged through the streets of Somalia's capital Mogadishu 08 November 2007. Some of the worst fighting in months has left more than 30 dead in two days. Acting for the Bush administration, the Ethiopian government invaded Somalia and installed a collaborator government. Somalis have launched a guerrilla war to win back their national independence. (AFP)

TROOP NEWS

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



A U.S. Army medic crew with Charlie Company 2-227, Aviation Battalion, called "Witchdoctors", take care of a U.S. soldier as they evacuate him on a MEDEVAC Blackhawk helicopter from the Troop Medical Clinic in the forward operating base Falcon in Baghdad October 24, 2007. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

Wounded Soldier Struggles To Recover From Sniper Shot In Iraq; "I Don't Know That He'll Ever Be Able To Climb A Ladder. It's Hard To Look To The Future"

November 10, 2007 By Sharon Kiley Mack, Bangor Daily News

Pam Buckland said that when she first saw her son, who was shot by a sniper last month in Iraq, he was comatose. Bradley Buckland, 22, had been airlifted from Germany to Walter Reed Army Medical Center after six hours of emergency surgery.

"Tubes were everywhere," she said. "His hipbone was shattered."

His young wife, Jennifer, would hold his hand and say, "Let me see your baby blues." Buckland's eyelids would flicker and he'd squeeze her hand.

Pam Buckland said that once he awakened, her son spent days in an agitated, anxious state.

“He was so traumatized,” she said. “He didn’t want us to speak or have us touch him. It was hard to know what to do to comfort him.”

Still, as she watched other soldiers at Walter Reed learning to live with amputated limbs and extended hospital stays, she said she felt her son was very lucky. “We met one young lady from Georgia. Her husband had lost his leg and had six bullet wounds in his chest,” she said. “Another family had been there a full year with their son.”

It is the strength of those other soldiers and their families that is making her son’s recovery from war wounds more bearable.

“The outpouring from our communities has been wonderful,” Buckland said. “It has really helped. You just would never believe Brad’s progress.”

Bradley Buckland was shot by a sniper on Saturday, Oct. 20, while he patrolled in a town just outside Baghdad. The bullet smashed through Bradley’s hip, damaged internal organs and exited through his stomach, according to his family.

“He remembers being shot,” Pam Buckland said. “The sniper aimed for his head, but Brad was crouched down and he just happened to stand up. He was shot through the hip, in the one small area not protected by body armor. The bullet passed right through his hipbone into his body.”

Less than three weeks later, Buckland already is slowly touring the hospital hallways using a walker.

“All his tubes have been removed and he should progress soon to a cane,” Pam Buckland said. “We are hoping that by the end of the week he’ll be an outpatient.”

Pam and Greg Buckland have returned to their lives and jobs in Maine. They will travel back to Washington next week. Jennifer Buckland, 19, remained at her husband’s side.

The couple married in December 2006 when Buckland was home on leave. “This will really test their marriage,” Pam Buckland said. “They are so young.”

Especially meaningful, Buckland said, have been visits from people from Maine — most of whom never knew the Buckland family.

Buckland said her son had a male nurse who was raised in Auburn. Two other soldiers who visited came from Aroostook County and Belfast. Rep. Michael Michaud came to visit and brought a flag, and Gov. John Baldacci telephoned.

“Tom Desjardins brought a gift pack from MCI (Maine Central Institute), and David Leavitt came from Cianbro and brought all the local papers,” Buckland said.

Though her son is recovering from his wounds, she said the psychological repairs may take a lot more time.

“Psychologically, he’s having a really hard time,” she said. “Actually, he’s had a few really rough times.” Buckland said her son is afraid at night and the family had been taking turns sitting with him.

“I know that it will take a long, long time for him to recover,” she said. “All he can think about now is getting back home to Maine.”

Buckland said that before his injuries, her son had talked about leaving Maine once his service was over.

“Now, he said he is ready to come back to Maine and enjoy his life.” Buckland said her son plans on “processing out” of the service. “He says ‘I’ve done my time,’” she said. “He had originally planned on staying an extra year and training for firefighting.”

Bradley Buckland and his father, Greg, are Newport Fire Department volunteers. “I don’t know what he will be able to do now,” Pam Buckland said.

“I don’t know that he’ll ever be able to climb a ladder. It’s hard to look to the future.”

**Rat Scum Thuente & Lerch
Refused To Let Iraq Vets
Against The War March In
Veterans Day Parade 11/10:
[They’re For The War, Of Course]
“We Do Not Want Groups Of A
Political Nature, Advocating The
Troops’ Withdrawal From Iraq”
“I Wanted To March Like The Rest Of The
Iraq Veterans,” Said Lemieux, A 24-Year-
Old Anaheim Resident. “I Served My
Country. I’m A Veteran Of A Foreign
War. I Think I Deserve That Respect”**

[Give The Rats A Phone Call: Numbers At The Bottom]

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

11/07/2007 By Kelly Puente, Staff writer; Long Beach Press-Telegram (California) &
11/08/2007 By Hanna Chu, Staff writer; Long Beach Press-Telegram

LONG BEACH - Iraq veteran Jason Lemieux might not be marching in the 11th annual Long Beach Veterans Day Parade on Saturday.

The Marine, who served three tours of duty in Iraq and is now against the war, was hoping to march as a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, a national organization that calls for immediate withdrawal of troops in Iraq.

The group's application, however, was rejected last month because of its political views, parade coordinators said.

"I wanted to march like the rest of the Iraq veterans," said Lemieux, a 24-year-old Anaheim resident.

"I served my country. I'm a veteran of a foreign war. I think I deserve that respect."

Iraq Veterans, along with the groups Veterans for Peace and Military Families Speak Out, applied to march together in the parade this year under the entry "Military Patriots."

After reviewing each group's mission statement, the Veterans Day Parade Committee, a non-profit group that organizes the event, voted unanimously to reject the application, said parade coordinator Martha Thuente.

"They do not fit the spirit of the parade," she said. "The spirit being one of gratitude for what the veterans have done. *We do not want groups of a political nature, advocating the troops' withdrawal from Iraq.*"

Parade coordinators work hard to keep the event free from politics, Thuente said.

"We're not allowed to take a political stance." [This worthless lying skank piece of shit just took a political stance: "*We do not want groups of a political nature, advocating the troops' withdrawal from Iraq.*"]

The rejection has left many veterans and anti-war groups outraged.

"It think it's absurd," said Adrian Novotny, president of the Long Beach Chapter of Veterans for Peace, a national nonprofit that advocates non-violence, VA healthcare and veterans' rights.

“It’s a violation of Democracy, the whole concept which we are allegedly dying for.”

Novotny, a Vietnam vet and professor of anthropology at Long Beach City College, said the situation is especially frustrating since the group was allowed to march in the parade last year. It also marched eight years ago, he said, even though it did not submit an application.

Thuente said Veterans for Peace was allowed to march last year because parade coordinators did not fully check the group’s application. “Perhaps if we had checked out their agenda, they would not have been allowed,” she said. “We didn’t realize they had marched until after the parade.”

Members of each of the three groups voiced their opinion at Tuesday night’s City Council meeting.

However, City Attorney Bob Shannon on Wednesday said the parade committee is a private, non-profit organization, and therefore reserves the right to choose its participants.

“These veterans groups certainly have First Amendment rights,” Shannon said. “But the parade committee also has the First Amendment right to exclude whoever they wish if (the entry) does not keep within the theme.”

Each year, the parade generates funds through community fundraisers and corporate sponsors, Thuente said. Paramount Petroleum Corporation donated \$10,000 this year.

The city provides the staffing, flags, banners, utilities and police protection, Shannon said, but does not play any role in the approval of parade participants.

“The fact that the city does provide staff is a disconnect,” Shannon said. [No shit. That’s public tax money being used to keep Veterans they don’t like out of march.]

Councilman Val Lerch, a member of the parade committee, supported the board’s decision.

“They voted unanimously to exclude a group, believing it had a political agenda,” said Lerch, whose 9th District includes the parade route. “And I agree with the board’s actions. For 11 years, this has been a parade to honor and support this nation.”

[This coward who won’t go to Iraq himself, this coward who hides here safely in the USA, this coward says he won’t let the Iraq Vets march because that would “dishonor the nation.” Looks like another “political stance,” doesn’t it? And guess what? He’s got military training, sort of anyhow, as you will read below. If he really loved America, he’d pay his own way to Baghdad, buy an AK 47, and go hunting terrorists. A man brave enough to spit on Iraq vets surely must be willing and able and brave enough to give his life for his country, right? Well, no, not right; just another whining, sniveling chicken-hawk shit-bird.]

Lerch offered on Thursday to have Iraq veteran Jason Lemieux, a member of Iraq Veterans, ride with the councilman in a fire truck during the parade to “honor his service to this nation.”

Lemieux declined Lerch’s offer.

“I asked, ‘Well can I wear my Iraq Veterans Against the War T-shirt?’ He said, ‘Absolutely not,’ so I respectfully declined,” Lemieux said.

“I said that I was not willing to sacrifice my integrity as a member of my organization,” he said.

The city did offer to set up a designated area near the parade, he said, where groups can stand and hold up signs.

“They can stand on the corner with signs all they want,” said Lerch, a veteran who served 24 years with the U.S. Coast Guard. **[God, what fierce combat he must have seen there.]** “They’re not honoring those people by protesting.”

Pat Alviso, a member of Military Families Speak Out, maintains that the group is not there to protest. Military Families is an organization of people opposed to the war in Iraq who have relatives or loved ones currently in the military or who have served in the military.

“We are not protesting this parade,” Alviso said. “These are good people serving this country. It’s an insult to be put in a ‘free speech’ area. We are members of that parade and we are proud to be with them.”

Alviso said only 10 or 12 people from all three groups combined had planned to march in the parade on Saturday. But now that they have been rejected, the groups expect many more outraged members to show up, she said.

Alviso also said the groups plan to take legal action if they are not allowed to march.

“This is a free speech issue,” she said. “How can you have a private event in a public arena?”

Thuente said the parade lineup is set for this year, but the committee has offered to meet with the groups in January to discuss participating in 2008. “They won’t accept the fact that the parade is set for this year,” she said. “I believe they’ve blown it all out of proportion.”

Lemieux said he just wants his voice to be heard.

“It feels like I’ve been betrayed by the very people I fought to serve,” he said.

“They should be embarrassed by themselves.”



Martha Thunte: (562) 422-6669

Val Lerch: (562) 423-6214

[Photo: broadwayexterminating.com: Rat specialists]

**Another Despicable Piece Of Shit
At Work: Berwyn, Illinois School
Supt. Ben Nowakowski:
Child Abusing Liar Tells Students No
Punishment If They Move Anti-War
Rally:
They Move It & He Kicks Them Out Of
School**



District 201 School Supt. Ben Nowakowski at work in his office; Berwyn, Illinois

[As everyone who works in the field of child abuse knows, there are many forms. Most publicized are beatings and sexual molestation. There is also psychological abuse and trauma, produced by irrational authority: lies, betrayal, and deceit practiced upon children by adults in positions of authority. This is a classic example of a vicious, predatory child abuser at work. This rat is unfit to hold any job bringing him in contact with children, or adults, for that matter. T]

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

“We agreed to move to another side of the building,” Matt said. “We also made a deal that if we moved there, there would be no disciplinary action taken upon us.”

November 7, 2007 By CRYSTAL YEDNAK, New York Times [Excerpts] & November 6, 2007 BY KATE N. GROSSMAN Education Reporter; Chicago Sun-Times

CHICAGO, Nov. 6: A school superintendent’s decision to suspend, and perhaps expel, about two dozen students who took part in a protest against the Iraq war at a suburban high school drew criticism Tuesday from the students and their parents, who demanded that their children be allowed to return to classes.

About 10 Morton West High School students suspended over an anti-war protest at the school last week returned to the Berwyn school today to demand they be allowed back in classes.

The kids were accompanied by about 20 parents and anti-war activists at a press conference in front of Morton West. About 25 students were suspended and face expulsions after staging a protest against the Iraq war in the school cafeteria last Thursday.

The parents of the suspended students delivered a letter to Nowakowski demanding amnesty for their children. They want them back in school by Thursday.

“All we were trying to do was promote peace and recognize that people are dying every day,” said sophomore Adam Szwerek.

“They said it was insubordination.”

In a statement issued after the protest on Thursday at Morton West High School in Berwyn, a working-class suburb just west of Chicago, the district superintendent, Ben Nowakowski, said the school’s reaction had to do only with the interruption of the school day, not with the students expressing themselves.

The administration “did not say that the students could not protest,” Dr. Nowakowski’s statement said.

“Rather, we asked that the students simply move their protest to an area of the school that would not disrupt the ability of the other 3,400-plus students at Morton West to proceed with their normal school day.”

But several students said the protesters, whose numbers had dwindled to about 25, obeyed the administration's request to move from a high-traffic area in the cafeteria to a less-crowded hall near the principal's office.

There, they intertwined arms, sang along to an acoustic guitar and talked about how the war was affecting the world, said Matt Heffernan, a junior who took part.

"We agreed to move to another side of the building," Matt said. "We also made a deal that if we moved there, there would be no disciplinary action taken upon us."

Matt said the group had been told that the most severe punishment would be a Saturday detention for cutting class that day.

Police officers were on the scene, and Berwyn's police chief, William Kushner, said no arrests were made. "It was all very peaceful and orderly," he said.

But at the end of the school day, Matt said, Dr. Nowakowski gave the remaining protesters disciplinary notices stating that they had engaged in mob action, that they were suspended for 10 days and that they faced expulsion.

"I was shocked," said Matt, 16. "We had the sit-in. So I had mixed feelings of confidence — of a job well done — and fright, because my whole educational future is at risk."

School officials also sent a letter to the parents of all the school's students calling the protest "gross disobedience" and reminding parents that any disruption to the educational process could lead to expulsion.

On Tuesday, a group of parents went to the school to demand that their children be allowed return to classes. At most, the parents said, the protesters' behavior amounted to loitering, which should be punishable by detention or a meeting with a guidance counselor.

"Who's the next group to go off to war?" said Adam Szwerek, whose 16-year-old son, Adam, faces expulsion. "These kids. The kids do a peaceful sit-in and they're threatened with expulsion, yet the military's running around the school trying to recruit."

Parents also complained that deans, teachers and coaches singled out certain athletes and honor students and persuaded them to drop out of the protest.

Rita Maniotis, president of the school's parent-teacher organization, said the school called her husband to say that their daughter, Barbara, a junior, was participating in the protest and that he should come to get her. He did so, and she was suspended for five days.

But other parents were not called and not able to intervene, Ms. Maniotis said. "There's no rhyme or reason to the punishment doled out," she said. [And that is a perfect description of the behavior of child abusers in positions of authority.]

MORE:

***Pissants At Morton West At It Again:
Illinois Students & Parents
Blackmailed By High School
Officials:
Told TO ID “Ringleader” Of Anti-War Sit-
In And Sign A “Confession” To Get
“Reduced Punishment”***



Matt Heffernan was threatened with expulsion from school after an antiwar rally. Peter Wynn Thompson for The New York Times

[Thanks to David McReynolds, who sent this in.]

07 Nov 2007 R. Sand, CIMC

As national outrage mounts against the threatened expulsion of dozens of high school students in the wake of a antiwar sit-in at Morton West High School in Berwyn, Illinois, parents who have attended private meetings with their suspended students and school officials report that their students were offered reduced punishments only if they signed a confession that singled out a student as the organizer of the protest.

“How can I drop the suspension if you don’t single out who was the ring leader of this disruption,” was what one school official told Joshua Rodriguez, a senior who is facing expulsion along with his brother David, a freshman.

Danny Rodriguez, the boys' father did not receive an answer when he asked if this confession could be used against his son, so he did not allow his son to sign it.

David and Joshua Rodriguez have been suspended for 10 days and were served with expulsion papers.

Other parents report the same scenario in their suspension appeals meeting with school authorities.

Also today, all Morton West households received a letter from school principal, John Lucas. The letter states that "On Thursday there was a minor protest at Morton West that involved about thirty-five (35) students. This disturbance was non-violent and was a protest against the War in Iraq."

The letter goes on to thank teachers, staff and administrators "for maintaining order" and thanks "the majority of students for not joining in the school disruption and for realizing that their education is more important than disrupting school."

Parents of the demonstrators are wondering why, if it was just a minor protest and that "Throughout the day classes were held, lunches were served, and order was maintained," why are the students being expelled?

***Marion, Illinois V.A. Hospital:
Asswipes At Work;
"Certain V.A. Department Heads
Ordered Patient Records Changed Or
Destroyed At Marion In An Effort
Cover Up Mistakes"***
**Former Green Beret Charges "Violations
Of The Americans With Disabilities Act,
As Well As Sexual Harassment, Age And
Gender Discrimination"**

November 07, 2007 BY JOHN D. HOMAN, The Southern [Excerpts]

MARION - A former Green Beret, who was employed for four years as a clerk with the Maintenance and Operations Division of the Environment of Care Department at the VA

Medical Center in Marion, said the spike in patient deaths there is a horrendous concern, but not the only one.

“We former and current employees thought this was a good time to bring forward other problems at the facility that have existed for a considerable period of time,” said Pete May of rural Vienna, a 56-year-old former Army master sergeant who was forced to retire his position at the hospital in 2004 for health reasons.

“Over the years, there have been many attempts made to approach and resolve these problems, but to no avail,” May said. “Union grievances, Inspector General complaints and EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) suits have either been stifled at the facility level, or at VISN 15, the division headquarters in Kansas that has authority over Marion.”

May alleged there has been long-term systematic harassment and persecution of employees in the facility’s engineering or Environment of Care Department headed up by Director Michael Reed and Supervisor of Maintenance and Operations David Halm.

May added that there have been violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as sexual harassment, age and gender discrimination. He said the suspended VA director of operations, Robert Morrel, was acutely aware of such violations.

“Mr. Reed and Mr. Halm need to be relieved of any and all responsibilities and separated from employment at the facility if that department is ever going to be cleaned up; operate competently within federal regulations, laws and guidelines; and fulfill the department’s primary responsibility - the proper physical operations and maintenance of the facility on a daily basis,” May said.

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield, said Monday one of the most recent claims is that certain VA department heads ordered patient records changed or destroyed at Marion in an effort cover up mistakes.

“If those allegations are correct, we’re talking criminal charges,” the senator said.

“A Coroner Has Ruled That An Army Logistics Failure Led To The Unlawful Killing Of A Scottish Soldier In Iraq” Report Finds Army’s In-Theatre Supply Chain “Appeared Chaotic And Lacking In Clarity”



Gordon Gentle died in Iraq more than three years ago

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

7 November 2007 BBC NEWS & November 8, 2007 Rachel Williams, The Guardian

A coroner has ruled that an Army logistics failure led to the unlawful killing of a Scottish soldier in Iraq.

Gordon Gentle, 19, of the Royal Highland Fusiliers (RHF), was killed by a roadside bomb in Basra in June 2004.

Selena Lynch, deputy assistant coroner for Oxfordshire, said it was probable the bomb would not have detonated had disabling device Element B been fitted. The equipment had been available, she said, but was left in a store under a mile away because of a clerical error.

The coroner said she had been obstructed in her effort to tackle a backlog of military inquests because of problems with getting information from the military and that after her appointment one of her first priorities had been the inquest into Fusilier Gentle's death.

"Disclosure to the family has been unnecessarily limited," Ms Lynch said, complaining that documents provided by the MoD had been extensively redacted, with the names of everyone mentioned blacked out and replaced with a code. A key to the code was provided by the ministry only a week before the inquest. "This caused an enormous amount of wasted effort and money," she said.

Fusilier Gentle's mother Rose, 43, from Glasgow, said justice had been done and the truth had come out.

"I fought for that," she said.

"I said I wouldn't give up and I didn't. My son should be here today.

“They have deprived me of a beautiful son and deprived two sisters of their brother.

“I’m proud of Gordon but I am disgusted at the way he was treated.

“They say when you join the Army it’s a brilliant career. At the same time you should be looked after.”

Mrs Gentle cried as she told reporters outside the court: “My son would still be alive today if he had had that equipment. And if Gordon didn’t have it how many more of the boys never had that right equipment?”

“They say there’s a lot of change that’s been made since Gordon was killed, but I’ve had families phoning me saying they’ve now found out that their sons have been sent out without their ECM.

“So how many boys have died for lies, saying they’ve had their equipment and they’ve not?”

Mrs Gentle said she was appalled by the way the Ministry of Defence (MoD) had behaved. She criticised Lord Drayson, the minister who was in charge of defence procurement, for his decision to stand down on the day the inquest concluded.

Lord Drayson said he was taking a “leave of absence” to take part in the 24-hour Le Mans race. Mrs Gentle said: “He should be at his desk, not trotting off to some race. “I think the servicemen and women are more important than him doing a motor race.”

The inquest heard that electronic counter measures (ECMs) - known as Element B - were in theatre two weeks before Fusilier Gentle’s death. However, due to a communications breakdown they were fitted to RHF vehicles just hours after he died.

The store in which the kits were being held was about 1km - just over half a mile - from where the RHF were stationed, at Shaibah logistics base on the edge of Basra, the inquest heard.

The ECMs arrived in theatre on 12 June.

Their intended delivery date to the units, including the RHF, was 16 June.

It was not until the evening of 28 June, hours after Fusilier Gentle’s death, that RHF vehicles began to be fitted with the ECM devices.

The coroner said the inquest at Oxford heard that the Army’s in-theatre supply chain “appeared chaotic and lacking in clarity”. Ms Lynch branded the Ministry of Defence’s policies for disclosure of evidence to her inquest “illogical and based on errors of law”.

Fusilier Gentle had volunteered for the position of top cover, looking out from the top of the vehicle. Delivering her verdict, the coroner said: "He died as a result of injuries caused by the explosion and was unlawfully killed.

"It is probable that the device would not have been detonated if the escort had been equipped with an ECM, known as Element B."



Rose Gentle: "I'm proud of Gordon but I am disgusted at the way he was treated."

Reservists Denied Their Old Civilian Jobs When They Come Back From War: "44% Dissatisfied With How The Labor Department Handled Their Complaint Of Employment Discrimination" Veteran "Waited Seven Years While Officials Apparently Had Forgotten"

Nearly one-third, or 29 percent, said they had difficulty getting the information they needed from government agencies charged with protecting their rights, while 77 percent of those with a complaint reported they didn't even bother trying to get assistance in part because they didn't think it would make a difference.

Nov 8 By HOPE YEN, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

The Labor Department sought to defend its record Thursday of providing help to reservists who are denied their old civilian jobs when they come back from war.

A Pentagon survey of reservists in 2005-2006 released Thursday details increasing discontent among returning troops under strain from extended tours in Iraq.

It found that 44 percent said they were dissatisfied with how the Labor Department handled their complaint of employment discrimination based on their military status, up from 27 percent in 2004.

Nearly one-third, or 29 percent, said they had difficulty getting the information they needed from government agencies charged with protecting their rights, while 77 percent of those with a complaint reported they didn't even bother trying to get assistance in part because they didn't think it would make a difference.

Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., who chairs the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee, called the findings "appalling." He said he plans legislation to hold agencies accountable by requiring them to collect and release employment data, noting that the Pentagon would not release the survey data until he specifically asked.

"Our laws require the federal government to defend veterans' rights, but those who seek help must wait for months, even years, just to get a simple answer."

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, agreed. She described a veteran in her state who was told his specific position had been eliminated when he returned home and was given a "comparable" position in a city more than one hour away by plane.

He filed a complaint with the Labor Department but waited seven years while officials apparently had forgotten about it or neglected it, Murkowski said.

Legal experts say the Pentagon's findings might represent the tip of the iceberg.

Formal complaints to the Labor Department by reservists hit nearly 1,600 in 2005 - the highest number since 1991 - not counting the thousands more cases reported each year to the Pentagon for resolution by mediation.

About 23 percent of reservists reported they did not return to their old jobs in part because their employer did not give them prompt re-employment or their job situation changed in some way while they were on military leave.

-Twenty-nine percent of those choosing not to seek help to get their job back said it was because it was "not worth the fight."

Another 23 percent said they were unsure of how to file a complaint. Others cited a lack of confidence that they could win (14 percent); fear of employer reprisal (13 percent), or other reasons (21 percent).

"Most of the government investigators are too willing to accept the employer's explanation for a worker's dismissal," said Sam Wright, a former Labor Department attorney who helped write the 1994 discrimination law protecting reservists.

“Some of it is indifference, some of them don’t understand the laws involved,” Wright said. “But the investigators establish for themselves this impossibly hard standard to win a case.”

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

RESISTANCE ACTION

11.7.07 The Associated Press & Reuters & 08 Nov 2007 Reuters & Deutsche Presse-Agentur & By LAUREN FRAYER, The Associated Press & 09 Nov 2007 Reuters & 11/10/07 The Associated Press & (Xinhua)

In Diyala province, bombs killed an Iraqi soldier and two policemen in separate attacks, authorities said.

The soldier died when the weight of his humvee triggered explosives buried under a road in northern Muqadiyah, about 60 miles north of the Iraqi capital, the Iraqi Army said.

The policemen were killed in Balad Ruz, 45 miles northeast of Baghdad, when another bomb exploded on their patrol car, said the city’s police chief, Brig. Faris al-Amairi. Five people were wounded in the attack, he said.

In Kut, attackers broke into the home of an Iraqi soldier and shot him to death, the officer said.

A parked car bomb wounded two Iraqi soldiers in al Ba’aj village near the Syrian border, the local mayor said.

Guerrillas killed an Iraqi soldier in an attack on his house in Suwayra, police said.

A roadside bomb killed six police officers including the chief of the al-Waleed police station and another senior officer, and wounded another five policemen when it targeted their patrol north of Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three Iraqi soldiers on patrol in the New Baghdad district of eastern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed one civilian and wounded four policemen west of Kut, 170 km (106 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

Separately, three policemen were killed in a similar attack targeting a police patrol in the Mandali area.

A member in the so-called Baquba Awakening Conference was killed near a checkpoint in the centre of the city. Another member and a policeman were killed in clashes

between the conference members and policemen in New Baquba neighbourhood. The Baquba Awakening Conference is an affiliation of tribesmen fighting allied to the U.S. army in Diyala province.

In the suburbs of Baquba city in Diyala province, security sources and witnesses said guerrillas shot dead three Iraqi soldiers and injured another three in an attack in Saadiya district in east Baquba,

The general director of the Basra education department, Qahtan al-Mousawi, survived an attempt on his life when a roadside bomb exploded next to his convoy in central Basra around 8 a.m., police said. It was the third assassination attempt on top officials in the city in less than a week. Two of al-Mousawi's bodyguards and two pedestrians were wounded, police said.

Al-Mousawi is an influential member of the [U.S. collaborator & pro-Iranian] Supreme Islamic Iraq Council.

A roadside bomb killed an Iraqi army captain and wounded three soldiers on a road between Kirkuk and Riyadh, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

One policeman was killed and five others wounded by a bomb planted in a parked car in Hawija, 70 km (45 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said. The bomb targeted a police patrol.

Insurgents shot dead an Iraqi army officer who was driving his car near his house in Mosul's al-Kafaat neighborhood in the northern section of the city.

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

**17,000 More Iraqis Taken Prisoner
Since Surge Began;
25,800 Total In U.S. Concentration
Camps**

Nov 8, 2007 By LAUREN FRAYER, The Associated Press

BAGHDAD -- U.S. authorities freed 500 Iraqi prisoners Thursday in an ongoing push to empty American jails of detainees no longer deemed a threat.

But the military says it's still holding 25,800 Iraqis waiting to face charges or be given freedom.

The latest release provided only small relief to a detention system strained to the limit by about 17,000 new suspects captured this year in campaigns to secure Baghdad and its surrounding belts, the military said.

60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: Big Surprise



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. help themselves to an Iraqi citizen's home and belongings in the neighbourhood of Al-Adil in Baghdad November 7, 2007.

REUTERS/Stefano Rellandini

[61% of Iraqis say they approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces in their country, up from 47 percent in January. A solid majority of Shiite and Sunni Arabs approved of the attacks, according to the poll. 9/27/2006 By BARRY SCHWEID, AP & Program on International Policy Attitudes

Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist by any means necessary. T]

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

WELCOME TO LIBERATED IRAQ



Two children in front of a U.S. soldier from 2nd Platoon, G Company, 3rd Squadron 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment in Baghdad November 10, 2007. REUTERS/Stefano Rellandini

Cholera In Baghdad: Cases Up 227% Since Last Week

04 Nov 2007 World Health Organization

The most important development this week is the steep increase in the number of cholera cases reported from Baghdad compared to last week.

The number of laboratory confirmed cases jumped from 11 to 24 cholera cases representing an increase of 227% in the cumulative cases.

26% of new confirmed cholera cases this week were reported from Baghdad Resafa; mainly from the highest risk areas in the 3 most disadvantaged districts in Baghdad (Sadder City, Me'dain and Resafa districts).

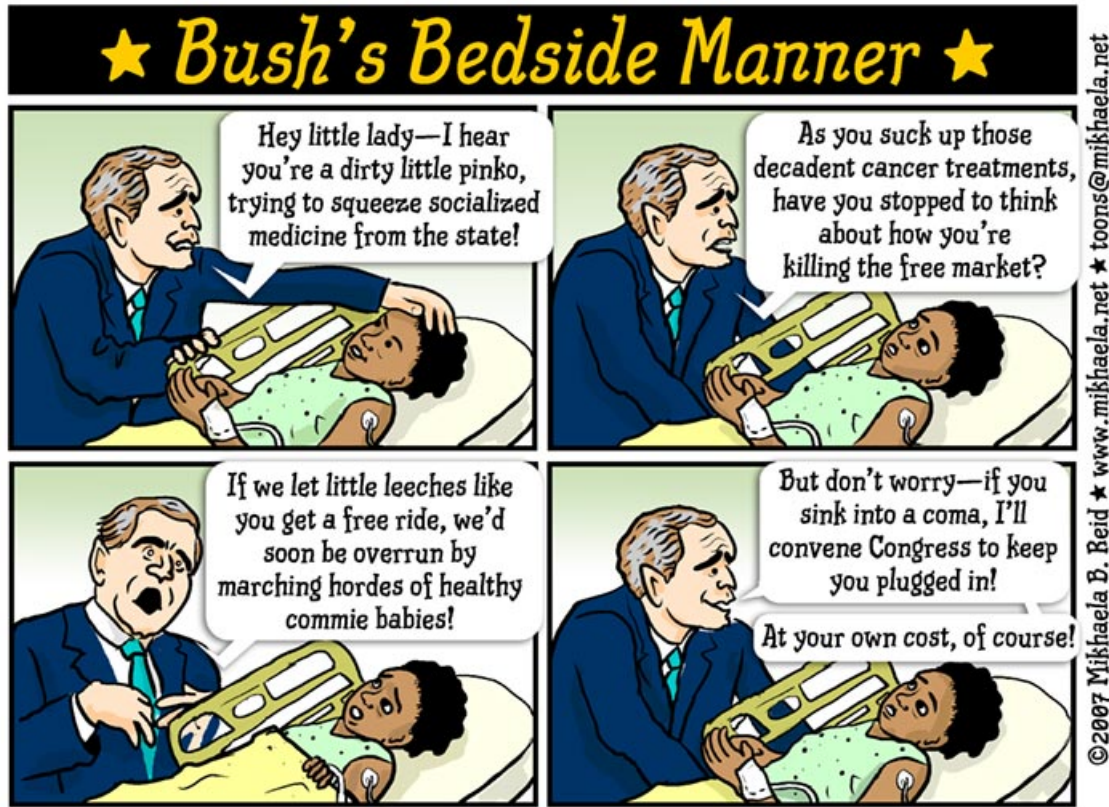
Data provided from Baghdad is neither complete nor timely; therefore what is reported may be an underestimation of the real situation.

As of 04 November 2007 (week 44), 45 districts, 28 in northern Iraq and 17 in the centre and South have reported laboratory confirmed cases of cholera.

In northern Iraq, 13 out of the 14 districts of Sulaymaniyah governorate, all 5 districts of Kirkuk governorate, 6 of 7 districts of Erbil governorate, 4 districts in Dahuk. As for the

centre and South; the affected districts are: 3 districts in each of Baghdad, Tikrit; Mosul and Diyala, 2 districts in Basra as well as one district in each of Wassit and Anbar.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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.