

GI SPECIAL 6A17:



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

"I Just Worry That Our Government Is Not Accomplishing...We Really Don't Know What They're Accomplishing," His Father Ronald Told Us [East Texas Soldier Injured]

01/08/08 by Tashun Chism, KTRE

Iraq and East Texas are half a world apart. But a call the family of US Army soldier David Corley received late last week from Iraq hit very close to home.

"I did know that they come to your house if there's a death and not call you on the telephone. So the call was a relief that he wasn't dead," his father, Dr. Ronald Corley said.

Corley was on patrol when he was shot in the jaw by enemy fire. The bullet shattered his jaw and exited through his neck. He was immediately flown to Germany and treated by a spinal surgeon. They discovered the bullet just barely missed a major artery in his neck. Corley is now recovering in a San Antonio hospital.

"He's not moving his right arm at all. He has a tremendous amount of pain in his shoulders, neck and arms. And of course he can't speak with a tracheotomy, and his jaw is wired together," his father Ronald said.

David's brother Justus Corley told us, "It's real tough on the whole family. But it's good that we have a large family because we all get to go see him and take care of him. We take turns seeing him."

Corley had been in Iraq 9 months. Family members say they were skeptical when he first joined the Army 2 years ago.

"I was proud of him but scared for him. Nothing really good came out of the war in Iraq, I believe. I believe it's very [words cut from news story] of him to serve our country," his brother Justus said.

'My son was eager to go and I'm very supportive of their efforts. I just worry that our government is not accomplishing...we really don't know what they're accomplishing,' his father Ronald told us.

Despite their political beliefs, Corley's family is just thankful his injuries weren't fatal.

According to the Corley family, doctors say it could take up to a year for David to fully recover.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Five U.S. Soldiers Killed By Ninewah IED

January 28, 2008 BBC & Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080128-01

NINEWAH, Iraq – U.S. Soldiers were conducting a mounted patrol in Ninewah Jan. 28 when insurgents detonated an improvised explosive device, killing five Soldiers.

Insurgents attacked the other Soldiers in the patrol with small arms fire from a nearby mosque.

Kadamiyah IED Kills U.S. Soldier

1.27.08 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080127-02

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier was killed Jan. 26 while conducting a dismounted patrol near Kadamiyah when an improvised explosive device detonated.

Northeast Baghdad IED Kills U.S. Soldier

1.27.08 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080127-03

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier was killed Jan. 27 when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive devise in northeastern Baghdad.

Iraq Casualty Was Meramec Wrestler

01/16/2008 By Robert Kelly, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Army Cpl. Todd E. Davis of Raymore, Mo., a soldier who was killed in an explosion in Iraq last week, had been a varsity wrestler for two years at St. Louis Community College at Meramec, the college's wrestling coach said today.

"He was a very nice young man and a hard worker," said Ron Mirikitani, Meramec's wrestling coach. "It was a pleasure to have him on the team, and he was also an academic All-American here."

Davis, 22, had come to Meramec on a scholarship after graduating from Lee's Summit (Mo.) North High School in the Kansas City area in 2003. He wrestled for Meramec in the 165-pound weight class in the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 school years. He was a National Junior College Athletic Association All-American wrestler in his sophomore year, Mirikitani said.

Davis was among six soldiers killed Jan. 9 in a blast at a booby-trapped house in Diyala, Iraq, the U.S. command said.

Mirikitani said Davis had joined the Army after graduating from Meramec and had been in Iraq for almost a year.

The coach said Davis' aunt had called him from Kansas City last week to inform him of Davis' death.

"She was very emotional about it, but she said he would have wanted me to know," Mirikitani said. "She told me his two years at Meramec were among the best years of his life."

Mirikitani said it was the second time in recent years that one of his former wrestlers was killed in combat.

Marine Cpl. Riley E. Baker, another former Meramec wrestler, was killed in action during his second tour of duty in Iraq in 2006. Baker also had been an outstanding wrestler at Meramec and had won Eureka High's first state wrestling title in 2002.

Teacher: Soldier Killed In Iraq 'Found Himself' In Military

January 15, 2008 Associated Press

A Milwaukee soldier deployed to Iraq in November has become the fourth person from Wisconsin to die there in two weeks, the U.S. Department of Defense said today.

Army Pfc. Keith E. Lloyd, 26, died Saturday in Tal Afar, Iraq, of wounds sustained when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device, the agency said.

Lloyd joined the military as a food service specialist in March and was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood, Texas, in August.

His father, Gary Lloyd, said Keith Lloyd had worked in a number of retail jobs, including a stint at a Farm & Fleet store, since graduating from South Milwaukee High School.

"He tried to find himself for a while," his father said. "But he wanted to get himself a career."

Keith Lloyd's younger half brother had served in Iraq and is now stationed in Korea, Gary Lloyd said.

After talking to his brother, Keith Lloyd decided to enlist — and was glad he had, his father said.

"He truly believed in what he was doing," Gary Lloyd said. "He was already talking about rejoining. I truly believe that he was going to make the military his career."

John Riggins, a South Milwaukee social studies teacher, remembered Keith Lloyd as "never really (being) sure what he wanted to do."

"I think he found himself a bit in the military," he added.

In addition to his parents and brother in the military, Keith Lloyd is survived by two sisters and three other half brothers.

His sister, Christine Piper of New Berlin, said he was involved in volleyball at South Milwaukee High School, where he graduated in 2000.

He had planned to propose to his girlfriend when he had his next leave home, expected in April, Piper said.

"He had a big heart and would do anything for anybody," she said.

He was the 85th service member from Wisconsin to have died as a result of service in Iraq or associated with duties in Iraq since the war started.

Army Soldier David J. Hart's Valor In Iraq Recalled At Memorial Service

01/17/2008 By Alex Dobuzinskis, Staff Writer; LA Daily News

ARLETA - Described as a warrior with faith and a tough but good-natured friend, Army Sgt. David J. Hart was memorialized Thursday at the church he grew up attending.

Hart died in Iraq on Jan. 8, after he was wounded in a battle around Samarra. He was 22.

"David lived up to his name, which in Hebrew means: 'well beloved,' 'dear,'" said his father, Jack Hart, 56, during the memorial service. "He lived a life that echoed in eternity," said Hart, a missionary, as mourners wiped away tears. "Now he's encouraging us and urging us to do the same."

The service at Osborne Neighborhood Church began with a reserve general presenting military awards to Hart's widow, Nicole, and to his parents. Hart was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, and an overflow crowd of 400 mourners listened intently as the details of his death were revealed.

Hart, a squad leader, realized one of his men was injured. Under heavy fire, he went to give first aid and was mortally wounded, according to the text of the Bronze Star.

Daniel Hart, 20, spoke of how he grew up emulating his brother, picking up the bass guitar because that's what his brother played. He spoke about going on nighttime hikes with his brother and sleeping under the stars in the freezing cold.

"He was the toughest guy I knew, and he was always OK," Daniel Hart said. "And knowing that, it made me OK."

Hart grew up in Burbank and was home schooled, said his mother, Cherie Hart. Later, the family moved to the Lakeview Terrace campus of Youth With a Mission, a Christian ministry organization with an international reach. Hart went on missions to Romania, Tahiti, New Zealand and other countries, all before joining the Army at 18, Jack Hart said.

During a service filled with singing and laughter, Hart's friends took turns telling stories about him. They described Hart as brave, often funny and willing to help those who may have felt left out.

Sitting in a church pew was Army Spc. Richard Gilbert, 24, who fought with Hart in the battle in a wetland area where Hart was mortally wounded. Gilbert was sent back briefly by the Army as a "battle buddy" to attend services.

The way Hart's friends described him Thursday sounded familiar to Gilbert. "It was the same thing, except with body armor and guns," Gilbert said after the service.

"Always positive, very contagious attitude and outlook, always on top," Gilbert said. "He'd sacrifice to help others succeed."

"If we were going on a run and someone fell back, he would fall back to help that soldier make the run."

U.S. Military Vehicle Destroyed In Downtown Baghdad; Casualties Not Announced

27/01/2008 (VOI)

A U.S. Hummer-modeled vehicle was completely destroyed in a car bomb attack in central Baghdad, Iraqi police said on Sunday.

"On Sunday noon, a car bomb detonated near a U.S. patrol in front of the finance ministry building in downtown Baghdad's Bab al-Muazzam area," the source, who requested anonymity, told Aswat al-Iraq, Voices of Iraq, (VOI).

"A U.S. Hummer was completely burnt in the explosion," the source said.

The source did not indicate whether any casualties were reported on the U.S. side, but said that U.S. forces sealed off the scene immediately after the blast.

REALLY BAD IDEA: NO MISSION; POINTLESS WAR: ALL HOME NOW



9.4.07: A US soldier from 1-40 Infantry Battalion leads a pair of Iraqi men suspected of being insurgents after they were detained during a foot patrol along the Tigris river south of Baghdad. (AFP/David Furst)

U.S. Troop Levels In Iraq 2007 – 1.08

1.27.08 The Associated Press

2007:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| January — | 137,000 |
| February — | 138,000 |
| March — | 145,000 |
| April — | 144,600 |
| May — | 148,000 |
| June — | 155,300 |
| July — | 156,300 |
| August — | 164,000 |
| September — | 161,200 |
| October — | 166,000 (peaked during the month at 170,000) |
| November — | 160,000 |
| December — | 156,000 |

2008:

As of Jan. 25 — 158,000

MORE:

From: GI SPECIAL 5K15: 11.19.07

U.S. KIA In Iraq: Reality: #1 It's Not A Big Fucking Mystery; It's Cause And Effect

Comment: T

The 39th recent frantic attempt by a panicked, hysterical war opponent commentator to explain the huge drop in U.S. KIA last month has just been plastered on some anti-war web sites. It said the Pentagon is lying about the KIA numbers.

Another last week said U.S. troops aren't getting killed because they're being kept on base in Iraq to get ready to invade Iran. Blah blah blah.

It's not a big fucking mystery.

It's cause and effect.

Cause:

"The reality, officials said, is that starting around April the military will simply run out of troops to keep the current effort under way. By then, officials said, Bush would either have to withdraw roughly one brigade a month, or extend the tours of troops now in Iraq and shorten their time back home before redeployment." David E. Sanger and Thom Shanker, New York Times June 24, 2007"

Effect:

Not being idiots, the resistance command orders attacks cut way back, while continuing enough attacks to leave no doubt they're there and keep their forces sharp.

They know the U.S. Army has to start cutting force levels in the Spring. Hard as it is for some to grip, given all the stupid racist stereotypes [on the anti-war side too] resistance leadership can and do read the New York Times, and not being raving fanatics of some kind or other, can plan strategy:

Push hard, attack when the balance of forces is better, not worse. That's so pathetically obvious a commander who doesn't understand it belongs in the Pentagon.

This has been an iron rule of intelligent insurgent warfare against an occupying army for about 2000 years now. As so well described by Asprey in *The Guerrilla In History*.

MORE:

U.S. KIA In Iraq: Reality: #2 “I Bet The Soldiers Are Catching On To This More And More Everyday” [Comment By J.D. Englehart; Iraq Veterans Against The War & Military Project]

What's important to look at is how this “growing signs of success” line is used by both republicans AND democrats (aka: the one-party American capitalist regime) to justify asking for more money for the war, or forfeiting more money for the war, in a clever guise to keep funding the war and not ending the war.

From: J.D. Englehart
To: Military Project
Sent: November 17, 2007 2:10 AM
Subject: Re: U.S. KIA in Iraq

I agree.

The media, even of the most liberal, is talking these quiet moments up as “the light at the end of the tunnel” and “sure signs of victory.”

It's obvious the insurgency is regrouping.

They are not winning through shock and awe, but rather through slowly picking away at the imperialist enemy. Another 2000 year old guerrilla strategy.

What's important to look at is how this “growing signs of success” line is used by both republicans AND democrats (aka: the one-party American capitalist regime) to justify asking for more money for the war, or forfeiting more money for the war, in a clever guise to keep funding the war and not ending the war.

I bet the soldiers are catching on to this more and more everyday.

**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.

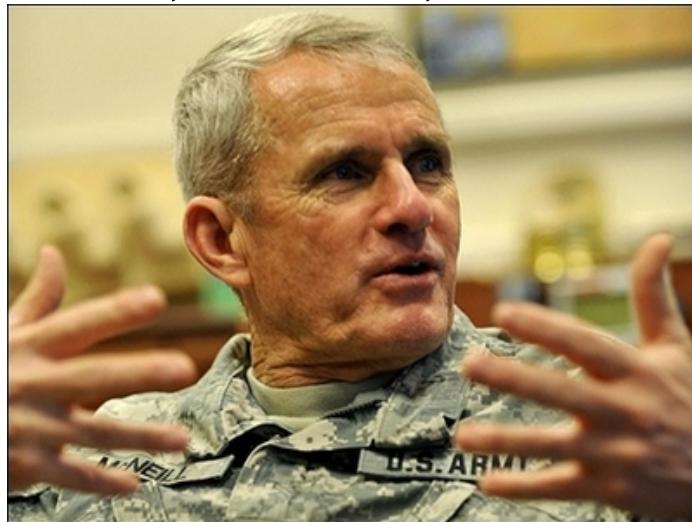
AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Nuristan; Nationality Not Announced

Jan 27 By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Writer

A soldier in NATO's International Security Assistance Force died after being hit by gunfire during a patrol in Nuristan province in eastern Afghanistan. Most soldiers in the east are American, though NATO didn't provide the soldier's nationality.

And The Fool Of The Year Award For 2008, So Far, Goes To....



US General Dan McNeill, head of occupation forces in Afghanistan. (AFP/Shah Marai)

Jan 28 by Beatrice Khadige (AFP) [Excerpt]

NATO troops will more aggressively pursue Taliban militants in 2008 with Afghan forces playing a larger role in fighting the insurgents, the head of the force in Afghanistan, General Dan McNeill said.

"It was a superb year. The insurgents won nothing on the battlefield."

What This Piece Of Shit Calls "Nothing"

Afghanistan Occupation Military Fatalities By Year:

| | | |
|---|------|-----|
| ± | 2007 | 232 |
| ± | 2006 | 191 |
| ± | 2005 | 130 |
| ± | 2004 | 58 |
| ± | 2003 | 57 |
| ± | 2002 | 69 |
| ± | 2001 | 12 |

<http://icasualties.org/oef/>

[Earlier this year, the press reported that "American General Dan McNeill, commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan, has already been dubbed 'Bomber McNeill'" because if it's Afghan and it moves, he orders it bombed. Evidently he believes in the war strategy of one of the Crusader officers in Palestine back in the Middle Ages: "Kill them all, God will know his own." T]

MORE:

While General Shit-Mouth Lies On, Private Investors Know Better: "Last Year Was Afghanistan's Most Violent Since The Ouster Of The Taliban"

Jan 28 By FISNIK ABRASHI, Associated Press Writer

Private investment in Afghanistan dropped last year to \$500 million - about half the amount invested in 2006 - due to the worsening security situation in the country, a business group said Monday.

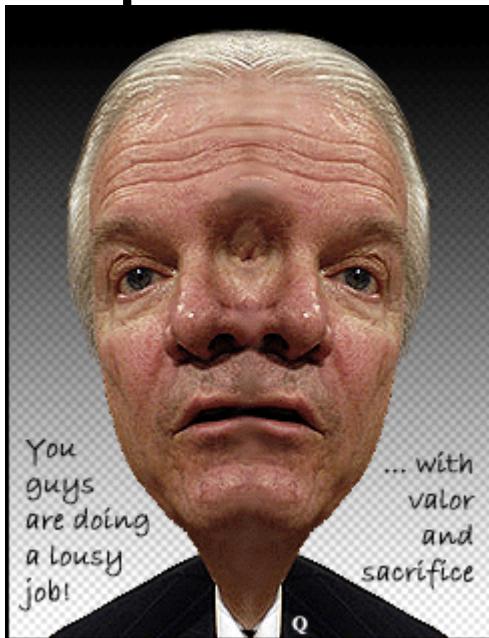
The Afghanistan Investment Support Agency said investment last year compared unfavorably to the \$1 billion invested in 2006 and the \$570 million invested in 2005.

Security concerns, the targeting of businessmen by criminal gangs and "burdensome bureaucracy" were among the key factors that caused the sharp drop, AISA said.

Last year was Afghanistan's most violent since the ouster of the Taliban in the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

MORE:

Imperial Thieves Fall Out “The Noise Before Defeat” DoD Chief Publicly Shits On Afghan Occupation “Allies”



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

He said Afghan reconstruction has been a "bonanza for consultants, serious consultants, half-baked consultants, marginal consultants and mailbox consultants"; there has been an outflow of resources from Afghanistan of up to 40% of aid given to the country.

"So there is this aid industry that descends on a poor nation and runs away with part of the loot."

Bush went on to win a second term, but the Afghan war was lost. The slide began by mid-2005 as the embittered Taliban began regrouping. As the year progressed, as Everts and many others pointed out, the Iraq war "sucked the oxygen away from Afghanistan".

How could Gates possibly admit all that? He would rather NATO take the blame.

Jan 19, 2008 By M K Bhadrakumar, Asia Times [Excerpts] M K Bhadrakumar served as a career diplomat in the Indian Foreign Service for over 29 years, with postings including India's ambassador to Uzbekistan (1995-1998) and to Turkey (1998-2001).

When the blame-game begins in an indeterminate war, it is time to sit up and take note. US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates' interview with the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday rings alarm bells.

There has been no effort to claim he was misquoted. In fact, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell confirmed the chief was "not backing off his fundamental criticism that NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) needs to do a better job in training for counter-insurgency".

Morrell made a little concession, though, that Gates meant no offence to any particular NATO country. NATO secretary general Jaap de Hoop Scheffer responded he had the "greatest respect" for NATO forces fighting in southern Afghanistan. He advised Washington, "Combating insurgency is a complex thing, and not always easy." At The Hague, the American ambassador was summoned and asked to "clarify".

Dutch Defense Minister Van Middlekoop publicly regretted, "This is not the Robert Gates we have come to know." Other European politicians expressed surprise, indignation.

In NATO history there have been few such laundering of dirty linen in public view. Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and Taliban head Mullah Omar have achieved something that Soviet leaders Josef Stalin, Nikita Khrushchev and Leonid Brezhnev couldn't.

Washington mocks NATO

Gates' criticism was pinpointed - NATO was a lemon.

He said: "I'm worried we're deploying (military advisors) that are not properly trained and I'm worried we have some military forces that don't know how to do counter-insurgency operations ... Most of the European forces, NATO forces, are not trained in counter-insurgency; they were trained for the Fulda Gap (NATO's Cold War battle lines in Germany)."

Gates was giving vent to pent-up frustrations. Finally, Afghanistan is threatening to be a blemish on his successfully nurtured record in public service.

He solicited help from US Congressmen for "pressuring" the NATO capitals "to do the difficult work of persuading their own citizens of the need to step up to this challenge."

Gates again spoke forcefully at the meeting of NATO defense ministers in Edinburgh, Scotland, on December 14. But "no one at the table stood up and said: 'I agree with that,'" he later lamented.

This week, the Pentagon underscored its displeasure by making a deployment of 3,200 Marine Corps to southern Afghanistan, bringing the US presence to about 30,000 troops. The NATO force in Afghanistan numbers about 40,000, of which 14,000 are Americans. The Washington Post described the US move as one to "fill a void created in part by NATO's inability to fight the insurgency adequately, a job the allies never signed up to do".

The majority of the marines will be directly engaged in fighting in the south alongside British, Australian, Dutch and Canadian troops, who have taken record casualties during the past year.

Gates' criticism draws heavily from a recent study authored by the US general who commanded the forces in Afghanistan from October 2003 until May 2005, Lieutenant General David W Barno, in the prestigious journal Military Review. Barno is an influential voice in the US defense community.

He chose to begin his paper devoted to the counter-insurgency strategy in Afghanistan, citing lines by ancient Chinese general Sun Tzu, "Strategy without tactics is the slowest road to victory. Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat."

Barno makes some chilling conclusions.

First, he says the "bag of capital" representing the tolerance of Afghan people for foreign forces is diminishing.

Second, NATO narrowly focuses on the "20% military dimension" of the war, while ignoring the 80% comprising non-military components.

Third, the "center of gravity" of the war is no longer the Afghan people but the "enemy".

Fourth, President Hamid Karzai's government is ineffectual "under growing pressure from powerful interests within his administration".

Fifth, corruption, crime, poverty and a burgeoning narcotics trade have eroded public confidence in Karzai. Finally, "NATO, the designated heir to an originally popular international effort, is threatened by the prospects of mounting disaffection among the Afghan people."

By end-2006, it was no longer a winnable war.

When the alliance's defense ministers gathered in the Dutch seaside resort of Noordwijk last November to commemorate the first anniversary of NATO in Afghanistan, the crisis atmosphere was palpable.

There were no offers of major reinforcements by the member countries.

The Dutch indicated they were close to withdrawing their 1,600-strong contingent from Uruzgan province in southern Afghanistan the coming autumn. The likely knock-on effect of the Dutch decision on countries such as Canada worried everyone present at the meeting. Germany, France, Italy and Spain insisted they were constrained by their national caveats guiding deployment of troops on non-combat roles.

The result has been a sort of "Balkanization" of Afghanistan, as Daan Everts, outgoing civilian representative of the NATO secretary general in Kabul, admitted to al-Jazeera in a recent interview.

"You have a little 'German Afghanistan' in the north, an 'Italian Afghanistan' in the west, 'Dutch Afghanistan' in Uruzgan and a 'Canadian Afghanistan' in Kandahar and so on. Geographically we have been fractured, but also sectorally with equal ineffectiveness - like giving the justice sector totally to the Italians, counter-narcotics to the British, the police to Germans, anti-terrorism to the Americans."

Everts was unusually frank for a high-ranking NATO official.

He said Afghan reconstruction has been a "bonanza for consultants, serious consultants, half-baked consultants, marginal consultants and mailbox consultants"; there has been an outflow of resources from Afghanistan of up to 40% of aid given to the country.

"So there is this aid industry that descends on a poor nation and runs away with part of the loot."

He called for a government in Kabul that is "more serious about problems" such as corruption, drug-trafficking and law-enforcement.

A victorious Karzai indeed landed in the US to a hero's welcome from George W Bush on election eve.

Bush went on to win a second term, but the Afghan war was lost.

The slide began by mid-2005 as the embittered Taliban began regrouping.

As the year progressed, as Everts and many others pointed out, the Iraq war "sucked the oxygen away from Afghanistan".

How could Gates possibly admit all that? He would rather NATO take the blame. But then, it is a sideshow in actuality.

U.S. Troop Levels Afghanistan 2007 – 1.08

1.27.08 The Associated Press

2007:

| | |
|------------|--------|
| January — | 26,000 |
| February — | 25,200 |
| March — | 24,300 |
| April — | 24,100 |
| May — | 26,500 |
| June — | 23,700 |
| July — | 23,800 |
| August — | 24,000 |
| September | 24,500 |
| October — | 25,000 |
| November | 25,000 |
| December | 25,000 |

2008:

As of Jan. 25 — 28,000

Resistance Action

Jan 25 (Reuters) & Jan 26, 2008 Deutsche Presse-Agentur & Jan 27 By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Writer & (Xinhua) & Jan 28 (Xinhua)

A roadside bomb killed four Afghan fighters from the U.S.-led coalition force on Friday in southeastern Afghanistan, a provincial official said. The fighters were killed when the device hit their vehicle on a road in Khost province on the border with Pakistan, he said.

Two Afghan National army soldiers were slightly injured in a bomb attack in the Musa Qala district of southern Helmand province, officials said on Saturday. The Afghan Defence Ministry statement quoting officials of Army Corp No 205 said a bomber was trying to enter into a military compound but was stopped when Afghan soldiers who opened fire on him.

Two policemen were killed and eight others were injured when their vehicles hit roadside bombs planted by Taliban insurgents on Saturday evening in southern Afghan province of Kandahar, a local official said on Sunday. "The patrolling police vehicles were struck by the remote control roadside bombs supposed to be planted by Taliban insurgents in Panjwayi district of Kandahar province," said Haji Shabaran, the chief of district.

Meanwhile, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, the purported Taliban spokesman, told Xinhua via phone from an unknown hideout that the outfit took responsibility for the incident, adding the explosion left 10 policemen dead and injured.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a purported Taliban spokesman, told media over phone from an unknown place that they ambushed Afghan police in Dihrawud district and withdrew without any casualties after killing eight policemen.

TROOP NEWS

While Troops Died, Thieving War Profiteer Fucked Up Military Equipment Repairs; Then Got More Millions More For Fixing What They Fucked Up; “The Army Did A Poor Job Of Monitoring The Company’s Performance”

January 24, 2008 Associated Press [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON - A defense contractor hired to repair combat equipment routinely failed to do the job right and then charged the government millions of dollars for the extra work needed to get the gear ready for battle in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a newly released audit.

Overall, the contractor's employees at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait worked about 188,000 additional hours to fix Humvees, heavy transporters and fighting vehicles that allegedly were mended but flunked a military inspection, the Government Accountability Office said.

The GAO estimates the Army paid \$4.2 million for the additional labor. Under the terms of the \$581 million contract, the company is to be paid for all maintenance hours worked. That includes "labor hours associated with maintenance performed after the Army rejects equipment that fails to meet Army maintenance standards," said the GAO, which is the investigative arm of Congress.

The Federal Procurement Data System, a Web site that tracks government contracts, shows ITT Federal Services International of Colorado Springs, Colo., as the company performing the work.

In one case, a semitrailer used for hauling massive M-1 tanks was fixed and submitted to the Army as ready for return to the field. It failed inspection.

After that, the contractor charged the government for 636 hours of repair work before it passed inspection more than three months later.

In another instance, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle failed inspection after a cotter pin in the brake assembly was found to be missing and could have left the heavy vehicle with no way to stop.

As part of the contract, the contractor was also required to thoroughly clean vehicles and other gear before it was returned to the United States. This step ensures the equipment doesn't come back with dirt and other contaminants that could cause public health problems.

The contractor didn't do that job well either.

"We observed an inspection in which a contractor employee was trying to remove water from the interior piece of equipment with his hands and the vehicle tracks were clearly filled with mud," the auditors said.

The Army attributes the shoddy performance to flaws with the contractor's quality control systems and its reliance on the military to point out what was wrong with the gear, according to the GAO.

But auditors said the Army did a poor job of monitoring the company's performance.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

January 26, 2008 By Mohammed Al Dulaimy, McClatchy Newspapers & Jan. 27 (Xinhua) & Reuters

Baghdad - Around 8 a.m. gunmen used machine guns to attack policemen in Bab Al Sharqi, killing one policeman and injuring one.

Insurgents attacked a local council building in Baquba injuring two guards.

A roadside bomb targeted police in Muqdadia, killing one police officer and injuring 3 others.

A roadside bomb targeted the personal car of one of Diyala governor's body guards in Abu Saida area. The guard was killed in the attack.

On Sunday morning, an Iraqi soldier was wounded by a roadside bomb blast near an Iraqi army checkpoint in the Waziriyah neighborhood in northern the capital, the source said.

A roadside bomb wounded three Iraqi soldiers when it hit their patrol in the Qahira district of northern Baghdad, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**Happy Anniversary: January 28,
1989**

**To The Committee Of Soldiers'
Mothers Of Russia:
“Hundreds Of Mothers Organised By
CSMR Went To Chechnya To Take
Their Sons Away From The War”**



Carl Bunin Peace History

"...for their courage in upholding the common humanity of Russians and Chechens and opposing the militarism and violence in Chechnya"

CSMR was founded in 1989 and officially registered the same year by 300 mothers of soldiers, whose initial aim was to campaign for their sons to return home early from military service in order to resume their studies.

They succeeded in bringing home nearly 180,000 young men for this purpose.

The mothers had been horrified by what they saw and learned about conditions in the armed forces: the regular beatings, abuse and humiliations, the lack of food or other necessities, the effective slavery imposed in the 'construction' battalions which comprised about 30 per cent of military manpower.

Their demands were for thorough reform of military structures, reform of the armed forces on a democratic basis, an end to forced labour in the construction battalions, demilitarisation on the justice system, the establishment of effective civil control over the military and legislation to provide for an alternative civil service.

In 1990 some of these demands, including partial demobilisation of the construction battalions, were conceded by President Gorbachev, but in general the situation did not improve.

CSMR set up a Rehabilitation Centre for soldiers who left the army for health reasons. Its activities expanded and diversified to include the organisation of human rights education for conscripts and their parents, dealing with individual complaints concerning human rights violations, regular inspections of military units, the working out of legislative proposals and the organisation of non-violent public protests.

In November 1994 the war in Chechnya broke out and, as CSMR put it, "the peaceful time for the Committee was over".

They opposed the war from the start, both in itself and for the threat it posed to the new Russian democracy.

Their new activities included dealing with individual complaints from soldiers and their mothers, running a weekly 'School for Conscripts', supervising the special military unit for the rehabilitation of so-called 'deserters', which is under the aegis of the CSMR, as well as participating in working groups of the State Duma (parliament).

In the first six months of the war, the Committee received letters from up to 200 people a day and in the same period nearly 10,000 people brought their complaints in person.

Hundreds of mothers organised by CSMR went to Chechnya to take their sons away from the war. They negotiated with the Chechen army and obtained the release of 'prisoners of war'.

CSMR organised a remarkable 'March of Mothers' Compassion', bombarded the Russian government with statements and petitions, and campaigned for the young men who refused to serve in Chechnya, declaring themselves conscientious objectors.

Most controversially, they started a campaign encouraging mothers to support the right of their sons to refuse military service - and they travelled abroad to support the idea of an International Tribunal on Chechnya.

The founders of CSMR were five women - two engineers, a journalist, a teacher and an economist. An all-volunteer organisation with no regular budget, CSMR now acts as the umbrella group for 50 regional organisations of soldiers' mothers and liaises with others.

In 1995, CSMR received the Sean MacBride Award from the International Peace Bureau and an award from the Norwegian Committee on Human Rights.

"The mothers' love, the mothers' aspirations to defend their children, turned very soon into conscious human rights activity... The soldiers' mothers understood that to defend their children they have to change the State and society. Their call for human rights in all the military power structures meant a call for democracy."

- Ida Kuklina

Contact Details:

Committee of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia
4 Luchnikov Lane, Door 3, Room 32, 103982 Moscow
Russia

OCCUPATION REPORT

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

January 21, 2008 The Associated Press

BAGHDAD: U.S. and Iraqi commandos killed a suspected Shiite militia leader Monday during a raid in western Baghdad, the military said.

But relatives said the man was an innocent truck driver who was killed while trying to shield his wife from the troops.

Hundreds of men chanted "there is no God but Allah" and carried a huge Iraqi flag as they followed the coffin of Jawad Abdul-Kadim during a funeral service in the Amil neighborhood.

Protesters said he was not affiliated with any militant groups.

Residents frequently complain of unnecessarily heavy-handed behavior at the hands of the troops.

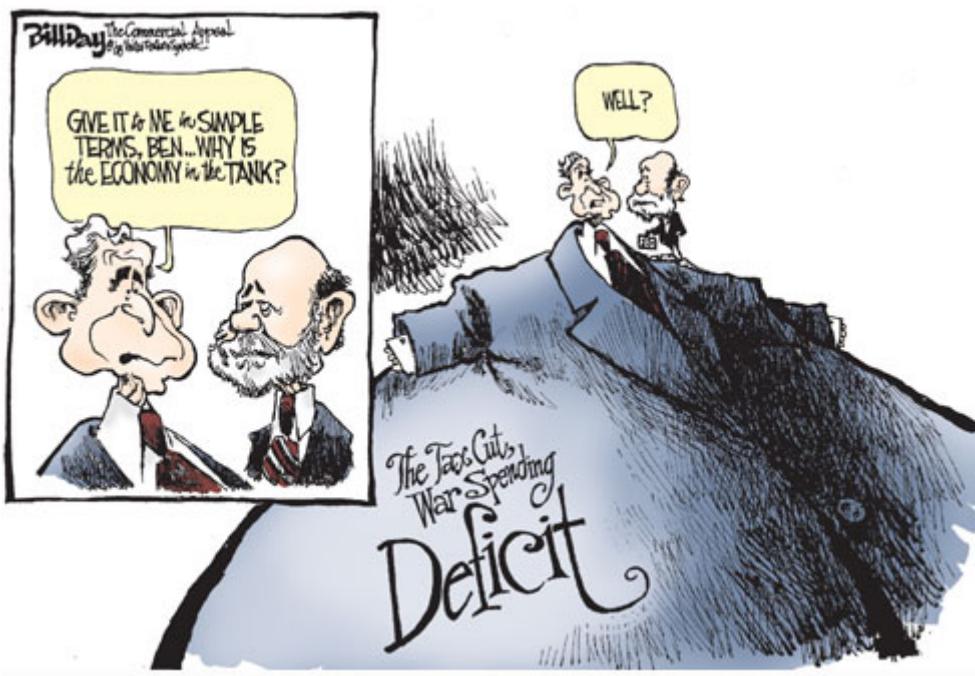
Abdul-Kadim's son, Hamza Jawad, said his father was trying to keep the troops out of the bedroom until his wife could dress properly, but one of the soldiers reached through a space in the door and opened fire.

"My father is innocent, and he is not affiliated with any group," the 13-year-old said.

[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]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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The Traitor Bush Shits On The Constitution Of The United States:

He Defies The Constitution To Make His Own, Private, Personal Treaty With The Iraqi Government: Bush Therewith Forfeits The Right To Expect Obedience From The Armed Forces; Commanders Who Choose To Side With George W. Bush Rather Than The Constitution And The American People Participate In Treason

For their part, Iraqi leaders aren't mincing words. They call the upcoming agreement a treaty. At a recent press conference in Baghdad, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari called it a "long-term treaty."

JANUARY 24, 2008 BY GUY RAZ, NPR.ORG

President Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki issued a joint letter in November. On the surface, the "Declaration of Principles" appears as a mutual "expression of friendship," as it has been characterized by administration officials.

But a closer look reveals a blueprint for how the two administrations plan to set the foundation for the future of America's involvement in Iraq.

Rep. Bill Delahunt (D-MA) says such language is vague, and he has launched a series of congressional hearings to find out what it means.

He's asked administration officials to testify but, so far, they've all either ignored him or declined. Delahunt says they have declined because he and other lawmakers want to get a sense of secret negotiations under way between Pentagon and State Department officials and their Iraqi counterparts on the future relationship between Washington and Baghdad.

The "Declaration of Principles" includes language that seems run-of-the-mill. The United States will help get Iraq into the World Trade Organization. The two countries will engage in scientific and cultural exchanges.

But it also includes a provision that promises to maintain the stability of Iraq's government from "internal and external threats." This sentence is raising alarms for some U.S. lawmakers.

Any such agreement would be considered a treaty by many legal experts. And under the U.S. Constitution, treaties have to be ratified by Congress.

Such a hefty commitment would be unprecedented in the history of American foreign policy.

The administration strenuously denies this is a treaty and has already made it clear that it won't take the issue to Congress.

"The president, as the commander in chief, can enter into an agreement and in theory, certainly as complex an agreement as he deems appropriate and necessary under the circumstances," says retired Gen. Michael Nardotti, formerly the Army's top lawyer.

"Bases of the U.S. around the world are not situated in an occupied country," explains Raed Jarrar, an Iraqi political activist who recently testified before Congress on this issue. "For example, U.S. forces in Japan can't just go out of their bases and [set up] a checkpoint in Tokyo. They can't go around Tokyo arresting Japanese people."

And in Japan or South Korea, the U.S. military isn't allowed to maintain internal stability. In other words, it can't protect those governments from internal threats. Indeed, in South Korea, two governments have been overthrown in coups in the past 50 years. The U.S. military could not and did not intervene.

In fact, the United States has no such agreement with any country that guarantees the integrity of the host country's government.

The U.S. has agreements with a few allies — including Japan, South Korea, Australia/New Zealand and NATO — to protect them from external threats. But in each of these cases, the U.S. signed a treaty that required ratification by two-thirds of the U.S. Senate.

For their part, Iraqi leaders aren't mincing words.

They call the upcoming agreement a treaty.

At a recent press conference in Baghdad, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari called it a "long-term treaty."

**LIAR
TRAITOR
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND**

UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE



The traitor Bush addresses the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, 22 Aug. (AFP/File/Jim Watson)

MORE:

Practice For Clearing The Rats Out Of The White House?

[Thanks to GERALD ALI]

(2008-01-25) By Sara Wittmeyer, KBIA

It'll look real tomorrow when Missouri soldiers work to clear hostile forces out of a Jefferson City armory. There are 70 citizen soldiers involved in the Blue Armory takeover.

They'll form four teams and using simulated firearms they'll sweep the armory looking for terrorists. Unit Public Affairs representative, Robert Seyller says it's a way to make sure the recruits can perform what they've learned in a classroom setting.

"It's going to include medical training they've been given. They'll have to perform first aid on people they find in the armory who have been injured. It's going to help them to be able to deal with a situation and recognize potential threats as well as recognize potential citizens who may just be looking to get out of an area that may be hostile."

After Saturday's drill, many of the soldiers will continue to train with the recruit sustainment program until they report for basic training and eventually advanced individualized training.

The Real State Of The Union 2008 By The Numbers

[Thanks to Nancy S., Veteran, who sent this in.]

Ourfuture.org [Excerpts]

HOUSING AND INCOMES

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Inflation-adjusted median household income in 2000 | \$49,158 |
| Median household income in 2006 | \$48,201 |
| Historical Income Tables - Households, H-6 Tables, U.S. Census 2000 and 2006 | |
| The salary of a full-time minimum wage employee without vacation, 2007 | \$12,168 |
| The average salary of a CEO of a Fortune 500 company | \$15.2 million |
| CEO Compensation, Forbes Magazine. May 3, 2007 | |
| Decline in median income from 2000-2006 in White households | \$745 |
| Decline in median income from 2000-2006 in Hispanic households | \$1,043 |
| Decline in median income from 2000-2006 in Asian households | \$1,381 |
| Decline in median income from 2000-2006 in African-American households | \$2,766 |
| Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2006. Current Population Reports, Consumer Income. August 2007 | |
| Percentage increase in home foreclosures, November 2006-December 2007 | 68 |
| "Foreclosure Activity Decreases 10 Percent in November." RealtyTrac. December 19, 2007. | |

JOBS

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| American manufacturing jobs in 2000 | 17,263,000 |
| American manufacturing jobs in 2006 | 14,197,000 |
| U.S. Department of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Current Employment Statistics | |

ENERGY

Average price of home heating oil on January 3, 2000 \$1.40/gallon

Average price of home heating oil on January 7, 2008 \$3.39/gallon

United States Energy Information Administration. "U.S. Weekly No. 2 Heating Oil Residential Prices-cents per gallon." December 24, 2007.

Average price of a gallon of gasoline on January 3, 2000 \$1.59

Average price of a gallon of gasoline on January 7, 2008 \$3.14

United States Energy Administration. Retail Gasoline Historical Prices

Percentage increase in the average price of home heating oil since January 2000, percent 142 percent

Percentage increase in the average price of gasoline since January 2000, 98 percent

Inflation-adjusted price of a gallon of home heating oil, winter of 2001-2002 \$1.36

Projected price of a gallon of home heating oil, winter of 2007-2008 \$3.32

Selected U.S. Average Consumer, Table WF01, Energy Administration, January 2008

Exxon Mobil profits in 2000 \$7.9 billion

Exxon Mobil profits in 2006 \$36.1 billion

Exxon Mobil's profit during the second quarter of 2006, per second \$1,318

CNNMoney.Com, Fortune 500 2006; Exxon Mobil; CNN.com, "Exxon Mobile makes more than \$10 billion." July 27, 2006.

College Costs

Average cost (tuition, fees, room, and board) at a public four-year college in 2000, annual \$10,153

Average cost for public four-year college in 2006, annual \$13,089

College Board. "Trends in College Pricing." 2007.

Most expensive college tuition, 2006-2007

\$37,820

at George Washington

University

"America's Most Expensive Colleges," Forbes.com. January 19, 2007

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Average percent change in yearly tuition costs for public four-year college students since 2000 | Up 29% |
| Average percent change in median household income during same period | Down 2% |
| Average debt shouldered by 2006 college graduates | \$21,000 |

The Project on Student Debt. Student Debt and the Class of 2006. September 2007

HEALTH CARE

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Percentage of Americans receiving employment-based health insurance, 2000 | 64.2 |
| Percentage of Americans receiving employment-based health insurance, 2006 | 59.7 |
| U.S. Census Bureau, Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2006. August 2007 | |
| Inflation-adjusted annual cost of a family health insurance premium in 2000 | \$7,643 |
| Annual cost of a family health insurance premium in 2006 | \$11,480 |
| Employer Health Benefits 2000 and 2006, Kaiser Family Foundation and Health Research and Educational Trust | |
| The number of Americans without health insurance in 2000 | 38.4 million |
| The number of Americans without health insurance in 2006 | 46.9 million |
| U.S. Census Bureau, Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2006. August 2007 | |
| Number of children without health insurance | 8.7 million |
| Number of Bush vetoes for additional health insurance for children | 2 |
| Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2006. Current Population Reports, Consumer Income. August 2007 | |
| Percentage of White people uninsured in 2006 | 10.8 |
| Percentage of African Americans uninsured in 2006 | 20.5 |
| Percentage of Asians uninsured in 2006 | 15.5 |

Percentage of Hispanics uninsured in 2006 **34.1**

Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2006. Current Population Reports, Consumer Income. August 2007

THE IRAQ WAR

Number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq prior to President Bush's "Mission Accomplished" speech in 2003 **139**

Number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq as of January 3, 2008 **3,907**

Number of U.S. troops wounded in Iraq prior to "Mission Accomplished" speech in 2003 **542**

Number of U.S. troops wounded in Iraq as of January 2, 2008 **28,661**

iCasualties.org. "Iraq Coalition Casualty Count." January 3, 2008; Just Foreign Policy. "Iraqi Deaths Due to U.S. Invasion." January 3, 2008.

Percentage of total world military spending spent by U.S. **47**

-Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, "National Security Spending."

Total U.S. military expenditures (including for Iraq and Afghanistan) requested for fiscal year 2008 **\$644 billion**

Total military expenditures of the 10 next top spenders combined **\$446.1 billion**

(Includes 2006 expenditures for China ; 2005 expenditures for Russia, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Germany, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, India, and Brazil)

Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. "U.S. Military Spending vs. the World." February 5, 2007.

U.S. military base budget, fiscal year 2001 **\$297.1**

U.S. pending military base budget, fiscal year 2008 (not including money budgeted for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan) **\$481.4**

White House Office of Management and Budget. "Budget of the United States Department of Defense FY2008." February 5, 2007.

Percentage of federal discretionary budget spent on the military, not including Iraq, fiscal year 2007, percentage **50**

Percentage of the fiscal year 2007 federal budget spent on education **6.2**

White House Office of Management and Budget. "Table S-3. Growth in Discretionary Budget Authority by Major Agency." February 6, 2006.

DEBTS AND DEFICITS

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| U.S. trade deficit in October 2000, monthly | \$33.8 billion |
| U.S. trade deficit in October 2007, monthly | \$57.8 billion |
| U.S. Census Bureau Foreign Trade Statistics. December 12, 2007. | |
| Value of one euro in dollars, January 2000 | \$1.01 |
| Value of one euro in dollars, January 2008 | \$1.45 |
| Loss of value of U.S. dollar relative to the euro, January 3, 2000-January 2, 2008, percentage | 45 |
| Federal Reserve Statistical Release. H-10 Historical Rates for Euro Area | |

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