

GI SPECIAL 6B15:



2-6-08 THE PHOENIX INQUIRER UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**“My Two Younger, Twin
Brothers Are In Iraq”**

“They Hate It”

**One Guardsman Said “You Get
Messed Up Over There And
Don’t Get Treated Right Back
Here”**

ACTION REPORT

From: Alan Stolzer, The Military Project
To: GI Special
Sent: February 18, 2008
Subject: Railroad Station Outreach

While walking toward [XXXX] Station to make outreach rounds a young man asked me where it was. I told him to follow me. After a few words I asked him if he knew anyone in the military.

“My two younger, twin brothers are in Iraq.”

I told him why I was going to [XXXX] Station (outreach) and asked him how his brothers felt about the war. “They hate it.”

I then gave him copies of the material I was about to hand out (“Sir, No Sir!” DVDs, copies of our last outreach handout and GI Specials).

He took the material gladly and said “if George Bush was here I’d punch him in the face.”

He told me just as we reached [XXXX] how one of his brothers was on his 5th deployment to Iraq and when home recently, scared hell out of his wife awaking from a nightmare shouting “we’re in the wrong house!”

Needless to say the family is very worried and also doubtful about the care he might receive through the VA. There are no plans for treatment. We spoke a bit more and came to the conclusion that the occupation was all about oil and for the need for complete withdrawal of all troops.

Once inside the Station I found two older Guardsmen near the info desk by the waiting room – an area where two troops are usually stationed.

At first they seemed reluctant to talk but relaxed after realizing I was interested in their lives.

Although they rattled off reasons for U.S. presence in Iraq and predicted the military would be there “up to 10 more years” one of them was dubious about continued presence of our troops. I told them about the Military Project, our outreach at armories and overall support of troops.

The dubious soldier was eager to take a DVD and printed material. The other said he’d watch the DVD with his friend.

Up on [x]th Street two more Guardsmen stood 10-12 away from the info desk there which is always attended by a cop. But since the cop was busy and the two troops were standing off I approached.

When I told them about the young man I walked down [x]th Avenue with one responded quickly: “sure,” he said, “you get messed up over there and don’t get treated right back here.”

Both were pleased to take the outreach material.

Later on at Office Depot I asked the cashier if she knew anyone in the military.

Her brother was a vet and hated the war.

That's worth a GI Special anytime.

I've learned that if you're in the post office, a store, talking to a street vendor or anyone you're having a casual conversation with; ask if they know anyone in the military.

Even if you don't have handout material with you it's still possible to exchange phone numbers, etc.

Since almost two-thirds of the country is against the war it's highly likely the stranger you're talking to will be receptive.

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

MORE ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the war.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Three U.S. Soldiers Killed By Baghdad IED

February 20, 2008 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080220-01

BAGHDAD – Three Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers were killed at approximately 10:30 p.m. Feb. 19 when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device in northwestern Baghdad.

U.S. Soldier Killed By Mosul RPG Attack, Three Wounded

02/20/08 AP

On Wednesday, a U.S. soldier was killed and three were wounded in a rocket-propelled grenade attack in the northwestern city of Mosul, the military said.

York Co. Soldier Killed In Ambush

February 19, 2008 WGAL

A soldier from York County has been killed in an ambush in Iraq.

The Pentagon said U.S. Army Specialist Luke Runyan, 21, of West Manchester Township died Sunday.

Runyan had recently married and has a 1-year-old daughter.

Runyan was a graduate of Spring Grove Area Senior High School. A soldier from York County has been killed in an ambush in Iraq.

SEAL's Life Was Filled With Adventure

February 07, 2008 Centre Daily Times

Michael Koch lived life like a Navy SEAL even before he became one.

Growing up, he learned to scuba dive, climb mountains and scale cliffs. During visits to his grandparents' farm near Jersey Shore, he practiced rappelling by descending the silo.

'Always so full of life, so fun to be around, even with older people,' his grandmother, Delores Koch, said. 'He was just such a good kid, always. It's such a great loss for us.'

Small-arms fire killed Koch, a chief petty officer and special-warfare operator, on Monday in Iraq. Engaged, he was 29 and had served in the Navy since 1998 after attending Penn State for a year and a half.

Born in Omaha, Neb., into an Air Force family, Koch enjoyed adventures wherever his father's career took the family. One Christmas in New Mexico proved memorable for him and his younger brother, Matthew, and younger sister, Tiffany. Told to peek in the garage, they discovered a surprise.

'They went out, and there was a whole trailer full of motorcycles,' Delores Koch said.

On them, the family went riding in the hills, a prelude to the hikes, skydiving jumps and other excursions Michael Koch later shared with his father, Donald Koch. During a family reunion at the Jersey Shore farm last Christmas, they went snowmobiling, just the two of them, in mountain woods.

'It was really nice they had the time together,' Delores Koch said.

Donald Koch, staying in Virginia Beach, Va., where his son was stationed, could not be reached on Thursday.

After graduating from SEAL training in 1999, Michael Koch served in Kosovo and Afghanistan, winning the Bronze Star among other honors. His body was escorted back by his brother, a Navy veteran working in Iraq, and will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, his grandmother said.

'He always talked about the Navy SEALs,' she said. 'He was so thankful he could be there. He loved his work.'

She recalled some of her last words to him over the holidays. 'Be careful,' she said. He had a ready reply.

'I'm always careful, Gram. I'll be OK.'

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



US Army soldiers with the 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment patrol the Azamiyah neighborhood in north Baghdad Feb. 10, 2008. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

**Four U.S. Soldiers Wounded By
Ubaidi Rocket Attack;
60 Collaborator Cops Blown Up As They
Stupidly Cluster Around The Attack
Vehicle;
“A Well-Planned Ambush”**



A massive blast of explosives and Katyusha rockets that killed 15 Iraqi police and soldiers in Baghdad was a “well-planned ambush,” security officials have said. (AFP/Wissam Al-Okaili)

Feb 19 (Reuters)

Iraqi officials said 15 policemen were killed and more than 45 wounded in eastern Baghdad on Tuesday as they tried to defuse rockets that had been prepared for launch from the back of a truck.

The incident came after rockets were fired at nearby U.S. and Iraqi army bases from the capital’s Shi’ite Ubaidi district.

Police said they discovered a truck from which rockets had been launched. As they tried to deal with them, it exploded.

“The bomb disposal unit were trying to defuse eight rockets in Ubaidi but they lost control and they exploded,” said Major-General Qassim Moussawi, spokesman for Iraq’s military in Baghdad.

Police put the death toll at 15, adding the blast also set 10 cars alight.

The U.S. military said two of its outposts had come under attack from rockets within five minutes, wounding four soldiers.

**“A Number” Of U.S. Troops Wounded By
Rustamiyah Base Rocket Attack;**

U.S. Civilian Killed

02/20/08 AP

One American civilian was killed and a number of U.S. troops and civilian personnel were wounded in a rocket attack in the southeastern area of Rustamiyah Tuesday night. There is a U.S. base in the predominantly Shiite area.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Rocket Attack On Kunduz Airport

20 Feb 2008 DPA

Kabul - At least five rockets hit an airport in northern Afghanistan, where NATO-led German military forces are based, but caused no casualties, provincial governor said on Wednesday. The rockets, which were fired from southern part of Kunduz city, the provincial capital of the same name, late Tuesday, Engineer Mohammad Omar told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

He said that all rockets, that were fired by timing devices from Charhar Darah district of the province, landed in open areas within Kunduz airport, causing no damage or casualties.

He said that after the rocket attack, Afghan and German forces were deployed to the area, but the attackers had already fled.

U.S. Occupation Command Scumbags Lock Up Canadian TV Reporter For Four Months; They Refuse To Say Why, He's Not Charged With Anything

U.S. forces had once trusted him enough to give him a weapon as he travelled with soldiers on operations against the Taliban, and he described his gratitude for

his U.S. colleagues who pulled him out of a burning Humvee after a roadside bomb attack.

February 20, 2008 GRAEME SMITH, Globe and Mail & Press Democrat

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN — A journalist who brought news to Canadian television has been detained without charge at a U.S. base in Afghanistan for almost four months, his employer says, calling for his immediate release.

Javed Yazamy, 22, earned the nickname Jojo while serving as a translator for the U.S. forces but spent the past two years working primarily for CTV News in Kandahar.

He went missing in October when an unknown caller summoned him to Kandahar Air Field and foreign soldiers captured him in the dusty parking lot just outside the main gate.

Quiet diplomacy has failed to produce any official confirmation of his whereabouts or any explanation for his detention, said Robert Hurst, president of CTV News.

“As the weeks pass, our concern has grown,” Mr. Hurst said.

The advocacy groups Reporters Without Borders and the Committee to Protect Journalists both issued statements drawing attention to his case this week.

The Red Cross helped Mr. Yazamy’s family confirm he is being held in U.S. custody at Bagram airbase in northern Afghanistan, and Reporters Without Borders called on the U.S. military to stop what it called an unjustified detention.

Mr. Yazamy has told relatives he believes that U.S. forces started to consider him a threat because of his contacts with the Taliban insurgency. Talking to the Taliban is a regular part of journalistic practice in Afghanistan, however, as most major news organizations in the country, including The Globe and Mail, routinely try to get information from the insurgents.

The young Afghan journalist was a favourite among the foreign press corps, famous for his quick smile and sardonic wit. He gained respect with his daring and dogged reporting, which often had him risking his life in the worst parts of the war zone.

Last year he rushed to the scene of an explosion in Kandahar city and started talking to the deputy chief of police when a secondary blast knocked everybody off their feet. When he regained his senses, Mr. Yazamy discovered that two police standing beside him had been killed and the deputy chief had a piece of shrapnel in his head. Mr. Yazamy’s hearing was damaged, but he escaped major injury and quickly went back to work.

U.S. forces had once trusted him enough to give him a weapon as he travelled with soldiers on operations against the Taliban, and he described his gratitude for his U.S. colleagues who pulled him out of a burning Humvee after a roadside bomb attack.

He continued to work with U.S. forces' veterans who had established a security consultancy, the Four Horsemen International Inc.

"It's a murky world around the Kandahar base," Mr. Hurst said. "We were trying to get answers, and we had no solid information. Even to this day, and it's been four months now, we have no official information."

The company is considering its legal options, Mr. Hurst said, and a CTV News vice-president has met with executives from the Associated Press in New York to discuss the parallels with the detention of an AP photographer in Iraq.

Bilal Hussein, a local AP staffer, has been held by the U.S. military in Iraq since April of 2006, on grounds that he is a security threat. A third journalist, Sami al-Haj of Al-Jazeera is also held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"We're calling for Jojo to be released, and if he's not released, the NATO, American, or Canadian authorities must proceed with due process," Mr. Hurst said. "Why is he being held?"

Maj. Chris Belcher, a U.S. military spokesman, confirmed Tuesday that Ahmad is being held at the Bagram facility but said he could not discuss details of the case.

MORE:

Look Out Brian, You Could Be Next; U.S. Commanders Are Obviously Cowards Who Can't Handle The Truth

February 20, 2008 Brian Hutchinson, The Ottawa Citizen

Sources told Canwest News Service recently that many residents feel they lived more safely under the authoritarian Taliban regime, before the arrival of U.S. and other NATO forces in 2001.

"You took away one evil (the Taliban), and imposed another evil even worse," said one man, a university teacher.

"Why should I thank you for that?"

TROOP NEWS

NOT ANOTHER DAY

NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR NOT ANOTHER LIFE



The remains of Army Spc. Christopher West, during funeral services Feb. 20, 2008 at Arlington National Cemetery. West, 26, of Arlington, Texas, died Feb. 4, 2008, in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered on Feb. 3 in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. (AP Photo/Haraz N. Ghanbari)

Murder By Army Prescription: After Surviving Iraq, Combat Vet Killed By Medical Malpractice; Combination Of Methadone + Valium = Death; Sgt. Says “Nobody There Had Accountability For Nobody”

Comment: T

NOTE WELL: Below, you will read the soldier was prescribed several opiate painkillers. OK. Then he was prescribed Valium on top of the opiates. Then he dies.

That is no surprise whatever.

Here's why.

All over America, clinics that prescribe methadone to treat people addicted to opiates (heroin, prescription opiates, whatever) have been warned never to tolerate a situation where patients in treatment for opiate dependency are prescribed Valium, or any other of the same family of drugs called benzodiazepines. [Xanax is another benzo: they come under a variety of trade names.]

The reason is that taken along with methadone pain medication, benzos act to suppress breathing, often when the patient is sleeping.

And if you suppress breathing enough, the patient dies. Duh.

Just as this soldier died after the Army doctor prescribed methadone for him to take on top of the Valium and other opiate pain medications he was already taking.

Then, in the story below, the Doctor who prescribed death for this soldier whines about how he's the victim of "politics" for getting "suspended."

And the reporter is clueless too. Not a word about what killed the soldier from him either.

You have to get through a huge amount of writing to get to this lonely little sentence: "Kearney prescribed Valium and another medication in addition to the other drugs the soldier was already taking."

So how come this comment is written with such certainty?

Easy.

I work full time in a hospital substance abuse clinic.

If we permit patients receiving prescription methadone to treat opiate dependence to also use benzos and the patient dies, their next of kin can sue us for malpractice.

How convenient that the Pentagon has a law in place that soldiers or their families can't do the same.

By the way, benzos are also hideously, quickly addictive; they can turn users into babbling disoriented bubble-headed zombies who often have no clue how annoying their behavior is to others. The VA gives them for PTSD.

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

Feb. 14, 2008 By MARK THOMPSON, Time Inc. [Excerpts]

Iraqi insurgents wounded Gerald Cassidy in the deafening blast of a roadside bomb just outside Baghdad on Aug. 28, 2006.

When Cassidy returned to the U.S. last April, the Army shipped him to a hospital in Fort Knox, Ky., to get treatment for the excruciating headaches that had accompanied him home.

For five months, he made the rounds of Army medical personnel, who couldn't cure a pain that grew steadily worse.

Unable to make room for him in a pain-management clinic, the Army increasingly plied him with drugs to dull the torment.

At summer's end, the headaches had grown so intense that Cassidy pleaded once more for help, and his doctor prescribed methadone

The next day, calls to Cassidy's cell phone from his wife Melissa went unanswered.

After two more days without word from her husband, she frantically called the Army and urged that someone check on him. Nine hours later, two soldiers finally unlocked the door to his room.

They found Cassidy slumped in his chair, dead, his laptop and cold takeout chicken wings on his desk.

The "manner of death" was summed up at the end of the 12-page autopsy: "Accident."

But when he died, Cassidy had the contents of a locked medicine cabinet coursing through his body, powerful narcotics and other drugs like citalopram, hydromorphone, morphine and oxycodone, as well as methadone.

The drugs--both the levels that Cassidy took and "their combined, synergistic actions," in the medical examiner's words--killed him.

Horrifyingly, it appears that Cassidy lived for up to two days after falling into a stupor.

Forgotten and alone, he sat in his room until he died.

Regulations that require a soldier to show up for formation three times a day or be tracked down were widely ignored, say soldiers who stayed at Fort Knox.

"You could easily linger for two days in a coma," Kearney says, "and if anybody had opened his door, they would have found him unconscious and they would have called 911."

Soldiers fall through the cracks in every war.

But the death of Sergeant Gerald (GJ) Cassidy, a cheerful 31-year-old husband and father of two, highlights the tragic and persistent shortcomings of Army medicine.

The same Army that spends \$160 billion on tomorrow's fighting machines is shortchanging the shell-shocked troops coming home from war in need of healing.

In Iraq, Cassidy's job was to protect the serpentine convoys that carry food, fuel and mail to and from Kuwait. On a routine mission in August 2006, a roadside bomb blew up 10 yds. (9 m) from his armored humvee.

There was no apparent damage to the humvee or the four men in it. But for two to three minutes after the attack, Cassidy lost his hearing, and he quickly developed a bad headache. The next day medics diagnosed a minor concussion. "Since that time," he wrote in a January 2007 statement, "I have been plagued with migraine headaches every seven to 10 days."

Just as the Pentagon failed to anticipate the duration and cost of the Iraq war, it has been woefully unprepared for the waves of wounded who return home needing care. Earnest, hardworking medical personnel haven't been able to handle the deluge.

At Fort Knox, Cassidy and more than 200 other soldiers were placed in a newly created Warrior Transition Unit (WTU).

During his first month at Fort Knox, an MRI of Cassidy's brain revealed no "hemorrhage, edema, mass effect or midline shift" that would clearly indicate TBI. Nonetheless, his case manager made a note in his file that "headaches are gradually worsening."

Cassidy tried a slew of prescription pain relievers without success.

Because there was no physical evidence of an injury, a civilian neurologist working for the Army who examined Cassidy in late April concluded that the headaches were most likely "posttraumatic migraines."

The doctor prescribed two more kinds of drugs. It was the soldier's lone visit to a neurologist during his 13 months of headaches.

At Fort Knox, Cassidy spent most of his time alone in his room with his laptop computer and Xbox video game. "While he was at Fort Knox," his wife says, "he was actually getting worse."

He met with his case manager weekly but saw Kearney, his psychiatrist and only regular doctor, barely once a month. Their first visit was on May 30, 2007, nearly two months after he arrived at Fort Knox. "Alert and smiles throughout the interview, is anxious," Kearney typed into Cassidy's file. "He was under fire and under constant stress and was mortared frequently."

Kearney prescribed Valium and another medication in addition to the other drugs the soldier was already taking.

But while the pills sometimes worked, they didn't keep the headaches at bay. "We kept asking, 'What's the treatment plan here?'" his wife recalls. "There was never an answer for that."

After a terrible headache drove Cassidy to Fort Knox's emergency room, Kearney prescribed methadone for the first time on Sept. 13.

Cassidy's final day of Army medical care began early on Tuesday, Sept. 18.

That morning the Fort Knox medical clinic noted that he was "awake, alert, oriented to time, place and person, well developed, well nourished, well hydrated, healthy appearing, in no acute distress."

A short time later, Cassidy met with Kearney, who observed in his file that "the methadone worked for the headache...used 40 mg without difficulty or too much sedation."

So Kearney wrote a prescription for 16 more 10-mg methadone tablets "for severe pain" after discussing "potential side effects with patient who indicated understanding." Cassidy showed no suicidal inclinations, Kearney added.

About lunchtime, Cassidy spoke by telephone with his mother Kay McMullen. "Mom, there's a lift dropping huge bundles of shingles on top of the roof," she says he told her. "It seems like I'm back in Iraq again--my head is pounding."

But around dinnertime he had an upbeat conversation with Melissa. He talked happily about visiting home the next weekend. Two weeks after that, he was to return for good and continue treatment at a civilian hospital.

Melissa was unable to reach her husband on his cell phone later that night or the next day.

By Thursday, she became anxious after he had failed to respond to her four messages. On Friday morning, she called and found his voice mail was full.

Moments later, her apprehension turned into panic when she dialed into his cell-phone messages and found he hadn't listened to any of them, including her good-night call on Tuesday.

She immediately dialed Kearney and her husband's platoon sergeant, but they didn't answer. She reached a soldier at his barracks who promised to hunt him down.

When Melissa hadn't heard anything by mid-afternoon, she called the barracks again and spoke to Sergeant Rory Martin, another outpatient.

She asked him to check to see whether her husband had applied on Wednesday, as required, for his weekend pass. When they spoke again four hours later, Martin told Melissa that Cassidy had not applied for a weekend pass and that a knock on his door had gotten no response.

Martin promised he would find her husband, but when she hadn't heard from him by 6:45, Melissa placed another call to Martin's cell phone.

"I haven't got in yet, I haven't got in yet," Martin told her, voice shaking. "Let me call you back, sweetie." Then he hung up. "I knew," Melissa says quietly, "something was terribly wrong."

After another hour, Colonel Rhonda Earls, the hospital commander, got on the phone to give Melissa the news.

"Mrs. Cassidy, I regret to inform you that we found your husband in the barracks, and he is dead." A military chaplain and casualty-assistance officer arrived at the house at about midnight.

Martin, who found Cassidy's body, can still recall his horror but says he understands how it happened.

"Nobody there had accountability for nobody," he says.

Sergeant Jim Hunt, who lived in the Fort Knox barracks from January to July 2007, says only about half of those who were supposed to show up for mandatory formations--at 7 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.--actually did.

Five days after Cassidy's death, the Government Accountability Office told Congress that more than half the WTUS had "significant shortfalls" in key positions.

At Fort Knox, more than half the squad-leader positions--those most responsible for Cassidy's well-being--were unfilled. An Army report on TBI released in January also offered a grim assessment, finding "no specific standards" for dealing with the TBI problem, "major gaps" in coordinating care and "no medical-provider core competencies."

A month after Cassidy's death, the Army removed from command the three soldiers most responsible for his well-being.

The Army suspended Kearney on Jan. 11 after an aide to Indiana Senator Evan Bayh, who has been probing the circumstances surrounding Cassidy's death, complained that he was still seeing patients.

(Kearney says he did nothing wrong and is a victim of political pressure.)

[Meaning if they let him off suspension, he's going to go right on prescribing methadone on top of benzos. Watch the body count grow. T]

**“The Level Of Confidence In The
Presidency Among Officers Averaged
Just 5.5 Out Of 10, With 16 Percent**

Having “No Confidence At All In The President”

WASHINGTON, Feb 19 (IPS) & (CNN)

The U.S. military is “severely strained” by two large-scale occupations in the Middle East, other troop deployments, and problems recruiting, according to a new survey of military officers published by Foreign Policy magazine and the centrist think-tank Centre for a New American Strategy.

Sixty percent of the officers surveyed said that the military is weaker now than it was five years ago, often citing the number of troops deployed to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The level of confidence in the presidency among officers averaged just 5.5 out of 10, with 16 percent having “no confidence at all in the president.”

The U.S. Congress scored lowest of the institutions that the survey referred with an average score of just 2.7.

The Defense Department received 5.6, the CIA 4.7, Department of Veterans Affairs 4.5, and State Department 4.1.

Those views are likely informed by survey respondents’ opinions about the way the civilian leadership handled the war in Iraq in the immediate aftermath of the fall of Saddam Hussein.

Nearly three quarters of the officers said that the goals of the civilian leadership for the military were “unreasonable”.

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.

**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING
SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

THIS ISSUE FEATURES:

1. "I, personally, don't believe in fighting for the profit of a handful of people. I also don't believe in fighting for a government that is willing, if not eager, to f--- its own people over" says a soldier stationed in Kirkuk, Iraq.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.08.halliburton.php>

2. "Not us. We're not going." – A Unit Revolts

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.08.revolts.php>

3. Moving Forward Together - IVAW member Liam Madden explains why building a grassroots GI movement, not voting for a pro-occupation presidential candidate, will bring the troops home.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.08.liam.php>

4. "The first time I put on that uniform I hoped I would wear it with honor. On Sept. 15, I finally did," says Iraq veteran Michael Prysner at an anti-war protest.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.08.prysner.php>

5. While Bush's Buddies Cash In On the War, Pentagon Scum Won't Supply Wounded Female Troops With Clothes Forcing Them to Beg Civilians for Help

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/2.08.female.php>

6. Download, print, and distribute this issue at your school, anti-war group, base, or armory:

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS16.pdf>

Guantanamo's Dirty Secrets:

Mysterious Camp 7, Bounty-Hunted Detainees, And Teenagers

[Thanks to SSGT M [ret'd] who sent this in.]

“they...announced publicly in the media that they had the general of al Qaeda—the leader of the military wing of al Qaeda.” Errachidi also told his interrogators that a large snowball would soon envelop the earth, but that wasn’t reported at any press conference.

February 12, 2008 By Celia Perry, Mother Jones [Excerpts]

On Monday, the Pentagon announced that it has charged six Guantanamo detainees with involvement in the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. The infamous detention facility was also in the news last week when its top commander, Rear Admiral Mark Buzby, confirmed in an interview with the Associated Press that there is a secret area inside Guantanamo Bay known as Camp 7— where key al Qaeda suspects are housed.

This announcement was not news to International Red Cross inspectors, who have toured the mysterious camp (but whose findings remain confidential), nor to the detainees’ attorneys. One of those attorneys is Clive Stafford Smith, who has represented 75 Guantanamo detainees.

“There are so many things that come to light that are actually blindingly obvious all along,” he says. “And (Camp 7) is a good example....It’s yet another secret of that place leaking out.”

But this job becomes very difficult when those in charge are consistently changing the ways in which they describe what goes on at the prison.

“The military is constantly making statements that are downright false because they’ve redefined the language,” explains Stafford Smith.

“It is a way of looking people in the eye and lying, but having some pretense that you’re not.”

Nowhere is this issue more evident than in the situation surrounding some 60 juveniles who have been held at Guantanamo.

In April 2003 then Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard B. Myers admitted that children as young as 13 were being held at the prison, but qualified, “They’re not on a Little League team anywhere. They’re on a major league team, and it’s a terrorist team.”

After three juveniles were released from the camp in January of 2004, Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Commander Barbara Burfeind told the BBC, “We don’t plan on detaining juveniles at Guantanamo further,” but Stafford Smith calls Burfeind’s statement “absolute rubbish.”

He should know; he represents two of the juveniles who are still being detained: Mohammed El Gharani, now 21, and Omar Khadr, 22, who have been in Guantanamo since they were minors.

The military, Stafford Smith says, has simply changed the definition of the term “juvenile.”

“In their minds... (it) means someone who is under the age of 16 today, whereas legally the term juvenile as recognized by the United States Supreme Court and every international body in the world means that you were under 18 (when) you committed whatever offense you committed.”

El Gharani was just 14 in 2001 when Pakistani authorities seized him and sold him to the United States for a bounty.

Bounties like the one used to nab El Gharani are far from rare in the war on terror; in fact, they’re something that most Guantanamo detainees have in common.

“Virtually everyone—well not everyone, but a large majority of the prisoners in Guantanamo—was sold to the United States for bounties,” says Stafford Smith.

In the months after 9/11, bounty leaflets were publicly distributed throughout Pakistan.

One read, “Get wealth and power beyond your dreams. Help the Anti-Taliban Forces rid Afghanistan of murderers and terrorists.”

It worked.

General Pervez Musharraf boasted in his 2006 memoir *In the Line of Fire*, “We have played cat and mouse with ([al Qaeda).

“We have captured 689 and handed over 369 to the United States. We have earned bounties totaling millions of dollars.”

\$5,000 is still the going rate for snitching on a suspected terrorist there.

And this a hard incentive for many to pass up; based on Pakistan’s per-capita GDP this payoff is equivalent to \$250,000 in the United States.

“Look around and tell me who you would be prepared to snitch on for a quarter of a million dollars if all you had to do was say, ‘I saw him in Tora Bora,’” says Stafford Smith.

He continues, “And there’s a terrible inevitability to this cycle of torture once you begin down that route. Imagine I sell you out and I say I saw you at Tora Bora... You say I wasn’t in Tora Bora. But (United States officials) think you were so they start applying the enhanced interrogation techniques on you. It’s not very long before you say, ‘Alright I was in Tora Bora.’”

“But they didn’t think they were torturing an innocent person to get an innocent person to confess falsely; they thought you were guilty. So when you do confess, they think, ‘Ah ha, she’s guilty!’ And at that point you’ve got a one-way ticket to Guantanamo.”

Bounties are one of many strategies that yield unreliable results; as is subjecting mentally ill detainees to harsh interrogation techniques leading to false confessions.

Another one of Stafford Smith’s clients, a Moroccan father of two who immigrated to England in the 1980’s, Ahmed Errachidi, was committed for bipolar disorder long before the war on terror began.

But he too was sold by Pakistan to United States authorities and eventually flown to Guantanamo.

Stafford Smith recounts, “They’re interrogating him and they ask him, ‘Are you a foot soldier for Bin Laden?’ Well he’s psychotic at the time, so he says ‘No, no I’m not a foot soldier for Bin Laden. I’m Bin Laden’s general.’

“So they...announced publicly in the media that they had the general of al Qaeda—the leader of the military wing of al Qaeda.”

Errachidi also told his interrogators that a large snowball would soon envelop the earth, but that wasn’t reported at any press conference.

Last May, five years after he was seized, Errachidi was set free, when it was established that he was working as a cook at the Westbury Hotel in London at the time the United States government alleged he was training with al Qaeda in Afghanistan.

Other Guantanamo detainees aren’t mentally ill from the get-go — but they became that way during detainment. Binyam Mohamed, who was arrested in Pakistan on a visa violation and then turned over to United States authorities, has developed a habit of smearing feces onto the walls of his cell.

Stafford Smith says it’s because he “suffered torture that really should have been left in the Middle Ages.”

On July 21, 2002, nearly two years before being transported to Guantanamo, he was flown on a CIA plane to Morocco where his captors took a razor blade to his genitals.

Now, officials at Guantanamo claim he soils his cell as an act of defiance, but Stafford Smith believes it’s the result of trauma. “Instead of treating him, they turn the water off in his cell as punishment which merely exacerbates the health problem. And the most recent thing they’ve done just last week is they’ve announced that if he doesn’t clean his cell up they’ll ban lawyers from visiting him.”

At a press conference in September of 2006, President Bush quoted a European delegate who, after visiting the facility, called it a “a model prison’ where people are treated better than in prisons in his own country.”

But Stafford Smith couldn't disagree more. "I have spent 24 years doing death penalty cases in the deep South. I've been to most of the worst prisons there and Guantanamo is worse than any death row in America," he said.

But with 501 people released from Guantanamo so far, there have been no fewer than 501 mistakes — failures of policy, philosophy, and implementation. Of those 501 former detainees, 35 have been Stafford Smith's clients, but he doesn't attribute his success to the sympathetic nature of the cases he's taken on — he doesn't hand pick his clients.

"It's because the whole process is such a catastrophe," he explains. "The success we have had is because the Bush administration has done terrible things and should never have done them. It's a matter of justice winning out."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

February 19 2008 Independent & Reuters & (AP) & 20 Feb 2008 (Reuters) & (Xinhua)

Armed men attacked the home of Faraj Dahshem al-Zaydi in Sheikh village on Monday. "They killed the 60-year-old man, his wife, their son Mustafa, 18, and a 35-year-old neighbour," police Lieutenant Colonel Najim al-Sumaidi said.

Villagers and family members said at the hospital that they had joined one of the local "Awakening" groups which have sided with the US military

A bomber rammed a minibus into a building used by Iraqi security forces killing one soldier and wounding two policemen in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, said Iraqi Army Brigadier-General Khalid Abdul-Sattar. He said part of the building had collapsed.

A roadside bomb wounded four Iraqi soldiers when it targeted their patrol in central Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, the Iraqi army said.

Later, four policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb hit their patrol near the municipal headquarters in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents killed a policewoman wearing civilian clothes in a market in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed four policemen and wounded three others when they attacked their patrol in a drive-by shooting in the city of Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A car bomber killed two and wounded eight in an attack on an identity cards office in the town of Tal Afar, 420 km (260 miles) northwest of Baghdad, police said. Tal Afar's mayor put the death toll at two killed and four wounded.

Two Iraqi soldiers and two civilians were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near an Iraqi army patrol near the town of Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

The deputy minister of Science and Technology was wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy in Zayouna district of eastern Baghdad, police said. Two of his guards were also wounded.

A bombing struck a security checkpoint near a marketplace in a town in the volatile Diyala province on Wednesday.

The attack took place around midday in the town of Maqdadiyah, some 100 km northeast of Baghdad, when a bomber wearing an explosive vest blew himself up at a checkpoint near a crowded marketplace, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The checkpoint was manned jointly by policemen and fighters from the local Awakening Council group, who are tasked with fighting al-Qaida in Iraq network, the source said.

The dead included two policemen and several Awakening Council fighters

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

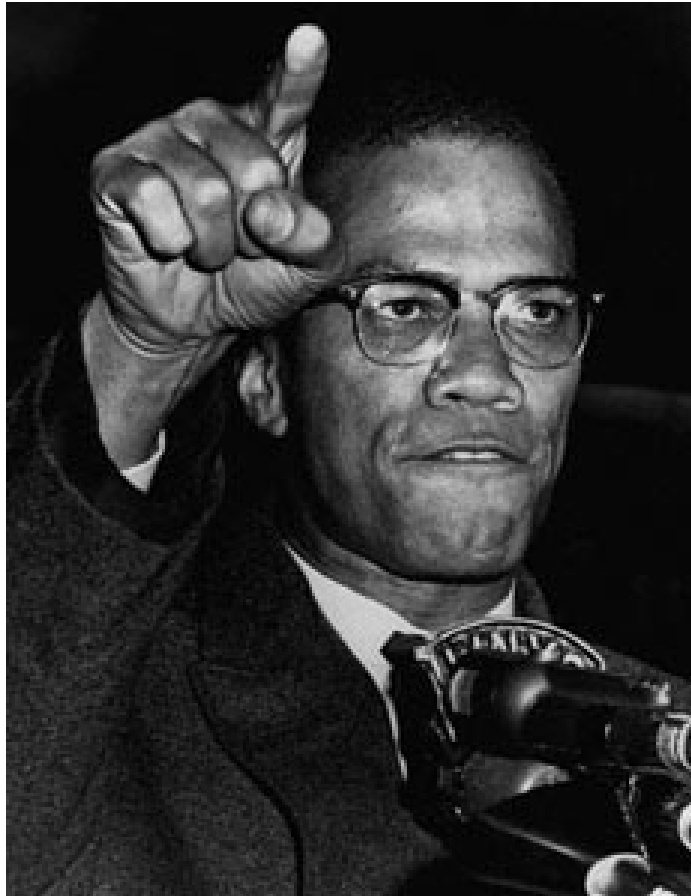
**"What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms."
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a

so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

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

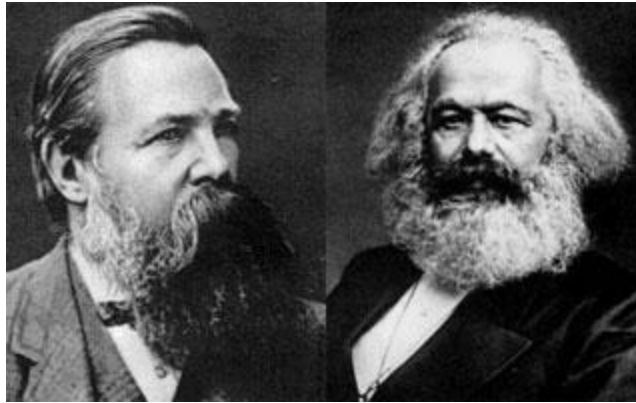
February 21, 1965: A Brilliant And Courageous Soldier For The Cause Killed In Action



Carl Bunin Peace History Peace History February 18-24

Malcolm X was shot and killed by rival Black Muslims in New York City, as he was about to address his Organization of Afro-American Unity at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City's Washington Heights. He was 39. **[He was killed not long after announcing his new politics: that working class whites and African-Americans can join together to fight those who own and control the society for their own wealth and privilege. T]**

February 21, 1848: A Small Book Appears, And Shakes The World



Friedrich Engels And Karl Marx

Carl Bunin Peace History Peace History February 18-24

“The Communist Manifesto,” written by 29-year-old Karl Marx with the assistance of Friedrich Engels, was published in London (in German) by a group of German-born revolutionary socialists known as the Communist League.

The political pamphlet—arguably the most influential in history—proclaimed that “the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles” and the inevitable victory of the proletariat, or working class, would put an end to class society forever.

An Aristocratic Officer Chooses To Fight For “Democracy, Socialism, Revolutionary Substitution Of A New World For The Old”

[And Civilians Were Smarter In Germany In 1840 Than 99.5% Of The Anti-War Movement In The USA In 2008]

From: Karl Marx, by Boris Nicolaievsky & Otto Maenchen-Helfen; Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott Company, 1936

August von Willich was a man of entirely different type.

He was descended from an ancient, aristocratic, military Prussian family, attended the military academy at Potsdam, and at the beginning of the forties was a captain in an artillery brigade stationed in Westphalia.

The ideas of the time — democracy, Socialism, revolutionary substitution of a new world for the old — found their way even into the stuffy atmosphere of a Prussian barracks.

Willich belonged to the not so very small group of officers to whom these ideas appealed.

When Lieutenant Fritz Anneke, later Gottschalk's closest friend and colleague, was deprived of his officer's status [in 1840] because of his courageous avowal of Socialism, Willich wrote an open letter to the king on his behalf.

For this he was placed before a court of honour and deprived of his rank.

He went to Cologne and joined the local branch of the Communist League. He earned his living as a carpenter.

When the former Prussian army captain made his way across the Cologne parade ground, as he did deliberately every morning on his way to work, walking very slowly past the drilling squads, wearing his leather apron and with his tools on his back, it had a very provocative effect.

This was just what Willich intended. He wanted to get himself — and consequently democracy and Socialism — talked about.

The Cologne Communist group attached great importance to propaganda in the army.

OCCUPATION REPORT

***Good News For The Iraqi
Resistance!!***

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



An Iraqi girl looks on as her father gets searched by foreign occupation soldiers from the US Army soldiers when they arrive for a market fair in the Azamiyah neighborhood in north Baghdad Feb. 9, 2008. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

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

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

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

More Stupid U.S. Command Lies Fall Apart: Bombers Didn't Have Down Syndrome

2.20.08 By BRADLEY BROOKS, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD - The U.S. military said Wednesday that two women used as bombers in attacks earlier this month had undergone psychiatric treatment but there is no indication they had Down syndrome as Iraqi and U.S. officials initially had claimed.

Lt. Gen. Abboud Qanbar, the chief Iraqi military commander in Baghdad, said soon after the attacks that photos of the women's heads showed they had Down syndrome, but he did not offer any other proof.

A U.S. military spokesman for the Baghdad area, Lt. Col. Steve Stover, also said at the time that medical experts with his division had examined the photos and agreed the women probably suffered from the genetic disorder.

"They were both females and they both looked like they had Down syndrome," Stover said on Feb. 2.

On Wednesday, Smith backed away from the claim about Down syndrome while responding to a question concerning the psychiatric histories of the two bombers.

"Both had recently received psychiatric treatment for depression and/or schizophrenia. From what we know now there's no indication that they had Down syndrome," Smith said, citing records obtained by the military.

Smith also said one of the women was married but that neither had criminal backgrounds.

He said it was not clear how they were linked to al-Qaida in Iraq, which the military has said was behind the bombing.

Smith did not address other details of the bombings. Iraqi officials have said the explosives were detonated by remote-control, presumably because people with Down syndrome could not be relied upon to set off the bombs.

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



They Agree! Both Want More Dead U.S. Troops & Dead Iraqis

2008-02-19 Tom Engelhardt, Tom Dispatch [Excerpt]

Obama has suggested a 16-month schedule for removing them; Clinton has only indicated that she would start withdrawing some of them within 60 days of coming into office.)

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