

GI SPECIAL 6B5:



**Defective Helmets Killing
U.S. Troops:
War Profiteer Scum
Manufactured 2.2 Million
Helmets But Cheated On Kevlar
Content To Boost Profits:**

**Pentagon “Just Downplaying This.
They’re Embarrassed And Want It
To Go Away And Would Not Admit
To Anybody’s Getting Hurt Or
Even Killed”
Arrests? Prison? One Way Ticket To
Iraq? Fuck No:
Pentagon Traitors Hand The Rats \$74
Million For More Helmets**

In a conversation Mr. Kenner secretly taped, Rhea Crane, quality assurance officer, worried “if we ever had someone get killed, and they decided to investigate because they thought maybe the helmet wasn’t any good.”

Extra resin was applied to the Kevlar to bring it up to a specified weight, the former employees said. Extra resin also poses a hazard to soldiers, Dr. Thomas said, adding, “If they were putting more resin in, they were doing something that will hurt soldiers, because it reduces elasticity and increases brittleness.”

February 6, 2008 By BRUCE LAMBERT, New York Times Company [Excerpts]

A North Dakota manufacturer has agreed to pay \$2 million to settle a suit saying it had repeatedly shortchanged the armor in up to 2.2 million helmets for the military, including those for the first troops sent to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Twelve days before the settlement with the Justice Department was announced, the company, Sioux Manufacturing of Fort Totten, was given a new contract of up to \$74 million to make more armor for helmets to replace the old ones, which were made from the late 1980s to last year.

At the core of the investigation was the contention by two former plant managers that Kevlar woven at Sioux failed to meet the government’s “critical” minimum standard of 35 by 35 threads a square inch.

When properly woven, Kevlar, a polymer thread made by Dupont, is stronger than steel, and able to deflect shrapnel and some bullets.

Government regulations call for rejecting Kevlar below the 35-by-35 standard.

The company “was underweaving,” Mr. Wrigley [The United States attorney for North Dakota, Drew H. Wrigley] said.

“That is undebatable,” he said.

The factory’s own inspection records often showed weaves of 34 by 34 threads or as low as 32 by 34 and 33 by 34. Looms were “always set for 34 by 34, always,” said Jeff Kenner, who operated and repaired the looms and oversaw crews on all three shifts.

“You must have a certain amount of protection, and you can’t go below that,” said Gwynedd A. Thomas, associate professor of ballistics and protective fabrics at Auburn University.

Although the difference between 34 and 35 threads a square inch seems modest, the cumulative loss in layers of fabric is significant, Dr. Thomas said.

“Every time that you’re losing some mass, you’re losing some integrity,” she said.

The strength comes from crossed yarns, the points that disperse projectile impact. “The fewer crossovers, the less energy dissipation you’re going to have,” she added.

A 34-by-34 weave results in 5 percent fewer crossovers than 35 by 35, a difference Dr. Thomas called “quite a lot.”

“I’m surprised somebody is not pursuing that more vigorously from the government,” she added. Were she a soldier’s parent, she said, “I would want to give my son a better helmet.”

The \$2 million settlement is far short of what the two former managers, Mr. Kenner and Tamra Elshaug, hoped for in 2006 when they filed a whistle-blower suit. The suit, for \$159 million in damages, accused the company of defrauding the government and violating safety standards.

“I think they got away with it,” said Mr. Kenner, who worked at Sioux for 20 years and was the weaving supervisor. “Sioux Manufacturing basically got a slap on the wrist,” he said.

“The Justice Department did a really good job, but the Department of Defense is really just downplaying this. They’re embarrassed and want it to go away and would not admit to anybody’s getting hurt or even killed.”

Mr. Kenner and Ms. Elshaug’s lawyer, Andrew J. Campanelli, challenged Defense Department contentions that it was unaware of injuries from defective helmets.

“There are tons of injuries with shrapnel and bullets going through helmets,” he said. “My clients documented that American soldiers did not get the protection that the government paid for, that the taxpayers paid for.”

In the evidence in the suit were hundreds of daily inspection records showing repeated violations of the weaving standards, as well as tape recordings of six managers and employees' admitting covering up violations.

In a conversation Mr. Kenner secretly taped, Rhea Crane, quality assurance officer, worried "if we ever had someone get killed, and they decided to investigate because they thought maybe the helmet wasn't any good."

"If we ever got audited," she said, "you know what they would do to us. Shut us down and fine us big time. Probably never see another government contract."

Mr. Kenner and Ms. Elshaug, who worked at the plant for 26 years and was in charge of buying Kevlar, say thread counts were routinely rounded up to reach the 35-by-35 minimum.

The papers in the suit showed a Kevlar surplus of up to 30,000 pounds and a resin shortage.

Extra resin was applied to the Kevlar to bring it up to a specified weight, the former employees said.

Extra resin also poses a hazard to soldiers, Dr. Thomas said, adding, "If they were putting more resin in, they were doing something that will hurt soldiers, because it reduces elasticity and increases brittleness."

Mr. Kenner said, according to the suit, that when he asked Mr. McKay about the violations, he responded: "That is the way we are going to weave it. Don't you worry about it."

Despite excellent job ratings, Mr. Kenner and Ms. Elshaug were fired after protesting the violations.

Mr. Campanelli will share part of the settlement totaling \$406,350. There is no further legal recourse, he added.

Soldiers generally cannot sue the government. And Sioux is owned by an Indian tribe, the Spirit Lake Nation, that can, he said, assert sovereign immunity against private suits.

The company also benefits from a 5 percent federal incentive program for Indian contractors and preferences for disadvantaged small businesses.

Ms. Elshaug and Mr. Kenner said they did not regret suing.

"It was never about the money," he said.

"It was about the soldiers. I'm still shocked.

"I wouldn't be wearing one of those helmets."

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

ACTION REPORTS

Action At Ft. Benning

1.28.08: REPORT: Fabian B, Iraq Veterans Against The War & The Military Project

Recently at Fort Benning, a group of civilians handed out IVAW literature outside of the base exchange. They were able to get away with it for a while.

There ARE people interested in outreach and organizing at bases!

Quit Whining And Pissing On Everybody In Sight With Your Condescending Bullshit About How Stupid & Apathetic Americans Are:

If You Don't Spend Time In The Real World Reaching Out To Real Troops, You Have Nothing Whatsoever To Sneer At Others About. Just Shut The Fuck Up And Get The Fuck Out Of The Way

"The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops." Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

"The military are the final, essential weak point of Bush and Cheney." David McReynolds 9.29.07

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Baghdad IED Kills U.S. Soldier

02/07/08 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080207-01

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier was killed when the Soldier's vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device in western Baghdad Feb. 6.

U.S. Soldier Killed By RPG In Baghdad

February 3, 2008 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080203-14

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier was killed when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his vehicle while the Soldier was on patrol in eastern Baghdad Jan. 31.

US Troops Hit By Anti-Armor Attack Every Three Days

Feb 6 (KUNA)

The US Army Wednesday reported its forces in Iraq are on average hit with an anti-armor attack once every three days for over a month now.

Resistance Gets A Helping Hand From The U.S. Air Force: Strike Kills Nine Collaborator Civil Guards In Iskandariyah

February 4, 2008 By SOLOMON MOORE and QAIS MIZHER, N.Y. Times [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — American forces said Sunday they had accidentally killed nine Iraqi civilians and wounded three in a strike aimed at militants south of Baghdad, acknowledging what appeared to be one of the deadliest cases of mistaken identity in recent weeks.

A military statement released late in the day said the accidental killings happened Saturday in Iskandariyah, about 25 miles south of the capital, and that the wounded were taken to American military hospitals.

The statement did not further identify the civilian victims, but the Iraqi police said American aircraft, responding to an attack on an American convoy, had erroneously bombed Iraqi civilian guardsmen who have contracted with the American military to fight Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia.

Notes From A Lost War:

“The Militants Themselves Had Vanished”

“When You Attack One Village, They Will Move To The Next. When You Attack That One, They Will Move To The Next. You Will Never Catch Them All”

Until recently, U.S. soldiers were stationed with [Maj. Fuad] Farouk’s forces, and he proudly recounts the battles they fought together against insurgents.

But since the Americans handed over the outpost southwest of Muqdadia to the Iraqis, Farouk says, his soldiers have been hopelessly outmanned and outgunned.

February 5, 2008 By Alexandra Zavis, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer [Excerpts]

They first appeared about 18 months ago: masked, in speeding cars and scooters that kick up the mud along the canals weaving through lonely villages here.

For the last year, U.S.-led forces have pursued the militants from one stronghold to the next in Diyala, a province of winding waterways and abundant farms stretching north and east from Baghdad to the Iranian border.

They have captured or killed hundreds of people. The American-led troops have destroyed weapons caches, training bases, bomb-making factories and torture houses.

Yet the militants identified by many U.S. commanders as their most lethal enemy and the greatest obstacle to stability in Iraq continue to flow into the province and farther north to the regions of Mosul and Kirkuk.

This is not the only place that the militants have established a haven, but the U.S. deems success here as crucial to its efforts to consolidate recent security gains as American troops begin to draw down.

Diyala sits at a strategic crossroads, providing access to Baghdad, Iran and insurgent strongholds in northern Iraq. Its isolated hamlets, thick palm groves and fragrant citrus orchards provide a multitude of hiding places from which the militants unleash gruesome strikes.

The military says the foot soldiers are mostly Iraqi, citing detailed ledgers recovered from an insurgent base showing local recruits, one of them just 16. **[Wow. Imagine that. Unlike the U.S. armed forces, where you have to be at least 17.]**

With the military push in Diyala province, U.S. and Iraqi officials believe many fighters have fled to Mosul and elsewhere.

Local officials say the insurgents paid up to \$100 for each tip they received, including ideas about where to hide and information about U.S. and Iraqi troop movements.

For the families who supported them, there were also gifts of rice, sugar, and chocolates for the children, villagers said. For those who resisted, retribution was swift and brutal.

Until recently, U.S. soldiers were stationed with [Maj. Fuad] Farouk's forces, and he proudly recounts the battles they fought together against insurgents.

But since the Americans handed over the outpost southwest of Muqdadia to the Iraqis, Farouk says, his soldiers have been hopelessly outmanned and outgunned.

The militants used some of the abandoned homes as safe houses and rented out others to make money.

At least one was turned into a makeshift hospital, according to the U.S. military.

Asked where the insurgents came from, residents in village after village said Hembis, one of the larger villages in the area north of Muqdadia known as the breadbasket of Iraq.

When U.S. forces arrived in Hembis in Stryker armored vehicles, they found a car-bomb-making factory and houses rigged to explode.

Hidden on a nearby farm was a recently built base with weapons, maps drawn on the backs of travel posters, a makeshift classroom under the trees and tunnels leading to underground sleeping quarters for three platoons of fighters.

But the militants themselves had vanished.

Villagers insisted they could not identify the fighters because they always wore masks.

The villagers who emerged from behind their gates to stare at the U.S. troops were mostly welcoming, but remained convinced that the masked gunmen would return.

“When you attack one village, they will move to the next. When you attack that one, they will move to the next. You will never catch them all,” a despairing Maad Khalaf Khadrish told the U.S. soldiers.

His once prosperous military family was reduced to penury when its businesses in nearby Muqdadiya were destroyed in the fighting and its orchards cleared to make way for a U.S. outpost at Shakarat.

The family spent the last of its savings trying to secure the release of Khadrish’s kidnapped brother. He was not returned.

Famous Last Words From A Redcoat

Lt.:

“Right Now, All That’s Out There Are The Terrorists” “Don’t Worry, One Of These Days, They’re Gonna Disappear For Good”

**“Don’t worry, one of these days, they’re gonna disappear for good.”
(1770’s Version)**



[images.google.com]

British Soldiers Hunt Down American Terrorists: (1770’s)

2.6.08 By Charles Levinson, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

After a string of attacks here, including the assassination of the city's police chief and an ambush on a U.S. patrol that killed five soldiers, the United States and Iraqi government have turned their attention to Mosul.

"The people don't trust us yet," says Lt. Stanford Bell, 25, from Salt Lake City. "Right now, all that's out there are the terrorists."

"We were taking pretty sustained fire, but once you engage, they just disappear," Lt. Jacob Deguire said minutes after a gunfight against insurgents in downtown Mosul. "They're really good at disappearing once you return fire."

He wiped his brow and chuckled: "Don't worry, one of these days, they're gonna disappear for good."

Declared Bill Ehrhart, a marine in Vietnam:

In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom.... Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life.

WELCOME TO IRAQNAM: HAVE A NICE DAY



12.07: US soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division take cover as Blackhawk helicopters land in al-Awsat, south of Baghdad. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Helmand, Two Wounded; Nationality Not Announced

Feb 6 The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan - A roadside bomb hit a U.S.-led coalition vehicle in volatile Helmand province in southern Afghanistan, killing one soldier and wounding two others.

The coalition troops were conducting a joint security patrol with Afghan forces on Tuesday when their vehicle hit a mine planted on a road along the Helmand River, the coalition said in a statement. It did not give further details of the nationalities of the victims.

Other soldiers in the patrol discovered and neutralized two additional roadside bombs in the area.

Two Canadian Soldiers Wounded In Afghanistan

Feb. 5 2008 The Canadian Press

KANDAHAR CITY, Afghanistan -- Two Canadian soldiers were wounded Tuesday in the explosion of a roadside bomb west of Kandahar city, a military spokeswoman said.

The early afternoon blast happened about 40 kilometres west of the city near police substation.

The soldiers suffered only cuts and bruises and returned to work shortly after the incident, officials said.

The military did not release the type of vehicle the soldiers were riding in at the time.

Resistance Action

1.31.08 Associated Press & February 6 2008 AFP

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -- A bomber blew himself up inside a mosque in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, killing Helmand province's deputy governor and five other

people, officials said. The bomber struck in the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, said provincial police chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwai.

Helmand's deputy governor, Pir Mohammad, was killed in the blast, said Nisar Ahmad, a provincial health official.

A bomb, remotely controlled, hit a police patrol in the neighbouring province of Kandahar late on Tuesday and killed two police, provincial police chief Sayed Aqa Saqib said.

Another three policemen were wounded, he said.

A Taliban spokesman, Yousuf Ahmadi, told AFP by telephone that his organisation had carried out this attack.

“The Number Of Districts In Which The Taliban Operate Exploded Last Year”

“They Have Managed To Sustain Over 100 Attacks Per Month For The Whole Year Since They Started To Climb Back”

Feb. 03, 2008 Jonathan S. Landay, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpt]

In Afghanistan, the Taliban have expanded the territory they control and where they can move freely despite suffering huge losses last year in battles with U.S. and NATO troops.

“The number of districts in which the Taliban operate exploded last year,” said John McCreary, a former senior intelligence analyst with the Joint Chiefs of Staff who's now with the private contractor dNovus RDI.

“This is the first year they have managed to sustain over 100 attacks per month for the whole year since they started to climb back. One hundred attacks per month used to be surge figure. Now it's the new norm.”

TROOP NEWS

JCS Chief Says U.S. Troops Fucked

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

February 7, 2008 By McClatchy Newspapers and The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top U.S. uniformed military officer on Wednesday described a tired U.S. military force, worn thin by operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and unlikely to come home in large numbers anytime soon.

Defense Department officials testified that the Bush administration's plan to withdraw some 20,000 U.S. troops from Iraq this summer will do little to relieve the stress on the Army and Marine Corps.

The military's top uniformed officer says U.S. forces are "significantly stressed" by fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan while simultaneously trying to stem the tide of violent extremism elsewhere.

Adm. Michael Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the military was exhausted by the repeated deployments to Iraq.

"We must get Army deployments down to 12 months as soon as possible. People are tired."

"I am extremely concerned about the toll the current pace of operations is taking on them and on their families, on our equipment and on our ability to respond to crises and contingencies beyond ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said.

Denver GI Dies After Iraq Blast



Duncan Crookston in 2006 before leaving for basic training. (Photo courtesy Estevan Ruiz)

01/28/2008 By Manny Gonzales, The Denver Post

A Denver West High School graduate — one of two men to survive a deadly roadside blast along one of Baghdad's deadliest roads — has died from complications that resulted from his injuries, the Department of Defense and the soldier's family said Sunday.

Pfc. Duncan Charles Crookston, 19, an airborne infantryman who enlisted after graduating from West High School in 2006, died Friday at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. He had been fighting for his life since an improvised bomb exploded near the humvee he was in Sept. 4. He was severely burned and underwent multiple amputations.

"He was very intelligent, very into science and was able to teach himself things about things, especially electronics," his mother, Leesha Crookston, an animal control officer with the city of Lakewood, said in a phone interview from San Antonio. "He ended up being placed as a radio-tech operator in his unit because he was so good with electronics.

Crookston was riding in the rear of a humvee carrying Sgt. Joel Murray, 26, the truck commander, Spc. David Lane, 20, the driver; Pvt. Randy Shelton, 22, the turret gunner and Pfc. Joseph Mixson, 22, when they were hit by a roadside bomb, according to Stars and Stripes newspaper. All of the men were with the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based in Fort Riley, Kan.

Three of them — Murray, Lane and Shelton — were killed in the blast or died a short time later.

One of the men in his unit told the newspaper that Crookston was soft-spoken and well liked.

"He was always helping us with our computers cause he knew about everything digital," Staff Sgt. Welby Richardson, 31, from Gonzales, Texas, told the Stars and Stripes.

Crookston was badly burned over 50 percent of his body. Both of his legs were amputated, along with his right arm and left hand, his mother said.

He had slipped in and out of consciousness these past few months at BAMC, but recently developed an infection followed by a fever, his mother said.

His family decided to remove life-support, and he died the day before his 20th birthday.

"Everyone hoped for the best, but he was always just kind in and out and kept getting infections," said Estevan Ruiz, 20, of Denver, a longtime friend of Crookston.

"He was a really great guy, and he helped everyone out whenever they needed him," Ruiz said. "And he knew everything about anything — music, computer games, books. And if he didn't know it, he was sure to learn it because that was just the way he was."

Ruiz said Crookston started dating his wife, Meaghun, their last year in high school.

While serving in Iraq, Crookston had been in frequent touch with family in the Denver area. He was home on leave for a few weeks last summer, his mother said.

“It was kind of hard to tell (how he was adjusting) to being there,” Leesha Crookston said. “He kept a lot to himself and didn’t talk about a lot of stuff that went on there. If anything, he was more interested in what was going on here.”

His unit was scheduled to return from Iraq in April, she said.

Crookston leaves behind a wife, his parents and five brothers.

Funeral services are scheduled for 11 a.m. on Feb. 2, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 2710 S. Monaco Pkwy.

His mother said that the last surviving member of the explosion, Mixson, who lost both lower legs in the blast, would try to attend the services.

Letting Mikeal Go: A Family’s Story: Seven Months After A Severe Head Wound, An Iraq Veteran Was Fading

February 01, 2008 DAVID AUSTIN, The Oregonian Staff

ALBANY -- For months, Rene Pool watched for any signs that her oldest son, 22-year-old Sgt. Mikeal Miller, would make it. She looked past the tubes, past the whirring life-support machines and saw only her baby boy. A series of infections during the seven months since his injury had taken their toll on his body.

In July, Miller was patrolling Baghdad when a bomb detonated under his Humvee. The blast pushed the Albany soldier against the roof, knocked off his Kevlar helmet and tossed him to the ground.

A piece of shrapnel pierced his right eye and lodged in his brain.

At Bethesda Naval Hospital, his condition slowly worsened. But he was a fighter, she thought. He could make it. “It took me 72 hours of labor to have him,” she said. “There was no way I was going to give him up easily.”

Rene and Steve Miller were juniors at Lakeview High School when Mikeal was born on Aug. 27, 1985. Steve was on the football team and half the squad was in the hospital waiting room. “He had like 27 dads that night,” says Cinda Blair, Mikeal’s grandmother.

After graduation, Steve joined the Army and the family moved to Germany.

“When he was 2, his favorite word was ‘No,’ “ Rene says of her son. “Pick up your toys. No. Let’s watch a video. No. Time to go to bed. No. Everything was on Mike’s timetable.”

As kids, Mikeal used to herd his brothers, Kurt and Chris, around when their parents weren't home. Kurt Miller, now 19, remembers coming home from school to find that Mikeal had scored some firecrackers. The three brothers gathered in the garage and lit them.

"We couldn't point at each other because we were all doing it," Kurt says. "Mike admitted things, and he took the hit."

When Mikeal was 10, his grandfather, Ramon Blair, took him on a hunting trip. To prepare, Blair coached his grandson on the fine points. Top on the list: Keep quiet so you don't scare off any deer.

"We get down by this clearing and that boy is tugging at my pants, whispering: 'Grandpa! Grandpa!'" Ramon Blair says. He prepared to chastise the boy for making noise but saw Mikeal standing with his hands spread wide over his head and pointing at a buck with antlers.

"I looked up and sure enough there was this big one standing right there," his grandfather says. "We got him and that was Mike's buck. It was all his."

Steve and Rene divorced in 1996, and she moved to Albany with the boys. As a single mom, it was tough not having a man in the house.

Mikeal watched out for Kurt and Chris, making sure they made friends and stayed out of trouble. He spent time with his mom, being a sounding board for her. And he made sure the family stayed together.

"Whenever the football team had one of those team dinners before a game, Mike would never hesitate to come up to me and give me a hug in front of everyone," Rene recalls. "They'd ask me: 'How did you get your kid to do that?' Every day, he made sure to say I love you, to me, to his brothers. That bond with Mike was so concrete."

In his shop class, he took to crafting wooden boxes. "That was the only thing he wanted to make," Cinda Blair says. "I should know because I still have every last one of them."

He signed up early for the Army, and after his graduation in June 2003, he was sent to Fort Benning in Georgia for basic training. That November, he was sent to Korea.

The following year, his unit was sent to Iraq. He came home on leave and met Megan Erner, and the two fell in love. When he returned to the war, the family didn't fret. "I knew that he was going to be OK," Rene says. "He's always been so smart and able to take care of things."

He returned after a year and his relationship with Megan blossomed. They made plans to spend their lives together and married in September 2006. A month later, he shipped out again to Iraq.

Everyone worried because fighting in the war zone was escalating, but Rene Pool kept telling herself, "He'll be OK."

His brothers developed a routine of getting up in the morning and sending e-mails to Mikeal, each one ending with "I love you, man."

On July 7, 2007, Mikeal sent Rene an e-mail. He had one more patrol before a leave. Be careful, she told him. The next day, Mikeal's stepdad, Bud Pool, called to tell her Mikeal had been injured.

He was flown to Bethesda where doctors kept him in a medically induced coma. His right eye was gone, obliterated by the shrapnel.

He couldn't speak but his mother saw a tear roll down his cheek when she squeezed his hand. Megan kept a vigil at her husband's bedside, talking to doctors and waiting.

In August, doctors sent him to a center in California. While there, he developed the infections, so doctors ordered him back to Bethesda.

The news wasn't good. His brain was functioning at roughly 20 percent, enough to keep him breathing and to keep his heart beating. For months, Megan stayed by his side.

In early January, brother Kurt Miller, in tears, called his mother. "Mike's not going to make it," he told her. Megan had just called him, saying doctors suggested the family should start thinking about pulling Mikeal's feeding tube.

"My first reaction was, 'Over my dead body,'" Rene Pool remembers. "But he wasn't going to get better. I knew that this wasn't how he would want to live. I knew I had to start thinking about letting Mikeal go."

She flew back to Bethesda and on Jan. 18 doctors removed his feeding tubes. Nine days later, Mikeal Miller died.

In a small house in Albany, family members pack into the kitchen to remember Mikeal Miller, the husband, the son, the brother and the grandson.

Kurt Miller fingers the copy of his brother's military dog tags draped around his neck. "When you're the little brother, your older brothers are big figures to you, almost god-like," he says. "I didn't think it would come down to this."

Across the table, 4-year-old Conner Pool scoops up a picture of his brother Mikeal and gently kisses the photograph. He holds it at arm's length and stares at it for a moment.

"This is my picture," he says. "I love you, Mike."

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

Feb 3 (KUNA) & Reuters & (AP) & 04 Feb 2008 Reuters & 05 Feb 2008 Reuters & By Laith Hammoudi, McClatchy Newspapers & 06 Feb 2008 DPA & Reuters & By HAMID AHMED, Associated Press Writer & Feb 7, Reuters

Iraqi police said Mehdi Army fighters had clashed with Iraqi and U.S. soldiers early on Thursday in Sadr City, the sprawling slum in northeast Baghdad which is one of Sadr's power bases.

Iraqi security sources revealed here on Sunday that four U.S. funded awakening elements were killed along with a police officer.

A security source in the Iraqi police told KUNA that insurgents attacked the headquarters of an element of the awakening group in the city of Katun in Baquba northeast of Baghdad.

The source added that the attackers killed four of the elements of the awakening group, and then planted bombs inside the headquarters and destroyed it completely.

BAGHDAD - A bomb targeting a senior Interior Ministry official exploded on Sunday in western Baghdad, wounding the official and his bodyguard and killing his driver, police said.

Lt. Col. Mohammed Ibrahim, director of Iraq's police commando affairs, was heading to work when a bomb planted under his car in the Mansour area exploded around 10 am in the Mansour neighbourhood, an officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to media.

Ibrahim and his bodyguard both survived with injuries, but his driver was killed, the officer said.

A mortar round slammed into a street in a northeastern section of the capital, killing an Iraqi soldier on foot patrol, another police officer said. The attack occurred at 9 am on Sunday in the Sulaikh area, police said. Three civilians and another soldier were also wounded in the attack, an officer said on the same anonymity condition.

South of Baghdad, an Iraqi policeman was killed in a drive-by shooting on Sunday near Kut, 160 kilometres southeast of the capital, police said.

In Baquba, capital of Diyala Province, Hussein Zubaidi, chief of the provincial council security committee, was wounded by a bomb that had been secretly planted inside the Diyala provincial headquarters, the police said. Two other government employees outside of the room were also wounded by the blast, the police said.

Guerrillas in a convoy of vehicles captured three policemen from their checkpoint in northern Baghdad's Ur district on Saturday, police said.

Two policemen were wounded by a roadside bomb southwest of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents killed a foreign ministry official in a drive-by shooting in western Baghdad's Mansour district, police said.

A roadside bomb killed three soldiers and wounded two others when it struck their vehicle in northern Baghdad's Adhamiya district, a member of a neighbourhood police unit said. Two members of the U.S. funded local police unit were wounded in gunfire which broke out after the blast, he said.

Tuesday, guerrillas killed three policemen in two separate drive-by shootings in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Militants captured three Iraqi national police officers from a police checkpoint on Saturday in Ur district in northern Baghdad before releasing them hours later, the U.S. military said.

One member of a U.S. funded neighbourhood police unit was killed by a bomber close to an internet cafe at Taji, 20 km (12 miles) north of Baghdad, a local tribal leader said.

Three officers in the Iraqi army were killed by guerrillas in three different neighborhoods in Umara city south of Baghdad today morning. The first officer was a colonel who was a Lieutenant Colonel who was killed in al Askari neighborhood downtown Umara city. The second officer was a Major who was killed in the new buildings neighborhood downtown Umara city while the third officer was Lieutenant who was killed in his car while he was returning back home in al Uroba neighborhood downtown Umara city.

A source in the Sahwa council of Sheikh Sanad said that three members of the Sahwa were killed and five others were injured when a suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest detonated himself near one of the check point of the Sahwa office of Sheikh Sanad Abdul Salim in Thira'a Dijla area east of Ramadi city at 3:30 pm.

A bomb went off Wednesday morning hitting a Polish army patrol in the centre of Diwaniyah, 180 kilometres south of Baghdad, the commander of the local emergency police force, General Ghasan Muhammad, told the Voices of Iraq news agency. Seven policemen were among the wounded.

Two policemen were killed and three others, including a civilian, were wounded in a drive-by shooting in the city of Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Wednesday, guerrillas killed two Iraqi soldiers in an attack on an Iraqi army checkpoint in the city of Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded by their vehicle in northern Mosul.

Two neighbourhood policemen were killed after confronting a militant wearing a bomb vest outside a photography shop northwest of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

Seven policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near a bus carrying detainees in the city of Diwaniya, 180 km (110 miles) south of Baghdad, police and hospital sources said.

Thursday, militants stormed a house northeast of Baghdad, separated out the women and children inside and killed three brothers, all members of a U.S.-backed neighborhood watch group, police said. The attack happened early Thursday in the Muradiyah area near Baqouba, about 35 miles northeast of the capital. Such partnering with the Americans to fight insurgents have become frequent targets recently because of their alliance with U.S. and Iraqi forces.

The militants planted explosives in the house and blew it up before leaving, police said

At least three members of a U.S. funded Awakening Council group were killed and seven others wounded by a car bomb attack in a raid on a militant hideout south of Baghdad on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source said.

“A booby-trapped vehicle detonated in the afternoon when a group of Awakening Council fighters raided a house in the Khannasah village near the town of Madain, some 30 km southeast of Baghdad,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

U.S. and Iraqi security forces sealed off the area after the blast that killed at least three of the group of fighters and wounded seven others, according to the source who cited first police reports.

A roadside bomb wounded two policemen in Salman Pak, about 45 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three policemen in the Mansour district of western Baghdad, police said.

Militants attacked a house and killed three brothers who worked as neighbourhood policemen in a town near Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Three U.S. funded neighbourhood policemen were killed and seven wounded when a small bus exploded near a house in the town of Salman Pak, about 45 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Three government employees were killed and three others wounded in a drive-by shooting in northern Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb killed Lieutenant-Colonel Khalid Rasheed, head of police for the town of Siniya near Baiji, 180km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Disgusting Anniversary: February 6, 1943



Carl Bunin Peace History February 5-11

The U.S. government required the 110,000 dispossessed Japanese-Americans forcibly held in concentration camps to answer loyalty surveys.

Heros' Anniversary: February 6, 1961: The Civil Rights Jail-In Movement Began

Carl Bunin Peace History February 4-10

The civil rights jail-in movement began when ten negro students in Rock Hill, South Carolina, were arrested for requesting service at a segregated lunch counter.

They refused to post bail and demanded jail time rather than paying fines, refusing to acknowledge any legitimacy of the laws under which they were arrested.

Rev. Martin Luther King wrote to Charles Sherrod, Diane Nash and the others in jail, "You have inspired all of us by such demonstrative courage and faith.

"It is good to know that there still remains a creative minority who would rather lose in a cause that will ultimately win than to win in a cause that will ultimately lose."

February 7, 1986: Happy Anniversary Soldiers Overthrow A Dictator's Government



Jean-Claude 'Baby Doc' Duvalier with his father Francois 'Papa Doc' Duvalier

Carl Bunin Peace History February 4-10

Haitian self-appointed President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier fled his country after being ousted by the military, ending 28 years of authoritarian family rule.

Policies begun by his father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, had forced many to flee Haiti (the western portion of the island of Hispaniola), leaving it the poorest and most illiterate nation in the hemisphere. Deforestation (for cooking fuel and heat) eliminated forest cover on 98% of the country, in turn leading to significant annual loss of topsoil, often making agriculture unsustainable.

February 8, 1968: KIA For Freedom

The Orangeburg Massacre



Carl Bunin Peace History February 4-10

Three black students were killed and 50 wounded in a confrontation with highway patrolmen at a South Carolina State rally supporting arrested civil rights protesters.

The town's only bowling alley, the All Star, was still segregated years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on race in such public accommodations.

On the previous two days, college students had entered the bowling alley, refusing to leave after they were not allowed to bowl. Fifteen of the second group were arrested.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Mercenary Filth At It Again: Shoot Another Civilian To “Clear A Way”

Feb. 3 (Xinhua)

An Iraqi civilian was severely injured when guards working for a foreign security firm opened fire in a busy street in central Baghdad on Sunday, a well-informed police source said.

The incident took place in the morning when a SUVs convoy of a foreign security firm were passing through a street near the Zawraa Park just outside the Green Zone, which houses Iraqi government offices and foreign embassies, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The civilian was wounded when the bodyguards in the vehicles opened fire to clear a way for their convoy through the jam, the source said.

Iraqi civilians have been attacked several times by guards working for private security firms that provide security to U.S. and Iraqi officials and politicians.

***Good News For The Iraqi
Resistance!!***
**U.S. Occupation Commands'
Stupid Tactics Recruit Even More
Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. Army soldiers occupy an Iraqi citizens home in Arab Jabour south of Baghdad, Jan. 23, 2008 (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

[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!

Five Years After The Occupation, Baghdad Drowning In Shit

Feb 4 AFP

Baghdad is drowning in sewage, thirsty for water and largely powerless, an Iraqi official said in a grim assessment of services in the capital five years after the US-led invasion.

One of three sewage treatment plants is out of commission, one is working at stuttering capacity while a pipe blockage in the third means sewage is forming a foul lake so large it can be seen "as a big black spot on Google Earth," said Tahseen Sheikhly, civilian spokesman for the Baghdad security plan.

Lies About Happy Iraqis Returning From Syria Hammered Down Again

02-06-2008 (AFP)

Iraqis are once again leaving Iraq for Syria in greater numbers than are returning, despite the lower level of bloodshed in their homeland, the UN refugee agency said on Wednesday.

A report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, citing Syrian immigration officials, said that in late January an average of 1,200 Iraqis entered Syria every day compared with around 700 who returned.

Most of those Iraqis who return say they are doing so because their Syrian visas have expired or because they have run out of money, rather than because conditions in their homeland have improved, the report said.

The figures angered Iraqi officials, who have pointed to a number of high-profile convoys of returning refugees as evidence that safety is being restored to their war-torn cities after a year of battles with insurgents.

Last October Syria tightened its rules for granting visas to Iraqi refugees, a move which dramatically reduced the numbers moving there and led to scenes of thousands of Iraqis boarding buses to head back to Baghdad.

Majdolin, an Iraqi Christian who recently returned from a trip to Syria, agreed that the worsening situation for Iraqis there was the main reason why refugees are returning.

“The situation for Iraqis is very bad in Syria right now,” she said, citing the cost of living and a crackdown by Syrian authorities on forged residency papers that Iraqis can buy for as little as 1,000 Syrian pounds (13 euros).

Still No Oil For Blood; Iraq “Off Limits” For Big Oil

2.7.08 By Gina Chon, Wall S. Journal [Excerpt]

The Oil Ministry has signed technical and training agreements with several major companies, such as BP PLC and Royal Dutch Shell PLC.

But without a law spelling out the legal and financial details of investing in the oil sector, exploration and production — which make up the most lucrative segment of the oil business — are essentially off-limits.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

The Traitor Bush Defies Congress, The Supreme Court, The Law & Leaders Of Both Parties In One Grand Slam Day; He Will Torture Who He Pleases When He Pleases

February 7, 2008 By Greg Miller, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer [Excerpt]

WASHINGTON — The White House said Wednesday that the widely condemned interrogation technique known as waterboarding is legal and that President Bush could authorize the CIA to resume using the simulated-drowning method under extraordinary circumstances.

The surprise assertion from the Bush administration reopened a debate that many in Washington had considered closed.

Two laws passed by Congress in recent years -- as well as a Supreme Court ruling on the treatment of detainees -- were widely interpreted to have banned the CIA's use of the extreme interrogation method.

But in remarks that were greeted with disbelief by some members of Congress and human rights groups, White House spokesman Tony Fratto said that waterboarding was a legal technique that could be employed again "under certain circumstances."

For years, White House officials denied that the U.S. had engaged in torture but always stopped short of confirming whether waterboarding had been used.

The administration's latest stance -- described by Fratto during the daily White House briefing -- was denounced Wednesday by key lawmakers. "This is a black mark on the United States," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"The White House is trying to give themselves as much of an open field here as possible.

It says to others that we are prepared to use the same kinds of tactics used by the most repressive regimes and the most heinous regimes."

Waterboarding refers to a practice that involves strapping down a prisoner, placing a cloth over his face and dousing him with water to simulate the sensation of drowning.

The technique has been traced to the Spanish Inquisition and has been the subject of war-crimes trials dating back a century.

The White House position on the issue is in some ways consistent with its long-standing efforts to expand executive power and resist attempts by Congress to rein in the president's authority.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona, now the front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination, has led efforts to outlaw waterboarding and other harsh interrogation methods previously employed by the CIA.

In a recent GOP presidential debate, McCain said it was inconceivable that "anyone could believe that (waterboarding is) not torture. It's in violation of the Geneva Convention. It's in violation of existing law."

The leading Democratic contenders for the White House, Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois, have taken similar positions.

Congress has passed two laws -- the Detainee Treatment Act in 2005 and the Military Commissions Act in 2006 -- that ban the use of harsh interrogation methods and require all U.S. agencies to comply with the Constitution and the Geneva Conventions in their treatment of detainees.

In addition, the Pentagon published a new Army field manual in 2006 that limits interrogation techniques and bans harsh methods, including waterboarding, hoods and mock executions.

And the Supreme Court in 2006 struck down the Bush administration's system for holding and prosecuting detainees, saying it failed to provide protections under the Geneva Conventions.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), one of the Republican sponsors of the 2006 Military Commissions Act, said in a telephone interview Wednesday that at the time the bill was passed he was assured by the Bush administration that the law would specifically prohibit waterboarding.

But Fratto appeared to contradict that, saying that the Justice Department had reviewed waterboarding and "made a determination that its use under specific circumstances and with safeguards was lawful."

The CIA is not currently authorized to use waterboarding, he said, adding that "we're not going to be able to speculate on what might be the case in the future."

OBEDIENCE TO BUSH IS BETRAYAL OF THE CONSTITUTION:



**LIAR
TROOP-KILLER
DOMESTIC ENEMY
UNFIT FOR COMMAND**

CLASS WAR REPORTS



1/24

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.

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