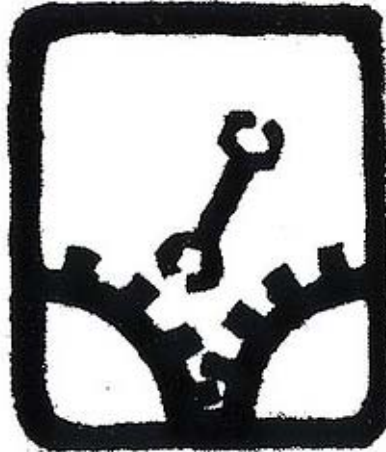


GI SPECIAL 6C9:



**“Many GI’s Expressed
Their Opposition To The
War”**

**“Several Said There Is Rebellion
And Resistance To Military
Authority In Iraq”**

**“Another Soldier Said Soldiers
Were Ignoring Their Orders”**

[VFP Troop Engagement]

[Ft. Stewart, Georgia]

Sent: March 12, 2008

The troop engagement effort began on Saturday, February 16, 2008 and ended on Thursday, February 28, 2008.

Sandy Kelson organized and participated during the entire engagement period on behalf of VFP. John Grant of the Philadelphia chapter participated from February 16 to 22, 2008. Bill Warrick of the Gainesville chapter participated on February 17 and 18, 2008.

Local activists including Kevin and Monica Benderman, their son and Cathy Browning assisted in many substantive ways. VFP member Peter Shaw made a substantial financial contribution.

David Zeiger and Patricia Foulkrod, directors of Sir! No Sir! and The Ground Truth respectively, provided copies of their DVDs for shipping costs or at minimal cost. Several copies of the Meeting Resistance DVD were provided by the directors, Steve Connors and Molly Bingman, at no charge to show to active duty troops. Counselors William Galvin and Andrew Gorby from the Center on Conscience and War offered their services to the troops on February 28 and 29, 2008. Without VFP financial assistance the project could not have taken place.

The VFP members stood at the last traffic light before the entrance of Ft. Stewart and distributed 500 Sir! No Sir! and 385 The Ground Truth DVDs plus approximately 1300 packets of leaflets that included VFP and IVAW applications, The Appeal For Redress, GI Rights pocket card, materials supplied by the Center on Conscience and War, notice of the showing of the Meeting Resistance DVD, a flier about The Road Home (a new documentary series about military families; for info contact patricia@thegroundtruth.org) and a flier announcing free GI Rights counseling sessions with Galvin and Gorby.

Ft. Stewart is the largest base east of the Mississippi River.

Although Ft. Stewart is home to roughly 19,000 soldiers approximately 15,000 are currently deployed.

We provided handouts to occupants of vehicles with Ft. Stewart stickers on their vehicle who confirmed they or their spouse were an active duty member of the military.

If the number of soldiers on base numbered about 4,000, as we were informed, we delivered materials to approximately 32% of them.

We hope those who received the DVDs and the other materials will share them with other troops and their families.

A local activist, who visited the base regularly, reported to us that she overheard the troops at the PX and at other venues conversing about VFP and the materials we delivered.

The response from military members and the civilians was overwhelmingly supportive, including soldiers who were just arriving back from Iraq as we spoke to them.

Many GI's expressed their opposition to the war.

Several said there is rebellion and resistance to military authority in Iraq.

Another soldier said soldiers were ignoring their orders.

For example, the troops discovered an IED and ignored an order to call in explosive experts to deal with it. Instead they backed off a ways and exploded it with rifle fire. Luckily it was not a large blast and nobody was injured.

They suffered no discipline for failure to do as ordered.

We were also welcomed by the civilian community.

Some drove by as we leafleted and blew their horns, smiled and waved at us. Employees at a small restaurant near the base brought us ice tea. People asked for and were given VFP buttons and T-shirts and Bring Them Home Now bracelets.

One of the activists told us that he has received a report from a high ranking sergeant with training responsibilities that the newer recruits are of lower quality that the military has heretofore enjoyed. He indicated that many are not capable of being properly trained, that they are not qualified to be soldiers and that he is concerned for them and their units in Iraq. Many recruits joined because of limited civilian employment opportunities and the need to support their families. Most of the troops that passed by us were driving late model vehicles; many were large pick-up trucks.

During deployments, many vehicles are reportedly re-possessed by the lending institutions.

Local activists report that both the military and civilian populations overwhelmingly oppose the war.

The civilian population is very supportive of the troops and concerned about their repeated deployments. Some troops have been deployed five times. Many of the troops who have been deployed suffer from PTSD. Many abuse alcohol and have drunk driving incidences. There are cases of suspected suicide by vehicle. There are multiple signs on post addressing drunk driving and safety. To cut down on drunk driving the command permitted a bar to be opened on base for enlisted personnel.

It was reported to me that it is not uncommon for troops to forgo counseling and treatment saying they know they will be redeployed so why bother getting cured.

I was disappointed by the attendance of Meeting Resistance. There were eight civilian activists and only one sergeant who was in his mid 30s. After the film the group engaged in a lively discussion. After the discussion I spoke with the soldier, a staff sergeant. Based upon the group discussion and mine with the soldier I concluded that he had been exposed to new facts and concepts and found it engaging. Grant had given me some VFP phone cards and I gave them to the soldier asking that he deliver them to the base hospital for in-patient use. He also took Meeting Resistance, The Ground Truth,

War Is A Racket and The Appeal For Redress saying he would share them with others on base. Likewise, unfortunately, nobody sought GI Rights counseling.

The sergeant opined that many of the troops had just returned from deployment and did not want to deal with the war so soon and that they wanted to be with their families. He was disappointed that the troops were not there as he found the movie and discussion important. Another mentioned that we were competing with the Academy Awards.

It is impossible to empirically quantify the result of the troop engagement effort. The anecdotal evidence was both exciting and disappointing. In a month I will contact The Appeal For Redress, GI Rights, IVAW and VFP to see whether there is any spike in contacts from Ft. Stewart personnel and I will report back to VFP.

Lessons Learned, Maybe: The first VFP effort from which this engagement was modeled was the VFP Bus Convoy in March 2007 sparked by VFP and IVAW member, and VFP staff employee, Cherie Eichholz. The current effort tried to expand on that effort. Specifically, the 2007 convoy traveled from Fayetteville to New Orleans over the course of a week. We visited seven military base towns and spent a few hours doing outreach in each.

I had hoped that a sustained effort in one place would allow us to develop meaningful relationships with active duty soldiers.

Our two weeks outside FT. Stewart resulted in favorable expressions of support and appreciation from the military and civilian community and I expect that with a permanent presence in Hinesville (and/or at other base towns), VFP and/or IVAW could develop meaningful relationships with soldiers.

Such an effort would need a facility, a paid organizer, and the presence of IVAW members who would need a stipend.

IVAW members may best be able to determine whether a long term presence would be advisable and, if so, how it would be structured.

I, nevertheless, never fearful to address issues of which I know nothing, would like to provide my thoughts, for what they may be worth.

There is rural country surrounding the Hinesville/ Ft. Stewart community. A location with a multi-acre plot of land with a fishing/swimming pond; playground; quiet outdoor places for picnics, walking, contemplation; an indoor area for relaxation (TV, films, books, weight lifting/exercise equipment); availability of information on GI rights, CO status, discharges, resistance, etc, and a sleeping/napping area might be attractive to troops.

The presence of IVAW members who could be approached by soldiers who want to talk and who will be listened to may lead to an active duty chapter of IVAW.

Some soldiers we talked to related that they had been deployed to Iraq and think the war is wrong but nevertheless, knowing they'd be re-deployed, re-enlisted for economic reasons. Providing information about economic alternatives to the military and maybe even training opportunities would be a great service for the troops. Possibly GI rights counseling and assistance with PTSD could be provided. I suspect there are IVAW and

VFP members who would participate in such an endeavor but they would need a stipend if their participation was long term.

The overriding issues are whether such a concept has merit and if so, how it would be financed.

A team of VFP members volunteered to work on re-building houses damaged by Hurricane Katrina in the 9th ward of New Orleans immediately after the 2007 VFP bus convoy. Much work was accomplished in that one week period.

A like volunteer effort to construct the needed amenities at a site could extremely helpful.

Based upon the support I understand the local Hinesville community has for the troops, fund raising there may be successful.

Lastly, potential donors are much more willing to help if they see a sustained, meaningful effort being made.

MORE:

***Outreach To The Troops At Fort
Stewart:***
**“I Thank Them From The Bottom Of My
Heart For The Only Work That Is Likely
To Have Any Effect On The Course Of
The War”**

From: John Francis Lee
To: GI Special
Sent: March 05, 2008
Subject: Outreach To Troops At Fort Stewart:

Dear GI Special,

The article “Outreach To Troops At Fort Stewart” by Jonathan Hutto detailing the work of John Grant - VFP Philadelphia Chapter 31 & Sandy Kelson, VFP Northwestern Pennsylvania Chapter together with Kevin and Monica Benderman and Cathy Browning is about the most positive news I've had in months!

My hats off to them and I thank them from the bottom of my heart for the only work that is likely to have any effect on the course of The War.

Hats off to our brothers and sisters in uniform who are standing up and resisting The War wherever, and in whatever way they can.

Sadly and unbelievably its up to them not only to fight, kill and die in The War, with the complete lack of representation we the people have in our government it is up to them to end it as well.

There's nothing else like the GI Special that I am aware of. Please keep up the very, very good work.

And thanks to GI Special for spreading the Good News. It's great to read something encouraging in the face of the news of the Turkish invasion of Kurdistan and the latest Israeli invasion of the Gaza Ghetto.

REPLY: The really good news is the response of the soldiers in the fuller report above, which came in after the one you refer to in your letter. That's history in the making! And the thanks must go to the activists reaching out to make contact with our troops. T

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.

**“The Troops Are Our Only
Hope”**

**“The Only Ones Who Can End
This War, And End It Now, Once
And For All, Are The Troops
Themselves”**

**“Whatever Steps They Take To End
This War, I Applaud Them”**

**“Whatever Resistance They Give The
Warfare State, I Support Them”**

[Thanks to Linda Olson, who sent this in.]

March 10, 2008 by Laurence M. Vance, LewRockwell.com [Excerpts]

As we approach the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq, there is no end of the war in sight.

The Republicans, although some of them might be upset with how the war has turned out, are still a bunch of crazed warmongers. They have shown that they love war as

long as it is a Republican war. And as we already knew, Republicans love the military-industrial complex and the security-industrial complex.

The Democrats who began their control of Congress last year have done nothing to stop the war. They have continually caved in to Bush's demands for more money for the war. They have no plans to impeach the war criminals who lied us into war. Of course, if it was a Democratic president who had started the war, they would be all for it.

Can this war be stopped? Can anyone stop this war?

Since we can't rely on Congress or political candidates or the typical American or even Christians who supposedly follow the "Prince of Peace," there is only one way I see to end this war.

The only ones who can end this war, and end it now, once and for all, are the troops themselves.

After all, it is the troops that are doing the actual fighting, bleeding, dying – not the Congress.

It is the troops that are firing the bullets – not Christian warmongers.

No one is doing the fighting except the soldiers.

It doesn't matter who told them to fight or what the reason is that they were told to fight. If the troops stop warring, the war will stop. It will not gradually come to an end, it will grind to a halt.

First, we don't need any more fresh meat sent to Iraq.

Every soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine ordered to Iraq should refuse to go. Everyone in the Guard or Reserve should refuse to go.

Second, every member of the military in Iraq should refuse to drop a bomb, go on a patrol, fire his weapon, or do anything offensive.

And third, every soldier in Iraq should try to come home on the first plane or the first ship he can commandeer.

Don't sit there and tell me that it won't work. It is a simple matter.

In each of these scenarios, there will be too few telling too many that they must continue fighting the war.

The troops are our only hope.

Whatever steps they take to end this war, I applaud them.

Whatever resistance they give the warfare state, I support them.

Dear reader, I hope you will do likewise.

MORE:

BRIDGING THE GAP: MAKING IT HAPPEN

An Organizers Conference

April 5, 2008: 10 AM

**Middle Collegiate Church
50 East 7th St.,
New York, New York**



U.S. Army soldier patrols Bejjia village, Iraq Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

THIS IS AN ORGANIZERS CONFERENCE FOR PEOPLE WHO WISH TO ACT TOGETHER TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN CIVILIANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES BY DIRECT CONTACT.

Program:

FIRST HAND REPORTS ON SENTIMENT AGAINST THE WARS IN THE ARMED FORCES; Organizers

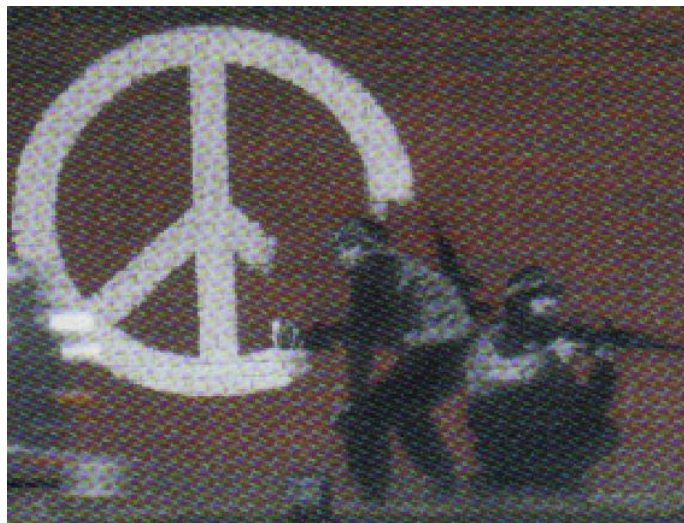
RESISTANCE THROUGH EVOICATION: PHOTOGRAPHS, POEMS; Mike Hastie & Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veterans; Al Jaccoma, Vietnam Veterans Against The War

TROOPS RESIST WAR; VIETNAM AND IRAQ: EYEWITNESSES: Richard Boyle, Vietnam War Reporter; Garrett Reppenhagen & J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War; Al Jaccoma, Vietnam Veterans Against The War

OUTREACH TO THE TROOPS [Organizing Tactics In The Real World] Fabian Bouthillette, Iraq Veterans Against The War & The Military Project

ON GUARD: "WE NEVER SWORE TO OBEY; WE SWORE TO DEFEND" Daniel Joseph Black, Iraq Veterans Against The War

IRAQ VETERANS + UNION WORKERS = HISTORY IN MOTION: Michael Letwin & Clarence Thomas, Local 10, The International Longshore and Warehouse Union, San Francisco



Tactical Painting
From Soldier X, Iraq 4.25.05

ORGANIZED BY:
The Military Project: contact@militaryproject.org
[With the assistance of Traveling Soldier & GI Special]

MORE:

MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY PROJECT

1. Do not “support the troops” in the abstract. We focus on support for Armed Forces resistance, giving aid and comfort to those who are against the war.
2. Are for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all occupation troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.
3. Believe that oppressed peoples and nations have the right to self-determination and the right to resist Imperial invasion and occupation.
4. Do not require others to be in complete agreement to work together with them towards common objectives.
5. Reject the idea that organizations working together on a common project must not debate differences about the best way forward for the movement. On the contrary, we encourage debate and discussion as the most useful method to arrive at the best course of action.
6. May choose to support candidates for elective office who are for immediate withdrawal from Iraq, but do not support candidates opposed to bringing our troops home now.
7. Are committed to organizational democracy. This means control of our organization by the membership, through freely elected delegates to any coordinating bodies that may be formed, whether at local, regional, or national levels. Any member in good standing may run for any position, with or without a slate. Coordinating bodies must report their actions, decisions and votes to the membership who elected them for approval or rejection.
8. Are committed to putting in time taking action in an organized way to reach out to members of the armed forces, including local community Reserve and National Guard units.
9. Are not commissioned officers, active duty or drilling reserve, or present or former members of any law enforcement agency.

I understand and am in agreement with the above statement, and pledge to defend my brothers and sisters against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

(Signed)

(Date)

THE MILITARY PROJECT: Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
Contact@militaryproject.org

MORE:

“People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority”

THE MILITARY PROJECT: Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657
Contact@militaryproject.org

[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]

In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.

The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.

The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

The Military Project

“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

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: HOME, NOW



Eric Feferberg / AFP

Evanston Soldier Dies In Iraq

[Thanks to SSG N [ret'd] who sent this in.]

March 13, 2008 By JEFF GEARINO, Southwest Wyoming bureau, Casper Star-Tribune

EVANSTON -- After his first tour of duty in Iraq in 2003, local soldier David Julian joined other veterans and servicemen in dedicating a new Fallen Comrade monument in downtown Evanston.

Sadly, now his name will be added to the memorial statue.

Julian, 32, a long-time Evanston resident, died Monday during military operations in Baghdad. He and four other soldiers were killed by an Al-Qaeda suicide bomber, according to U.S. Army officials.

Julian was the first Evanston resident to be killed in action since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003.

Evanston residents have been taking the news pretty hard, said Marion Mclean, who heads the Committee to Support Uinta County Servicemen, a support group for military personal serving in the Middle East.

"It's been a tragic blow to our community ... it's the worst possible news, I think," Mclean said in a phone interview Wednesday. "He definitely will be sorely missed."

Julian was born June 15, 1976. Mclean said Julian grew up in Evanston and joined the Army right after graduating from Evanston High School in 1994. She said he was on his fourth tour of duty in Iraq at the time of his death.

He was a member of the 222nd Armored Division, 3rd Infantry, based in Fort Stewart, Ga.

According to Star-Tribune records, Julian is the 22nd member of the military to die while serving in Iraq since the war began in 2003.

Julian and four U.S. soldiers were killed and three were wounded in the suicide attack Monday in the center of the Iraqi capital, according to the U.S. military.

It was the deadliest attack on American troops in two months, Army officials said.

Julian was part of an Army convoy and patrol that had stopped in the Mansur district of Baghdad, a Sunni stronghold. A suicide militant dressed in a suit and tie approached Julian's patrol and detonated a bomb strapped to his body.

Mclean said Julian would come home to Evanston between his tours and was a great help to the support committee.

"For some reason, David was just phenomenal at coming to our different programs ... he rode on our parade float and helped lay a wreath" in 2003 at the county's memorial for fallen soldiers, she said.

The memorial is located outside of the county building. The statue honors those soldiers from Evanston who gave their lives in past wars.

Julian is survived by his wife Erin and two-month old baby daughter Elizabeth. Mclean said his family flew to Georgia to be with them.

She said Julian's body arrived in Dover, Md. on Wednesday, but it's unclear when he will be returned to Evanston. Funeral services have not been set.

There are currently 93 Uinta County residents serving on active military duty, Mclean said. She said 27 of those are serving out-of-country.

“We have many people who don't believe in this war, but they sure believe in these soldiers,” said Mclean.

U.S. Defense Department officials said as of Tuesday, 3,983 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war. Officials said at least 3,238 soldiers died as a result of hostile action.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Four U.S. Soldiers Wounded In Kabul Ambush

Mar 13 (AFP)

A car bomber rammed a US-led military convoy near the airport in Kabul Thursday, wounding four American soldiers, officials said.

The blast, which happened during the morning rush-hour on one of the city's busiest roads and damaged around a dozen vehicles.

The US confirmed that one of its convoys was attacked on the road to the international airport, which has seen several attacks in recent months.

Two coalition armoured vehicles were damaged, an AFP reporter at the scene said. Blood and scraps of human flesh littered the road along with the wreckage of cars, some of which were on fire.

Reality Check

By Matthew Cole, Salon.com [Excerpt]

For nearly two years now, the military situation inside Afghanistan has deteriorated. Violence has increased, security has shrunk and the Taliban have brought the war to Kabul.

Coalition casualties increased more than 20 percent last year and estimates of civilian deaths for 2007 range as high as 6,000.

Resistance Action

Mar 4, 2008 & Mar 9, 2008 (Reuters) & March 11, 2008 The Associated Press & Mar 13 (AFP)

A car bomber killed an Afghan policeman and wounded four others in an attack on a government building in the Tani district of the southeastern province of Khost on Tuesday, the district governor said.

Insurgents shot dead a district intelligence official in southeastern Afghanistan. The shooting took place on Saturday in the province of Khost. "The incident took place in the Mandozai district when the district intelligence chief Habib Khan was leaving home for the office," said district chief Dawlat Khan.

An Afghan soldier was killed in Kapisa province, just north of Kabul, the ministry said Tuesday.

A roadside bomb struck a police convoy Thursday on a highway in southern Wardak province, killing three policemen and wounding four others, provincial police chief Muzafarudin told AFP. The convoy was on its way from southern Ghazni province to neighbouring Wardak province when it was hit, he said.

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

TROOP NEWS

**Army Command Happily Keeps On
Fucking Over Disabled Soldiers:
"Injured On Active Duty, Returned
Home And Administratively
Separated Without Ever Entering The
Disability Retirement System"
"Guardisman Had Heat Stroke That
Caused Organ Damage, But When He**

Went Home, He Was Not Processed As ‘Injured On Active Duty’”

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less.

[To repeat for the 3,520th time, there is no enemy in Iraq. Iraqis and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started this war of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: this war was about making money for them, and nothing else.

[Payback is overdue. T]

March 10, 2008 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

A year after Walter Reed Army Medical Center emerged as a symbol of what is wrong with the administrative end of the military medical retirement system, much has changed for the better, according to critics.

The new guidance seems to be taking a little time to make its way down the chain, however.

In one case that [retired Army Lt. Col. Mike] Parker is working on, a soldier asked that his range-of-motion case be reviewed again based on the new rules.

His physical evaluation board in Texas said that was not necessary and awarded him a 10 percent rating — even after being provided a copy of Jones's memo.

However, on Feb. 26, the Physical Disability Agency — the next-highest board — awarded the soldier a 40 percent rating for his back injury.

The difference means retirement pay and medical benefits for the rest of his life, versus a one-time payment of a few thousand dollars and no medical benefits.

Parker praised that decision, but said, “The question remains, what will it take to get the Texas (Physical Evaluation Board) in line?

If they did this to a soldier who didn't know better and didn't appeal, the Physical Disability Agency would likely never review the case.”

Another law enacted a year ago requires boards to explain their reasons for ratings decisions.

So far, none have done so on the cases Parker has worked on, even though he requests explanations in the first paragraph of each claim he prepares.

He still worries about National Guard and reserve troops who say they were injured while on active duty, returned home and were administratively separated without ever entering the disability retirement system.

“I’m getting more e-mails from people saying they didn’t go through the system,” he said.

In one case, a guardsman had heat stroke that caused organ damage, but when he went home, he was not processed as “injured on active duty.”

“The (disability retirement) guys will never know it’s an issue because they never get into the system,” Parker said.

“There are procedures that are established, but no one’s following them.”

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.

Thieving Pentagon Shits At It Again; “DoD Proposes To Increase Tricare Pharmacy Co-Pays By 100 % To 500 % For Active-Duty Family Members, Retirees And Their Family Members Enrolled In Tricare”

March 10, 2008 By Karen Jowers, Army Times [Excerpts]

Increasing pharmacy co-pays for military families might save the Defense Department money, but Tricare pharmacy benefits would plummet in comparison to those offered by civilian employers, according to a military advocacy group’s analysis of the Pentagon plan.

In its fiscal 2009 budget request, the Defense Department proposes to increase Tricare pharmacy co-pays by 100 percent to 500 percent for active-duty family members, retirees and their family members enrolled in Tricare. The plan would not affect active-duty members themselves.

The costs for a 30-day supply of drugs at a retail pharmacy under the Pentagon plan would be:

- \$15 for generic drugs, up from the current \$3. According to HayGroup, 87 percent of civilian employer plans charge co-pays of less than \$15 for generic drugs.
 - \$25 for brand-name drugs, up from the current \$9. HayGroup indicates that 45 percent of civilian employers charge co-pays of less than \$25 for these drugs.
 - \$45 for drugs not on the approved formulary list, up from the current \$22.
-

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

Resistance Action

03 Mar 2008 (AP) & 13 (Reuters)

Five members of an Awakening Council were killed when insurgents attacked two separate checkpoints near Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad. Nine others were wounded in the attacks. Awakening Councils are made up of fighters who have accepted U.S. money.

Two soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded close to an Iraqi army convoy near the town of Udhaim, north of Baghdad, police said.

Two members of a U.S.-funded neighbourhood security patrol were killed and six wounded by a bomber wearing an explosives vest in the town of al-Zab near Kirkuk, police said.

A car bomber killed an Iraqi army soldier and wounded 10 others in an attack on a security checkpoint near the city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two people were killed and two wounded when guerrillas attacked a neighbourhood security checkpoint near the city of Baiji, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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



Iraqi citizens inspect the damage done to their personal belongings during a raid by foreign occupation soldiers during a home invasion in Arab Jabour, southern Baghdad, Iraq, March 12, 2008. US forces arrested the owner, Hameed Fahad, who is also a member of a local Awakening Council that sided with Americans in Iraq. (AP Photo/Loay Hameed)

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

“So what you'll do is you'll take his sofa cushions and you'll dump them. If he has a couch, you'll turn the couch upside down.

“You'll go into the fridge, if he has a fridge, and you'll throw everything on the floor, and you'll take his drawers and you'll dump them.... You'll open up his closet and you'll throw all the clothes on the floor and basically leave his house looking like a hurricane just hit it.

“And if you find something, then you'll detain him. If not, you'll say, 'Sorry to disturb you. Have a nice evening.'

“So you've just humiliated this man in front of his entire family and terrorized his entire family and you've destroyed his home. And then you go right next door and you do the same thing in a hundred homes.”

Sgt. John Bruhns

“In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit,” said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. “Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead.”

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

**“One Day I Will Put On An Explosive
Belt Under My Clothes And Then
Blow Myself Up Among The
Americans”**

**“I Will Get Revenge Against Them For
My Husband And Sons And I Will Go To
Paradise”**

13 March 2008 By Patrick Cockburn in Baghdad, Independent.co.uk [Excerpts]

Um Saad, a middle-aged woman living in the Sunni district of Khadra in west Baghdad, blames the Americans for the death of her husband and two of her sons and threatens revenge.

“They are monsters and devils wearing human clothes,” she exclaims vehemently. “One day I will put on an explosive belt under my clothes and then blow myself up among the Americans. I will get revenge against them for my husband and sons and I will go to paradise.”

Just as the White House and the Pentagon were trumpeting the success of “the surge” – the dispatch of extra American troops to Iraq last year – and the wire services’ claim that the country has enjoyed “months of relative calm”, Um Saad saw Saif, her second son, shot dead as he opened the door of her house.

The misery of people like Um Saad is the cumulative result of years of war. Dressed in dark robes, sitting in the bare sitting room of her modest house in al-Khadra, this 49-year-old woman tells how her family was slowly destroyed. “I am not educated and I only went to primary school,” she says. “I married an air force pilot called Latif and we had three sons and one daughter.”

Latif was stationed at Bakr airforce base at Balad, north of Baghdad, during the 1990-91 Gulf War and was killed in an American bombing attack. “I didn’t get support from our uncles and aunts so we lived on his pension and we sold a car, a Chevrolet Malibu, he had been given by the government because he was a pilot,” says Um Saad.

Her eldest son, Saad, wanted to enter the military academy just like his father. Um Saad said she did not want to lose him and instead he went to the police academy and had graduated as a police lieutenant when Saddam Hussein was overthrown in April 2003. She wanted him to resign. “After the fall of Iraq the police were the second target after the Americans.”

Saad equivocated over resigning since he held the Americans responsible for killing his father, but the family needed his salary. He finally decided to leave the police, but before he could do so, on 25 October 2003, his police station at Khadra was hit by a large car bomb.

He was uninjured by the blast but, as he ran with his pistol drawn to help a friend, American soldiers at the scene thought he was attacking them.

“They shot him dead with six bullets in the head and many more in the body,” says his mother.

Um Saad says it was at this point she began to hate the Americans: “I do not look on them as human beings.”

As U.S. Government Throws Away Endless Billions [And Lives] On Iraq War, Iraqi Local Collaborators Rack Up Billions In Oil Profits; Money “Wasted Or Pocketed By Corrupt Officials”

March 11, 2008 By ANNE FLAHERTY, Associated Press [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — Iraq isn't spending much of its own money, despite soaring oil revenues that are pushing the country toward a massive budget surplus, auditors told Congress today.

The expected surplus comes as the U.S. continues to invest billions of dollars in rebuilding Iraq and faces a financial squeeze domestically because of record oil prices.

“The Iraqis have a budget surplus,” said U.S. Comptroller General David Walker. “We have a huge budget deficit. . . . One of the questions is who should be paying.”

Whereas Iraqi officials estimated \$35 billion in oil revenues last fall, Bowen said the final number is likely to be closer to \$60 billion.

But according to other auditors and military commanders, a major problem is that Iraq does not have the capacity to allocate the money without it being wasted or pocketed by corrupt officials.

The Government Accountability Office estimates that the U.S. has designated \$6 billion to rebuild Iraq's energy sector and \$300 million to develop Iraq's government ministries. But GAO contends that the U.S. doesn't have a strategic plan on how to accomplish either goal.

British Field Army Commander Says “Winning Hearts And Minds” Of Occupied Is Stupid, Silly Bullshit:

“Just Being In Iraq Presents To A Proud And Ancient Civilisation Abject Humiliation, Visible Shame”

Among the locals were “some who need us, albeit for a short time, others that will accommodate us, albeit for a short time, and others that will hate us simply for all time”.

12th March 2008 By MATTHEW HICKLEY, Daily Mail [UK]

The goal of “winning hearts and minds” among local people in Iraq and Afghanistan is unrealistic and “almost ridiculous”, a senior British Army commander said last night.

In a stark assessment - which appears to contradict directly the mantra of the armed forces and politicians - former SAS officer Lieutenant General Graeme Lamb said it was dangerous for Western nations to imagine that they could earn the lasting affection of locals in Muslim countries which they occupy.

“The image of winning a heart or a mind is almost ridiculous,” he told an international security conference in Stockholm.

Lt Gen Lamb is a hugely-respected officer of 35 years experience - renowned for his straight-talking - who has twice led UK forces in Iraq and is now commander of Britain's field army.

His latest blunt remarks - on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Iraq invasion - will be widely seen as a reality check for politicians inclined to give overly optimistic assessments of the effects British operations are having in either Iraq and Afghanistan.

Among the locals were “some who need us, albeit for a short time, others that will accommodate us, albeit for a short time, and others that will hate us simply for all time”.

He added: “I would contend that the (U.S.-led) coalition just being in Iraq presents to a proud and ancient civilisation abject humiliation, visible shame.

“Every day and in every way we outsiders are seen to be interfering in their affairs - albeit with the best possible interests, and making a difference - but nevertheless foreigners to their culture, their faith, their way of life.”

U.S. Occupation Military Dictators Won't Allow U.N. Inspector To See If They Torture Prisoners; Brits And Even Iraqi Government Agree He Can Have Unrestricted Access; U.S. Officials "Say That American-Run Prisons Not Subject To International Human Rights Law"

March 12, 2008 (CBS/AP)

The U.N. torture investigator said Tuesday that American officials are refusing him access to U.S.-run detention facilities in Iraq even though he has received credible reports that conditions there have improved.

Manfred Nowak, one of the global body's independent human rights experts, said Iraqi officials had agreed in principle that he can visit the country later this year. British officials have also agreed to let him visit detainees held by their forces, he said.

But he was told by U.S. officials that American-run prisons in Iraq were not subject to international human rights law because of the ongoing armed conflict in the country, and as such were outside of his remit as a torture investigator.

Nowak wants unrestricted access to detainees, including the right to interview them in private.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT 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/)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Bush Reveals Tap Water As Prescription Drug Plan; Hopes Doped Water Will Be His Legacy, President Says

March 10, 2008 The Borowitz Report

On a day when millions Americans were reeling from the news that there were trace amounts of prescription drugs in their drinking water, President George W. Bush made a stunning announcement at the White House.

"I am responsible for this," Mr. Bush told reporters. "This is my idea of a prescription drug plan."

Standing before a banner reading "Prescription Accomplished," the president said that he hoped providing Americans with free medications via their tap water would prove to be "the finest legacy" of his Administration.

Mr. Bush indicated that America's drug-laced waters could boost tourism in the U.S., adding that English rocker Pete Doherty was "getting on the next plane over here."

Across the country, the announcement that President Bush had doped America's drinking water with dozens of prescription medications drew a variety of reactions.

Responding to the news that she had been imbibing anti-anxiety drugs in her water, New York resident Carol Foyler said, "I'm not worried about it, but come to think of it, I'm not worried about anything anymore."

But Atlanta's Tracy Klujian said that he believes all drinking water in the U.S. should come with a warning label indicating possible side effects.

"I had a glass of water yesterday and I had an erection lasting more than four hours," he said.

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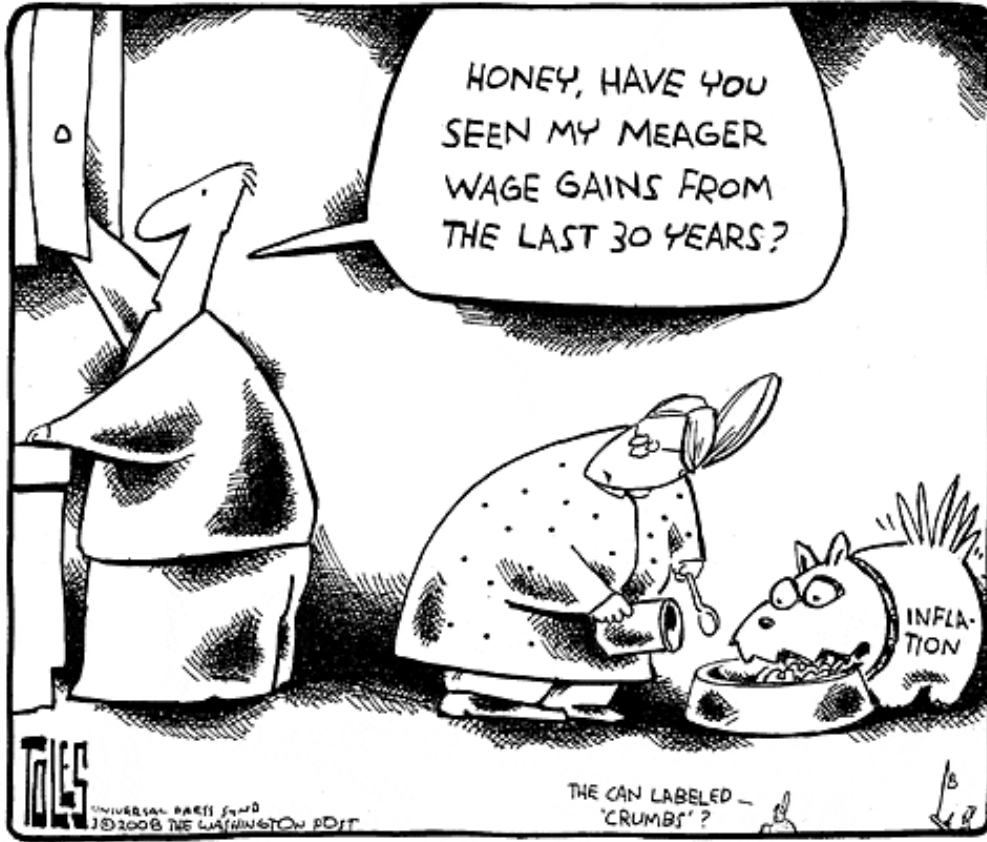
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