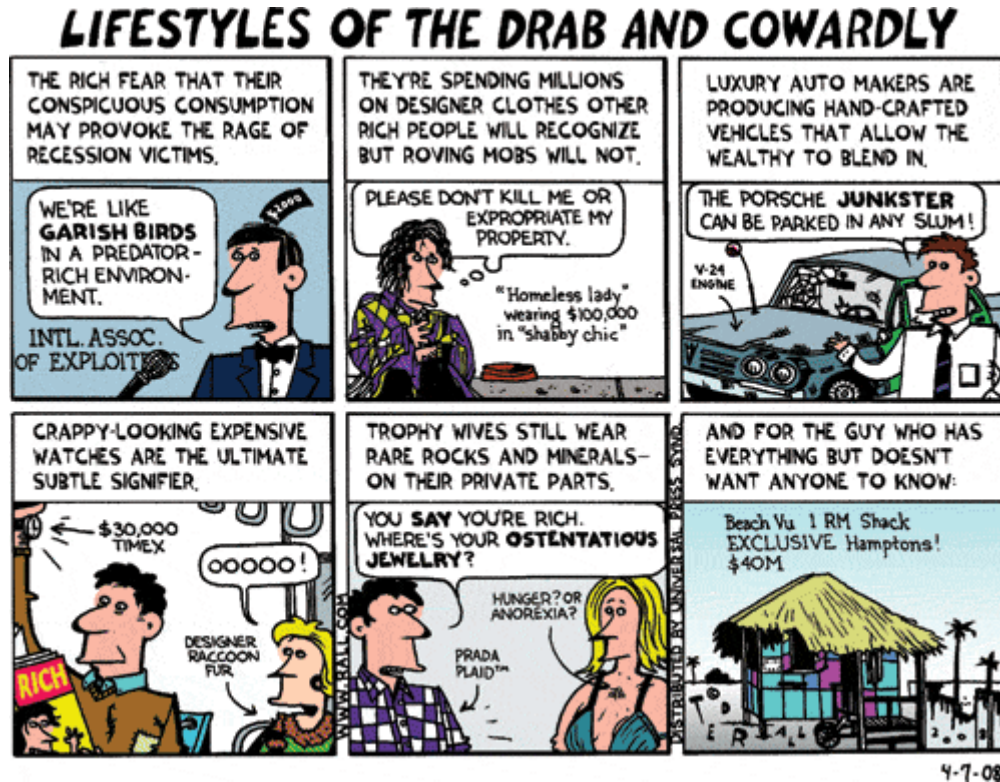


GI SPECIAL 6E6:



**Killing Iraqis In Order To
Save Them:
1000 Civilians Dead In
Occupation Offensive Against
Baghdad Resistance;
“Around 60% Of Them Are Women
And Children”**

6 May 2008 By Clive Myrie, BBC News, Baghdad & AP & May 9 (AFP)

It is increasingly hard for Iraqi aid workers to help tens of thousands of people caught up in fighting in Baghdad, according to Unicef.

The Sadr City area of the capital has seen the worst clashes between government forces and Shia militia.

The Iraqi government says almost 1,000 people have died in recent fighting.

Most of those have been civilians, and aid agencies say around 60% of them are women and children.

The battles started in late March after the Iraqi government opened a crackdown on militias and armed gangs in the southern city of Basra, including some groups Washington says have links to Iran.

Battles between fighters and US forces in Baghdad's militia stronghold of Sadr City killed 15 people and wounded dozens more overnight, US and Iraqi officials said on Friday.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Virginia SSG Killed In Baghdad



Virginia Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jeremiah McNeal, 23, of Norfolk, Va., was killed April 6 in Baghdad by an explosive. He was a 2002 high school graduate and was assigned to West Point, Va. (AP Photo/ Virginia Army National Guard)

Texas Soldier Killed In Baghdad



U.S. Army Cpl. Steven I. Candelo, 20, of Houston, 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany, died March 26, in Baghdad, when his vehicle was struck by a rocket propelled grenade. (AP Photo/ Houston Chronicle via Candelo Family)

Idaho Soldier Killed In Baghdad



U.S. Army Sgt. Michael T. Lilly, 23, of Boise, Idaho, was killed April 7 by an explosive in Baghdad. Lilly was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, based in Vilseck, Germany. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

U.S. Soldier Killed In Mosul

May 7, 2008 Associated Press

In the northern city of Mosul, one U.S. soldier was killed in an attack by insurgents on an American patrol, the military said.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Anbar

May 7, 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080507-11

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Multi-National Force – West Soldier was killed in action against an enemy force while on patrol in Anbar Province May 6.

Bay City Soldier Killed In Rocket Attack On Base



April 30, 2008 By ERIC HANSON, Houston Chronicle

Funeral services are pending for a Bay City soldier killed when his base was attacked earlier this week in Iraq.

U.S. Army Spc. David P. McCormick, 26, died Monday in Baghdad from wounds sustained when his forward operating base came under rocket attack, according the Department of Defense.

He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

The Army statement said McCormick was from Fresno in Fort Bend County.

His mother, June McCormick, said he was living in Fresno when he enlisted in the Army and that his hometown is Bay City in Matagorda County.

The soldier's minister, the Rev. Mike Zimmerman of the First Baptist Church in Bay City, said McCormick is the first soldier from Matagorda County to die in the war in Iraq.

Zimmerman said McCormick grew up in Bay City, graduated from high school there and enlisted in the Army almost four years ago.

"He and his brother joined the Army together," Zimmerman said.

McCormick's brother, Will McCormick, is in San Diego and was on his way to Texas on Wednesday for the funeral.

Zimmerman said McCormick was just in Bay City a few weeks ago and he saw him in church on April 6.

"He was a pretty quiet person," Zimmerman said. "He was looking forward to getting out and wanted to go to college for business administration."

Zimmerman said family members expect to hear from Army officials soon and will make funeral arrangements.

Former CHS Student Shaun Whitehead Killed Thursday By Roadside Bomb

Apr 30, 2008 Main Street News

The war in Iraq claimed its first Jackson County resident last week when Sgt. Shaun J. Whitehead of Commerce was killed by a roadside bomb.

According to the Army, Whitehead, 24, was on foot patrol in Iskandariyah Thursday when an improvised explosive device exploded. He was an infantryman assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

He is survived by his widow, Janie Moore Whitehead, son Gabriel "Gabe" Whitehead, 7, and daughter Janna Moore, 12, all of Fort Campbell, KY; his mother, Rebecca Whitehead, Maysville; a sister, Amber Whitehead; and his grandfather, Coy O'Shield, Maysville.

Assistant superintendent of schools Dr. Joy Tolbert remembers Whitehead as quiet, polite and respectful.

"He transferred from Gwinnett County to our middle school and continued here until tenth grade," she said. "He was a very reserved young man who sort of kept to himself."

He was very likeable and had a lot of friends and had good relationships with his teachers. He was not very outspoken, but when he did speak, he was very respectful with his remarks.”

One of his best friends was Michael Collins, a CHS standout in football and basketball who, after playing football at Clemson University, is a deputy sheriff in South Carolina.

“We basically had everything in common,” Collins recalled in a telephone interview. “We both enjoyed video games, a big bowl of cereal in the morning, even our handwriting was the same. We both enjoyed weapons and knives and playing ninja and stuff. I spent a lot of time at his house with his mom and sister.”

Ironically, the first encounter between the two was not pleasant. They were playing basketball in sixth grade.

“It started with us almost getting into a fight,” Collins said. “I went for a rebound and he undercut me. It’s like two enemies became best friends,” he laughed.

Like Collins, Whitehead played football, but he injured a knee on his first carry in the ninth grade. He left CHS in the tenth grade, but he and Collins remained friends.

“We spent most of the time at his house after we met,” said Collins. “I lived with him a little bit.”

They remained friends after Collins went to college and Whitehead got his GED and joined the Army. Collins visited Whitehead in Kentucky a couple of times.

Collins learned of Whitehead’s death last Thursday when a mutual friend called.

“I just knew by the sound of his voice something was wrong,” he said.

Whitehead joined the Army in 2003. He was due to return to the U.S. at the end of May.

His awards include the Army Commendation Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Iraqi Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon and Combat Infantry Badge. He was qualified as “expert” with the M4.

Commerce Police Chief John Gaisert ordered the flags at the J. Nolan Spear Jr. Public Safety Complex flown at half-mast in honor of Whitehead.

Fountain Soldier Killed In Iraq

May 2, 2008 By TOM ROEDER, THE GAZETTE

A 21-year-old soldier from Fountain died in a Baghdad bombing, the Army announced Friday.

Spc. Ronald J. Tucker was on patrol with his unit from Fort Hood, Texas, on Wednesday when the vehicle he was riding in was hit by a roadside bomb.

Another soldier in the vehicle, Capt. Andrew R. Pearson, 32, of Billings, Mont., also died in the bombing, the Army said.

Both men were assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, which started operations in Iraq last month.

Tucker, a 2005 graduate of Fountain-Fort Carson High School, joined the Army in 2005 and was trained to be a mortarman. He was assigned to Fort Hood in August 2006 and went to the Middle East this year.

“Ronnie had a passion to be successful,” said Fountain-Fort Carson dean of students Mitch Johnson, who had known Tucker since he was a first-grader. “He was a hard-working student.”

Johnson said Tucker was the kind of kid most school administrators don’t notice, because he worked so hard and kept his nose clean.

But Ronnie stood out for the right reasons, including his sense of humor.

“If there was a good practical joke to be played, you could count on Ronnie having that grin on his face,” Johnson said.

Johnson said it was no surprise that Tucker joined the Army after high school.

“He was a young man who had been around the military influence here the whole time he was in school.”

Tucker is the third Fountain-Fort Carson graduate to die in Iraq.

Johnson said Tucker, the 58th Colorado native killed in the Iraq war, is survived by his mother and two sisters.

Tucker’s death came as fighting raged in Baghdad between Shiite militiamen loyal to cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and Army forces. This week, Fort Carson’s 3rd Brigade Combat team suffered six wounded soldiers during a four-hour firefight in Baghdad’s Shiite slum, Sadr City.

Czech Soldier “Hit By Shrapnels From A Rocket That Fell Down” In Basra

08.05.2008 Ceskenoviny

Basra/Prague- A Czech soldier suffered light wounds in a rocket attack in Basra, Iraq, today, Czech military staff said.

The soldier's arm was hit by shrapnel from a rocket that fell down near the entrance to the international military base at the Basra airport, guarded by the Czechs.

He was operated on in the British field hospital. His life is not endangered.

The soldier will be transferred to the Czech Republic as soon as possible.

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE
REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK
LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT A PACK
OF TRAITORS IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE
That is not a good enough reason.**



US soldiers from 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment in Diyala province, March 20, 2008.
(AFP/File/David Furst)

British Soldier Wounded As 12 Missiles Hit Basra Base

08/05/2008 Telegraph Media Group Limited 2008

A British soldier has been injured and two foreign civilian workers killed in a rocket attack on the UK base at Basra Airport.

At least 12 missiles - believed to be home made - were fired at the base in the southern Iraqi city about 2.15pm today.

Major Tom Holloway, the British military spokesman in Iraq, said: "I can confirm that at about 14.15 hours local time the Contingency Operating Base was subjected to an indirect fire attack.

"The attack has resulted in a number of casualties but we will not provide any further details on them at this time."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed In Khost; Two More Wounded

May 7, 2008 (Reuters)

An explosion killed two U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan's southeastern province of Khost on Wednesday, the force said.

Two more soldiers were wounded in the explosion which happened during a routine patrol, it said in a statement.

American troops form the bulk of the NATO-led force in Khost which lies near the border with Pakistan.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Paktia; Nationality Not Announced

May 9 (AFP)

A soldier with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force was killed in the eastern province of Paktia, which borders Pakistan, the force said, giving no details of the incident.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Kapisa; Nationality Not Announced

May 9 (AFP)

A trooper with the US-led coalition was killed in Kapisa, adjoining Kabul, when a bomb struck a military vehicle, the US military said.

This Is Not A Satire:
**General Says When His Soldier Is
Killed, That's Progress;
Says Area Where Soldier "Was Killed On
Foot Patrol Was An Area Canadians
Couldn't Enter A Year Ago"**

[Would it be going too far to speculate that the reason Canadian soldiers couldn't go there a year ago is because they would be killed?]

May 07, 2008 Murray Brewster, THE CANADIAN PRESS

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The next commander of Canadian troops in Afghanistan hit the ground in Kandahar Wednesday and says he believes the mission will take on a different flavour during his nine month tour.

Brig.-Gen. Dennis Thompson says evolving conditions in the war-torn region mean there will be more of an emphasis on the civilian side of development and reconstruction.

Thompson arrived at Kandahar Airfield one day after the latest soldier was killed in a shootout with the Taliban.

Cpl. Michael Starker, a reservist and medic, was killed while on patrol with his Civil-Military Co-operation unit, which reaches out to local Afghan villages and serves as a bridge with the community.

Despite the killing, Laroche said yesterday that Kandahar province is safer than when he took over almost 10 months ago.

He said the area where Starker was killed on foot patrol was an area Canadians couldn't enter a year ago.

3,000 Afghans Meet To Condemn U.S. Occupation Terrorism: “People Are Forced To Abandon Their Villages Under The Shells And Mortars Of U.S. Forces And Their Allies Who Are Killing People First And Asking Questions Later” “They (Foreign Forces) Break Through Our Doors While Our Women Are Sleeping”

May 8 (AFP)

About 3,000 Afghan politicians and intellectuals criticised Thursday the international military campaign against Islamic militants in Afghanistan and called for dialogue to ending the fighting.

The meeting of mainly Pashtuns, the country's largest ethnic group, launched a new body that it said would work on "saving people captured in fighting" and assist "those involved in conflict to stop fighting."

"Today our elders, children and women are captured and jailed," civil society activist Daud Mirakai, one of the founders of the new National Peace Jirga of Afghanistan, told the crowd.

"Today, they (foreign forces) break through our doors while our women are sleeping," he continued, raising a highly emotive issue among Pashtuns that prompted shouts of "Allahu akbar" (God is greater).

Mirakai said international forces claimed to have brought peace and democracy to Afghanistan but this was not true.

Instead "people are forced to abandon their villages under the shells and mortars of US forces and their allies who are killing people first and asking questions later," he said.

"Peace in Afghanistan is impossible when Pashtuns are targeted from the air and ground on a daily basis," he added, referring to military operations.

U.S. Officer Says Better Weather Allows His Troops “Some More Movement”

“Yes, there’s more fighting right now than there was last month, but that’s just the way the context works in east Afghanistan.

“The better weather allows the anti-Afghan fighters some more movement.”

[Colonel Pete Johnson, Commander of U.S. forces in southeast Afghanistan: quoted by Reuters, May 9, 2008]

Resistance Action

May 7, 2008 (Xinhua) & By RAHIM FAIEZ The Bakersfield Californian & May 9 (AFP)

In the eastern city of Jalalabad, police and a government official said on condition of anonymity that gunmen had stormed the house of prominent parliamentarian Hazrat Ali late Thursday and killed his father. US-backed Ali, one of the strongest power brokers in eastern Afghanistan, was involved the 2001 US-led assault that drove the Taliban from power.

In Khost a roadside bombing Wednesday morning killed a local senior police officer and his nephew. The attack on the police car occurred just outside the capital of Khost province as the officers traveled from their homes to work, said Wazir Pacha, a spokesman for the provincial police chief. The powerful explosion destroyed the vehicle, Pacha said.

Taliban fighters attacked security forces on Friday about 150 kilometres (90 miles) from Kabul, on the main road linking the capital with the key southern city of Kandahar, police said. Two private security guards were killed, Ghazni province police chief Khan Mohammad Mujahed told AFP. A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahed, said one of his group’s men also died.

TROOP NEWS

Stupid, Silly Lies About Iranian Weapons In Iraq Collapse;

“Neither The United States Nor Iraq Has Displayed Any Of The Alleged Arms To The Public Or Press, And Lately It Is Looking Less Likely They Will”



A Mahdi army fighter prepares to launch a mortar in Basra, March 2008. U.S. government sources are unable to back up claims insurgent arms come from Iran with any evidence. (AFP/File/Essam al-Sudani)

May 8, 2008 By Tina Susman, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer [Excerpt]

After an Iraqi parliament delegation visited Iran last week to discuss the evidence, it returned saying only that a committee was needed to further investigate the claims.

Neither Iraq nor the U.S. has displayed any of the alleged Iranian-made weapons.

There was something interesting missing from Maj. Gen. Kevin Bergner's introductory remarks to journalists at his regular news briefing in Baghdad on Wednesday: the word "Iran," or any form of it.

It was especially striking as Bergner, the U.S. military spokesman here, announced the extraordinary list of weapons and munitions that have been uncovered in recent weeks since fighting erupted between Iraqi and U.S. security forces and Shiite militiamen.

Among other things, Bergner cited 20,000 “items of ammunition, explosives and weapons” reported by Iraqi forces in the central city of Karbala; an additional Karbala cache containing 570 explosive devices, nine mortars, four anti-aircraft missiles, and 45 RPGs; and in the southern city of Basra alone, 39 mortar tubes, 1,800 mortars and artillery rounds, 600 rockets, and 387 roadside bombs.

Not once did Bergner point the finger at Iran for any of these weapons and munitions, which is a striking change from just a couple of weeks ago when U.S. military officials here and at the Pentagon were saying that caches found in Basra in particular had revealed Iranian-made arms manufactured as recently as this year. They say the majority of rockets being fired at U.S. bases, including Baghdad’s Green Zone, are launched by militiamen receiving training, arms and other aid from Iran.

Iraqi officials also have accused Iran of meddling in violence and had echoed the U.S. accusations of new Iranian-made arms being found in Basra.

But neither the United States nor Iraq has displayed any of the alleged arms to the public or press, and lately it is looking less likely they will.

U.S. military officials said it was up to the Iraqis to show the items; Iraqi officials lately have backed off the accusations against Iran.

A plan to show some alleged Iranian-supplied explosives to journalists last week in Karbala and then destroy them was canceled after the United States realized none of them was from Iran.

A U.S. military spokesman attributed the confusion to a misunderstanding that emerged after an Iraqi Army general in Karbala erroneously reported the items were of Iranian origin.

When U.S. explosives experts went to investigate, they discovered they were not Iranian after all.

**“Many NCOs Are Elitists Who Aren’t
Willing To Do What They Ask Their
Men To Do”**

**“More Concerned With Soldiers Having
Their Hands In Their Pockets Or Not
Tucking In Their PT Shirts”**

Letters To The Editor
Army Times

May 12, 2008

I'm one of the fortunate few given the chance to serve the Army late in life, due to the recent increase of the enlistment age.

However, because of my life experience outside the military, I can see things that are wrong with the Army that career soldiers and young kids entering the military can't. They're problems that the Army didn't have in its earlier history.

In particular, you have noncommissioned officers who are more concerned with soldiers having their hands in their pockets or not tucking in their PT shirts or wearing their patrol caps, instead of concerning themselves with the soldiers' welfare.

The same soldiers committing these "unthinkable" infractions have pay issues or lack the necessary equipment to do their jobs, just to name a few more important concerns.

Additionally, many NCOs are elitists who aren't willing to do what they ask their men to do.

I don't know what they learned in the warrior leadership course, but it wasn't leadership.

During the Civil War, you had soldiers wearing varied uniforms, including Gen. George Custer — who designed his own that resembled a Navy uniform — and you can spot many a soldier with his hand in his pocket or without a hat in those old field photos, yet the Army still managed to preserve the Union and free the slaves. And I can bet that those NCOs led by example.

NCOs need to focus on the important issues in fighting this war on terrorism and lead by example to keep the Army the greatest army in the world.

Pfc. Richard Robinson
Jalalabad, Afghanistan

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. Phone: 917.677.8057

“To Commemorate The Soldiers Lost To Iraqnam”



From: SSG N (ret'd)
To: GI Special
Sent: May 07, 2008
Subject: pix

Just got GI Spec 6E5 and admired the wall pix by Phillip Griffiths, so thought I'd send this along. It took awhile to get the pix I took using my WW II vet buddy's digital, due to techno stuff.

The photos were taken March 19th, 2008, in front of the courthouse, a public free speech zone.

Pictured is The Names Board, created to commemorate the soldiers lost to Iraqnam. Each panel is 2 X 3 feet, with four columns. There are now 15 panels.

Included are GI's who died in country ("official" deaths) and those names we could find who made it out before succumbing, in military hospitals, or as civilians.

Greetings From Guantanamo Bay ... And The Sickest Souvenir Shop In The World



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

4th May 2008 By ANGELA LEVIN, Associated Newspapers Ltd

The sands are white, the sea laps gently and crowds of bronzed Americans laze in the Caribbean sunshine.

They have a cinema, a golf course and, naturally, a gift shop stocked with mugs, jaunty T-shirts and racks of postcards showing perfect sunsets and bright green iguanas.

Only the barbed wire decoration, a recurring motif, hints at anything wrong.

Welcome to “Taliban Towers” at Guantanamo Bay, the most ghoulishly distasteful tourist destination on the planet.

As these astonishing mementoes show, the US authorities are promoting the world’s most notorious prison camp as a cheap hideaway for American sunseekers – a revelation that has drawn international anger and condemnation.

Just yards from the shelves of specially branded mugs and cuddly toys, nearly 300 “enemy combatants” lie sweltering in a waking nightmare.

It is six years since foreign prisoners, many captured in Afghanistan, were first taken to this US-occupied corner of Cuba.

Yet even now, no charges have been brought against them.

While the detainees lie incarcerated, visitors can windsurf, take boat trips and go fishing for grouper, tuna, red snapper and swordfish.

The United States’ 1.5 million service personnel and Guantanamo’s 3,000 construction workers are eligible to visit the “resort”, which boasts a McDonald’s, KFC and a bowling alley.

They even have a Wal-Mart supermarket.

The vacation comes at a knock-down price: just \$42 (£20) per night for a suite of air-conditioned rooms, including a kitchen, bathroom, living room and bedrooms.

But it is the souvenirs that have led to the greatest criticism. One T-shirt from the gift shop is decorated with a guard tower and barbed wire. It reads: “The Taliban Towers at Guantanamo Bay, the Caribbean’s Newest 5-star Resort.”

Another praises “the proud protectors of freedom”. A third displays a garish picture of an iguana and states: “Greetings from paradise GTMO resort and spa fun in the Cuban sun.”

A child-sized shirt says: “Someone who loves me got me this T-shirt in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.”

There are mugs inscribed with “kisses from Guantanamo” and “Honor Bound To Defend Freedom”.

The Guantanamo holiday trade was exposed by Zachary Katznelson, a British-based human rights lawyer and spokesman for Reprieve, the group leading the international campaign against the camp.

“When I see the conditions the prisoners have to cope with and then think of the T-shirt slogans, I am appalled,” he said. “To say I am repulsed is an understatement.

Unbelievable as it may seem, the US authorities are proud of the 'souvenirs' and what they are doing."

Mr Katznelson represents 28 of the detainees and makes regular visits to the prison.

"The military keeps a tight hold on everything that is available in Guantanamo Bay and someone senior has given their approval for this disgusting nonsense," he said.

"Pretending that Guantanamo Bay is essentially a resort in the Caribbean is grossly offensive and the idea of relaxing in the sun while close by many individuals are robbed of their rights, tortured and abused is both repugnant and ridiculous."

His anger is shared by other human rights campaigners. Shami Chakrabarti, director of Liberty, said Guantanamo represents a shameful chapter in American history.

Amnesty International said: "These supposedly 'fun' souvenirs are in grotesquely bad taste and the fact that they are on sale at the camp quite frankly beggars belief."

There are currently 280 prisoners sweltering in cages in temperatures of up to 100F (38C). The camp, where 7,000 soldiers are stationed, was established in 2002 following the invasion of Afghanistan.

"The majority are kept in isolation in cells that are no bigger than a toilet," said Katznelson. "There is no sea view. Instead, if they have a window, it looks out on to a bleak corridor. The cells are lined with steel from floor to ceiling, including the toilet, sink and bed base.

"There is a popular misconception that these men have had trials and been found guilty. Nothing is further from the truth. Not one of them has.

"The tortures that the Americans use are wide-ranging and inhuman. One is to blast the cell with freezing cold air. Another is to pretend to take the prisoners to a country like Egypt where prisoners are tortured, even to the extent of taking them on a mock flight, so they can be treated in a barbaric fashion."

Katznelson continued: "Inmates are offered three meals a day, but there are eight prisoners who have been on hunger strike for over a year asking either for a trial or to be set free.

"These men are force-fed twice a day. First they are strapped down with 16 different restrictions, including one that jerks their head back. Then a tube is fed through their nose and down into their stomach.

"The guards don't always use lubrication and regularly use the same tube for several different prisoners without bothering to clean it."

Guantanamo Bay has been rented as a military base from Cuba since 1903 for an unchanged \$4,499 a year.

"As it is outside American territory the US Constitution doesn't apply," said Katznelson.

This may soon change as the US Supreme Court is about to reach a verdict on whether the Guantanamo Bay area is de facto American soil.

If so, the US Constitution does apply and the men will have the right to a fair and speedy trial.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action



Patrick Howse, the BBC bureau chief in Baghdad, holds the remains of a rocket that landed on the roof of the BBC headquarters in Baghdad May 9, 2008. (Thaier al-Sudani/Reuters)

May 7 (Reuters) & DPA & Selcan Hacaoglu, Associated Press & May. 8, 2008 The Associated Press & Reuters

Three policemen were wounded when militants fired rifles and rocket propelled grenades at a police station near the town of Balad, 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad, then set fire to it, police said.

Four Iraqi soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb hit their convoy in southwest Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A rocket hit the BBC office in Baghdad, but no one was wounded in the attack, the British broadcaster said.

Gunmen shot dead three U.S.-paid neighbourhood patrol members near their checkpoints in Baiji, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, the captain of the Baiji police force, Imad al-Qaisi, said.

Insurgents wearing police uniforms killed a police captain Wednesday after capturing him at a police station in Baghdad's Abu Dshir neighborhood, police said Thursday. His body was found near the station.

Four guards protecting an oil pipeline were seriously wounded when a bomb exploded at a power station in Mussayab, 60 km (40 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Police imposed a curfew on the town of al-Hay, 200 km (120 miles) south of Baghdad, after clashes with militiamen loyal to nationalist Moqtada al-Sadr during a raid on Sadr's office there, police said. Two people were wounded.

Insurgents shot dead an army officer as he left his house in al-Numaniya town, 120 km (70 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Four Iraqi army soldiers were killed in clashes with insurgents in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, a security source said Wednesday.

A rocket slammed into Baghdad's city hall Tuesday. An Iraqi police station was damaged by a rocket that failed to detonate, the U.S. military said.

GET THE MESSAGE?



Thousands of Iraqi citizens march to condemn the occupation and U.S. Air attacks killing civilians in Sadr City May 9, 2008. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

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

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

Manufacturing Obedience



Homeless Vietnam Veteran San Francisco, California 2003

From: Mike Hastie

To: GI Special
Sent: May 05, 2008
Subject: Manufacturing Obedience

Manufacturing Obedience

The greatest lie in American history was the Vietnam War.
The Iraq War is rapidly gaining ground.
Once you see the truth, you are reborn.
I did not serve in Vietnam with the U.S. Army,
I served in Vietnam with the R.C. Army,
The Ruling Class Army.
Thank God, I don't live in a gingerbread house anymore.
Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War.

Mike Hastie
R.C. Army
Vietnam 1970-71
May 5, 2008

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) 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. Phone: 917.677.8057

OCCUPATION REPORT

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

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



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. breaking into a house in Baghdad May 7, 2008. REUTERS/Oleg Popov

[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!**

The Other "Surge" --

**Iraqi Prisoners:
“In 2007, The Inmate Count Rose
70% -- From 14,500 To 24,700”
“Occupation Forces Are Holding Far
More Iraqis Than Ever Before”
“U.S. Forces Are Holding Nearly All Of
These Persons Indefinitely, Without An
Arrest Warrant, Without Charge, And
With No Opportunity For Those Held To
Defend Themselves In A Trial”**

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May 7, 2008 Ciara Gilmartin, Foreign Policy In Focus

Amid all the talk about the U.S. military “surge” in Iraq, little has been said about the accompanying “surge” of Iraqi prisoners, whose numbers rose to nearly 51,000 at the end of 2007.

Four years after the Abu Ghraib scandal, occupation forces are holding far more Iraqis than ever before and thousands more languish in horrendous Iraqi-run prisons.

The Detention Camps

Detainees are held by the U.S. command in two main locations -- Camp Bucca, a 100-acre prison camp and Camp Cropper, inside a massive U.S. base near the Baghdad airport.

The number of Iraqis held in these facilities has steadily risen since the early days of the occupation.

In 2007, the inmate count rose 70% -- from 14,500 to 24,700.

Camp Bucca, with about 20,000 inmates, is perhaps the world's largest extrajudicial internment camp. The facility is organized into "compounds" of 800 detainees each, surrounded by fences and watch towers.

Most detainees live in large communal tents, subject to collapse in the area's frequent sandstorms. Water has at times been in short supply, while temperatures in the desert conditions can be scorching hot in the day and bone-chilling at night.

In October 2007, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a contract to expand Camp Bucca's capacity from 20,000 to 30,000. While easing notorious crowding, the contract suggests Washington is preparing for even more detentions in the future.

Camp Cropper consists of more traditional cellblock buildings.

Among its roughly 4,000 inmates are hundreds of juveniles. Cropper is a site of ongoing interrogation and it holds many long-term detainees who complain that they never see the light of day.

Though recently expanded, the facility suffers from overcrowding, poor medical attention and miserable conditions.

Indefinite Detention

U.S. forces are holding nearly all of these persons indefinitely, without an arrest warrant, without charge, and with no opportunity for those held to defend themselves in a trial.

While the United States has put in place a formal review procedure that supposedly evaluates all detainees for release on a regular basis, detainees cannot attend these reviews, cannot confront evidence against them, and cannot be represented properly by an attorney.

Families are only irregularly notified of the detentions, and visits are rarely possible.

These conditions are in direct violation of international human rights law, though Washington claims that such legal constraints do not apply, because the United States considers its forces to be engaged in an "international armed conflict." The human rights community, however, firmly disagrees arguing that the conflict is not international in the traditional legal sense. Furthermore, international human rights law applies at all times, in war as well as in peace

The detention facilities are closed to human rights monitors like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, or the International Federation of Human Rights. Even the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq, mandated by the Security Council to provide human rights reporting, is denied access by the U.S. command.

Lack of such monitors greatly increases the likelihood that detainees will suffer from abuse and bad conditions, as human rights organizations have often pointed out.

Prisoners at Bucca have rioted to protest maltreatment, poor conditions and religious insults by guards. Most troubling, the military regularly confirms deaths of detainees in the facility, suggesting that excessive force is commonly used.

Iraqi Government Prisons

In addition to the U.S. detainees, the Government of Iraq is holding over 26,000 prisoners. Some of those held in Iraqi facilities have been convicted of crimes, but many others are being held in unlimited detention without charge.

Some have even been tried in court and, even having been found innocent, continue to be held indefinitely.

Many prisoners have been convicted in trials that do not measure up to minimal standards of legality. As the UN concludes in a recent report, "substantial improvement is required to prevent gross miscarriage of justice."

Recent UN reports have also said that the facilities are "severely overcrowded" and that they have "dire sanitation and hygiene conditions."

Further, there were said to be "continuing reports of widespread and routine torture and ill-treatment of detainees." Several women inmates, interviewed by UN researchers, reported being raped and sexually abused while held in police custody.

The U.S. command, with its enormous influence over the Iraqi detention system, has a large responsibility for these conditions.

Time To Speak Out

On February 13, 2008 the Iraqi Parliament passed an Amnesty Law that could apply to many thousands of detainees. The U.S. command has also recently announced a program of detainee releases.

But despite this public relations offense, detainee numbers have declined only slightly since a peak in November 2007. Given the history of previous announcements of detainee releases, little change is anticipated.

It is time for the public in the United States and around the world to face the sordid reality of post-surge Iraq and do something about it -- beginning with the release of all those illegally held in U.S. and Iraqi prisons.

Detention facilities should be opened to national and international observers. Clear accountability must be established for U.S. officers and contractors in charge of the prisons. The whole abusive system must be thoroughly overhauled or closed down.

U.S. military and civilian leaders are not the only ones complicit in the abuse and lack of due process of Iraqi detainees. All who stay silent in the face of the Iraq gulag allow it to continue.

Welcome To Liberated Iraq: “Iraqi Government Headed By Al Maliki Use The Same Policy Of Extinct Regime, The Policy Of Eliminating The Oppositions”

May 09, 2008 by Correspondent Jenan [Baghdad], washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/

Only 6 days after the occasion of World Press Freedom, Iraqi media witnessed a new violation against freedom of speech.

Yesterday Iraqi forces closed Al Ahad Radio Station an excuse of adopting provocative political speech.

I have many friends who listen to this radio as I do; I asked my friends if they notice any instigative tones in the programs or newscast of this radio the answers were negative - always. This radio was broadcasting religious programs and these kinds of programs that depend on the audience's participations in addition to newscasts.

Iraqi authorities closed the radio upon orders from Iraqi cabinet office because the current fight with Mahdi army. The order said that this radio provokes sectarianism and violence.

Journalistic freedom observator said it was a violation of freedom of speech because it wasn't implemented according to a court order; neither had the government given any warning. That if we take for granted they were using provoking speech.

Al Ahad Radio belongs to Sadr trend, the trend that is considered now as in opposition of the government. They are oppositions –may be this is the only fault.

Iraqi government headed by Al Maliki use the same policy of extinct regime, the policy of eliminating the oppositions.

I hope that our politicians in the current government remember that they were opposition one day and they wanted people to hear their voice.

Received:

Soldiers Reject “The Tyrant’s War Of Conquest”

4.17.08:

For: GI Special

From: Comrade Tribune [Vietnam Veteran]

In every new issue of the GI Special, brave US soldiers are saying for all the world to hear that they have no interest in the tyrant’s war of conquest; that for them, as for the oppressed masses in all imperialist countries the main enemy is at home.

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