

GI SPECIAL 6F17:

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

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



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

**“Soldiers Are In A
Position To Change
Things”**

**“They Can Put Their Hands On
The Gears Of War And Slow It
Down To A Screeching Halt”
“IVAW Members Still Remember
Their Oath To Defend The United
States From Enemies Both Foreign
And Domestic”**



On May 31st, over 600 people listened to Iraq War Veterans speak about what it is like to be a soldier in Bush's endless war.

Jun 05, 2008 Author: Laury Kenton, Photographs by Elliot Stoller; Seattle.indymedia.org [Excerpts]

**“The IVAW Demands The Immediate
Withdrawal Of The U.S. From The Middle
East, Reparations For Iraqis, And Full**

Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits For All Veterans”



Michael William

Michael William, Northwest Regional Coordinator of IVAW, opened the panel testimony by saying, “I have deep respect for all who have been touched by this illegal war of aggression. The veterans of the global war on terror carry many wounds and memories which are difficult to share.”

He told the audience that they would hear the painful personal experiences of soldiers as well as the tragic effects of institutional racism, sexism, and bigotry.

The IVAW demands the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. from the Middle East, reparations for Iraqis, and full Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits for all veterans.

Michael told the audience, “IVAW members still remember their oath to defend the United States from enemies both foreign and domestic.

“This struggle begins here, speaking to a public that was misled into an illegal, imperialist war under false pretenses.... This war was unjustly started ... [but] must justly end.”

“The American Strategy Of Raiding A House And Then Abducting Male Family Members Is Not A

Solution To The Insurgency, It Is The Cause Of Insurgency”



Jan Critchfield

Jan Critchfield joined the Washington National Guard straight out of high school, when he was 17.

In Iraq, he was a member of a journalism unit covering the 1st Cavalry Division. He reported on humanitarian aid missions.

He told the audience that the unspoken mission of his unit was to “counter the liberal media bias”, however, in reality, his unit just wrote propaganda.

Jan and his fellow soldiers didn’t write about the negative aspects of the war, and they didn’t do any fact checking. Jan said that he simply transcribed verbatim what high ranking officers told him.

His unit wrote feel-good stories for American readers. For example, he would write a story about a transformer station opening, but he wouldn’t write about how it was blown up two weeks later.

His unit also hired Iraqi journalists to produce articles for Iraqi papers that were sympathetic to the U.S. military occupation.

As a soldier, Jan was trained to be constantly on alert for threats. The nature of urban warfare made it difficult to discern who the enemy was. Over and over, he was put in situations where he “came close to murdering innocent people”.

Many of his comrades watched what he calls “war porn”. These soldiers had so dehumanized Iraqis that they would sit around and laugh while they watched videos of Iraqis being killed by coalition forces.

Jan said that the intelligence used for raids is inaccurate and, as a result, the raids are ineffective in stopping the insurgency.

He told the audience that the American strategy of raiding a house and then abducting male family members is not a solution to the insurgency, it is the cause of insurgency.

“We Were Pissed Off. We Were Angry. We Were Tired. We Just Wanted To Go Home.”



Sergio Kochergin

Sergio Kochergin was with the Marine Corps' 7th Regiment for 4 years. Like other vets, he heard his superiors demonize Iraqis. Once the Army announced that the U.S. might invade Iraq, anti-Iraqi propaganda began. “They start telling us that you have to be ready for little kids to shoot at you,” he said, “Be ready for women to fight you.... saying everything to make those people seem like they are animals and that they are lower than everyone else.”

Sergio described the gradual evaporation of the rules of engagement during his second deployment. He was a member of the Scouts Sniper Platoon so “pretty much what we did was go out in the town and search for people to shoot”.

At the beginning of his deployment, members of his unit had to get explicit permission to shoot. However, as his Platoon's casualties mounted, the rules of engagement became looser and looser until there were none. Under the initial rules of engagement, soldiers would see something unusual and report it. They would take photographs of what they saw and send them in for review.

“We were allowed to take our shots if anything was suspicious,” Sergio said, “And at that point of time, everything was suspicious....We were pissed off. We were angry. We were tired. We just wanted to go home.

“Later on, we had no rules of engagement at all. It was, go out there, and if you see something that is not right, take them out.”

Two months before he returned, translators told his unit that flyers were being posted around town, warning Iraqis to stay off the streets because unknown snipers were killing both insurgents and innocent civilians.

Sergio said, “When they told us about that, it didn’t even register....But now when I look back on it, it’s disgusting. It makes me sick just to think that I would have... I was so deep into it that I wouldn’t question what I was told to do....”

For Sergio, as with many vets, the return to normal life has been difficult. “...A lot of us come back and try to get some help. Psychologists lines are about a year and a half or two years long,” he said, “The only thing that they give you is medication. They give you sleeping pills -- that you use with alcohol and you pretty much abuse everything trying to keep yourself, keep your mind, off the things that you experienced.”

“I’m Done With The Army. I Did My Time. I Can’t Take Part In A War Like This.”



Josh Simpson

Josh Simpson joined the army at 18 in 2001. He served for 5 years. He was one of the many soldiers who joined for financial reasons. In Iraq, he was an Army Sergeant with a Tactical Human Intelligence Team.

Josh said that the intelligence in Iraq is very flawed. 95% of the people the Army arrests have little or nothing to do with the insurgency. However, the American raids continue, creating a constant state of fear for Iraqis.

Paid snitches provide the Army with unreliable tips and then innocent people are targeted as insurgents -- often because of the informant's greed or desire for revenge. Josh said he feels badly about participating in the raids his group conducted on civilians. Josh also feels remorse about participating in the interrogations.

"As an interrogator," he said, "We were told to physically go all out on the Iraqis." Josh had to interrogate a prisoner until the prisoner confessed.

There wasn't the option of returning to his command and telling them that the prisoner was not connected to the insurgency. Josh said, "The officers would tell me, 'Well, you're not being mean enough on them. You have to go down and put the screws to them.' "

If the Army wasn't able to make a prisoner confess, the prisoner might be turned over to the Iraqis for additional "interrogation" which really meant torture.

When prisoners were returned by the Iraqi interrogators, the prisoner would have always confessed to a long list of crimes. After the interrogation, the prisoner's entire body would be covered with scars and bruises. Josh said, "Not an ounce of flesh was unmarked."

Josh became a reservist after his tour of duty.

He was attending college at the Evergreen State College in Olympia when he was told that he would be switched to a unit in Texas so he could be deployed in Iraq for a second time.

He decided, "I'm done with the army. I did my time. I can't take part in a war like this."

"Soldiers Were Losing Their Minds "



Josh Farris

Josh Farris described how the unclear rules of engagement resulted in civilian deaths.

Without a clear mission, he said, soldiers were “loosing their minds, loosing discipline”.

Josh gave various examples of how soldiers humiliated and brutalized civilians out of confusion or boredom. This ranged from yelling at civilians because they didn't understand their language to exposing their genitals to children at a checkpoint to beating a man in front of his family.

As the war progressed, so did the dehumanization of Iraqis.

“At this checkpoint I was at, I saw several of the Iraqis come in, zipped up with those zip ties,” Josh said, “Their hands behind their backs, their feet tied up. Tied up like animals and thrown in the back up of humvees like a burlap sacks of potatoes.”

“Iraqi Patients Were Called ‘Range Balls’ Because Golfers Don’t Care About Loosing Range Balls”



Doug Connor

Doug Connor is from a military family. He volunteered to serve in Iraq even though he didn't support the war. He hoped that he might be able to help American and Iraqi patients because he had nursing skills and knew the Arabic language.

Arriving in Iraq with the 4th Combat Support Hospital, he found that the Army medical equipment to be substandard. As a result, there was insufficient medical care for people treated at the hospital.

95% of his patients were Iraqi civilians. They were only eligible for treatment if an American soldier had caused their injuries. The initial plan had been to provide treatment

to anyone with an American-caused "life or limb" injury. However, there were too many casualties to treat them all.

Before Doug arrived in Iraq, an NCO gave him some advice: "if it looks funny, kill it".

He thought that the NCO was just one isolated burnt-out soldier, but once he arrived in Iraq, he discovered that all the soldiers were burnt out. Doctors, nurses, and psychologists made medical decisions based upon race. There were three operating tables, and a strict racial hierarchy as to who would use them. It was Americans first, Kurds second, and then Arabs a distant third.

Iraqi patients were called "range balls" because golfers don't care about losing range balls.

"The People In Iraq Are Organized. They Are A Resistance Force. They Are Going To Continue Fighting And Resisting Us Until The Last Day That We Are There"



Chanan Suarez-Diaz

Chanan Suarez-Diaz was a Navy hospital corpsman while stationed in Iraq. He was with an unarmed company. Chanan went to Iraq believing it was his duty to save lives, Iraqi or American. He believes that he was able to accomplish that.

"You don't know how war is until you've been in a combat zone," Chanan said. During his service, he was awarded a Navy Commendation Medal and a Purple Heart.

Chanan said that racism was used to systematically dehumanize the enemy. "It makes it that much easier to kill somebody," Chanan said. Most American soldiers used the word

'hadji' as a racial epithet to describe Iraqis and other Middle Eastern looking people. While he was in Iraq, the word hadji was used constantly." It was hadji this and hadji that," he said. Most soldiers had no respect or understanding Iraqi culture.

Chanan told stories about how the constant bloodshed and violence made soldiers uncaring. He recalled a Marine bragging about shooting an unarmed man who had been doing his daily errands. This sort of thing happened every day.

Chanan told audience members that the Iraqi people are not accepting American occupation. "The people in Iraq are organized. They are a resistance force," he said, "They are going to continue fighting and resisting us until the last day that we are there."



Four and a half hours after Winter Soldier started, everyone poured into the street and marched downtown for a rally.

In his closing remarks, Seth Manzel said that there are three reasons that people should support GI war resisters:

- (1) Soldiers are in a position to change things -- they can put their hands on the gears of war and slow it down to a screeching halt**
- (2) Enlisted men and women and their families are natural allies of popular movements. Large numbers of military families depend upon WIC, food stamps and other forms of welfare. Health care is deplorable in the army, and when they get out, health care is even worse.
- (3) If the military decides to violate posse comitatus again and send armed soldiers to deal with protesters, they might be less likely to comply with their orders.**

The military sent soldiers armed with shotguns to the Port of Olympia, and one put down his weapon and walked away from his peers.

There can be a whole lot more of this sort of thing if protesters can convince soldiers that they are protesting in solidarity with them rather than as adversaries.



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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Ninewah IED Kills Three U.S. Soldiers

June 25, 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE
No. 20080625-02

TIKRIT, Iraq – Three Multi-National Division – North Soldiers and an interpreter were killed in an improvised explosive device attack in Ninewah Province at 10:45 p.m., June 24.

Two U.S. Soldiers & 3 U.S. Occupation Staff Killed By Sadr City Explosion, Another Soldier Wounded:

“U.S. Officials And Soldiers Had Arrived To Supervise The Process Of Elections”

[Could It Be That Iraqis Resent George Bush’s Military Dictatorship “Supervising” Their Local Elections? Duh.]

June 24, 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080624-01 & (Reuters) & CBS/AP & June 25 AP

BAGHDAD – Two US. Soldiers and three civilians serving with Coalition forces were killed after an explosion inside the District Advisory Council building in a southern neighborhood of Sadr City district at approximately 9:30 a.m. today, which caused large destruction in the building.

One U.S. soldier and three DAC members were also wounded in the attack.

One of the civilians worked for the U.S. State Department, and two for the Department of Defense.

The Defence Department employees were an American national and an Italian citizen of Iraqi origin, US embassy spokeswoman Mirembe Nantongo said.

The head of Sadr movement in eastern Baghdad, Sheikh Salman Fraiji, said the bombing was a “conspiracy of those council members who have been with the Americans since our representatives left the council. They want to blame the Sadrists.”

He said Sadr City, the impoverished district of some two million Shi’ites, used to be “stable and safe until the occupiers arrived two months ago.”

“They come daily to the council and with that have brought trouble to the area. I blame them for all that has happened.”

Tuesday's blast occurred in the office of the council's deputy chief as Americans and Iraqi officials were gathered nearby about half an hour before a meeting to elect a new chairman, said Hassan Karim, Sadr City's top administrator.

US officials and soldiers had arrived "to supervise the process of elections as the council was to elect some new members today," a council member said. **[Well, so much for that stupid, lying bullshit about "Iraqi sovereignty."]**

"We were to elect new members to replace some of our old colleagues from the movement of Moqtada al-Sadr who recently left the council," he said on condition of anonymity.

A police officer from Sadr City, who also asked not to be named, said the bomb "must have been planted yesterday (Monday) as the council building had been completely secured since the morning."

Karim said he was sitting in his office, which is located at the same building and about 50 yards from the targeted office, when the bomb exploded. He said he ran out of his office and found the corridors engulfed in smoke.

He couldn't confirm the number of casualties, saying that several employees and visitors were inside the building.

"I only saw three council members on the ground who were wounded before the Americans ordered us to stay in another office fearing another explosion could take place," Karim told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

The district council office is in a southern section of Sadr City that is largely controlled by U.S. and Iraqi troops following weeks of fighting in the area amid a government crackdown against the militias.

Deputy council chief Hassan Hussein Shammah, who was believed to be the attack's main target, was wounded in his leg.

"We were getting ready for the weekly meeting to discuss the services in the area. Suddenly a huge explosion took place," he told AP Television News from his hospital bed.

Baghdad IEDs Target Three U.S. Convoys; Casualties Not Reported

June 23, 2008 By Sahar Issa, McClatchy Newspapers

Baghdad

A roadside bomb targeted a US military convoy in Qahira, near the water reservoir at noon. No casualties were reported.

A roadside bomb targeted a US military convoy in Salahuddin Square, Kathimiyah neighbourhood at around noon. No casualties were reported.

A roadside bomb targeted a US military convoy in Adil neighbourhood at around 1 p.m. No casualties were reported.

British Mercenary Blown Up

23 June 2008 The Star

A FORMER South Yorkshire soldier working as a security guard in Iraq was killed in a roadside ambush despite being a passenger in “the best vehicle for the job”.

War veteran David Mathews, aged 28, from Barnsley, suffered horrific injuries.

Great Moments In U.S. Military History: Slaughter In Samra



Jun 25 AP Six members of a family including four children were killed early Wednesday when a U.S. jet destroyed their house in the village of Samra near Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad June 25, 2008. The U.S. air strike killed children aged between

four and 11, police spokesman Colonel Hatim Akram Thabit said. REUTERS/Sabah al-Bazee

AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS... **U.S. General Says Iraqi Collaborator Troops Unfit To Take Responsibility Anywhere In Iraq**

Jun 23 By Kristin Roberts, Reuters

Iraqi troops are not ready to take full responsibility for security and combat operations in any part of the country, said Lt. Gen. Lloyd Austin, the No. 2 U.S. military commander in Iraq.

“There are no areas that we would be willing to separate out right now to dedicate specifically to the Iraqi security forces,” Austin told reporters at the Pentagon.

**FUTILE EXERCISE:
ONLY 3 MILLION MORE HOUSES TO GO:
ALL HOME NOW!**



A U.S. army soldier from 12th Infantry Regiment searches a house in Baqouba, 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq. (AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

British Soldier From 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment Killed In Upper Sangin Valley

25 Jun 08 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that a British soldier from 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment has been killed in southern Afghanistan today, Tuesday 24 June 2008.

The soldier was killed this morning during a firefight in Helmand province. He was on a deliberate operation against the Taliban in the Upper Sangin Valley when he was fatally wounded.

Soldier From 4th Battalion The Parachute Regiment Killed In Upper Sangin Valley On 24 June

25 Jun 08 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of a British soldier from 4th Battalion The Parachute Regiment in Afghanistan yesterday, Tuesday 24 June 2008.

At approx 1500 hours the soldier, who was attached to 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, was dismounted from his vehicle checking for mines in the Upper Sangin Valley when he was killed by a suspected IED explosion. No one else was injured in the incident.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Khogyani, Three Wounded; Nationality Not Announced

June 24, 2008 ISAF

KABUL, Afghanistan — One ISAF soldier died from wounds today after an ISAF patrol hit a mine in Khogyani district, Nangarhar province. Three others were also wounded.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Helmand; Three More Wounded: Nationality Not Announced

June 25, 2008 (CNN)

A coalition service member was killed in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday morning.

The service member was hit by a roadside bomb in Helmand province during a foot patrol, authorities said.

Three other service members were wounded.

Kandahar Occupation Air Base Attacked & Burning; Casualties Not Announced

June 24, 2008 (CNN) & (AFP)

A rocket struck a NATO air base at Kandahar, the Taliban's traditional stronghold, Tuesday night, causing a fire that burned for more than an hour. There was no immediate report of casualties, said CNN Senior International Correspondent Nic Robertson, who was at the base when the rocket struck.

Soon after Tuesday's attack, at least three explosions and heavy machine-gun fire could be heard from the area where the rocket was launched.

**“They Should Leave This
Village”
“We Can't Even Walk Out Of Our
Houses Any More”**

Winning Hearts And Minds By Kicking Down Doors, Searching People In Their Vehicles, And Threatening To Kill A Man On A Motorcycle: [Counterinsurgency, U.S. Marine Corps Style]

June 25, 2008 by Ivan Watson, NPR [Excerpts]

It has been a month and a half since a force of some 1,500 U.S. Marines attacked the Taliban stronghold of Garmsir district in the Helmand province of southern Afghanistan.

After 30 days of nonstop fighting, the Marines succeeded in capturing the area, which also happens to be one of the biggest opium-producing regions in the country.

Now these American troops are trying to win the confidence of the locals, while also being on the lookout for suicide bombers and deadly roadside bombs.

On one late afternoon, a shot rings out from one of the guard posts protecting the Alpha Company's mud-walled compound in Garmsir.

It is a warning shot fired by the guard on duty, Lance Cpl. Clayton Blunt, aimed in the direction of an Afghan man on a passing motorcycle.

The Afghan man gets off his motorbike, hands in the air. A sergeant tells Blunt that the man needs to ride farther from the building when coming by on his bike. [Hey, right, whose fucking country does he think he's in? If he doesn't like it, he can go back where he came from, right?]

With the intense fighting over, Dynan's company of Marines is now scattered across the district. They are occupying crude mud-brick farmhouses, living side by side with Afghan villagers and, they believe, with enemy insurgents.

Asked if he thinks the Taliban are watching his men, Dynan points across the barbed wire that separates his camp from a nearby bazaar.

"I think there's some in the area," he says. "I think there's some actually in that cafe right over there watching us."

Despite the outreach on the part of the Marines, the locals have not exactly embraced their new American neighbors.

A group of Afghan men sits in the shade and watches as several Marines struggle to pull a Humvee out of a patch of deep sand.

“They should leave this village,” says Abdul Samad, a gray-bearded farmer.

“We can’t even walk out of our houses any more. If we step out the door,” he adds, “they shoot at us.”

In the span of a week, Garmsir’s police chief, Gule Khan, showed up just once for a brief meeting with 1st Lt. Micah Steinfeld.

“Our intel tells us that there are still a number of Taliban in the area,” Steinfeld says to Khan. “And we’re very excited to get you guys down here to start getting those guys out.”

Through a translator, Khan tells Steinfeld that he will not be able to assist the troops.

“For right now, I’m very busy,” he says. “I don’t have that much soldiers and stuff.”

For the moment, at least, the Marines appear to be on their own in Garmsir.

On foot patrol, Trepto’s platoon kicks open doors and searches empty houses.

The Marines also stop and search the passengers of passing vehicles.

Capt. Dynan, the commander of Alpha Company, says this is an essential element to a successful counterinsurgency campaign.

“We knew ahead of time that we would have to focus on the locals,” Dynan says. “We’re only as good as our interaction with the local populace.”

Rumsfeld Used To Call This A Sure Sign Of U.S. Military Success

June 24, 2008 (CNN)

The U.S. military commander in Afghanistan said Tuesday that attacks on U.S. and allied forces are up about 40 percent this year over last year.

“This number was not unexpected,” he continued, adding that the frequency of attacks has increased each year since 2002.

TROOP NEWS

The New Issue Of Traveling Soldier Is Out!

This issue features:

1. "This is bullshit and I'm calling you out Uncle Sam!"
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/6.08.hannah.php>
2. Iraq Veterans Against The War Report on Outreach To GIs:
"95-98% Were Very Receptive" writes Iraq vet Wendy Barranco
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/6.08.outreach.php>
3. "The only way to stop Vietnam was for we the lowly jarheads and grunts
to take our fingers off the triggers and say no" says a Vietnam Vet.
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/6.08.vietvet.php>
4. "Bridging the Gap, Making It Happen" – Outreach To The Troops
Report on the April 5th Military Project Organizers' Conference in New York
City, April 5, 2008
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/6.08.conference.php>
5. Beware Of Useless Drugging For PTSD:
"Reliving A Traumatic Experience By Writing Or Talking About It Is The
Only Therapy Proved Effective By Independent Research"
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/6.08.drugging.php>
6. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school,
workplace, or at nearby base.
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS18.pdf>

NEED SOME TRUTH?

**CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING
SOLDIER!**

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more

than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces.

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

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

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

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IF YOU WISH TO HAVE TRAVELING SOLDIER MAILED TO YOU, EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO: CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG OR DROP A LINE TO: BOX 126, 2576 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025-5657 USA. 917.677.8057

Please say how many you wish sent.

NOTE WELL: DOD regs say that ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue*. These limits do NOT apply to National Guard or Reserve troops UNLESS deployed or assembled at muster.

Church-Going Major Admits Taking \$9 Million In Bribes; “The Largest Bribery Case Out Of The War In Iraq”

June 25, 2008 By Dana Hedgpeth, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

An Army contracting officer has pleaded guilty to involvement in a \$9 million procurement scandal in which his wife was accused of carrying shopping bags full of cash to banks in the Middle East.

Investigators say it is the largest bribery case out of the war in Iraq.

Maj. John Cockerham, 43, of San Antonio, pleaded guilty to bribery, conspiracy and money laundering. Cockerham's wife, Melissa Cockerham, 41, also pleaded guilty to money laundering. His sister Carolyn Blake, 45, of Sunnyvale, Tex., who was also allegedly involved in the scheme, is scheduled for trial in October on charges of money-laundering and conspiracy.

The Cockerham case reads in part like a spy novel, with \$300,000 in cash delivered in a Kuwait parking lot. Handwritten ledgers, using such code names as "Mr. & Mrs. Pastry," recorded who had paid money.

John Cockerham told prosecutors that starting in 2004, he was involved in a complex bribery and money-laundering scheme while being deployed to Kuwait.

In exchange for awarding illegal contracts for such supplies as bottled water, he received more than \$9 million in bribes. Investigators have said he expected to get \$5.4 million more.

Once he agreed to take the money, Cockerham told the contractors to pay his wife, his sister and others. His wife admitted that she accepted more than \$1 million in bribe payments on her husband's behalf.

She allegedly carried the cash in shopping bags and deposited the money in safe-deposit boxes at banks in Dubai and Kuwait.

The couple lived modestly in a house on an Army base in San Antonio and were described as being involved with their three children and their church.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

Resistance Action

June 23, 2008 By Sahar Issa, McClatchy Newspapers & June 24 By Dean Yates (Reuters) & June 25, 2008 Alissa J. Rubin & Graham Bowley, New York Times & Reuters

Two members of a U.S.-backed Iraqi neighbourhood patrol were killed and four others were wounded when a roadside bomb hit their vehicle on the outskirts of Balad town, 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas opened fire on a checkpoint manned by Iraqi Police in New Mosul, south Mosul killing one policeman and one civilian, severely injuring two civilians.

Mortar rounds fell on a [U.S. funded] Sahwa headquarters in al-Atheim district, 50 km to the north of Baquba at 8.30 p.m. Sunday, killing 10 members, injuring 24 others.

Baghdad: A roadside bomb targeted a National Police patrol in Waziriyah, near the cotton wool plant intersection at 11.30 a.m. Monday, injuring three policemen.

Two pro-American militia fighters were killed by a large roadside bomb that exploded near a checkpoint in Buhriz, south of the provincial capital of Baquba, according to a provincial security official. Another Awakening Council member was seriously wounded when he was shot by insurgents about 20 miles east of Baquba.

A car, driven by a bomber, exploded near a police station in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, killing a policeman and wounding seven policemen, police said.

Police found the body of a tax department employee, who had been shot, in western Mosul, police said.

Militants shot dead an off-duty police lieutenant studying law in the University of Mosul as he left the campus, police said.

An Iraqi soldier was killed and three were wounded in an explosion when they entered a booby-trapped house in Mullaaid

Insurgents killed Mosul city council's public service director, Khalid Mahmoud, and his driver in a drive-by shooting in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting Kirkuk's health director exploded in the city 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. The health director escaped unhurt but his driver was wounded, they said.

**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.

“The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”
-- Camille Desmoulins

“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq

**“Forget The Politicians, They’re
An Irrelevancy”**

**“The Politicians Are Put There To
Give You The Idea That You Have
Freedom Of Choice. You Don’t”
[George Carlin Had It Right]**

06/23/2008 George Carlin, quoted by John Nichols, The Nation [Excerpt]

The real owners are the big wealthy business interests that control things and make all the important decisions.

Forget the politicians, they’re an irrelevancy.

The politicians are put there to give you the idea that you have freedom of choice. You don’t.

You have no choice.

You have owners. They own you. They own everything.

They own all the important land. They own and control the corporations.

They've long since bought and paid for the Senate, the Congress, the statehouses, the city halls. They've got the judges in their back pockets. And they own all the big media companies, so that they control just about all of the news and information you hear.

They've got you by the balls.

They spend billions of dollars every year lobbying – lobbying to get what they want.

Well, we know what they want; they want more for themselves and less for everybody else.

Forget Nam

By David Connolly

**Ratshit, the Weasel and I
Are behind this paddy dike,
And Victor Charlie's giving us what
For.**

**And Ratshit, he lifts his head,
Just a little, but just enough
For the round
To go in one brown eye,
And I swear to Christ,
Out the other.**

**And he starts thrashing,
And bleeding, and screaming,
And trying to get the top of his head to stay on,
But we have to keep shooting.**

**A B-40 tunnels into the dike
And blows the Weasel against me.
He doesn't get the chance
To decide if he should give up and
Die.**

**Now I'm screaming, "Medic",
But I have to keep shooting.**

**At this point, I always wake,
And big, black Jerome
And little white William,
My brothers
Are not dying beside me
Even though
I can still smell their blood,
Even though**

I can still see them lying there.
You see, these two,
They've been taking turns
Dying on me,
Again and again and again
For all these long years,
And still people tell me,
Forget Nam.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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



An Iraqi citizen looks at foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. searching her personal belongings during an armed home invasion in Mosul, June 12, 2008.
REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz

[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?]

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.

"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!**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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