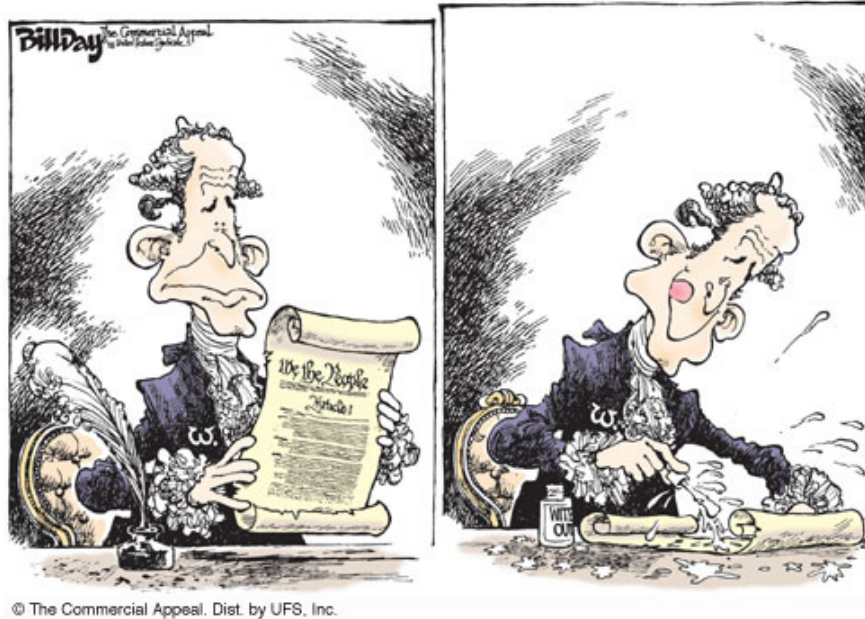


GI SPECIAL 6F7:



Soldiers Rebellion Shakes Dictator In Guinea:

**“The Soldiers Don’t Have Any
Respect For Their Bosses”**

**“The Military Hierarchy Has Been
Discredited In The Eyes Of The
Troops Who Feel The Top Brass Is
Only Out To Enrich Themselves,”**

“On May 29 Soldiers Demanded All The Generals Step Down”

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project]

Jun 5 (AFP)

The recent mutiny in Guinea [West Africa] sparked by soldiers' protest over unpaid back wages reveals a growing rift between soldiers and the military brass whom the mutineers accuse of getting rich at the expense of ordinary soldiers.

“The soldiers don't have any respect for their bosses,” an observer who has followed events in Guinea closely for the last years, said.

“The military hierarchy has been discredited in the eyes of the troops who feel the top brass is only out to enrich themselves,” the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP.

The soldiers' protests, which began on May 26, and has left at least three people dead and dozens wounded, has shaken the Guinean army, a pillar of the regime of President Lasana Conte.

Conte has ruled the mineral-rich country -- thought to contain up to half the world's bauxite reserves -- with an iron fist since 1984.

After the protests turned mutinous on May 29 when soldiers demanded all the generals step down, the government agreed to pay some of the back salaries owed.

The first payments came on May 30 and since that time the protests have died down. Each soldier is set to get one million Guinean francs (about 146 euros, 226 dollars) quickly. In total they are owed some five million Guinean francs per soldier and the rest is due to be paid gradually, the government promised.

Since the payments started calm has returned and after meeting Conte the soldiers dropped their demands for the top brass to be fired but many of the underlying causes of the protests remain.

“The problems are between the generals and us,” the leader and spokesman of the mutineers Jean-Claude Pivi told AFP in an interview Monday.

According to Pivi the generals “do not care about the needs of the soldiers” and he accuses them of “hiding the five million Guinean francs” in back wages due to each soldier.

An officer in the Guinean army, who asked not to be named, echoed the sentiment. “The military hierarchy keeps busy with its own interests and does not bother with the soldiers' needs,” he said.

He explained the mutiny started because of the soldiers' resentment of their bosses.

The recent price hike in rice, which is partly subsidized for soldiers, contributed to the discontent. A 50-kilo sack of rice for soldiers rose from 18,000 Guinean francs to 114,000 Guinean francs in just three months" while the average monthly wage of soldiers is "between 300,000 Guinean francs and 400,000 Guinean francs," the officer said.

The state subsidizes the rice for soldiers, which means they already pay less than ordinary citizens who have to pay between 200,000 Guinean francs and 250,000 Guinean francs for a 50-kilo bag.

Together with the rise in rice prices, transport costs have also shot up because of the rise in petrol prices. "Only a minority of the soldiers live in the barracks", so the rising transport costs have also affected their quality of life, the officer explained.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Oklahoma Sgt. Killed In Baghdad



Army 1st Sgt. David Raymond Hurst died June 7, 2008, in Baghdad when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. Hurst, whose hometown was listed as Fort Sill, Okla., was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), which is located at Fort Polk. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

WELCOME TO IRAQNAM: HAVE A NICE DAY



5.13.08: US soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment aboard a Black Hawk helicopter during a seven-hour air assault mission to search for weapons caches across agricultural belts in Shakariyah, just south of Baghdad. (AFP/Mauricio Lima)

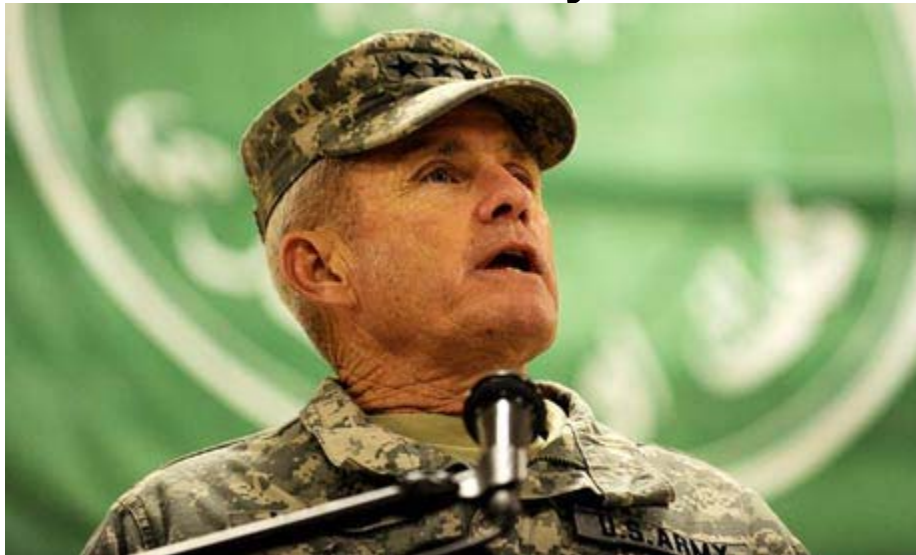
SAME OLD SAME OLD



Vietnam 1969: View from Chinook M-60 door gunner's window. [geocities.com]

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Great Moments In U.S. Military History: Mad Bomber McNeill At It Again: Stupid, Incompetent Dumbfuck Attacks Pakistan And Butchers Pakistani Troops; Pakistani Military Call His Attack “Cowardly”



Cowardly American General Dan McNeill, commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan, has already been dubbed “Bomber McNeill.” Image.guim.co.uk/

Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani also condemned the attack. “We will take a stand for sovereignty, integrity and self-respect and we will not allow our soil (to be attacked),” he told parliament.

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

12 June 2008 by: Carlotta Gall and Graham Bowley, The New York Times & June 11, 2008, Gulf News [Excerpts]

Islamabad, Pakistan - The Pakistani Army broadly condemned on Wednesday what it said was an airstrike by United States-led coalition forces.

At least 11 Pakistani troops died in a clash and an airstrike on the Afghan border, Pakistani military officials said earlier.

Two aircraft bombed several locations, hitting two Frontier Corps paramilitary posts in the Mohmand tribal region, Khan Mohmand said.

The Pakistani paramilitary troops died in the exchange of fire and airstrike, a military official in northwestern Pakistan said. A second military official said the airstrike was from a drone launched from Afghanistan.

Calling the airstrike “unprovoked and cowardly,” the Pakistani military said the deaths “hit at the very basis of cooperation” in the battle against terrorism, according to an army statement quoted by news agencies.

“Such acts of aggression do not serve the common cause of fighting terrorism,” it said.

Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani also condemned the attack.

“We will take a stand for sovereignty, integrity and self-respect and we will not allow our soil (to be attacked),” he told parliament.

The news agency reports suggested that the Pakistani soldiers were killed in a missile strike from across the border.

The clash occurred at a border post called Chopara on the border with the Afghan province of Kunar.

The dead on the Pakistani side included a major and were all from the Mohmand Rifles, a paramilitary detachment of the Frontier Corps, the force deployed in Pakistan’s tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, a security official said, speaking in return for customary anonymity.

Officers in the Frontier Corps are generally assigned from the Pakistani Army.

The bodies of the dead were being flown to the Pakistani city of Peshawar on Wednesday morning, the government official said.

The NATO commander, Gen. Dan K. McNeill, seemed to warn Pakistan to contain the threat emanating from its land, and said the Taliban and drug traffickers have long used refugee camps across the border as a sanctuary from American firepower.

MORE:

“‘Bomber McNeill,’ The Brits Call Him Bitterly, Because They Know That His

Heavy-Handed Strategy Will Be Counter-Productive In The Long Run”

September 23, 2007 by Prof. Ira Chernus, Global Research [Excerpt]

“Bomber McNeill,” the Brits call him bitterly, because they know that his heavy-handed strategy will be counter-productive in the long run.

“Every civilian dead means five new Taliban,” a British officer recently returned from southern Afghanistan told Jason Burke.

“This could lose the entire south of the country to the Taliban, alienating them permanently from the Karzai government and its international supporters,” Robert Fox adds.

“In that case, the future of Hamid Karzai and his nemesis in Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, looks dim.”

MORE:

“The Future Of Hamid Karzai Looks Dim” Bush’s Little Hand Puppet Has To Cancel Census: He Doesn’t Control Enough Of Afghanistan

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in. He writes: Nuff said.]

June 11 2008 Pia Heikkila in Kabul, The Guardian,

The first planned census in Afghanistan for 30 years has been cancelled, delivering a serious blow to humanitarian aid and economic opportunities in the country.

The census was planned to take place this summer to track the population and humanitarian needs, but Afghan officials have halted the project, citing security concerns.

Abdul Sakhri, vice-president of the central statistics office, said: “The cabinet had no choice than to postpone the project because it was deemed too risky,” he said.

MORE:

Bush Regime Green Lights Karzai Assassination

[In case you missed it someplace along the way, the U.S. employee running the Afghan collaborator “government,” which governs nothing, is Hamid Karzai, a former employee of Unocal Corporation, the parent company of Union Oil Company of California. Looks like he’s now a dead man walking. T]

June 10, 2008 From Elise Labott, CNN State Department Producer

More than 60 countries are expected to pledge close to \$15 billion to rebuild Afghanistan at a donor’s conference Thursday.

The United States will pledge the lion’s share of over \$10 billion, despite growing frustrations with President Hamid Karzai’s leadership, State Department officials said.

“There is a lot of buzz about Karzai both in Afghanistan and in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world that he is not as strong as he used to be, that he is not that charismatic forceful guy anymore, but maybe a man that might be tired,” one official said. “There are a lot of cabinet battles he doesn’t win and he has a difficult balancing act.”

Montgomery Man Is Latest War Casualty In Afghanistan

June 6, 2008 By Bryan Henry, WSFA

Minnie Carter always thought this day might come but prayed and hoped that it would not.

“I put down the phone. I couldn’t believe it,” said Carter.

The grim truth first came by phone from her daughter-in-law and then from two Army officials at the front door late Thursday afternoon.

“He called me just about everyday,” Mrs. Carter remembered.

This is a story about a soldier’s soldier.

“He loved, slept and breathed the Army,” said older brother Walter Carter.

James Carter grew up in Montgomery, graduated from Carver High School and trained at Fort Rucker. The family says James and another soldier died when their reconnaissance helicopter crashed in Afghanistan this week. Still unclear is what happened.

"I don't know if it was malfunction or shot down or what," said Mrs. Carter.

During the interview with WSFA 12 News we learned that James Carter was a month away from coming home for a 30-day break, a little more than a month away from his 43rd birthday. He had an opportunity to become a flight instructor at Fort Rucker but instead chose to go back into harm's way for the fourth time.

"Two tours of Iraq, one tour of Bosnia and then Afghanistan," said Walter Carter.

The grief is simply all-too consuming in the Carter home in south Montgomery. The last phone call was Sunday night.

"He said, 'don't worry. I'm fine,'" said Minnie Carter through the tears.

And yet there is a great comfort, a peace about the way James Carter passed on.

"He did what he wanted to do," said Walter Carter.

Military officials have told the Carter family that it might take up to 14 days to bring James Carter's body back to Montgomery.

He was married with three children. James had just built a home for his family in Tennessee.

Hungarian Soldier Killed In Baglan While Trying To Disarm Roadside Bomb

June 10, 2008 The Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary: Hungary's Defense Ministry says a soldier has been killed in Afghanistan while trying to disarm a roadside bomb.

The Ministry says the unnamed man, the first Hungarian soldier to die in Afghanistan, was killed in Baglan Province on Tuesday. Hungarian troops are helping local authorities there with security and logistics.

The soldier was trying to disarm an improvised bomb in the area patrolled by the Hungarian troops. The ministry says the bomb exploded and the soldier died at the scene.

TROOP NEWS

Shit-Eating Rat Scum In Command Send Medically Unfit Troops To War; Medical Profiles “Were Missing From About A Third Of Those Cases”

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

6/10/2008 By Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY & 06/11/2008, By David Olinger, The Denver Post [Excerpts]

About two-thirds of the soldiers at three Army bases who had “significant” physical problems were deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan anyway, according to a U.S. Government Accountability Office survey released Tuesday.

The GAO also reported that documents assessing soldiers’ physical fitness were missing from hundreds of the medical records it reviewed, and that some soldiers with serious medical conditions did not get required evaluations before they were sent to war.

“I think the message of the report is clear. The Army is not following its own rules. It’s a problem,” said Brenda Farrell, the report’s author.

Pressure to rush soldiers into war zones caused leaders at Forts Stewart and Benning in Georgia, and Fort Drum, N.Y., to sometimes fail to assess health problems fully, the report says.

The Army also lost files or inconsistently rated the severity of medical problems, GAO says.

[S]aid Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee ... “Readiness requirements cannot be met by deploying injured or ill servicemembers when their health limitations should prevent it.”

The largest numbers of physical ailments were musculoskeletal: herniated discs, back pain and chronic knee problems.

Government investigators looked at troops deploying from the three forts between April 2006 and March 2007.

Other findings:

- Investigators estimate that 3% of all deploying soldiers from those bases had serious physical problems requiring a medical board review to determine if they should change jobs or leave the Army; no such reviews were conducted.

- **Medical profiles, or records describing how soldiers with injuries or illnesses should be limited in their duties, were missing from about a third of those cases where soldiers had health problems.**

An estimated 7% of all deploying soldiers had medical problems that should have limited their activity in the war zone, and yet they were under no such restrictions.

MORE:

Four Active Duty Soldiers From Fort Hood Joined Us; Soldier “Redeployed For His Third Tour, Even When His Wounds Prevented Him Form Wearing Protective Gear”

09 June 2008 By Doug Zachary, The Rag Blog [Excerpt] Doug Zachary is a regular contributor to The Rag Blog. A veteran, he is president of the Austin chapter of Veterans for Peace and is a member of MDS/Austin.

This weekend (June 7-8) we gathered for the first session of “Cline’s Corner,” a veterans’ writing workshop sponsored by Veterans for Peace (VFP), Chapter 66 and held in Austin, Texas at the home of venerable VFP member and noted photographer, Alan Pogue, and fierce warrior/lawyer D’Ann Johnson.

Four active duty soldiers from Fort Hood joined us, along with a member of Military Families Speak Out whose husband is on his third tour in Iraq.

During the check-in period the soldiers each spoke of childhoods weighted with class inequities, loneliness and violence, of the propaganda that led them to join the military, and of their personal awakenings.

The MFSO wife told us about her husband’s Purple Heart and of how it felt to have her husband redeployed for his third tour, even when his wounds prevented him form wearing protective gear.

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:

**“All These Young Men Are Being
Killed And For What?”
“We Need To Take Them Out Of
There”
“It Is Too Late For Me But It Doesn’t
Have To Be For Other Families”**

10th June 2008 By Matthew Hickley and Michael Seamark, Daily Mail

They enlisted in the Army as boys at the earliest opportunity, training together as 16-year-olds.

Nathan Cuthbertson and David Murray went on to join the Parachute Regiment together, proudly wearing the coveted wings.

And on Sunday the two friends died together, at just 19, when a Taliban suicide bomber attacked their patrol in southern Afghanistan.

The blast also took the life of their friend and comrade Daniel Gamble, 22. The patrol's language specialist, he had stopped to talk to villagers.

Their deaths took the toll of British lives in Afghanistan to 100.

As tributes were paid to the three young soldiers, families of earlier victims condemned the Government's handling of the conflict as an 'utter waste'.

They angrily questioned Britain's strategy for building a stable Afghanistan, and accused ministers of failing to devote enough resources.

Former senior military commanders also warned that our forces lacked a clear mission and were in a 'stalemate' with the Taliban.

But Anthony Philippon, whose son Captain Jim Philippon, 29, was killed in a firefight in Helmand in 2006, said he now believed Britain's mission was futile.

He said: 'They have never learnt from Vietnam. The trouble with guerillas is they never wear uniforms - they disappear into the trees, then come back and fight when they want to.'

'The whole thing is an utter waste of time. I think it is going to turn out as big a disaster as Iraq.'

Referring to the failed Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, he added: 'Why they ever thought they could do a better job than half a million Russians, I will never know - and they had fleets of helicopters.'

The father of Grenadier Guardsman Daryl Hickey, 27, who died last July during an attack on a Taliban position, called for British troops to be pulled out.

Civil engineer Thomas Hickey, 48, from Yardley, Birmingham, said: 'It's a complete waste of a life. I have just been watching about the latest deaths on the news. I see it and I just think, my son went through the same thing. The real question is what are they fighting for?'

'All these young men are being killed and for what? We need to take them out of there. It is too late for me but it doesn't have to be for other families.'

'The last time I spoke to Daryl I could tell he wasn't himself. He seemed very down, whereas usually he would be laughing and joking. Perhaps he feared something was going to happen.'

Colonel Tim Collins, who led the Royal Irish Regiment into Iraq in 2003, said British forces lacked a 'clear mission', making success difficult to recognise, let alone achieve.

***I Ain't Marching Anymore:
Soldiers Who Dissent***
**[Chris Lombardi Reads From Her Book
In Progress]**

**Saturday, June 14, 12 noon
The Armory Track & Field Center,
216 Fort Washington Ave. (Between 168th & 169th
Streets)
New York City, New York**

The Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance (NoMAA) presents a reading featuring the works of the NoMAA Literary Arts Grantees.

One of them will be Chris Lombardi, reading selections from *I Ain't Marching Anymore: Soldiers Who Dissent, from George Washington to John Murtha*.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Iraqi MPs Tell Occupiers’ Congress: Get Out!

**“U.S. Demands Conflict With
Our Sovereignty And We Refuse
Them”**

**“The Points That Were Put Forth
By The Americans Were More
Abominable Than The
Occupation”**

**“If It Is Left To Them, They Would
Ask For Immunity Even For The
American Dogs”**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in, with the headline.]

“The majority of Iraqi MPs, and more than 70 percent of the Iraqi people, are against signing any agreements or treaties with the US while Iraq is under the occupation,” Al-Jaberi said.

“US mercenaries are viewed by Iraqis as criminal gangs protected by the occupation,” Al-Ullayan told Truthout.

09 June 2008 Leila Fadel, McClatchy Newspapers & 11 June 2008 By Maya Schenwar, Truthout & 06/11/08 By Amit R. Paley and Karen DeYoung, WASHINGTON POST
[Excerpts]

Baghdad - Iraqi lawmakers say the United States is demanding 58 bases as part of a proposed “status of forces” agreement that will allow U.S. troops to remain in the country indefinitely.

“The points that were put forth by the Americans were more abominable than the occupation,” said Jalal al Din al Saghir, a leading lawmaker from the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq.

“We were occupied by order of the Security Council,” he said, referring to the 2004 Resolution mandating a U.S. military occupation in Iraq at the head of an international coalition.

“But now we are being asked to sign for our own occupation.

“That is why we have absolutely refused all that we have seen so far.”

Without the agreements or the extension of the U. N. mandate, American troops would have no legal basis to remain in Iraq.

Other conditions sought by the United States include control over Iraqi air space up to 30,000 feet and immunity from prosecution for U.S. troops and private military contractors.

The U. S. also demanded continuation of the authority to detain and hold Iraqis without turning them over to the Iraqi judicial system, immunity from Iraqi prosecution for both U. S. troops and private contractors, and the ability of U. S. forces to conduct operations without Iraqi approval.

The agreement would run indefinitely but be subject to cancellation with two years notice from either side, lawmakers said.

“It would impair Iraqi sovereignty,” said Ali al Adeb a leading member of Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki’s Dawa party of the proposed accord.

“The Americans insist so far that is they who define what is an aggression on Iraq and what is democracy inside Iraq... if we come under aggression we should define it and ask for help.”

Both Saghir and Adeb said that the Iraqi government rejected the terms as unacceptable.

The 58 bases would represent an expansion of the U.S. presence here. Currently, the United States operates out of about 30 major bases, not including smaller facilities such as combat outposts, according to a U.S. military map.

“Is there sovereignty for Iraq - or isn’t there? If it is left to them, they would ask for immunity even for the American dogs,” Saghir said.

Leaders in the U.S. Congress have also demanded a say in the agreement, but the Bush administration says it is planning to make this an executive accord not subject to Senate ratification.

Iraqis are determined to get their nation removed from the purview of the U.N. Security Council under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which allows the international body to

declare a country a threat to international peace, a step the U.N. took after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Iraqi officials say that designation clearly is no longer appropriate.

But even on that basic request, the U.S. has not promised to support Iraq, Saghir said, and is instead withholding that support as a pressure point in negotiations.

U.S. demands “conflict with our sovereignty and we refuse them,” said Hassan Sneid, a member of the Dawa party and a lawmaker on the security committee in the parliament.

Last week, for the first time, two Iraqi members of Parliament (MPs) testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee. They spoke bluntly.

“The anarchy and chaos in Iraq is linked to the presence of the occupation, not withdrawal from Iraq,” Nadeem Al-Jaberi, an MP and co-founder of the Al-Fadhila party, testified.

Under questioning by Republican Congress members, Al-Jaberi repeatedly renounced the “success of the surge,” and added, “What we strive for is establishing a balanced relationship between the two countries. But nothing of this could be made possible until the troops withdraw from Iraq.”

In fact, Al-Jaberi told Truthout, not only do most Iraqis strongly oppose the kind of agreement that President Bush hopes to negotiate with Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki, which would keep US troops in Iraq on a long-term basis; they see a complete troop withdrawal as a precursor to any diplomatic negotiation.

“The majority of Iraqi MPs, and more than 70 percent of the Iraqi people, are against signing any agreements or treaties with the US while Iraq is under the occupation,” Al-Jaberi said.

What does “the occupation” mean?

According to Al-Jaberi and Khalaf Al-Ulawayan, an MP and founder of the National Dialogue Council party, it goes beyond the presence of combat troops. Other elements of the US presence - some of which might be considered charitable in a different context - also cement its force as an occupying power, including its plan to leave behind American troops and contractors to train Iraqi soldiers.

“Iraqis have enough experience in military training, and we don’t need the US to train us,” Al-Ulawayan told Truthout.

According to a letter to Congress signed by Iraqi Parliament members representing the majority parties, “The Iraqi Council of Representatives is looking to ratify agreements that end every form of American intervention in Iraq’s internal affairs and restore Iraq’s independence and sovereignty over its land.”

The letter requests not only the removal of all soldiers and military bases, but also of “hired fighters,” pointing to another aspect of withdrawal that the Iraqi Parliament has its eye on, although previous drafts of US withdrawal legislation -

and much of the presidential debate - have overlooked it: the use of private military contractors in Iraq.

“US mercenaries are viewed by Iraqis as criminal gangs protected by the occupation,” Al-Ulayyan told Truthout.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

General Bill Odom Remembered: “He Was An Old Friend And Colleague, A Rare Soldier-Scholar”

From: Robert Sharlet
To: GI Special
Sent: June 02, 2008 & June 09, 2008
Subject: MAJOR OPPONENT OF IRAQ WAR DIED

Don't know if you caught the news of General Bill Odom's sudden death over the weekend.

I may have written you about him several years ago when Bill became the first Washington establishment figure and certainly the first general to publicly oppose the Iraq war.

Bill consistently kept pounding away at the administration's policies right up to his latest article last week.

He was an old friend and colleague, a rare soldier-scholar.

I first met him in '72 at Columbia where as a career West Pointer he had taken his PhD in Political Science/Soviet Studies in '70. He soon became a major scholar in the field, but what I always remembered as Bill's dual career took off for the stars, was a conversation we had late in the Vietnam War.

He was then a colonel teaching Soviet politics at the West Point, and mentioned how sad it was to see his former students coming back from Nam in body bags, figuratively speaking, to be buried at the Point cemetery. I took that as an implicit expression of dissent from a senior officer of the day.

His voice will be missed in opposition to our current politico-military disaster.

Just heard from a Washington friend that the plan is to bury him in Arlington, but it's interesting that even the qualified cannot just drive up to Arlington and get buried on a sunny afternoon.

If one wants military honors and use of the chapel, there's a cue stretching out to Sept when the general will finally be interred.

Comment: Robert Sharlet's brother, Jeff Sharlet, created and edited Vietnam GI, described just below. If you knew Jeff Sharlet, or used Vietnam GI back in the day, he needs to hear from you. He's writing a book honoring Jeff's life.

Any mail for Robert Sharlet can be sent to the address below in the box about Vietnam GI, or emailed for his attention to contact@militaryproject.org Please put "For Robert Sharlet: Forward" in the subject line so your email can be forwarded to him immediately.

T

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available



Vietnam: They Stopped An Imperial War

Not available from anybody else, anywhere

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command. The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

The Military Project has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

Free on request to active duty members of the armed forces.

Cost for others: \$15 if picked up in New York City. For mailing inside USA add \$5 for bubble bag and postage. For outside USA, include extra for mailing 2.5 pounds to wherever you are.

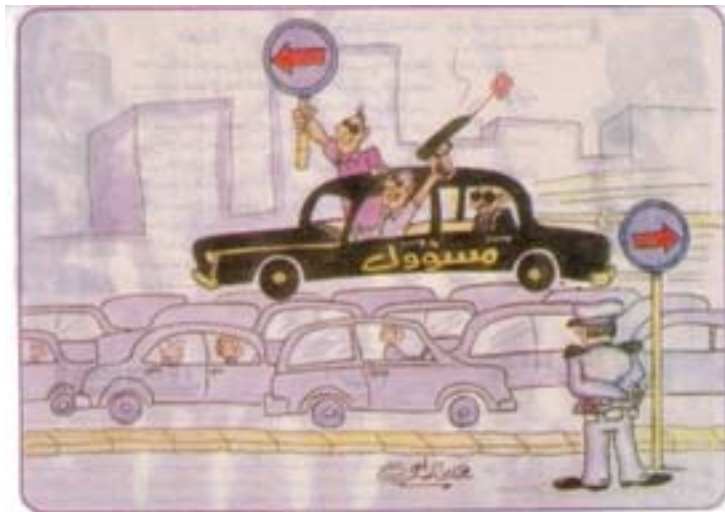
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All proceeds are used for projects giving aid and comfort to members of the armed forces opposed to today's Imperial wars.

OCCUPATION REPORT

“It Doesn't Exactly Endear The Isolated Government Into Their Constituencies' Hearts”



June 09, 2008 Baghdad Observer

Iraqi traffic is at the whim of U.S. military convoys, Iraqi Army convoys and Iraqi officials. Nearly every politician or that politician's advisors travel with gun toting convoys.

They shoot bullets in the air and force traffic to take detours that slow to a crawl.

A fifteen minute drive can take up to two hours depending on road closures and passing VIPs. Often Iraqis are forced to take one side of a two-way street as officials breeze by. It doesn't exactly endear the isolated government into their constituencies' hearts.

The cartoon above shows a black vehicle with the word "official" on it as it drives by the Baghdad traffic crawl.

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Our Reign Of Terror, By The Israeli Army: In Testimonies That Reveal Abductions, Beatings And Torture, Israeli Soldiers Confess The Horror They Have Visited On Hebron

[Thanks to Max Watts, Australia, who sent this in.]

19 April 2008 By Donald Macintyre in Jerusalem, Independent.co.uk

The dark-haired 22-year-old in black T-shirt, blue jeans and red Crocs is understandably hesitant as he sits at a picnic table in the incongruous setting of a beauty spot somewhere in Israel.

We know his name and if we used it he would face a criminal investigation and a probable prison sentence.

The birds are singing as he describes in detail some of what he did and saw others do as an enlisted soldier in Hebron.

And they are certainly criminal: the incidents in which Palestinian vehicles are stopped for no good reason, the windows smashed and the occupants beaten up for talking back – for saying, for example, they are on the way to hospital; the theft of tobacco from a Palestinian shopkeeper who is then beaten “to a pulp” when he complains; the throwing of stun grenades through the windows of mosques as people prayed.

And worse.

The young man left the army only at the end of last year, and his decision to speak is part of a concerted effort to expose the moral price paid by young Israeli conscripts in what is probably the most problematic posting there is in the occupied territories.

Not least because Hebron is the only Palestinian city whose centre is directly controlled by the military, 24/7, to protect the notably hardline Jewish settlers there.

He says firmly that he now regrets what repeatedly took place during his tour of duty.

But his frequent, if nervous, grins and giggles occasionally show just a hint of the bravado he might have displayed if boasting of his exploits to his mates in a bar.

Repeatedly he turns to the older former soldier who has persuaded him to speak to us, and says as if seeking reassurance: “You know how it is in Hebron.”

The older ex-soldier is Yehuda Shaul, who does indeed “know how it is in Hebron”, having served in the city in a combat unit at the peak of the intifada, and is a founder of Shovrim Shtika, or Breaking the Silence, which will publish tomorrow the disturbing testimonies of 39 Israelis – including this young man – who served in the army in Hebron between 2005 and 2007.

They cover a range of experiences, from anger and powerlessness in the face of often violent abuse of Arabs by hardline Jewish settlers, through petty harassment by soldiers, to soldiers beating up Palestinian residents without provocation, looting homes and shops, and opening fire on unarmed demonstrators.

The maltreatment of civilians under occupation is common to many armies in the world – including Britain’s, from Northern Ireland to Iraq.

But, paradoxically, few if any countries apart from Israel have an NGO like Breaking the Silence, which seeks – through the experiences of the soldiers themselves – as its website puts it “to force Israeli society to address the reality which it created” in the occupied territories.

The Israeli public was given an unflattering glimpse of military life in Hebron this year when a young lieutenant in the Kfir Brigade called Yaakov Gigi was given a 15-month jail sentence for taking five soldiers with him to hijack a Palestinian taxi, conduct what the Israeli media called a “rampage” in which one of the soldiers shot and wounded a Palestinian civilian who just happened to be in the wrong place, and then tried to lie his way out of it.

In a confessional interview with the Israeli Channel Two investigative programme Uvda, Gigi, who had previously been in many ways a model soldier, talked of “losing the human condition” in Hebron.

Asked what he meant, he replied: “To lose the human condition is to become an animal.”

The Israeli military did not prosecute the soldier who had fired on the Palestinian, as opposed to Gigi. But the military insists “that the events that occurred within the Kfir Brigade are highly unusual”.

But as the 22-year-old soldier, also in the Kfir Brigade, confirms in his testimony to Breaking the Silence, it seems that the event may not have been exceptional.

Certainly, our interview tells us, he was “many times” in groups that commandeered taxis, seated the driver in the back, and told him to direct them to places “where they hate the Jews” in order to “make a balagan” – Hebrew for “big mess”.

Then there is the inter-clan Palestinian fight: “We were told to go over there and find out what was happening. Our commander was a bit screwed in the head. So anyway, we would locate houses, and he’d tell us: ‘OK, anyone you see armed with stones or whatever, I don’t care what – shoot.’ Everyone would think it’s the clan fight...”

Did the company commander know? “No one knew. Platoon’s private initiative, these actions.”

Did you hit them?

“Sure, not just them. Anyone who came close ... Particularly legs and arms. Some people also sustained abdominal hits ... I think at some point they realised it was soldiers, but they were not sure. Because they could not believe soldiers would do this, you know.”

Or using a 10-year-old child to locate and punish a 15-year-old stone-thrower: “So we got hold of just some Palestinian kid nearby, we knew that he knew who it had been.

“Let’s say we beat him a little, to put it mildly, until he told us. You know, the way it goes when your mind’s already screwed up, and you have no more patience for Hebron and Arabs and Jews there.

“The kid was really scared, realising we were on to him. We had a commander with us who was a bit of a fanatic. We gave the boy over to this commander, and he really beat the shit out of him ... He showed him all kinds of holes in the ground along the way, asking him: ‘Is it here you want to die? Or here?’ The kid goes, ‘No, no!’

“Anyway, the kid was stood up, and couldn’t stay standing on his own two feet. He was already crying ...

“And the commander continues, ‘Don’t pretend’ and kicks him some more. And then (name withheld), who always had a hard time with such things, went in, caught the squad commander and said, ‘Don’t touch him any more, that’s it.’

The commander goes, 'You've become a leftie, what?' And he answers, 'No, I just don't want to see such things.'

"We were right next to this, but did nothing. We were indifferent, you know. OK. Only after the fact you start thinking. Not right away. We were doing such things every day ... It had become a habit...

"And the parents saw it. The commander ordered (the mother), 'Don't get any closer.' He cocked his weapon, already had a bullet inside.

She was frightened. He put his weapon literally inside the kid's mouth. 'Anyone gets close, I kill him. Don't bug me. I kill. I have no mercy.' So the father ... got hold of the mother and said, 'Calm down, let them be, so they'll leave him alone.'"

Not every soldier serving in Hebron becomes an "animal".

Iftach Arbel, 23, from an upper-middle class, left-of-centre home in Herzylia, served in Hebron as a commander just before the withdrawal from Gaza, when he thinks the army wanted to show it could be tough with settlers, too.

And many of the testimonies, including Mr Arbel's, describe how the settlers educate children as young as four to throw stones at Palestinians, attack their homes and even steal their possessions. To Mr Arbel, the Hebron settlers are "pure evil" and the only solution is "to remove the settlers".

He believes it would be possible even within these constraints to treat Palestinians better.

He adds: "We did night activity. Choose a house at random, on the aerial photo, so as to practise combat routine and all, which is instructive for the soldiers, I mean, I'm all for it. But then at midnight you wake someone up and turn his whole house upside down with everyone sleeping on the mattresses and all."

But Mr Arbel says that most soldiers are some way between his own extreme and that of the most violent. From just two of his fellow testifiers, you can see what he means.

As one said: "We did all kinds of experiments to see who could do the best split in Abu Snena. We would put (Palestinians) against the wall, make like we were checking them, and ask them to spread their legs. Spread, spread, spread, it was a game to see who could do it best.

"Or we would check who can hold his breath for longest.

"Choke them. One guy would come, make like he was checking them, and suddenly start yelling like they said something and choke them ... Block their airways; you have to press the adams apple. It's not pleasant. Look at the watch as you're doing it, until he passes out. The one who takes longest to faint wins."

And theft as well as violence.

“There’s this car accessory shop there. Every time, soldiers would take a tape-disc player, other stuff. This guy, if you go ask him, will tell you plenty of things that soldiers did to him.

“A whole scroll-full ... They would raid his shop regularly. ‘Listen, if you tell on us, we’ll confiscate your whole store, we’ll break everything.’ You know, he was afraid to tell. He was already making deals, ‘Listen guys, you’re damaging me financially.’ I personally never took a thing, but I’m telling you, people used to take speakers from him, whole sound systems.

“He’d go, ‘Please, give me 500 shekels, I’m losing money here.’ ‘Listen, if you go on – we’ll pick up your whole shop.’ ‘OK, OK, take it, but listen, don’t take more than 10 systems a month.’ Something like this.

“‘I’m already going bankrupt.’ He was so miserable. Guys in our unit used to sell these things back home, make deals with people. People are so stupid.”

In its introduction to the testimonies, *Breaking the Silence* says:

“The soldiers’ determination to fulfil their mission yields tragic results: the proper-normative becomes despicable, the inconceivable becomes routine ... (The) testimonies are to illustrate the manner in which they are swept into the brutal reality reigning on the ground, a reality whereby the lives of many thousands of Palestinian families are at the questionable mercy of youths.

“Hebron turns a focused, flagrant lens at the reality to which Israel’s young representatives are constantly sent.”

A Force For Justice

Breaking the Silence was formed four years ago by a group of ex-soldiers, most of whom had served in Israel Defence Forces combat units in Hebron.

Many of the soldiers do reserve duty in the military each year.

It has collected some 500 testimonies from former soldiers who served in the West Bank and Gaza. Its first public exposure was with an exhibition of photographs by soldiers serving in Hebron and the organisation also runs regular tours of Hebron for Israeli students and diplomats. It receives funding from groups as diverse as the Jewish philanthropic Moriah Fund, the New Israel Fund, the British embassy in Tel Aviv and the EU.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves “Israeli.”]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

2-1-08 by PHILIP HARRIS. www.philip-harris.com



HUNGER IS NOT A PROBLEM IN MYANMAR BECAUSE FARMERS CAN "Go OUT AT NIGHT AND CATCH PLUMP FROGS." — OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE BURMESE JUNTA.

The Super-Rich Choose Obama; [The Brain Dead Choose McCain]

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

Jun 10 By SHARON THEIMER, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

Obama's team in Nevada, put together last summer to help him with the state's January caucuses, included at least two Nevada lobbyists: one that represented Barrick Gold of North America, a mining company that also lobbies in Washington, and another whose clients included U.S. Airways, Corrections Corp. of America and consulting company Accenture, which lobby in Washington.

Obama accepted an endorsement from former Sen. Don Riegle of Michigan but never mentioned Riegle also is a Washington lobbyist whose clients include London-based metals merchant Norimet Ltd. and Geneva-based liquor distributor SPI Group SA.

Obama's biggest fundraisers include Charles Adams Jr., a partner in Hogan & Hartson, a law and lobbying firm active in Washington, and Michael Froman, who worked at the White House, Treasury Department and National Security Council and now works as an executive at Citigroup, which spent \$8 million lobbying in Washington last year.

Superdelegates backing Obama include Joyce Brayboy of North Carolina, a Washington lobbyist and former congressional chief of staff whose clients include the American

Bankers Association, Moneygram International money-transfer service and Recording Industry Association of America.

Obama superdelegate Moses Mercado of Texas, a former aide to then-Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., has been a lobbyist at the same Washington firm as Wayne Berman, who raised money for McCain.

Mercado's client list at Ogilvy Government Relations includes the American Chemistry Council trade group; the American Petroleum Institute and Chevron, both with big stakes in energy policy; and the American Trucking Associations, whose priorities include highway funding and labor rules.

Latest Cheney Tape May Contain Evidence Of His Whereabouts: He Mentions Current Presidential Candidates McCain And Obama By Name, Dispelling The Rumor That He Died Four Years Ago

[Thanks to Pham Binh, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

6.11.08 The Onion

WASHINGTON—Reports surfaced Tuesday that the New York-based Fox News Channel has obtained a tape which purportedly features another cryptic video message from U.S. vice president and known extremist Dick Cheney, widely regarded as the most feared man in America.

“We have analyzed the tape, and the voice on it matches up with earlier recordings of the vice president,” said CIA spokesman George Little, who claimed the tape may contain valuable clues regarding the location of the elusive Cheney, who was last sighted in late 2005 along the border of Maryland and Virginia.

“Though more specific details on his whereabouts have yet to emerge, we do know two things,” Little added.

“Dick Cheney is still alive, and he is out there somewhere.”

The tape, which is 18 minutes in length, contains grainy footage of what appears to be the vice president standing in front of a featureless brown background.

Despite a history of heart problems, Cheney seems to be in good health, though he does appear agitated. Analysts said his hair is grayer than in previous tapes, and his hairline

has receded by a half inch. He appears to be wearing the exact same suit he wore in his most recent video in 2004.

Though Cheney makes no specific threats in the tape, he does issue vague warnings that the United States will soon face a large-scale attack.

"The possibility of a nuclear attack is very real," Cheney says in his speech, which he addresses to the "people of America." "It could happen tomorrow, it could happen a week from now, it could happen next year. It is not a matter of if, but when."

Cheney warns that, no matter what security measures the United States takes, the terrorists will remain determined to bring death and destruction to American soil. He goes on to insist that he will never give in, claiming that the country should be prepared for "decades of war."

"Praise be to God," adds Cheney, concluding his message.

Cheney reportedly makes reference to President Bush and the Iraq War, alludes to the 9/11 attacks 27 times, and warns eerily about Americans "making the wrong choice" in November.

He also mentions current presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama by name, indicating that the tape was made recently and dispelling the rumor that Cheney died of a heart attack four years ago.

"We are closer than ever to finding the U.S. No. 2," FBI spokesman David Hart said.

"Taking into account his last known whereabouts and the fact that his health condition makes it difficult for him to travel, we can say with a high degree of certainty that the vice president is still somewhere within our borders."

"God help us all," he added.

A number of experts suggest that Cheney has taken refuge in a D.C. war room, while some claim he is hiding out in an underground bunker beneath NORAD headquarters. Others speculate that Cheney crossed into Virginia two years ago and has been roaming the remote foothills of the Appalachian backwoods.

In a press conference yesterday, President Bush told reporters that he is prepared to do anything in his power to hunt down the vice president.

"This is our top priority," Bush said. "Before I make any further decisions regarding the situation in Iraq, the economy, or anything else, it is absolutely imperative that I find Dick Cheney."

Some conspiracy theorists, however, have begun to question the tape's authenticity.

"That video's a fake," said Bethesda, MD citizen Blake Bresler. "This Cheney looks fatter, and his lip snarl is on the wrong side. Also, if you look closely, those aren't Cheney's real glasses."

Whether or not the tape is legitimate, a growing number of citizens say the fact that Cheney is still on the loose can be traced back to failures by the Clinton White House

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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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