

GI SPECIAL 6G17:



7-23-08 OK PHILIPINE INQUIRER. INTERNAL PRESS SYNDICATE.

Confirmed!

**“Only One Treatment Method —
Exposure Therapy — Has Been
Proven To Help PTSD In Studies
By Objective Researchers”
Previous Research Finding
Confirmed By Atlanta V.A. Test
Program;**

“81% Showing ‘Clinically Significant Improvement,’ Which Was Still At 81% Six Months Later”

July 28, 2008 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times

Three new studies looking at combat stress have found group exposure therapy seems to work, that troops with traumatic brain injuries are more likely to have post-traumatic stress disorder, and that stress debriefings held after traumatic events don't appear to prevent PTSD.

The research comes as the Department of Veterans Affairs works to find the best treatment methods for combat veterans.

It follows a report by Rand Corp. that showed only one treatment method — exposure therapy — has been proven to help PTSD in studies by objective researchers.

The first study looked at a program that had been in place for four years at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. The center's Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team began researching group-based exposure treatment.

Past studies have shown group therapy to be ineffective on veterans with PTSD, but authors of this study, published in the April issue of the Journal of Traumatic Stress, said the amount of exposure therapy — 60 hours — in this group may be the key to why it works.

First, nine to 11 people get to know each other and talk about their experiences before they joined the military. Then, they spend several weeks talking about their wartime experiences.

A total of 93 Vietnam veterans, four Gulf War veterans, one Korean War veteran and two Iraq war veterans took part in the study, with 81 percent showing “clinically significant improvement,” which was still at 81 percent six months later.

And the study found something else: VA clinicians indicated to researchers that they do not use exposure therapy out of concern for possible increases in suicide ideation, hospitalizations and dropout rates, but “we found the opposite to be true,” the study's authors said.

Many patients said hearing others' traumatic experiences evoked painful recall of what had happened to them, but “none reported any negative lasting effects, and many indicated that this process helped them put their own experience into better perspective,” the study said.

For example, one-third of the group members said they had frozen under fire. “Learning how common this was helped reduce the shame and guilt that many patients had felt for decades,” researchers said.

MORE: From GI SPECIAL 6E15: 5.24.08:

This Information Could Save Your Sanity, Or Your Life: If Somebody Tries To Drug You Or A Buddy Or Family Member, The Fact The Information Below Appeared In Army Times Can Be A Powerful Weapon Of Self-Defense

Comment: T

Because of the extreme importance of this information to every member of the armed forces, for or against the war, it is being reprinted again from a previous GI Special.

This news report below makes clear that there is now new evidence based research about what works and what doesn't work for troops experiencing PTSD.

The credibility and importance of this research -- initiated by the Department of Veterans Affairs -- is underlined by publication of the findings in Army Times, rather than appearing on some obscure web site or other as somebody or other's opinion.

The V.A. has long practiced drugging troops with all kinds of very dangerous pills as a “treatment” for PTSD. As this article documents, that's useless. And dangerous: overdoses can kill. Benzodiazepines [Valium & Librium are well known examples] are viscerously addictive and potentially deadly drugs handed out to troops like bags of popcorn.

As the article below reports, the only effective treatment for PTSD so far is “exposure therapy; reliving a traumatic experience by writing or talking about it.”

A lot of quacks, including at V.A. facilities as well as privately, are hustling other bullshit phony treatments, ranging from moving your eyeballs around to eating herbs and weeds.

Excuse a personal note, but I've been working professionally with traumatic stress survivors for over 30 years, both military and civilian, both at VA and private facilities, and can testify that the research finding reported in this article is 100% right: the only effective treatment for PTSD so far is "reliving a traumatic experience by writing or talking about it."

But you don't have to believe that.

Here's the report, from Army Times.

Assuming you give a shit about whether troops live or die, send it around, word for word, and be sure to mention it comes from Army Times in case some idiot thinks you sucked it out of your thumb.

Most important, if somebody in command or at the V.A. tries to drug you or a buddy or family member, the fact this information appeared in Army Times can be a powerful weapon of self-defense:

**“Research Has Not Shown Serotonin Re-Uptake Inhibitors, Such As Prozac, Zoloft Or Celexa, To Be Effective In Treating PTSD”
“Exposure Therapy -- Reliving A Traumatic Experience By Writing Or Talking About It -- Is The Only Therapy Proved Effective By Independent Research”**

April 14, 2008 By Kelly Kennedy, Army Times [Excerpts]

“Problems related to getting troops adequate mental health treatment cannot be resolved unless two issues — stigma and access — are addressed,” Todd Bowers, director of government affairs for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, told the House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee on health on April 1.

Almost 59,000 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been diagnosed with PTSD by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Army post-deployment health assessments have found that 20 percent of active-duty and 40 percent of reserve-component troops had symptoms of PTSD, and some experts say the real numbers could be much higher.

But because PTSD hasn't been addressed until fairly recently — the first scientific paper about the disorder in veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf War didn't come out until five years after that war ended — VA and Pentagon officials say much needs to be done to determine good screening techniques and therapies.

"This is the first war where DoD and VA recognized the psychological impact going in," said Army Col. Charles Hoge, chief of psychiatry and neuroscience at the Walter Reed Institute of Research.

Combat vets are not sleeping, experience startle reactions and are hyper-alert.

"All of these things that we label as symptoms are things they need in combat," Hoge said. "No sooner are they transitioned back home than they're right back in rotation."

At the House hearing, Hoge said an Army assessment last summer showed that the numbers of soldiers with PTSD is going up with each deployment.

"There's a direct connection between mental health and multiple deployments," he said, adding that troops also need more time between deployments.

David Matcher, of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, said a recent study found that research has not shown serotonin re-uptake inhibitors, such as Prozac, Zoloft or Celexa, to be effective in treating PTSD.

Exposure therapy — reliving a traumatic experience by writing or talking about it — is the only therapy proved effective by independent research, he said.

Other treatments exist, but they have been tested mainly by the same people who developed them.

That's an important point because the Defense Department and VA use several such methods, including group and drug therapy, to treat combat veterans.

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

Lockport Marine Killed By Sniper In Iraq Laid To Rest

July 22, 2008 John DeSantis, Houma Courier

LOCKPORT -- First Sgt. Jon Catalini handed 3-year-old Daniel Dupre the flag that moments before shrouded the casket of the little boy's father.

Marine honor guard members carry the coffin of Sgt. Staff Sgt. Danny Dupre into the Holy Savior Catholic Church Cemetery in Lockport on Monday. The Lockport native was killed last Tuesday in Iraq.

Catalini told him it was presented on behalf of the president, the Marine Corps Commandant and the people of a grateful nation, the words required by government protocols.

He then said something more appropriate for 3-year-old ears.

"It's from your daddy to you."

The boy, seated on the knee of his mother, Crystal Dupre, mouthed a quiet "thank you."

The silver casket containing Staff Sgt. Danny Dupre's remains was then carried a few paces farther by Marines in dress blues.

Beneath the blinding summer sun they consigned it to the gaping mouth of a bleached-white tomb.

The 28-year-old Lockport native was felled last Tuesday in Iraq by a sniper's bullet, Marine Corps officials said, while in a Humvee doing what was described as "recon" work.

Dupre was the 93rd Louisiana service member to die in either Iraq or Afghanistan since the U.S. plummeted into war.

He is the sixth known to have been from Lafourche or Terrebonne.

After Monday's funeral Mass at Holy Savior Catholic Church, family members and friends gathered in the adjoining cemetery, where the Rev. Carlos Talavera offered a final benediction.

Full military honors followed.

"It was beautiful," the Marine's grandmother, 73-year-old Hilda Dupre, said of the ceremony. "It was beautiful because he loved the Marines."

While appreciative of the military pomp and solemnity, the bereaved grandmother's thoughts were removed from the 21-gun salute's jolting power and the mournful strains of "Taps" played on a silver trumpet.

"I thought about how I wanted to go fishing with him," she said after the service. "Every time he would come on leave, we would go to Fourchon."

After the honor guard left, Hilda Dupre laid her head against the tomb's sun-baked outer wall, just outside a chinaberry tree's shade zone.

"I was thinking wake up and go fishing. That was on my mind," she said later. "It didn't happen."

She thought, too, of her daughter, the slain Marine's mother, who died in a car wreck when she was 28 and he around 9.

As Hilda Dupre remembered the bayou boy she raised into a military man, others who came remembered him from high-school years at Central Lafourche, where he was a spit-and-polish member of the Junior ROTC's drill team.

Others traveled to Lockport -- in some cases from great distance -- to remember and honor the man they described as a "can-do" Marine.

Mike McAuliffe, now a civilian working for the Department of Defense, was billeted with Dupre at Little Creek, Va. "He was the Marine as far as I could tell," said McAuliffe, who now lives near Quantico, Va. "Every task he had he took on fully and did everything he needed to do to get right."

McAuliffe chatted on the Internet with his friend only a few hours before his death.

"He said he had to go real quick, that he would talk to me later," McAuliffe said. "He went on his mission right then, and I got a call from Crystal that morning saying that he was hit." McAuliffe has no doubt that Dupre was doing what he wanted to do on this Iraq stationing. "Definitely, he was more than ecstatic to be there and to be leading Marines," McAuliffe said. "That's what Danny does -- he leads Marines." If Dupre were to choose how he might leave this world, McAuliffe said with certainty, it would be the way it occurred.

Catalini, the Marine who presented little Daniel Dupre with the coffin flag, said assignments like this one -- helping families at such a painful hour -- are among the most difficult in a career that has included time in war-torn Afghanistan as well as Iraq. The Marines who die, he notes, give their lives willingly for a cause they believe in, whether that be the assignment specifically or for the safety of other Marines generally.

But families are another matter.

Members of Dupre's family have expressed varying opinions on the war that he was fighting.

But they also agreed that Danny Dupre died doing precisely what he wanted to do and no less.

A cousin, Delvin Dupre Jr., summed it up in a short sentence.

“He loved it to death,” he said.

THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH; ALL HOME, NOW



U.S. Army soldiers from 25th infantry division return fire while guarding construction of a concrete wall running through Sadr City, Baghdad, May 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

UK Soldier Killed Near Lashkar Gah

28 July 2008 BBC NEWS

A British soldier has been killed in Afghanistan's Helmand province, the Ministry of Defence has confirmed.

He received a single gunshot wound while on foot patrol and was evacuated by helicopter to a medical facility, but died as a result of his injuries.

The shooting happened at about 1000 local time (0530 GMT) west of the town of Lashkar Gah, as UK troops patrolled alongside Afghan army personnel.

“The patrol received reports from locals that the Taleban were in the area but before they could take up defensive positions they received incoming fire, and the soldier sustained a single gunshot wound,” an MoD statement said.

**“In Rural Afghanistan, There
Are No Secure Areas For
Military Personnel” Navarro
Said:**

**“Living Conditions Are Really
Bad”**

**“The Afghans Have Managed To
Dominate And Expel Plenty Of
Invading Forces From Their Country
Throughout History”**

**“The Enemy Has No Face. A Dude
Looks Like A Farmer, But He’s A Bomb-
Making Expert”**

07/26/2008 By Monica Rodriguez, Staff Writer, Pasadena Star-News [Excerpts]

POMONA - Sgt. Jose Navarro was anxiously awaiting winter’s arrival in Afghanistan.

Once the cold set in, the enemy would take refuge and so could Navarro and the other members of the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division.

It was October when Navarro’s convoy of 11 Humvees entered a village to establish relations with the elders and prevent future attacks on U.S. troops.

There was only one way to enter and leave, the 23-year-old Pomona native said, and it was a long, narrow road edged by orchards, mountain sides and steep dropoffs.

“Another platoon had been up there and got wasted,” Navarro said. “The terrain favors the enemy.”

When the convoy left the village, Navarro was in the second Humvee.

"I was right behind the lead truck coming out of the village and everyone was gone. You know something is going on," he said.

"I saw a dude with a white turban on and I could see his eyes," he said. "He detonated an IED," an improvised explosive device.

Rocket-propelled grenades followed and soon the lead truck was destroyed. The fire shifted to the vehicle Navarro was in. More RPGs came and Navarro, who was operating a machine gun, fired back.

In the course of the attack, a rocket-propelled grenade hit Navarro.

It didn't explode, but left him with massive injuries to his hips and thighs. After passing through Navarro, the grenade kept going. It eventually exploded, injuring five other people in the Humvee, he said.

"I wasn't supposed to be in the gunner hole," he said referring to where he was sitting. Actually, he wasn't supposed to be on the trip at all. He was 11 months into a 15-month deployment, and had gone out in place of a friend simply because he wanted to be busy that day.

Soledad Alcala clearly remembers Oct. 14, 2007 - the day her nephew was wounded.

She is listed as her nephew's next of kin, so the call from the Army came to her home. She was at work and her husband Ruben Alcala answered the phone. "They told him he was fine and they were going to bandage him and send him back out," she said.

Ruben Alcala called his wife who began to worry, even though she kept remembering what her nephew had told her. "He said, 'As long as you don't see a car drive up, I'm alive,'" she recalled.

Navarro's injuries were more serious, and he would be flown to Germany where his family members would be taken to see him, she said.

"They told us, 'Pack your bags.' We were on pins and needles," she said. But plans changed, and Army officials decided to send Navarro back to the states.

A long week passed.

"They would give us very little information. They said he wasn't talking, but was responding," Navarro's aunt said. Finally, word came that Navarro was heading to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and so would his family.

He arrived at the medical center Oct. 19 and by midnight his family was there, too. The Alcalas and Navarro's mother saw the soldier briefly that night while he was under sedation in the hospital's intensive care unit. They returned the next morning, Soledad Alcala said.

She took note of the tubes and medical equipment around her nephew, his swollen arms and legs, and something else.

“He still had Afghanistan dirt on him,” she said.

So she got to work and began to clean it off.

Seventeen people were wounded in the October 2007 attack. U.S. bombers eventually came in, allowing the convoy to move out of the area.

Navarro was in bad shape.

When he saw the bones sticking out of his leg and his intestines outside his abdomen, Navarro thought the leg was gone. Then he thought about suicide.

“I didn’t want to live like that,” he said.

He had gone as far as putting his weapon in his mouth when a staff sergeant knocked it out, Navarro said. His front tooth still has the chip.

Prior to being hit by the RPG, Navarro said he acted as if he couldn’t be hurt.

“I tried to be Bobby bad-ass,” he said.

He’d been injured once before when an IED went off near a vehicle he was in.

He came out of that with a concussion and a Purple Heart, but it didn’t make him think differently.

The injuries from the RPG attack have been a humbling experience, which Navarro sees as helping to put things in perspective.

“You’re not as invincible as you think,” he said.

This time, he was awarded a second Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

“I was just doing what I had to do,” he said.

Navarro didn’t think of joining the Army until his late teens. He was at a crossroads.

He could be like some of his friends and end up in jail or on probation or do something completely different. As a teen he’d attended different high schools before dropping out all together.

The Army made him refocus. “I got my credits so I could join the military,” he said.

In August 2005, when he was 19, Navarro left Pomona to begin his military training. Before long he was a cavalry scout in Afghanistan.

Navarro said few people understand the differences between Iraq and Afghanistan.

In urbanized Iraq, military personnel have far different living conditions. They can wake up in the morning in a secure area, leave to carry out a mission and return to safety in the evening.

In rural Afghanistan, there are no secure areas for military personnel, Navarro said.

“Living conditions are really bad,” he said.

They live in the rugged mountain terrain.

“You did a mission and went back into the mountains,” he said of Afghanistan. “Ain’t no joke.”

Fighting the Taliban is no easy task either, Navarro said, adding that the Afghans have managed to dominate and expel plenty of invading forces from their country throughout history.

In Afghanistan, “the enemy has no face. A dude looks like a farmer, but he’s a bomb-making expert,” Navarro said.

Resistance Attack Blocks Kabul-Jalalabad Highway

27 July 2008 Quqnoos

Law enforcement officers and militants reportedly exchanged gunfire Saturday morning in Sorobi district, which lies between Kabul and the eastern province of Nangarhar.

The district chief of the capital of Sorobi, Qazi Suliman, said the fighting began at around one o’clock p.m. on Saturday and lasted for one hour.

Mr. Suliman added that one assailant was killed and another wounded in the incident, and that no police officers were injured.

A police officer engaged in the fighting stated on condition of anonymity that the incident blocked the Kabul-Jalalabad highway for over 45 minutes, and that the militants quickly fled the area afterwards.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has a different version of the incident, claiming that Taliban fighters killed four policemen and that only one Taliban fighter was injured.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

July 26 (KUNA) & Reuters & July 27 (Reuters) & (KUNA) & July 28 (Reuters)

A Kirkuk police source said that a bomb targeted an Iraqi police patrol in the southern district of the city, injuring two policemen who were on board.

A policeman and two members of U.S.-funded Al-Sahwa (the awakening) were injured, after an improvised explosive device went off in a local market in Baghdad.

Another improvised explosive device led to the injury of two soldiers in another district of the capital

One policeman was killed during clashes with insurgents in western Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb killed two Iraqi soldiers when it exploded near their patrol in the town of Sulaiman Pek, 160 km (100 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb exploded near a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol station, wounding one member of the patrol, in Falluja, police said.

Two Iraqi soldiers were killed as a result of a bomb explosion southwestern Kirkuk, northern Iraq, on Saturday. The bomb exploded targeting a military patrol, claiming the lives of a soldier and a captain, an Iraqi police source told KUNA.

A member of a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol unit was killed in a clash with militants on Sunday, police 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

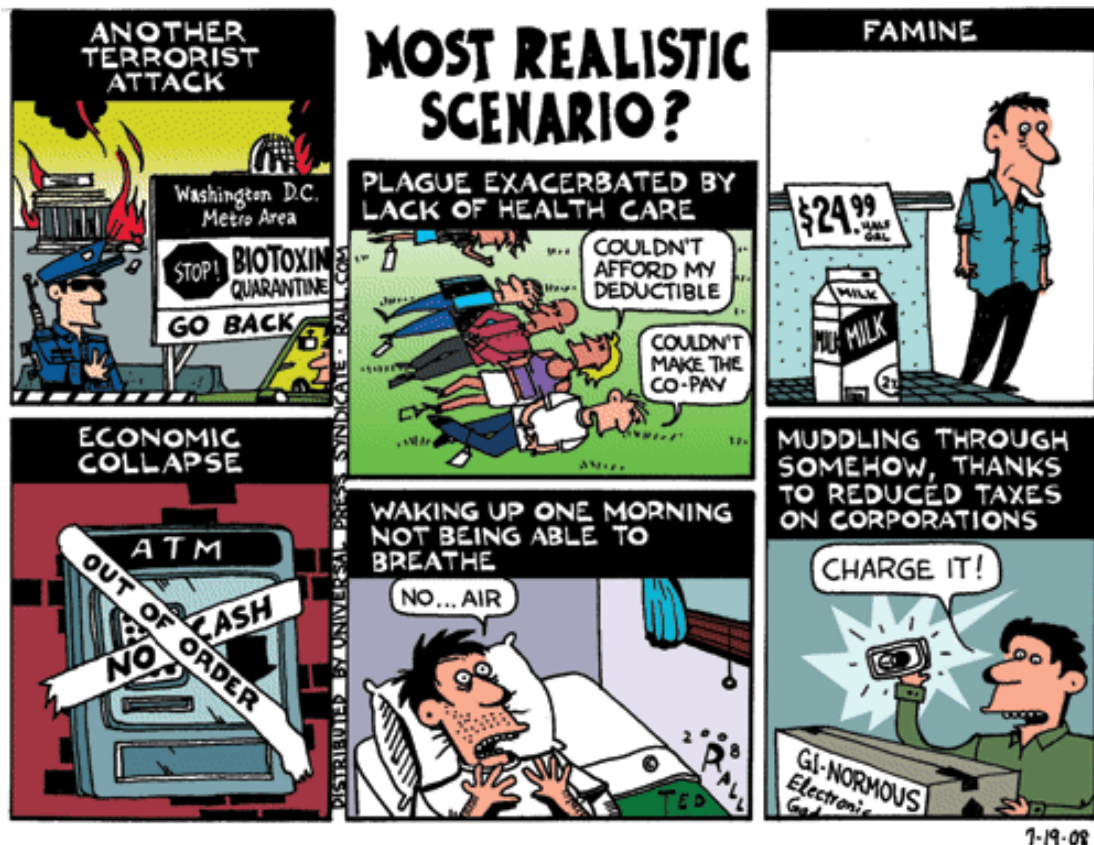
**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

“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

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004



Interval:

“I Can’t Do This Anymore. I Won’t Take Them One More Step”

By Joseph Giannini, *The Veteran*, Spring 2008, Vietnam Veterans Against The War

Joseph Giannini is a former Marine grunt who fought in ‘Nam 1967-68 with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines. He has been a member of VVAW since the first Gulf War.

Booby traps and mines were a deadly problem in Nam, as they are now in Iraq, where over 60 percent of our KIAs are caused by improvised explosive devices.

The Vietcong and the North Vietnamese Army had many types.

They even booby-trapped our own dud artillery rounds, buried them and rigged a trip wire to a detonator installed in the nose. In Iraq the insurgents are also booby-trapping artillery rounds, remotely detonating them with cellphones.

The VC also rigged landmines normally used to destroy tanks and trucks to explode when a person stepped on them.

Most Marines who set off a booby-trapped artillery round or landmine were killed or severely wounded. Some survived severed in half.

On patrol we kept the interval: five meters between each Marine. An attempt to limit our casualties.

In Nam we rarely had mine detectors. We cut bamboo branches into “walking sticks,” which we used to prod the ground ahead as we went. Our walking sticks saved many lives—including mine

Quang Tri, South Vietnam February 3, 1968

Dark, just before dawn.

Delta Company—three rifle platoons with attachments, boards 10 slicks lined up on the airstrip at the Quang Tri combat base.

I climb aboard and face forward in the open hatch. Brace my back against the bulkhead. Hang my right leg overboard. The slicks lift off. Cool air rushes over me. The sun rises behind as our formation flies west into a sea of foothills.

Beyond them, dark green mountains shrouded in grey clouds and the Khe Sahn combat base, where 5,000 Marines are fighting 20,000 NVA.

We chopper into the LZ without any incoming. Jump off the hovering slicks. Fan out to establish a perimeter. Still no enemy fire. We move out in a V-formation heading west: Delta One and Delta Three abreast followed by Delta Two.

We hump through hills covered with low shrub. Mid-afternoon, my command, Delta Three, finds a hidden cache of 60 mortar rounds. Our combat engineers blow them up in place. The sun starts to set on the mountains to our west. We move onto high ground, to set up and dig in.

The night passes without enemy activity, but our own Harassment and Interdiction artillery fire keeps us up all night. Next morning the sun is gone. Grey mist hugs the earth. Delta moves northwest through a steady drizzle.

We're in a combat column.

Delta One is on point. I follow with Delta Three. Delta Six, the Company Commander, is with Delta Two in the rear, out of sight. Mid-morning. The drizzle has stopped. Delta One is moving onto the crest of a small hill. There is a village across a large stream to our left. I'm just starting up with my platoon.

"Boom! Boom!" I duck. Freeze. A large piece of gray shrapnel spins by my left. I follow its flight, see several villagers running. Guilty knowledge taking flight.

Delta One has hit two land mines. Screaming from the crest of the hill: "Corpsman up, Corpsman up!" I yell down the line to my Marines, "Stay in place. Face outboard. Could be an ambush."

I can't see the crest and won't move up to take a look. Why take the chance of setting off other mines?

My Radio Operator says Delta Six wants to speak to me. I take the radio handset. "Delta Six, Delta Three Actual Over." "Lieutenant, move up to Delta One immediately. Give me a situation report. Out."

"Yes Sir, Delta Three Actual out." Fuck. Why can't Delta One Actual give a situation report? I tell my RO to stay put. I'll use Delta One's radio to call back.

I start to ascend. I'm looking for hidden wires. Also for rocks and broken branches arranged in unnatural patterns. Looking down at each step I take. I slowly move up, reach the crest.

The situation: to my right, seven Marines down with serious shrapnel wounds, mostly to the lower body.

Delta One Actual, the platoon leader, is standing off to my left. He's facing away from me and his downed Marines. I approach him.

"Rob." No response. He continues to face away. "Rob," I say again. Still no response. I reach with my left hand and grab his left shoulder.

He turns to me. Tears streak down his burned, soiled face. "Joe, I can't do this anymore. I won't take them one more step."

He falls to his knees, wraps his arms around my legs. Rests his head on my stomach. I put my left hand on his right shoulder. Hold him firmly. Bow my head. Tears crease my dirty face.

His RO approaches to my right. "Delta Six wants to speak to Lieutenant Giannini." I raise Rob to his feet. Release my grip. Take the handset. "Delta Six this is Delta Three Actual. Over." "Lieutenant, what's going on up there? Over." "We're in a minefield. Seven seriously wounded. Over." "Lieutenant, what do you suggest? Over."

"We can't go forward. Get slicks to lift us out of here. Over." "I can't get slicks. Over." "Then we'll have to retrace our steps. We might walk into an ambush. Over."

"Two medevacs are on the way. Let me know when the wounded are on board. Delta Six out." "Yes sir, Delta Three out."

"Rob, get your men ready to load the wounded onto the medevacs. We're moving off this hill. Your platoon will be tail-end Charlie."

He nods. Walks slowly into the midst of his downed Marines.

I turn and move cautiously to the nearest wounded Marine. He's lying prone on his poncho. On a slight incline, his head tilted downhill. He's calm. The morphine has kicked in. I kneel down beside his right shoulder, facing his lower body. His jungle trousers have been mostly blown away. Each leg a color abstract. Burned, torn slabs of white gristle. Burned, torn slabs of red muscle. Burned, broken protruding bones.

I say to myself, "This isn't real. Just plastic and rubber." An attempt to suppress my emotions. To control getting sick.

"Marine, you'll be off this hill shortly. You're on your way back to The World." "Sir, can I have some water?" I look him over. Make sure he doesn't have any stomach or belly wounds, then remove my canteen and unscrew the top. He remains calm.

His head is still tilted back. I slowly pour water between his slightly parted lips. "What's your name, Marine?" "Webb, sir, Corporal Webb." "Where you from, Webb?" "Ocean City, Maryland, sir."

Whooping to our west. I look up. Two medevacs are approaching fast. "Green, the medevacs are coming in. Hold tight. We'll be moving you, O.K.?" "O.K. sir."

The chopper swoops down to the hill. Hovers about three feet off the ground--trying not to set off other mines. We have to move. I suppress my fear. Webb is the furthest from the chopper. He'll be the last one out. Four men carry, then lift, four of the wounded Marines onto the waiting chopper.

Rising fast, it is gone.

HONOR THE WARRIOR, NOT THE WAR

Vietnam Veterans Against the War
Fighting for Veterans, Peace and Justice since 1967
www.vvaw.org



MORE:

**“Some Officer’s And NCO’s Wanted
To Try To Enforce The Chicken Shit
Discipline And Rules That They Had
Back In The World”**

**“Others Were Fragged Due To Their
Incompetence”**

**[Reply To “I Was In A Unit Commanded By Him During
Tet Of ‘68, In Early February”**

**“Sorry To Say It But I Can Easily Understand Why He
Was Fragged”: GI Special 6F10: 6.16.08]**

By Mail, 6.18.08

To: GI Special/Military Project

Reply to “I was in a unit commanded by him during Tet of ‘68, in early February” by ‘H’ in 6F10 issue.

I was in country during Tet 1 as well. I was in a Long Range Patrol Company after transferring in(levy)from the 173’ Airborne Brigade in the Central Highlands.

“H’ is right on. The GI movement depicted in ‘Sir, No, Sir,’ happened after Tet 1. We were unaware of any ‘organized’ GI resistance or newspapers etc.

In the ‘Herd’ officers and incompetent NCO’ s were fragged. The grunts stuck together and completed missions as assigned.

At the end of the day, guys just wanted to kick back, drink (if they could get their hands on some Vietnamese hooch) or smoke some righteous flicking weed, AND MOST OF ALL. TO BE LEFT ALONE AND NOT FUCKED WITH.

You know the drill, no matter what you did that day, you still had to dig foxholes and gun emplacements and fill sandbags, etc. etc. etc.

And what you really didn't need was anyone 'fucking' with you in any goddamn way.

Like brother "H" said, fraggings were about the men themselves and "not the cause, or lack of one."

Some officer's and NCO's wanted to try to enforce the chicken shit discipline and rules that they had back in the world.

That shit don't cut it in a fucking war zone. Number fucking 10 G.I.!

Others were fragged due to their incompetence.

Again, we were carrying out missions to the best of our ability and training. If some officer or noncom put our safety in jeopardy due to their incompetence in any way, well, they had to go Joe.

For example, one time in the Herd, our fire team went down by a stream and scouted out some movement. We came across fresh footprints.

The stupid fucking E-6 I think, is up on top the bank, YELLING DOWN AT US, "HEY, YOU GUYS SEE ANYTHING?" I AM THINKING HOW GODDAMN IGNORANT IS THIS SON OF A BITCH?

Of course, we didn't yell back and quickly climbed back up the bank and reported back to the loudmouth jerkoff.

He actually asked me (I was a Sgt. E-5 and in charge of the fire team) why we didn't acknowledge him and yell back.

Totally fucking clueless dumb fuck.

We just wanted to pull our time, look out for one another and get back stateside.

Solidarity & respect
Comrade Tribune
Shalom/salaam

MORE:

**“In 1971 The Armed Forces Journal
Published A Shocking (And Now
Famous) Article On “The Collapse Of
The Armed Forces”**

“By Every Conceivable Indicator, Our Army That Now Remains In Vietnam Is In A State Approaching Collapse”

July 27, 2008 By Redvet [Excerpt]

We were certainly losing the war when I left in February of 1970.

In 1971 the Armed Forces Journal published a shocking (and now famous) article on “The Collapse of the Armed Forces.”

In a note accompanying the piece the Journal’s editors wrote that they had some reservations about running it, but they said these were minor when compared to the importance of solving what had become a dire problem for the Army.

The opening lines of this article penned by Col. Robert D. Heintz capture some of the crisis atmosphere in the upper reaches of U.S. war planners at the time:

“The morale, discipline and battle worthiness of the U.S. Armed Forces are, with a few salient exceptions, lower and worse than at any time in the century and possibly in the history of the United States.

“By every conceivable indicator, our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse, with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers and non commissioned officers, drug ridden, and dispirited where not near mutinous. Elsewhere than Vietnam, the situation is nearly as serious. (1971, p.30)”

You might be interested to learn that as early as 1969, Vietnam veterans became active in various anti war groups and by 1970 they had begun to take a role in the leadership of the movement.

One group of vets who have remained politically active from that era is Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Anti Imperialist.

We sponsor a web site at; www.oz.net/~vvawai .

There you can find an on line version of “StormWarning”, V.V.A.W./A I.’s quarterly magazine.

Issue number 31 would be most relevant for your interest in that period.

It is a compilation of some of the actions which took place during that time by returning vets as well as the experiences of vets ‘on the ground’ during their tour.

Another fascinating source is the “Broken Rifle Press” web site. ‘Broken Rifle’ has books and videos of the GI and veterans anti war movement.

Among them is a video of the "Winter Soldier Investigations". It paints a disturbing picture of what it was like to fight a losing guerrilla war by the grunts who were there.

My favorite video from that collection is the vets demonstration in Washington D.C. which was called 'Dewey Canyon III'. In April 1971, thousands gathered as 'Nam vets threw their metals back at the U.S. government on the capital steps and demanded an immediate end to the war.

The "Broken Rifle Press" web site address is; <http://users.erols.com/jerrkate/> .

A further resource that is available is Michael Searcy's history of that demonstration and the event's which lead up to it. The paper is approximately ten pages in length and we can email you a copy upon request.

A more civilian orientated approach to that era can be found at "The '60's Project". Its web address is <http://lists.village.virginia.edu/sixties/> . If there is time, here is a short book list.

These books are available, or can be ordered, through any 'chain' bookstore.

The Tunnels of Cu Chi by Tom Mangold; John Penycate

Days of Decision: An Oral History of Conscientious Objectors by Gerald R. Gioglio

Busted: A Vietnam Veteran in Nixon's America by W.D. Ehrhart

Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans by Wallace Terry

Let the Good Times Roll: Prostitution & the U.S. Military in Asia by Sandra Pollock

My Lai 4: A Report on the Massacre & Its Aftermath by Seymour Hersh

Fire in the Lake by Frances Fitzgerald

Finally, you may wish to check out "Hearts and Minds", which won an Oscar for the best documentary in 1975. It is rentable at BlockBuster.

redvet
Facilitator
Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Anti-Imperialist
<http://www.oz.net/~vvawai/>
Hawaii Chapter

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



An Iraqi citizen is forced to stand and answer questions from foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. Army during an armed home invasion east of Muqadiyah, about 90 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad in Diyala province July 25, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

[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.

“You get the interpreter and you get the man of the home, and you have him at gunpoint, and you’ll ask the interpreter to ask him: ‘Do you have any weapons? Do you have any anti-US propaganda, anything at all--anything--anything in here that would lead us to believe that you are somehow involved in insurgent activity or anti-coalition forces activity?’

“Normally they’ll say no, because that’s normally the truth,” Sergeant Bruhns said.

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

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

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

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

Sgt. John Bruhns

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

“Most Of The Iraqi Families Live Under The Poverty Line While The Elite (Politicians) Enjoy With Iraq’s Welfares”

“When We Have Real State Where The Vender Has The Same Rights Of The Politicians, Only At That Time, Those Who Are Out Of Iraq Will Be Happy To Come Back”

July 27, 2008 By Correspondent Jenan, "Inside Iraq"

I can not understand why our government tries to bring back abroad Iraqis. This is something very strange. Thousands of Iraqis inside Iraq like me ignore the reasons of these demands. Al Maliki and his government say Iraq is safe now and it needs for his sons to remonstrate it but is that true?

Does that mean he and his government solve the problems of the Iraqis like security ...

Doesn't Iraq has the biggest number of blast wall in the whole world? What does that mean?

Does security mean for our government is to live inside small camps that surrounded with concrete?

How about electricity?

Do we have 24 hours a day?

For me and my colleagues who live in different neighborhoods in Baghdad, we still have it like four hours a day in this hot dusty summer? We still call it the dear guest in these days in which temperature goes up to 122 Fahrenheit.

How about water!

Most of the Iraqi families don't have clean water in their houses.

How about housing!

Many Iraqi families don't find suitable place to live. I know some places where you can find 6 families sharing 144 squared meters houses (can you imagine the way they live?)

How about the unemployment!

60% of the young men in Iraq don't have real jobs. Most of the Iraqi young men are vendors who depend on small stands to provide the daily needs of their families. In fact, having a stand is the dream of many Iraqis.

How about poverty!

Most of the Iraqi families live under the poverty line while the elite (politicians) enjoy with Iraq's welfares. Those politicians who got pain when they see Iraqi citizens run from the hell to live like real human beings.

Please Mr. PM leave the Iraqis out of Iraq and try to help those who still inside. We can build this country on behalf of them.

We don't want them to come because we love them.

Let them live in peace and start the real building of Iraq with the people inside.

They can do more than you think and when we have real state where the vender has the same rights of the politicians, only at that time, those who are out of Iraq will be happy to come back.

Until that time, concentrate on your job here.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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**Obama Swears To Protect “Our Interests” In Iraq:
“What Interests Does Obama Mean?”
“The Interests Of The Arms Dealers, The Oil Companies, The War Planners And The U.S. Elites Who Manage The Domination Of The Middle East And Benefit From It”**



[Farm4.static.flickr.com]

July 22, 2008 By Anthony Arnove, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

On July 14, the New York Times featured an op-ed by Barack Obama laying out his “plan for Iraq.”

But Obama’s position on Iraq is carefully crafted to sound antiwar, while providing a vehicle for the U.S. to pursue a different strategy in the Middle East.

“As I have often said, I would consult with commanders on the ground and the Iraqi government to ensure that our troops were redeployed safely, and our interests protected.

What interests does Obama mean?

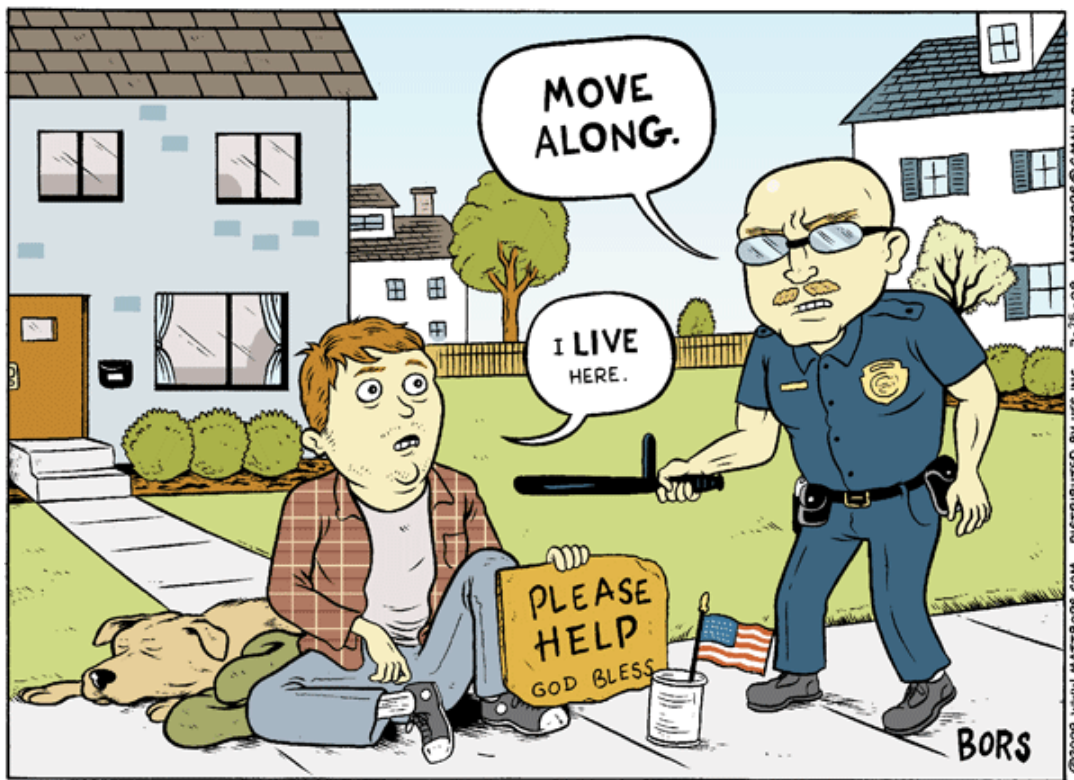
Certainly not the interests of U.S. soldiers--more than 4,100 of them are now dead, more than 28,000 are injured, and many more are deeply scarred psychologically.

Not the interests of the poor and working class people paying for this war.

Not the interests of the Iraqi people.

Instead, the interests of the arms dealers, the oil companies, the war planners and the U.S. elites who manage the domination of the Middle East and benefit from it.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Capitalism At Work:

**While 842,000 People Are Homeless
In Any Given Week, "Too Much"
Empty Housing In USA:**

Federal Reserve Chair Suggests Destroying Vacant Homes “To Help Bring Supply And Demand Back Into Balance”



July 22, 2008 By Petrino DiLeo, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

IT'S NO secret that one of the key problems in the U.S. housing market is that there are more houses for sale than buyers for them. Because of the mortgage crisis that caused home values to plummet and banks to tighten up their requirements for making new mortgage loans, the pace of sales has slowed way down.

Currently, there are 4.5 million existing homes for sale, or a nearly 11-month supply at the current pace of sales. There are also 453,000 new homes on the market, also an 11-month supply.

As it stands, even though construction of new homes has dropped precipitously, the vacant supply is rising, not falling, as homeowners who can't afford mortgages put their homes up for sale--plus houses that were foreclosed upon also go on the market.

What's the extent of the problem? New data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that the combination of people losing their homes and continued construction of unaffordable new homes means that 18.5 million out of the estimated 129 million housing units in the U.S. now sit vacant--a whopping 14.3 percent.

According to the Census Bureau, U.S. households on average have 2.57 people.

So the vacant housing stock could provide homes to at least 47.5 million people--or about 15 percent of the U.S. population.

And that's a conservative estimate when you consider that many vacant houses could comfortably house many more people than the household average.

To put this number in perspective, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration estimates that 3.5 million people in the U.S. experience homelessness in a given year, and about 842,000 people are homeless in any given week.

So there are enough vacant homes to house the homeless in any given week 56 times over.

Further, in 2005, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights estimated the global homeless population at 100 million.

So, roughly speaking, there is enough vacant housing to provide shelter for nearly half the world's homeless population in the U.S.

UNDER A sane system, this would be fantastic news--homelessness could be wiped out entirely in the United States, and large parts of the globe.

But under capitalism, it's bad news.

Meanwhile, in the Southwest, tent cities are arising, occupied by people who lost their homes to foreclosure.

The city of Santa Barbara, Calif., for example, has set aside 12 parking lots to allow people who lost their homes to live out of their cars. In many cases, the people living in the lots still have jobs, but simply can't find affordable housing.

CNN interviewed Barbara Harvey, a 67-year-old mother of three children currently living out of her SUV with two golden retrievers. Harvey was laid off a year ago from a job that nevertheless paid so little she was still paying three-quarters of her income toward housing. Two months ago, she was forced out of her condo.

"It went to hell in a hand basket," she told CNN. "I didn't think this would happen to me. It's just something that I don't think people think is going to happen to them, is what it amounts to. It happens very quickly, too."

Harvey now works part time for \$8 an hour, and she draws Social Security to help make ends meet, but that's not enough to afford apartments in a community where the median house price is more than \$1 million.

What other solutions are being offered?

Rather than trying to occupy vacant houses, Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke suggested that cities and states should destroy vacant homes to help bring supply and demand back into balance.

In a speech in March, Bernanke praised the Genesee County Land Bank in Flint, Mich.--a "highly depressed" market, in his words--for acquiring vacant units through tax liens and demolishing them.

Bernanke sniffed that such programs could “mitigate safety hazards and reduce supply.”

All these examples illustrate in stark terms that the interests of capitalism lie only in making a profit and not meeting human need.

Another kind of society is not only desirable, but necessary.

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