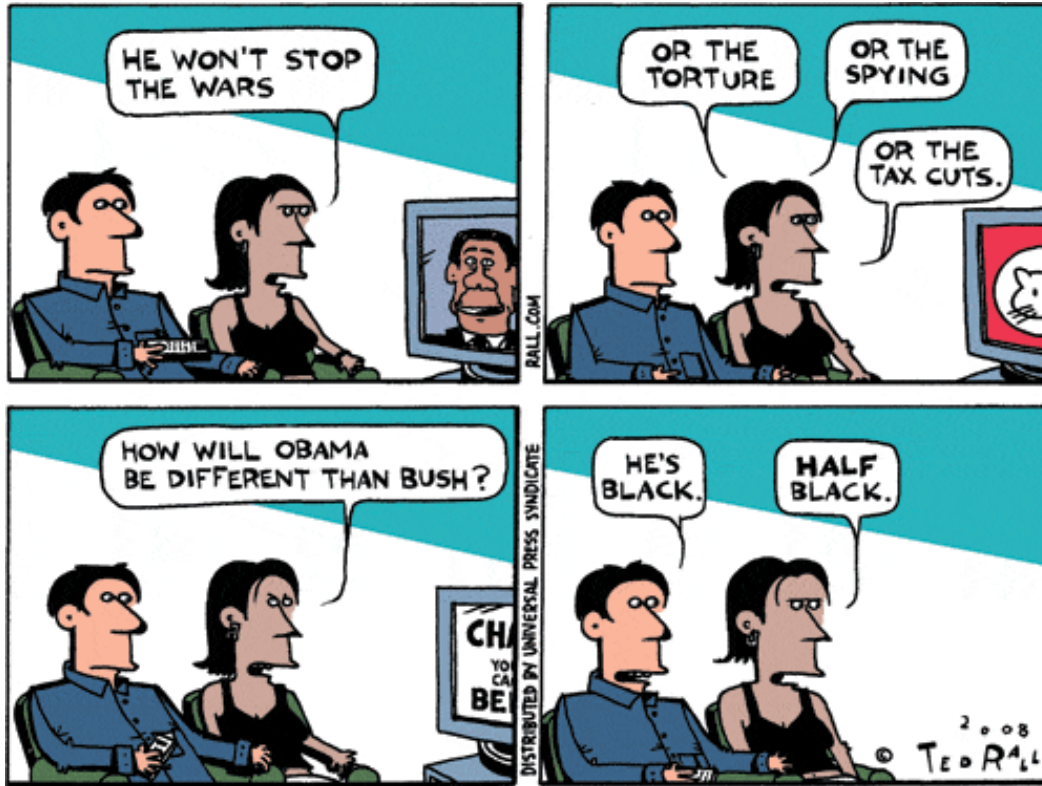


GI SPECIAL 6G4:



**HELL NO;
HE WON'T GO:
After 4 Years Of Service,
Including Deployment To
Afghanistan, He Was Recently
Called Back To Serve In Iraq
And Refused**



Matthis Chiroux, from Alabama, who was honorably discharged after 4 years of service, including deployment to Afghanistan, but was recently called back to serve in Iraq and refused. Photo: Karin Zeitvogel/Getty Images

Jul 7 2008 By Gil Kaufman, MTV.Com

Like a lot of young people, Matthis Chiroux thought the Army was his best option after finishing high school. An admitted lackluster C student in search of some discipline, Chiroux joined the military shortly after the September 11, 2001, terror attacks and served five years of his eight-year commitment before getting an honorable discharge in 2007.

Then, just days after enrolling in college in January, Chiroux was ordered to un-enroll (and swallow \$7,500 in just-taken-out loans) and report for duty in Iraq in March as part of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR).

He decided his conscience wouldn't let him go, and now the former military journalist is waiting to see how his own story will end as he braces for the Army's response to his refusal to serve in a war he calls illegal.

"The IRR are basically civilians. It's a catch pool for guys getting out of the military with the idea that if your country needs you for a legitimate reason — a national emergency or state of war — you can be called back to active service," he said.

Even if, like Chiroux, you've finished your active-duty obligation — and, in his case, voluntarily served a year longer than the typical three-to-four-year stint — the government can call up members of the IRR under certain circumstances with little notice.

When Chiroux's number came up earlier this year, he said he decided to resist the call. And though the fight against redeployment has felt like a one-man battle at times, he said he knows he's not alone.

Chiroux said the military claims that he is one of only 700 IRR members who have failed to report for duty so far for a variety of reasons, some of them medical.

But according to research he did in Washington, D.C., recently while pleading his case to members of Congress who also oppose the war, military figures show that since the beginning of the Iraq war 15,000 members of the IRR have been sent reactivation orders and only half that number have shown up.

Major Maria Quon, a public affairs officer for the Army's Human Resource Command denied the figures Chiroux gave, saying that 16,000 mobilization orders have been issued since September 11 and of those, 7,400 have asked for a delay or exemption, with 6,300 getting them for reasons ranging from medical and family care issues to financial hardship. So far, she said, there have been around 700 no shows, half of which are under investigation and the other half resulting in either general or other than honorable discharges from the military. "Anyone who feels they have a case can make it and have it reviewed by a panel," she said. She also stressed that IRR members are not civilians, but soldiers who are still considered part of the military — until they complete their eight years of service — even though they are currently living a civilian life.

Chiroux, 24, was never deployed to Iraq, but spent time in Afghanistan in 2005 as a military reporter. "On active duty, a lot of my job was to suppress the stuff that could make the Army look bad by controlling facts," he said.

As a result of his reporting, he said he was also able to gain a larger picture of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, an image that inspired his anti-Iraq-war views once he returned to civilian life last year.

After moving to Brooklyn and working a succession of odd jobs in 2007 — including short stints as an international representative for a South African platinum company, a barista at an organic coffee shop and a canvasser for an environmental organization — the Auburn, Alabama, native enrolled in Brooklyn College in January, knowing in the back of his head that there was a possibility that he might get called back to active duty.

Chiroux, who enlisted out of high school looking for "personal progress" and "self-discipline" as well as the chance to serve his country and earn money for college, said he learned that the U.S. was preparing for a possible war in Iraq a week after he got out of basic training.

After the Army, he assumed the GI Bill benefits he earned would help pay for college but was "horrified" to learn in January that because of his salary in the Army and his stationing overseas, he was going to be denied federal and state tuition assistance. He also found out that he was not eligible for subsidized student loans because of his GI Bill benefits.

In the end, his benefits as a veteran totaled around \$1,000 a month, not even enough to pay for his apartment in Brooklyn.

If Chiroux had not served in the military, he said he would have been eligible for Pell Grants that might have helped him pay the \$7,500 he laid out in January for school.

A Veterans Administration representative at his college told him that his struggle to pay tuition was a typical story for young veterans.

“Then, three weeks after school started, I got hit with my forced-reactivation orders, just three days after I took out my loans for school.”

Chiroux called the military to explain his loan situation and said he was told that while the Army could not get his loans nullified, they could delay his redeployment until June 15. By the end of April, he felt he couldn't go to Iraq and began hatching a plan to flee the country and hide out in Spain.

As he put his studies on hold to spend several months speaking to members of Congress in Washington about his plight, Chiroux's second deployment date came and went. Technically, he said, he's not AWOL because he feels he's essentially a civilian, and he's heard nothing from the Army since he failed to report.

The Army sees it differently, though. “The way he's going about it by not showing up puts him as a deserter and someone who is AWOL,” Army spokesperson Major Nathan Banks said.

“We won't go after him, but if he applies for a federal grant or school loans, certain jobs or gets a traffic ticket, he will be arrested and processed for being a deserter, and he will probably get a dishonorable discharge. He's digging his own hole.”

While they won't go after him, Chiroux knows the Army has noticed his actions.

“There were several stories in the Stars and Stripes which every soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan gets,” he said, with a touch of nervousness in his voice. He hasn't filed for conscientious-objector status because he said he doesn't qualify for that designation by the Army's standards.

“I'm not against all war, period,” he said. “In fact, I'm very pro-military. I see a great need to have a highly professional, well-trained and well-equipped defensive force that can also participate in international humanitarian operations, including peacekeeping operations.

“However, I'm highly opposed to illegal war, which is what I see the occupation of Iraq as.”

For now, it's a waiting game, one whose end Chiroux can't foresee. “I will continue to try and educate myself and stand for justice and the rule of law,” he said. “I have no fear of the military or what will happen here.

“If I'm jailed for my actions, they will never be able to strip from me the reality that I hold close to my heart that what I'm doing here is morally and legally right and in keeping with the values that were trained into me while in the military.”

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

California Sgt. Killed In Mosul



Army Sgt. Alejandro A. Dominguez, a San Diego native, who died June 25, 2008 in Mosul, Iraq. (AP Photo/Photo courtesy of Dominguez family)

U.S. Soldier Killed In Samarra, Two More Wounded

7.2.08 By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press Writer

A bomb hit a U.S. convoy, killing one American soldier and wounding two in Samarra, north of Baghdad, the U.S. military reported.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad;

Five More Wounded

08 Jul 2008 DPA & Jul 8 By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and SEBASTIAN ABBOT,
Associated Press Writers

Baghdad - A US soldier was killed Tuesday when a roadside bomb hit a troop convoy in west Baghdad, a US military spokesman said. The soldier died of his wounds after several surgical operations, Abdel-Latif Rayan, a spokesman for the US military told the Voices of Iraq news agency.

Five other soldiers were wounded in the attack in the western Baghdad neighborhood of Amiriyah.

U.S. Soldier Killed West Of Baghdad

08 Jul 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080708-04

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier died as a result of an improvised explosive device that struck his vehicle west of Baghdad at approximately 9:30 a.m. July 8.

U.S. Soldier Killed In Salah Ad-Din; Two Wounded

July 9, 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080709-06

TIKRIT, Iraq – A U.S. Soldier was killed in an explosion while conducting operations in Salah ad-Din July 9.

Additionally, two other Soldiers were wounded in the explosion.

Lexington Soldier Killed In Iraq, Mom Says

July 10, 2008 Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Relatives of a Lexington soldier who was on his first tour in Iraq say he died when a homemade bomb hit his vehicle.

Marge McMillan said her 22-year-old son, Spc. William McMillan III, was killed Tuesday as he was traveling with other soldiers. She said five soldiers were injured.

She said her son was an athlete at Hargrave Military Institute in Virginia, where he was captain of the football, wrestling and lacrosse teams. He attended Virginia Military Institute for a year, then enlisted in the Army, where he was a medic.

McMillan, who was based at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, had just received the Bronze Star. His mother said he had been in Iraq since December and was due home on leave in September.

McMillan had been married for a year and a half. His wife, Elizabeth, is a student at the University of Kentucky. She said she talked to her husband about 12 hours before he was killed.

Other survivors include McMillan's father, Capt. William McMillan Jr.; a sister, Lauren Buchanan; and a brother, Brad.

Sergeant Was Slated For Mid-Tour Visit Home

June 28, 2008 By Rick Rogers, UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Alejandro A. Dominguez loved the Army so much that he listed "my tank manual" as his favorite book on his MySpace page.

The Army came in second only to his love for his family. The 2002 Southwest High School graduate's home page featured a photo of his baby daughter and wrote that "without my wife or my daughter all I do would be for nothing."

In a matter of days, the 24-year-old sergeant would be headed home to reunite with his wife and daughter in Texas, where he was stationed, and to see about buying a house during his mid-tour visit from Iraq.

Instead, the Army announced yesterday that Dominguez, along with Spc. Joel A. Taylor, 20, of Pinetown, N.C., and Pfc. James M. Yohn, 25, of Highspire, Pa., were killed. The Fort Hood soldiers died Wednesday when their vehicle was blown up by a roadside bomb.

Dominguez's funeral is scheduled for Thursday at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda Dominguez, also from San Diego; a year-old daughter, Alexia; and a 3-year-old son, Isaiah, from a previous relationship. Several other relatives live in the San Diego area, including his parents, Antonio and Elia, and a younger sister, Alejandra.

“The first time the military called, I hung up,” said Antonio Dominguez, who owns a silk-screening print business in Chula Vista.

“I thought it was the Marine Corps trying to get information about something,” he said of the call Wednesday. “I told my wife, and she said that as long as it wasn’t the Army, we were all right. But then five minutes later, the Army arrived at my shop.”

Antonio Dominguez said Army officials told him his son was leading a mission in Mosul when his truck ran over an explosive device.

Fred Lobello, Alejandro’s uncle and a World War II veteran who fought in Italy, recalled a fearless boy who loved racing through the desert on anything with wheels and an engine.

“He loved motorcycles. He loved to ride quads. He loved cars. He would liked to have my 1965 Mustang,” recalled Lobello, who lives in San Diego. “He and his father would go riding in Ensenada.”

But in recent years, Dominguez stopped racing through the desert, saying it was too dangerous and that he couldn’t risk getting hurt.

Dominguez, who was on his second combat tour in Iraq, never talked about joining the military before telling his family in the summer of 2002 that he had already signed up.

“I was surprised. I asked him why. We were at war and he was joining the military,” his father said. He just said, ‘I just feel that I want to do this.’ “

The choice of the military as a career wasn’t entirely surprising in hindsight.

“He was the type of guy who was always taking care of someone. He was always protecting someone,” Antonio Dominguez said.

“The military was second only to his family. He was a happy man,” said Alejandra, 19, a nurse at Sharp Coronado Hospital.

Father and son last talked five days ago.

“He said he had just worked for 22 hours and that he was getting a few hours’ sleep before going on another mission. He said, ‘I love you and I’ll call you soon.’ “

U.S. Soldier Wounded By “Improvised Rocket-Assisted Mortar” In Baghdad

Jul 9, 2008 (Reuters)

An improvised rocket-assisted mortar wounded one U.S. soldier and a translator when it landed near a joint U.S. and Iraqi security station in Baghdad’s northeastern Ur district, setting off eight explosions, the U.S. military said in a statement.

**ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT;
ALL HOME NOW!**



U.S. Army soldiers at Forward Operating Base Warhorse during a sandstorm blankets, Diyala province northeast of Baghdad July 1, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Two Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In
Paktika, One Wounded;
Nationality Not Announced**

Jul 10 Associated Press Writer

A roadside bomb in the eastern province of Paktika killed two soldiers and wounded a third. NATO did not release the nationalities of the soldiers, but most troops in Paktika are American.

**Wilkes-Barre Soldier Killed In
Afghanistan**

July 10, 2008 WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP)

A soldier originally from Wilkes-Barre has been killed in Afghanistan.

The father of 29-year-old Douglas Bull of Killeen, Texas, says he was killed Tuesday.

His father, Chris Bull of Wapwallopen, says his son was killed by a roadside bomb.

Douglas Bull was a 1997 graduate of E.L. Meyers High School and enlisted in the Army shortly after graduation. He was recently assigned to an engineering unit based at Fort Hood, Texas.

His father says Bull served one previous overseas tour, in Iraq, which ended in 2006. He left for his tour of duty in Afghanistan less than a month ago.

Douglas Bull was married and had a son and a daughter.

9 British Soldiers Wounded By British Apache In Helmand

Jul 10 AP

LONDON - Britain's Ministry of Defense says nine soldiers have been injured by friendly fire in Helmand province in Afghanistan.

A defense spokesman says an Apache helicopter opened fire on British troops after mistaking them for the enemy.

The spokesman says one soldier was seriously injured and has been sent back to Britain, two others are still in the hospital and the other six soldiers have returned to duty.

The Ministry of Defense says the incident took place Wednesday "in the confusion of a rapidly changing situation."

West Fife Soldier Injured By Afghan Landmine

10th July Clyde and Forth Press Ltd. [UK]

A WEST FIFE soldier has been seriously injured in Afghanistan after the vehicle he was travelling in struck a landmine.

Sergeant Scott Paterson (30), 16th Air Assault, was on patrol when the Jackal 4x4 vehicle set off the mine on Monday.

He suffered two broken legs, a broken foot, a gash on his arm and a head wound.

None of his colleagues in the state-of-the-art vehicle was believed to be injured.

As the Press went to print Scott was being flown from an undisclosed location in southern Afghanistan to receive treatment in the Royal College for Defence and Medicine based at University Hospital, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

He will be joined by his parents, Andy (55) and Linda (53), who are today (Thursday) driving from their home at Shepherdlands Grove, Comrie.

Scott phoned the couple from the British Field Hospital in Camp Bastion before going into theatre for an operation on Monday.

Mr Paterson said, "The first we knew of it was when Scott phoned us, so we got a bit of a shock.

"He was in fairly good spirits and it was a relief to hear his voice. But I think the shock of it will sink in now."

"Put it this way, it could've been a knock at the door rather than a phone call from Scott – so we're just grateful that he's safe."

When asked about the extent of Scott's injuries, he added, "We won't know the full details until the specialist has a good look at him.

"We're told he won't lose his legs but that he won't be able to walk for at least three months. He's really been in the thick of it."

Scott's brothers, Gordon (32), Andrew (28) and Ross (26), will also visit him at a later date.

Scott, a former pupil of Queen Anne High School, Dunfermline, is a member of the elite Pathfinder Platoon and has served in Serbia, Kosovo, Croatia and Iraq. He joined the army on leaving school when he was 16.

His regiment is based in Colchester where he stays with his fiancée, Kelly Anderson. They are to wed in April next year.

Scott's mum, Linda, said, "We really won't know the score until we get down there (to the hospital) but we're all just really looking forward to seeing him again."

Willie Rennie, Liberal Democrat MP for Dunfermline and West Fife, said, "This must be an extremely trying time for the family and the sergeant himself. It's difficult circumstances in Afghanistan right now. The tactics of the Taliban has changed significantly."

“It’s now asymmetrical warfare, which is effectively roadside bombs and suicide bombers.”

TROOP NEWS

Odious Odierno Taking Command Of Iraq Occupation: Military Genius Famous For Saying “This Is Not Guerrilla Warfare” “It’s Not Close To Guerilla Warfare” “They’ll Fire A Shot, They’ll Drop The Weapon, And They’ll Give Up Right Away”



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee during his confirmation hearing May 22. Chip Somodevilla, Getty Images

There were also charges, even among fellow generals, that Odierno was making the guerrilla warfare worse. An Army report released just this week agrees, saying Odierno’s combat operations swept up large numbers of Iraqi men, including those who were innocent of any wrongdoing, and leading to what it calls “disaffection” within the Sunni community.

July 2, 2008 by Tom Bowman, All Things Considered

Later this summer, there will be a new top American military leader in Baghdad.

Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno will take over from his boss, Gen. David Petraeus, who is being promoted to a job overseeing the entire Middle East region.

Just two months after the fall of Baghdad in 2003, Odierno, a hard-driving general from New Jersey, appeared before reporters.

Odierno was a two-star general, commanding the 4th Infantry Division in what was called the Sunni Triangle, a restive area northwest of the capital.

Odierno talked of his sweeping operations, and he brushed aside talk of the rising number of hit-and-run attacks and whether these were the start of guerrilla warfare.

“This is not guerrilla warfare,” Odierno snapped.

“It’s not close to guerilla warfare, because it’s not coordinated, it’s not organized, and it’s not led.

“The soldiers that are conducting these operations don’t even have the willpower. We find a majority of the time they’ll fire a shot, they’ll drop the weapon, and they’ll give up right away.”

But it was guerrilla warfare, and it was growing fast. Gen. John Abizaid, then the top U.S. officer in the region, acknowledged it just a few weeks later.

There were also charges, even among fellow generals, that Odierno was making the guerrilla warfare worse.

“Odierno just didn’t get it,” says Juan Cole, a professor of Middle Eastern history at the University of Michigan. “He didn’t understand what it means to win hearts and minds.

“He didn’t understand local culture. ... He’d have his troops go through women’s underwear in the house looking for arms.”

An Army report released just this week agrees, saying Odierno’s combat operations swept up large numbers of Iraqi men, including those who were innocent of any wrongdoing, and leading to what it calls “disaffection” within the Sunni community.

The general’s supporters say he has learned a lot in the five years since barreling through the Sunni Triangle, such as the importance of counterinsurgency tactics, winning hearts and minds, and the art of diplomacy through a stint as an aide to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

“We are clearly headed in the right direction,” Odierno said. “And I believe a self-reliant government of Iraq, one that is stable, one that is committed to governance and protecting its own people and serving all its people, a place that’s denied as a safe haven for terrorists and extremists and integrated into the international community and a partner in the war on terror is absolutely possible in Iraq.”

Odierno was an early proponent of the so-called surge in forces, saying more Americans were needed to secure Baghdad and that the Iraqi forces were not ready to take over.

Some officers tell NPR that Odierno pressed for a more aggressive stance against Sadr's Mahdi Army than Petraeus was willing to accept, and Odierno balked at releasing large numbers of Iraqi detainees no longer deemed to be a threat to the Americans.

Petraeus believed that the detainee release program would ease the insurgency.

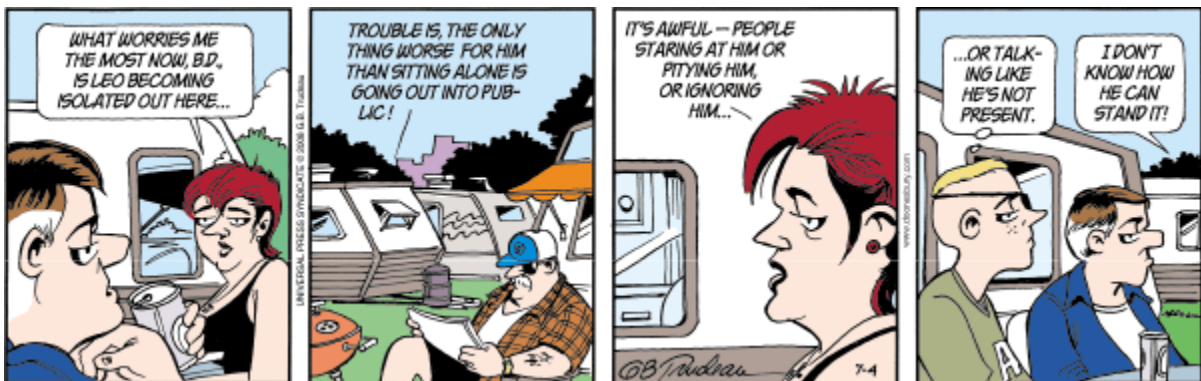
Anderson [Brig. Gen. Joe Anderson later served as a chief of staff to Odierno] Odierno's former chief of staff, supports his old boss's concerns about that release program, which is ongoing.

"We clearly put the brakes on the numbers, because they were trying to have these massive releases that were not going to be properly screened," recalls Anderson.

As Odierno prepares to take Petraeus' place, there is some skepticism about the road ahead.

Sen. Jim Webb, a Virginia Democrat, told the general the goal of helping to build an Iraqi state is more political than military. Webb asked what would happen to the number of U.S. troops once the political goals were met.

Odierno said the number of forces would "adjust over time."



Four More PTSD Drug Kills; “Hurricane Man’s Death The 4th In West Virginia”

During his son's struggle with the disorder and since his death, White has tracked similar cases. He knows of about eight in the tri-state area of Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia.

May 24, 2008 By Julie Robinson, Staff writer, West Virginia Gazette [Excerpts]

Putnam County veteran who was taking medication prescribed for post-traumatic stress disorder died in his sleep earlier this month, in circumstances similar to the deaths of three other area veterans earlier this year.

Derek Johnson, 22, of Hurricane, served in the infantry in the Middle East in 2005, where he was wounded in combat and diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder while hospitalized.

Military doctors prescribed Paxil, Klonopin and Seroquel for Johnson, the same combination taken by veterans Andrew White, 23, of Cross Lanes; Eric Layne, 29, of Kanawha City; and Nicholas Endicott of Logan County.

All were in apparently good physical health when they died in their sleep.

Johnson was taking Klonopin and Seroquel, as prescribed, at the time of his death, said his grandmother, Georgeann Underwood of Hurricane. Both drugs are frequently used in combination to treat post-traumatic stress disorder. Klonopin causes excessive drowsiness in some patients.

He also was taking a painkiller for a back injury he sustained in a car accident about a week before his death, but was no longer taking Paxil.

On May 1, the night before he died, Johnson called his grandfather, Duck Underwood, and asked if he could pick up his 5-year-old son and take him to school the next day. Johnson and his wife, Stacie, have three children, all under 6 years old. Their car had been totaled in the accident the previous week.

When Underwood arrived to pick up the boy the next morning, his knocks were not answered at first. He heard Stacie Johnson screaming. She opened the door and told him she couldn't wake her husband. They called paramedics, who could not revive him. Doctors did not declare an immediate cause of death.

Toxicology and autopsy results could take as long as 60 days, authorities told the family.

"I want to know the cause of death," said Ray Johnson, Derek's father. "Stacie said he was fine that night. Everything was normal. He kissed her goodnight and went to sleep."

Stan White, father of soldier Andrew White, has become an advocate for families of returning veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. During his son's struggle with the disorder and since his death, White has tracked similar cases. He knows of about eight in the tri-state area of Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia.

He and his wife, Shirley, introduced themselves to the Johnsons and Underwoods at Derek's funeral and offered their help. He is in contact with the office of Sen. Jay

Rockefeller, D-W.Va., who is a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Rockefeller requested an investigation into these deaths, which is ongoing, said Steven Broderick, the senator's press secretary.

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Klonopin causes excessive drowsiness in some patients. **[Klonopin is a benzo: see above re benzos.]**

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He and his wife, Shirley, introduced themselves to the Johnsons and Underwoods at Derek's funeral and offered their help.

“When I talked to his family about Derek, I realized it was the same old story,” said White. “It was all too familiar. He was taking those same drugs as the others, and, yes, I believe they are still prescribing that combination.”

An outgoing, personable young man who worked at several jobs to support his young family, Johnson frequently was offered other jobs by customers in the stores where he worked, Underwood said.

In 2006, he returned from the Middle East depressed and short-tempered. Johnson had operated an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, or rapid-fire machine gun, and rarely spoke about his experiences there.

After his military prescriptions ran out, Johnson’s medications were prescribed by private physicians because he refused to go the VA hospitals where he said he was required to wait long periods of time for appointments. His grandparents paid for his medications.

“He had a very short fuse,” Ray Johnson said. “That was the biggest difference in his personality after he came back.”

Until his death, he worked 12 or 16 hours a day. He was an electrical apprentice at the John Amos Power Plant until he was let go when his work hours approached the union limit for apprentices. He was on his way to apply for another job when the car he drove was rear-ended on April 24.

Johnson died May 2.

More:

THERE IT IS

Jun 25, 2008 Nancy Remsen, Burlington Free Press [Excerpt]

Jon Turner of Burlington, who did two tours of duty in Iraq, told [James Peake, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs] he believed there was a tendency to over-medicate veterans.

When he sought help, he said he was given six prescriptions.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

GET THE MESSAGE?

[HAPPY 4TH OF JULY. THEY WANT SOME INDEPENDENCE TOO]



Iraqis protest the U.S. occupation while holding posters of nationalist Muqtada al-Sadr in Sadr City in Baghdad, July 4, 2008. (AP Photo/ Karim Kadim)

Resistance Action



A police vehicle damaged in a bomb blast in Kirkuk, July 8, 2008. (AP Photo/Emad Matti)

Jul 1 By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer & 7.2.08 By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press Writer & July 3 (Reuters) & July 5 (Reuters) & AP & Jul 6

(Reuters) & By Laith Hammoudi, McClatchy Newspapers & July 7 (KUNA) & By Sahar Issa, McClatchy Newspapers & (Reuters) & July 8 (Reuters) & By Mohammed Al Dulaimy, McClatchy Newspapers & July 9 BBC & (Reuters) & Khaleej Times Online & 10 July 2008 Reuters & (KUNA)

Militants fired three rockets in two attacks on Basra's international airport on Wednesday evening, but neither caused any casualties, the British military said.

Insurgents shot dead the head of the Nineveh province branch of the National Identity Department outside his office in the provincial capital, Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A car bomber wounded three soldiers when it hit an Iraqi army vehicle in Mansour district, central Baghdad, police said.

In Wednesday's worst violence, a car bomber attacked a military convoy carrying a senior Iraqi commander in the northern city of Mosul, the Iraqi military said. It said Lt. Gen. Riyadh Jalal Tawfiq, army commander of northern Iraq's Nineveh province, escaped unharmed but seven of his guards suffered wounds and two were killed. "The bomber drove his car into my convoy in the Al-Faisaliya neighbourhood of east Mosul," general Tauffiq told AFP.

A bomb exploded outside a bank in Fallujah west of Baghdad, killing four policemen and a civilian and wounding 15 others, Iraqi police said. An initial blast occurred at 6:30 a.m., drawing police to the site, then two more bombs detonated, causing the casualties, police said.

Assailants killed a policeman in a drive-by shooting in Mosul.

Police said a truck bomb exploded Tuesday near the home of a sheik in Qayarra, about 45 miles south of Mosul, killing one person and wounding 25, including the sheik. The blast destroyed three houses and damaged seven others, police said. The sheik, Abdul-Razaq al-Waqaa, is among local community leaders loyal to the U.S. military.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded one policeman in the Karrada district of central Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded Khalid Mohammed, an official of the Iraqi Islamic Party in Falluja.

A roadside bomb wounded two policemen when it targeted a police patrol in northern Mosul, police said.

Militants shot dead two off-duty policemen in a market in eastern Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded five guards when it struck the convoy of Tikrit police chief Hamid al-Namis, in central Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad, a police source who declined to be identified, said.

Insurgents on a motorcycle assassinated an official of an Iraq [collaborator] party Friday in the southern city of Basra, police said. Sheik Salim al-Dirraji was killed in the Hayania

district, which had been a stronghold of the Mahdi Army of nationalist Muqtada al-Sadr until a security crackdown last spring. Al-Dirraji was a local official of the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, the leading rival of al-Sadr's party.

A car bomb wounded three police near al Sada al Noaim mosque in the Shaab district of northern Baghdad on Sunday, police said.

An Iraqi soldier was killed and three others were wounded in an IED explosion that targeted a walking patrol for the Iraqi army in Kanaan 13 miles east of Baquba city around 11:15 a.m.

Four members of the Iraqi police were wounded when an IED exploded targeting their vehicle in downtown Kirkuk city on Sunday afternoon.

An Iraqi police source said a number of mortar shells fell on the governance building in Nainona central Mosul, injuring six civilians.

Insurgents killed a member of the Sahwa Council, a U.S. backed militia, in al-Hashimiyah neighbourhood, western Baquba at around 10.30 a.m. Monday.

A roadside bomb exploded in front of the residence of Mayor of Sulaiman Bek, to the south of Kirkuk Monday morning critically injuring the Mayor and wounding other civilians in the vicinity.

A car bomb targeted Sahwa Council offices, a U.S. backed militia, in Smeismiyah area, to the east of the town of Rawa during a meeting Sunday at noon injuring eleven Sahwa members, three of whom are critical.

SAMARRA - A car bomber killed four members of a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol and wounded nine other people in Samarra, 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded a policeman outside a court building in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, a police chief Brigadier-General Sarhat Qadin said.

A roadside bomb targeted Tikrit police chief convoy in central Tikrit killing one body guard.

A roadside bomb targeted police vehicle near Al Andalus square central Baghdad, injuring two policemen and three civilians.

Gunmen shot dead a policeman in Mosul Wednesday.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

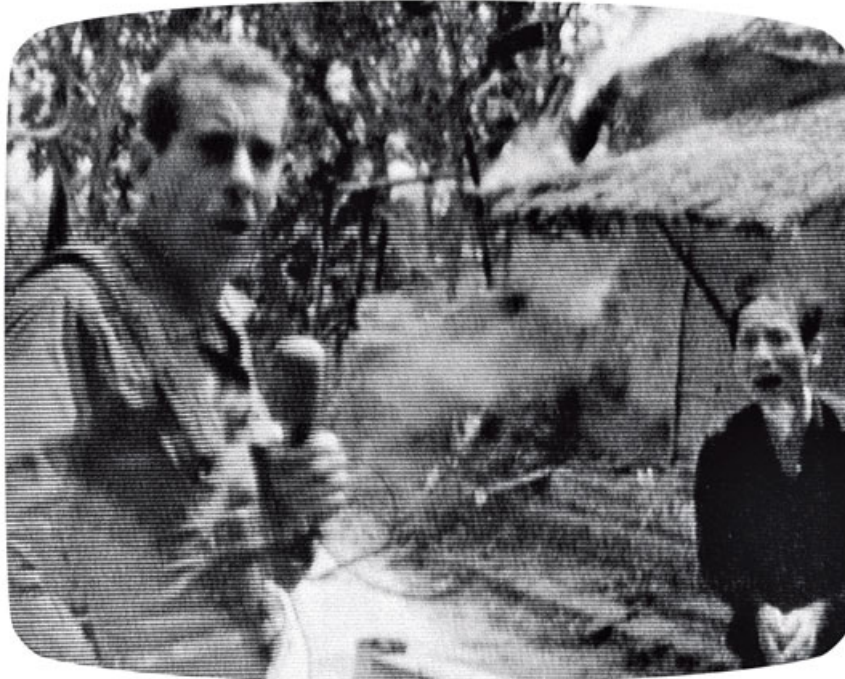
At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle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

"The Sands Of Time May Be Running Out"



CBS News correspondent Morley Safer, left, filing an official report from Cam Ne, Vietnam, 1965. (Photo: CBS Photo / Getty Images)

June 15, 2008 New York Magazine

Below, a transcript of a parody segment filmed in Saigon by CBS correspondents Morley Safer and Murray Fromson during the Vietnam War.

The never-aired footage was recently uncovered in the CBS archives on 57th Street.

JULY 22, 1965
SAIGON, VIETNAM

[Morley Safer and Murray Fromson sit at typewriters, pretending to write.]

Safer: What kind of war have you been having, Murray?

Fromson: Well, Morley, as you know, I've just come back from the shark-infested waters of Cam Ranh Bay, where a couple of thousands of our battle-hardened dogfaces just splashed ashore. And they're ready for their first face-to-face encounter with the wily and elusive Vietcong.

Safer: I've just come back from the impenetrable jungle that surrounds this tense and war-torn city, where each night the thump of artillery plays a staccato of death all around us.

Fromson: Running into any bugle-blowing human-wave attacks?

Safer: Yes. Not to mention a buzz saw of resistance.

Fromson: Well, up at Cam Ranh, the wisecracking GIs have just finished an operation that went off like clockwork.

Safer: I'll bet the going wasn't as eerie and treacherous as it is down here in the leech-ridden swamps of the delta.

[Safer shuffles around some papers.]

Fromson: Well, you're right, but of course up at Cam Ranh, which sits astride the classic invasion route to Saigon, we are secure in the knowledge that our swept-wing supersonic bombers provide us with an umbrella of protection.

Safer: Yes, yes. Many is the time I've seen them roar out of the predawn darkness like a swarm of angry locusts.

Fromson: Mmm, winging northward, no doubt, with their heavy payloads earmarked for the vital supply lines of the Ho Chi Minh Trail?

Safer: Well, that swashbuckling, black-suited, 35-year-old playboy pilot Premier Nguyen Cao Ky has vowed to take the war to Hanoi.

Fromson: No doubt, right to the Ho Chi Minh Trail, or the Ho Chi Minh doorstep. Speaking of Ky, Morley, how long can this charade of political musical chairs continue in the coup-ridden capital?

Safer: Well, I guess we can't expect democracy to take root immediately in an emerging nation that has suffered so long under the yoke of colonialist rule. But the sands of time may be running out.

Fromson: Sands of time?

Safer: Well, you know what I mean. The old clock on the wall.

Fromson: Good night, Morley.

Safer: Good night, Murray.

Reached by phone recently, Safer said he remembered filming the segment to pass the time on a "very, very slim news day."

Said the 60 Minutes correspondent, "I'd just come back from the DMZ—I was up there for five or six days. I slept for about twelve hours, had something to eat, and walked into the office, and there was nothing to do." He added that he can't imagine today's war correspondents feeling at ease enough to take part in such a joke.

"I'm sure that Iraq has its own gallows humor, but I don't think it's as free and easy as it was in Vietnam. We were reasonably safe out in the towns, which is just not the case in Iraq. Vietnam had its perils, but nothing like this."

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 held prisoner by foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. Army for no apparent reason except he encountered them as other soldiers engaged in an armed home invasion in Sa'ada, about 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Baghdad, Diyala province on July 7, 2008. The man was released. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA.]

[They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people.]

[How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

U.S. Military Dictatorship Tells Iraqi Prime Minister To Eat Shit After He Calls For Timeline For U.S. Troop Withdrawal; [So Much For That Silly, Stupid, Lying Bullshit About “Iraqi Sovereignty”] Sadrist Lawmaker Says “We Reject Signing Anything With The U.S. Before The Withdrawal Of The Occupation Forces”

Jul 7 (AFP) & Reuters & Jul 8 By Ahmed Rasheed and Mohammed Abbas (Reuters) & By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and SEBASTIAN ABBOT, Associated Press Writers

In a rebuff to Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, the Pentagon said Monday that any timetable for a US withdrawal from Iraq would depend on conditions on the ground there.

Maliki told Arab ambassadors on Monday he was pressing for such a timetable in negotiations with Washington on an agreement on the status of US forces in Iraq beyond 2008.

“Today, we are looking at the necessity of terminating the foreign presence on Iraqi lands and restoring full sovereignty,” Maliki told Arab ambassadors in blunt remarks during an official visit to Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates.

“One of the two basic topics is either to have a memorandum of understanding for the departure of forces or a memorandum of understanding to set a timetable for the presence of the forces, so that we know (their presence) will end in a specific time.”

He said foreign forces would need Iraqi permission for many of their activities once the U.N. mandate ended.

“This means the phenomena of unilateral detention will be over, as well as unilateral operations and immunity,” he said.

Asked about the prime minister’s comments, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told reporters: “With respect to timetables I would say the same thing I

would say as respects to the security situation -- it is dependent on conditions on the ground.”

“But timelines tend to be artificial in nature,” he said. “In a situation where things are as dynamic as they are in Iraq, I would just tell you, it’s usually best to look at these things based on conditions on the ground.”

Iraq will not accept any security agreement with the United States unless it includes dates for the withdrawal of foreign forces, the government’s national security adviser said on Tuesday.

On Monday, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki suggested for the first time that a timetable be set for the departure of U.S. forces under the deal being negotiated, which he called a memorandum of understanding.

National Security Adviser Mowaffaq al-Rubaie appeared to go further on Tuesday.

“We can’t have a memorandum of understanding with foreign forces unless it has dates and clear horizons determining the departure of foreign forces.

“We’re unambiguously talking about their departure,” he told reporters in Najaf after meeting Iraq’s top Shi’ite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

“I informed the (clerical leaders) about some of the advances in the talks ... There is a big difference in outlook between us and the Americans,” Rubaie said, adding Iraq’s 500,000-strong security forces had greatly improved.

Government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh, speaking on al-Hurra television, said it was an Iraqi demand to know when foreign forces would leave.

“Will this be through a timetable, a timeframe or time horizon? It depends on the situation on the ground. I think this will determine the dates or will affect whether it is possible to put (the departure) under a timetable.”

A senior Shi’ite official added: “It is very soon to talk about details. The talks are in the early stages.”

In Iraq, nationalist Muqtada al-Sadr has kept the issue in the foreground — and put pressure on the government — by consistently calling for an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Sticking to that position, Sadrist lawmaker Falah Hassan Shanshal reacted coolly to the Iraqi government’s negotiations.

“We reject signing anything with the U.S. before the withdrawal of the occupation forces,” Shanshal said.

The Bush administration has always opposed setting any withdrawal timetable, saying to do so would allow militant groups to lie low and wait until U.S. troops in Iraq left.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

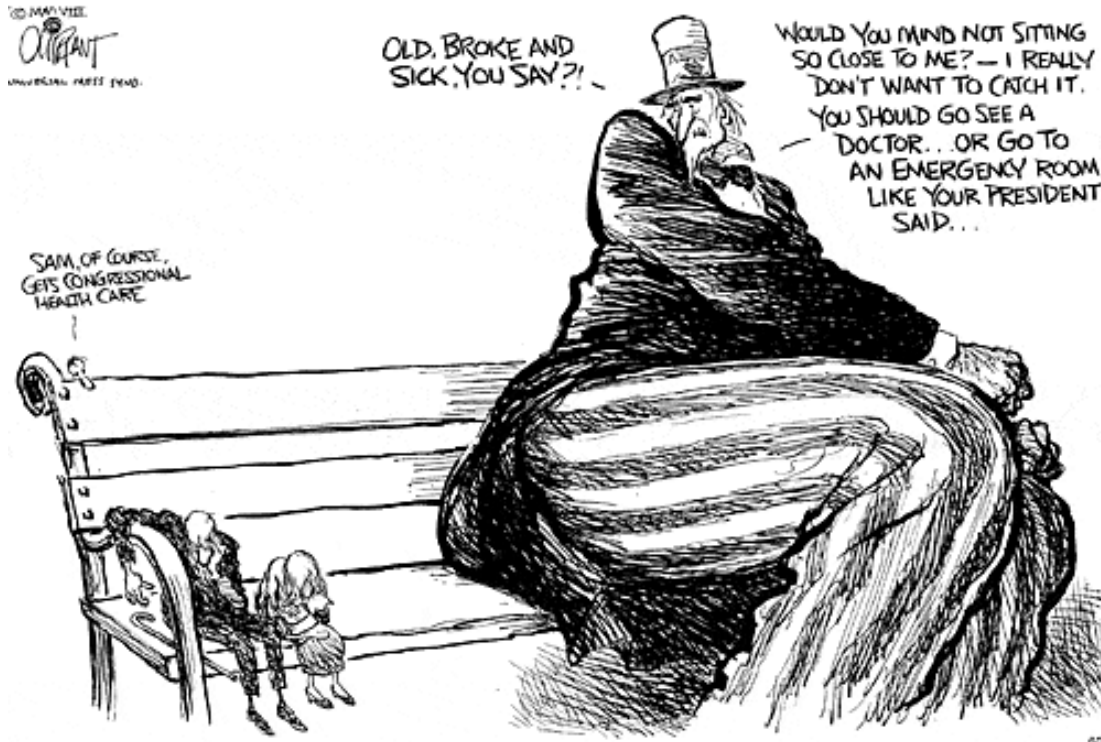
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Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

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

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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