

GI SPECIAL 6G5:

Patriotic Oil Guys



Independence Day!

**“A Time When We Realized That
Our Government Has The Power
And Only The Power That We
Allow”**

**“Our Forefathers Saw Fit To Cast
Off The Shackles Of A
Government That Was Not
Representing Its People”**

“It May Be A Painful Part Of Our History That We Are Forced To Learn Again”



My Platoon Sergeant confided in me that the war in Iraq took everything he thought he knew about America and crushed it. I responded by telling him that my feelings on the subject were similar.

07/01/2008 by Ronn Cantu, Iraq Veterans Against The War (www.ivaw.org/)

Branch: United States Army (USA)

Rank: SSG

Home: California

I enlisted into the Army as an infantryman in March 1998. I ETS'd in 2001 and, believing in the cause at the time, re-enlisted after war was declared on Iraq. I served in Iraq from February 2004 until February 2005, reclassified into fobbit MOS and deployed again from December 2006 to January 2008.

I guess I always knew what the Fourth of July meant. I had, after all, had the standard amount of American history classes in school. From what I can piece together and remember, it means hot dogs, fireworks and OI' Glory.

I knew that if you wore or displayed red, white and blue, then no one could question your patriotism; and that if you were truly a patriot, you agreed with your government no matter what.

When the war in Iraq broke out, in true patriotic fashion, I answered the call of my country. I went to fight them over there so I wouldn't have to fight them in Southern California.

My experiences in Iraq changed how I view my own country and upbringing.

I was mortified at how some of my fellow countrymen conducted themselves in our host countries and worse, I didn't want to believe that my country would willingly get engaged in something so... pointlessly bloodletting.

And all under the guise of something so noble!

I had wanted to give the Iraqi people the same freedoms that we here in America enjoy... or freedoms I thought we enjoyed.

Now I'm not so sure.

My Platoon Sergeant confided in me that the war in Iraq took everything he thought he knew about America and crushed it. I responded by telling him that my feelings on the subject were similar.

I realized, late in life but not too late, that the Fourth of July has another name - Independence Day.

The day our forefathers saw fit to cast off the shackles of a government that was not representing its people and establish, for themselves, the government they deserved; because they realized, they knew, that only they had that power.

The Fourth of July, Independence Day, will from here on remind me of a time when we, as countrymen and as Americans, realized that our government has the power and only the power that we allow.

It's a lesson we were forced to learn more than 230 years ago and, in typical American fashion, it may be a painful part of our history that we are forced to learn again.

BillDay The Commercial Appeal
The Dallas Morning News



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ACTION REPORTS

Report From Staten Island National Guard Armory Outreach, Friday 6/27 At 7 AM; “Easy Conversation And Smiling Faces Were There To Receive Us, As If We Were Expected”



From: Elaine Brower, The Military Project
To: GI Special
Sent: June 30, 2008
Subject: Outreach at National Guard Armory in Staten Island

During Fleet Week, one of the Military Project members who was actively conducting outreach around New York City to speak to all the visiting military members, met up with a Guard member at [XXXX] Station.

This Guard member told him that we should be going to “where he is.”

When asked where that might be, AS, the military project person, found out it was the armory on Staten Island.

This place has been haunting me since I have been doing outreach. I knew there must be drills there, but could not find an inside source and whenever I drove past, it was locked up.

Needless to say, all the members of the Military Project were happy to hear that finally we were able to get a contact who not only was glad to receive our lit and other materials, but invited us to visit the armory, right on the Island where I live.

There were 3 Military Project members (2 VFP and me, the MFSO person), 1 Veterans For Peacemember, and 1 Movement for a Democratic Society (MDS) member who also lives on Staten Island, showing up at the armory at 7 AM. Those members from MP and VFP made the trek from Queens to join us in the middle of suburbia!

By the way, the delicious cookies we handed out were made by a member of MDS, so this venture was a collective effort from people who understand that outreach to the troops is the way to end the war, and is also a source of great satisfaction.

We positioned ourselves at the 2 main gates, where soldiers were either on foot or driving in.

When you get up that early, you ask yourself what the hell you are doing, and a big argument in your head goes on, at least I know that happens to me, and I've been doing this for over 3 years.

But the best and most gratifying experience is getting there, looking into the faces of those troops, who probably wonder what the hell they are doing there, and who are these crazy people!

Then they stood and talked to us.

They were happy to take our literature, cookies, and DVD's of “Sir, No Sir!” In my experience, this was the most cordial outreach I have ever participated in.

The soldiers were relaxed and wanted to talk.

Even those driving into the armory stopped because they wanted to, not because we jumped into the street to hand them our packets!

Easy conversation and smiling faces were there to receive us, as if we were expected.

It did not come as a question, shock or surprise to see us there, like when I went to visit the Red Bank Marine Corps facility, or to the Garden City Marine Corps location.

These troops were not only taking the new issue of Traveling Soldier, GI Rights Pamphlet, DVDs, and 3 types of home made cookies, (Oatmeal/Raisin; Chocolate Chip; Cranberry/Oatmeal), they put them in their fatigues and walked either to the store to get their morning coffee, where AJ was staked out, or into the main gate of the armory.

The VFP member that accompanied us spoke to all the soldiers he gave lit to, and they were equally conversant.

It wasn't a large gathering that morning inside the armory but we did hand out about 60 packets. At 8:30 AM, since the arrivals had stopped, and some of us had to go off to work, we packed up and started to leave.

I was left behind, and really wanted to know when the next drill was scheduled. I had asked a few of the soldiers in conversation, but they were not sure, even though they were forthcoming with dates like July 11th, or 12th. But I wanted to be certain, so I waited and 2 soldiers were wandering down the driveway so I asked them.

They said "Go inside and ask right in the office there." I was a bit shocked, and they chuckled "it's ok" they reassured me.

So I went up the driveway and walked over to the open door and another 2 older soldiers came out, smiled at me, and I asked them when the next drill was. "I think July 12th," said the younger of the 2. "You sure?" the older soldier said. "I thought it was the 11th?"

"No, the morning of the 12th, that's our unit, and we have to muster at 7 AM." "He knows more than I do!", said the older soldier, and I thanked them both and they said "good morning" and I went to my car feeling really satisfied that I was able to participate with my friends in this beautiful, productive morning!



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

MORE ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the war.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Two U.S. Soldiers Confirmed KIA

Jul 11 Associated Press Writer

DETROIT - The bodies of two U.S. soldiers missing in Iraq for more than a year have been found, their families said Thursday night.

The father of Army Sgt. Alex Jimenez, of Lawrence, Mass., said the remains of his son and another soldier, Pvt. Byron W. Fouty, of Waterford, Mich., had been identified in Iraq.

Jimenez, 25, and Fouty, 19, were captured along with a third member of the 2nd Brigade of the 10th Mountain Division during an ambush in May 2007 in the volatile area south of Baghdad known as the "triangle of death."

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW



U.S. soldier on the rooftop of the Patrol Base Texas in southern Sadr City, Baghdad, on April 3, 2008. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

Vilseck Remembers Fallen Soldier

June 28, 2008 By Seth Robson, Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — Michelle, 2, clung to her tearful mother, Lien Tran, and stared at a sea of faces in the Rose Barracks Chapel on Friday.

Those who congregated were paying their respects to Lien's husband and Michelle's father, Staff Sgt. Du Tran, 30, who died in Baqouba, Iraq, when a roadside bomb detonated near his unit during combat operations on June 20.

It's hard to say if the youngster knew exactly what was going on as her mother kneeled in front of Tran's combat boots, dog tags, rifle and helmet at the front of the chapel. And she might not fully comprehend yet that her daddy will never come home from the war.

Michelle spent only six months with him.

Du Tran was in Iraq from May 2003 to July 2004 and from January 2006 to February 2007 before he left with Battery C, Fires Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment for his last assignment, in August 2007.

It will be up to her mother, and Tran's brothers-in-arms, to tell her the story of her father's life.

Ron Grantham, 41, of Hohenfels, a retired sergeant first class, deployed with Tran on his first tour to Iraq. He remembered Tran as a person who did everything with enthusiasm.

Tran, who was Vietnamese, led a colorful life before he joined the Army. He'd tried to escape from Vietnam four times and was detained in Cambodian prisons before joining family in the States, Grantham said.

Anna Nguyen, 28, a member of Vilseck's small Vietnamese community, said the Tran family were friendly people who spoke their native language and shared Vietnamese food at their house.

Tran met Lien, a Vietnamese-German, at Giessen and the couple married in Denmark, she said.

The unit's rear detachment commander, Lt. Col. Thomas Rickard, described Tran as a gifted field artilleryman and leader who accepted the Army's challenge to perform equally well as an infantryman when needed.

"Tran was also a kind and compassionate man. He loved his family dearly and was extremely proud of his daughter," he said.

Fellow Battery C soldier, 1st Lt. Luke Zeck, 29, of Eureka, Calif. was injured in one of three roadside bombs that hit the unit during the operation in which Tran was killed. Zeck, who's face is pockmarked with shrapnel wounds from the blast, attended the ceremony after being discharged from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. "Tran was well respected. He volunteered to go to this unit and deploy. He had a way of barking out orders, but people loved him," recalled Zeck, who expects to stay at Vilseck for two weeks and then head back to Iraq.

Fires Squadron Rear Detachment commander Maj. Tiger Bartle said Battery C is deeply affected by the loss of such an admired and great leader. "His soldiers carried him 900 meters down a trail with a high probability of IEDs in an effort to save his life," he said.

He quoted a Company C soldier, Spc. Julian Garza, who described Tran as "a brother" who "thought the world of his wife and little girl."

"He was always sharing memories of the loves of his life and how he missed them so much. When his little girl would say: 'Papa' it would bring tears to his eyes," Garza said.

Tran could make soldiers laugh no matter what problems they faced, he said.

"If anyone wanted a great friend who would never leave your side, he was that person," Garza said. "It hurts me to say goodbye to him. My brother, my friend and my leader."

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Two Foreign Occupation Soldiers Killed In Paktika, Another Wounded

July 10 Alalam Inc

Two soldiers were killed and one wounded Thursday when a bomb blew up their patrol in eastern Afghanistan, the alliance's International Security Assistance Force said.

The blast occurred in Paktika province when the soldiers' patrol struck an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), ISAF said in a statement without giving their nationalities.

Another soldier was killed and three others were wounded on Tuesday in a roadside bomb blast in southern Afghanistan.

After Butchering 39 Women And Children In Wedding Party, Stupid Mass Murderers In Command Of U.S. Occupation Forces Caught In Stupid Lie About It

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

July. 11, 2008 The Associated Press & AFP

KABUL, Afghanistan - A U.S. military airstrike this week killed 47 civilians traveling to a wedding, the head of an Afghan government commission investigating the incident said Friday.

The airstrike on Sunday in Deh Bala district of Nuristan province also wounded nine civilians, said Burhanullah Shinwari, the deputy chairman of the Senate, who led the delegation.

Around 10 people were missing and believed to be still under rubble, he said.

The U.S. military on Sunday denied that any civilians were killed in the incident.

Shinwari said that 39 of those killed in the airstrike were women and children, including the bride.

The group was targeted twice on Sunday, as they walked along with the bride from her village toward the groom's house in another village, Shinwari said.

All those killed in Deh Bala incident were buried in one cemetery near the village where the attack happened, Shinwari said.

"They were all civilians, with no links to al-Qaida or the Taliban," Shinwari said.

MORE:

Stupid Mass Murderers In Command Of U.S. Occupation Forces Too Stupid To Understand This Either

July. 11, 2008 by Ivan Watson, NPR [Excerpt]

Gen. Mohammed Azimi, of the Afghan Defense Ministry, said U.S. and NATO troops are welcome to stay in Afghanistan, on one condition:

"Our hospitality depends on their behavior here," Azimi said.

"If foreign soldiers break down peoples' doors at night and search their houses, then the people will line up to go and join the Taliban."

TROOP NEWS

In Memoriam: **Paul Turley** **WW II Vet, Peace Activist:** **1926-2008**



From: SSG N (ret'd)
To: GI Special
Sent: July 10, 2008
Subject: Paul Turley, WW II Vet 1926-2008, Peace Activist

SSG N (ret'd) writes:

Paul was my buddy and fellow vet working for peace. He had my back in many ways. Kept the cops from busting me and stealing my bike, trailer and all our signs when a drunk jerk spat on me with the flag and I dropped him.

Gave me good measure.

Paul Zeno Turley

June 28, 2008

Paul Zeno Turley, 82, born June 3, 1926 in St. Louis, Missouri to Durward and Eunice Turley joining big brother Robert.

Paul quit school after the 11th grade to join the Navy during World War II. The Navy sent him to Purdue University where he became an electrician. He served on the Destroyer Escort Rolfe and visited China. After being discharged from the Navy, he worked as an electrician and moved to Colorado.

While in Colorado he met Leona Blakeslee on a blind date, they were married in 1950. While on vacation in St. Louis he found work and they settled there.

In 1952 he became a father for the first time with the birth of Richard (Ric) and then a second time in 1954 with Jeanne. He moved the family back to Colorado in 1955 and bought a home in Arvada where they welcomed Susan to the family in 1956.

In 1960 Paul moved the family to Laramie Wyoming to work for Simpson Electric. He was then hired by the University of Wyoming as an electrician and worked on many of the current buildings when they were being constructed.

Paul loved to ski and was on the Happy Jack Ski Patrol and was involved the Junior Ski Patrol. He also was a First Aid Instructor for the American Red Cross. In 1967 he ran unsuccessfully for Wyoming House of Representatives. He resigned from the University in 1972 to go back to college graduating with a BS in Computer Science in 1977.

He and Leona then moved to Los Altos, California to take a position with Link-Singer and work on the space simulator. In 1979, Paul and Leona moved back to Colorado where Paul worked at Autotrol.

In 1988, after two heart attacks and two by-pass surgeries, Paul retired and they moved back to Laramie.

Throughout his life Paul liked to bicycle and hike. In 1989 Paul and Leona bought a tandem bike and bicycled across Scotland for three weeks. They enjoyed it so much they went back in 1993.

During the summer months, Paul and Leona would take a job with the US Forest Service manning fire towers. They manned the fire tower on the Bear Tooth Highway one summer and manned a fire tower in the area of Delores, Colorado.

During his retirement Paul would take a couple of courses at the University of Wyoming every semester. He enrolled at the Wyoming School of Gymnastics in 1998 and was their oldest student at 72. There is a clip of Paul doing a summersault on the Laramie Tourism website.

In 2007 Paul took a six week trip to China on a student exchange program through the University of Wyoming and celebrated his 81st birthday there.

Paul spent a lot of time tending his garden, riding his 4-wheeler and puttering in his garage.

He is survived by his wife, Leona, a son, Ric Turley and his partner Keith of Boulder, Colorado, a daughter Susan Adler and her husband Dennis of Laramie, a brother Robert Turley, Denver, Colorado and many nephews.

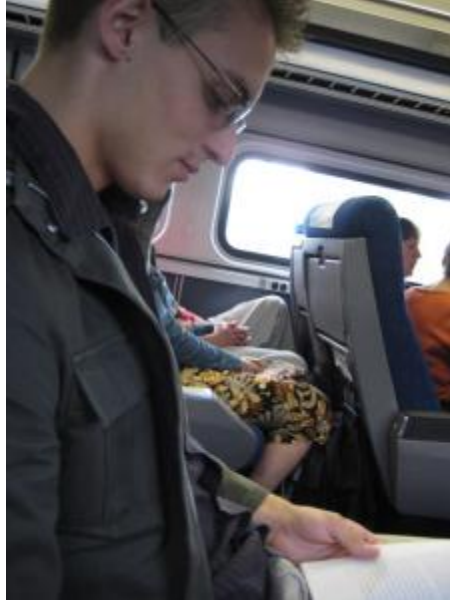
He is preceded in death by his parents, and a daughter Jeanne Turley.

A celebration of life will be held at Washington Park on July 12 from 3:00 p.m. to dusk.

Bring a side dish for the dinner after a short service. Be prepared to cook out and share thoughts and stories with the family.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to Stand Up For Peace, P. O. Box 1121, Laramie, WY 82073

**Liberty and Justice For
All...Except Some:
“Despite My Clean And Honorable
Service Record, My Commander Has
Recommended That I Be Discharged
‘Under Other Than Honorable
Conditions’ Simply For Coming Out As A
Bisexual”**



Britton Andrew Jones, Iraq Veterans Against The War

07/01/2008 by Britton Andrew Jones, Iraq Veterans Against The War (www.ivaw.org/)

This is my coming out story. Quickly, I am learning that coming out is an ongoing process that must occur over and over again.

I am a bisexual currently still in the Wisconsin Army National Guard awaiting separation because of my coming out.

I felt it was necessary to come out in protest of the current policy of LGBT service members in the military.

Despite my clean and honorable service record, my commander has recommended that I be discharged “under other than honorable conditions” simply for coming out as a bisexual serving in the Army National Guard.

I now have 45 days to acquire legal counsel and take action before the separation proceedings take place. I have broken no law, civilian or military, and am going to seek that my discharge be honorable as has been my service.

In college I grew to accept my bisexuality despite being drawn to the military. After going through a change in major and some questioning of what I should do in life, I turned to the military. I wanted to serve something greater than myself, and I was attracted to the discipline and structure the military had to offer.

In 2006 I enlisted into the Army National Guard as an infantryman.

I did not think my sexuality had anything to do with my military service. I went off to training and excelled in my tasks. Though I got teased about my chosen major in college, musical theatre, and heard many gay jokes, I shrugged them off and pressed on.

My fellow trainees and the drill sergeants knew I was committed and motivated.

Upon completion of my infantry training, I arrived back in Wisconsin and was told that my unit no longer existed and was instructed to pick a new job. I chose a paralegal position at a nearby unit. While with this unit and awaiting my scheduled summer reclassification school I drilled mostly with the JAG Corps assisting with wills, powers of attorney, and other legal documents for soldiers being deployed to Iraq.

This was a time of discovery for me.

The more and more I drilled, the more I realized the discriminatory and homophobic atmosphere of the military caused by a backwards policy. I felt like I was lying in hiding my bisexuality. I believed it was wrong that I had to hide it to keep my job and after much deliberation decided to come out.

Despite my good training scores and volunteering to help the JAG Corps, my commander, whom I have never met in my 8 months with the unit, is recommending I receive an "under other than honorable conditions" discharge from the Army National Guard.

When I believe the current policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Harass" to be discriminatory and wrong, I am almost shocked that I would be discriminated against in my type of discharge as well and am ready to fight it.

I am so glad to have come out not only as a soldier against the war in Iraq, but also a bisexual soldier.

No one should be punished for speaking their mind.

Hopefully, with help from activist brothers and sisters, this will be an era where equality and freedom of speech really do reign.



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

**GI Blood Bill:
“It Will Come With No Relief To The Next
Soldier/Sailor/Airmen/Marine That Is
Killed”**



06/25/2008 by Michael Scott Applegate, Iraq Veterans Against The War (www.ivaw.org/)

Most veterans would be happy about the reformed GI Bill, but the passage is attached to the new war-funding bill which will perpetuate the occupation for the next commander-in-chief who comes into office.

I feel that this is merely a hollow victory, which costs outweigh its benefits.

It will come with no relief to the next soldier/sailor/airmen/marine that is killed.

It's just one more way for this administration, to stain our hands; we have been victimized by the system yet again.

Be careful what you wish for, you just might get it.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Iraq Resistance Deploys Powerful New Weapon: “Flying IEDs”

The use of the rocket-propelled bombs reflects militiamen’s ability to use commonly available materials and relatively low-tech weaponry to circumvent security measures that have cost the U.S. military billions of dollars.

July 10, 2008 By Ernesto Londoño, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD, July 9 -- Suspected Shiite militiamen have begun using powerful rocket-propelled bombs to attack U.S. military outposts in recent months, broadening the array of weapons used against American troops.

U.S. military officials call the devices Improvised Rocket Assisted Munitions, or IRAMs. They are propane tanks packed with hundreds of pounds of explosives and powered by 107mm rockets.

They are often fired by remote control from the backs of trucks, sometimes in close succession.

Rocket-propelled bombs have killed at least 21 people, including at least three U.S. soldiers, this year. The latest reported rocket-propelled bomb attack occurred Tuesday at Joint Security Station Ur, a base in northeastern Baghdad shared by U.S. and Iraqi soldiers. One U.S. soldier and an interpreter were wounded in the attack.

U.S. military officials say IRAM attacks, unlike roadside bombings and conventional mortar or rocket attacks, have the potential to kill scores of soldiers at once.

IRAMs are fired at close range, unlike most rockets, and create much larger explosions. Most such attacks have occurred in the capital, Baghdad.

The use of the rocket-propelled bombs reflects militiamen’s ability to use commonly available materials and relatively low-tech weaponry to circumvent security measures that have cost the U.S. military billions of dollars.

To combat roadside bombs, known as improvised explosive devices or IEDs, U.S. and Iraqi troops have set up scores of checkpoints throughout the capital, increased patrols and purchased hundreds of armored vehicles that can resist such attacks.

A June report on the Web site Long War Journal called the explosives-filled propane tanks “flying IEDs.”

Militia members and insurgents have at times increased the sophistication of their weapons, but the rocket-propelled bombs are makeshift devices that also have been used in recent years by insurgents in Colombia.

Propane tanks are ubiquitous in Iraq, where the fuel is widely used for cooking, making it hard for security forces to stop production of the bombs.

U.S. military officials in Baghdad have noted the use of rocket-propelled bombs in press releases in recent months.

But they have not publicly discussed their use or their concerns about the weapons at length because most of the information about them is classified, U.S. military officials said. **[Right. Got to keep them secret from the people making and deploying them. Of course. "Hey Ahmed, what was that flying thing we used to blow the hell out of the Green Zone yesterday?" "Shit, I have no idea. The occupiers are keeping it a secret." Duh.**

"IRAM attacks could be very tragic against us," said Col. William B. Hickman, the commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division, which operates in northwestern Baghdad. "We take them very seriously."

As the number of U.S. soldiers in Baghdad has begun to drop with the end of the "surge" of additional forces, U.S. military officials are placing a higher percentage of their troops in small outposts in densely populated neighborhoods.

But deployments in small outposts -- some are manned by just one platoon -- also have made soldiers more vulnerable.

To counter the threat posed by rocket-propelled bombs, soldiers have stepped up patrols around outposts, fortified their buildings and offered tens of thousands of dollars for information about networks that use the weapon.

The weapon first emerged as a threat here last fall and has become a top concern in recent months following a series of deadly attacks.

Most such attacks have been carried out during the day and some have been videotaped and aired on the satellite television station operated by Hezbollah, a Lebanese militia and political movement.

The deadliest reported rocket-propelled bomb attack occurred June 4 in the Shaab neighborhood of eastern Baghdad.

U.S. soldiers stationed at a small base called Forward Operating Base Callahan heard a series of blasts shortly after 2 p.m.

The explosions were caused when a rocket on the back of a small flatbed truck exploded, igniting the other four to five IRAMs on the truck, the U.S. military said. The attack killed 18 Iraqis, wounded 29 and damaged 15 buildings, the military said.

"It is believed that the intended targets were U.S. soldiers at FOB Callahan and while in the final stages for the attack, for an unknown reason one rocket prematurely detonated causing the remaining rockets to explode erratically," the military said in a statement.

The second-deadliest attack occurred April 28 at Forward Operating Base Loyalty in eastern Baghdad.

The attack, which took place shortly after 1 p.m., killed three soldiers. Militiamen fired 14 rocket-propelled bombs from the back of a cargo truck.

That same day, Joint Security Station Thawra, the U.S. military's only outpost in Sadr City, in eastern Baghdad, was also attacked with rocket-propelled bombs.

A man walked into an office at the station where Iraqis can file claims for compensation, and told soldiers of a U.S. military civil affairs unit that his truck had sustained damage during recent clashes between American troops and militiamen, according to two U.S. military officials who described the attack, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the information has not been publicly released.

The soldiers told the man to drive his truck close to the station so they could inspect it. The man pulled up in a small delivery truck containing eight IRAM launch tubes. The station was attacked soon afterward.

At least 15 soldiers were wounded.

Although most rocket-propelled bomb attacks have taken place in eastern Baghdad, a joint security station in northern Hurriya, western Baghdad, was targeted last month.

On June 24, at approximately 3 p.m., a man walked up to the gate of the base and told soldiers, "You have a truck over there that goes boom," according to Capt. Jeremy Ussery, a company commander with the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment.

When soldiers inspected the truck, they realized an attempt to ignite nine IRAMs, with roughly 200 pounds of explosives apiece, had been unsuccessful.

"Just think of what could have happened," Ussery said. "Eighteen hundred pounds of explosives dispersed over this JSS."

The battalion approved a \$50,000 reward for information on the attack and soldiers have handed out fliers to residents seeking tips. Ussery said the battalion typically offers rewards in the \$10,000 range for "high value individuals," or prominent wanted militiamen.

The amount offered for information on the IRAM attack "is a very large reward," he said. "It's a small price to pay."

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

OCCUPATION REPORT

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

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



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. Army force their way into an Iraqi citizen's home in Sa'ada, about 20 miles north of Baghdad in Diyala province on July 7, 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?]

“In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit,” said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay’s Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday’s raid. “Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead.”

You go room to room, knocking the people down, zip tying them, keeping them restrained, and then once you secure the house you start looking for weapons.

Sometimes we were very diligent and complete in these searches.

Sometimes we would shred up floors, couches and beds. We’d take all the women, children and old men (that was mostly who was in these houses—women, children and old men), we’d take them outside and throw them into the grass and we’d start yelling at them as to where weapons are, where the men are.

Sometimes, all that we needed was a knife or a gun. It could be something as small as a pistol, to justify taking away all the men in the house.

Mark Wilkerson, Iraq Veterans Against The War

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

**No Money;
“And, Of Course, No One Is To
Blame!”**

July 01, 2008 Inside Iraq [Baghdad]

Yesterday was my day off, so off I went to see my parents and who should I meet there but a cousin I hadn’t seen for a looooooong time. She didn’t look very happy.

“What’s wrong, habibti?”

“What’s right?? This time things are really getting out of hand.

“As the long awaited pay day arrived on 27 June, we waited and waited – but the Headmaster didn’t call for us. So we started complaining amongst ourselves and then were told maybe tomorrow.

“The next day came and went and no news of salaries. Never have I heard of such a thing, The Headmaster gathered us and told us that there would be no salary until there is word from the ministry; and until today we have not received our salaries –

“Never have I heard of such a thing happening before in Iraq – No money in the treasury for the employees’ salaries!! Unheard of!

“Returning home I told my daughter to be ready to go to the bank the next day to receive her father’s pension (he had passed away in 2005).

“And so off we went to the bank (state owned) – and were aghast when the employee told us that there was no money – the cash boxes were empty! And I don’t know what to do – I’m desperate!”

“I looked at my parents’ faces and wished I had a camera to catch their expressions.

“Mum, Dad, have you ever heard of such a thing happening before?” My father was employed by the government in 1943, my mum in 1946 directly after graduating from their respective colleges; they would know.

“Not even during the period following the nationalization of Iraqi oil operations (1971 – 1972) were governmental employees’ salaries affected – and that was quite a critical time for all of Iraq.”

No money in our King’s coffers!

Why? Where is all the money going?

Iraq has more money now than ever before with oil prices soaring to \$140.

Where is all the money going?

Coming to work today I was not surprised to find one of the local newspapers quoting the minister of finance saying that “It is not our fault; the delay in the salaries comes as a result of incompetence in the ministries themselves” meaning that his ministry is competent....

But what about empty cash boxes in the banks?

As with the oil ministry who needs electricity for operations while the ministry of electricity needs fuel for its generators, catch 22 situations are becoming the norm in this free, democratic Iraq.

And, of course, no one is to blame!

**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

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

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

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

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

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

The Occupier: “Even If He Is Not Hunting, They Try To Tiptoe Away As Quietly As They Can, Lest They Invoke His Wrath”



Defenseindustrydaily.com

July 02, 2008 Inside Iraq [Baghdad]

It was only 90 minutes till sunset, and my brother and I decided to go to Shaab neighborhood.

The road was very long because of the concrete walls that now divide Baghdad neighborhoods. They took away the shortcuts that we used to pass through.

We arrived at our destination in an hour; our mission didn't take long because we were afraid of the dark.

Unfortunately, there was a sand storm spreading all over Baghdad so thick that we could hardly recognize our road--especially with thousands of concrete fences erected and dozens of Iraqi security checkpoints.

We took the Al Qanat highway, which is located along the length of an old canal on our left and a very long and high concrete wall on our right in which there were breaks where Iraqi police vehicles sat to watch the road.

The highway is supposed to be an open road where cars can go at top speed, but suddenly the cars in front of us started to crazily turn aside from the paved road and get too close to the concrete wall.

I couldn't see the reason why.

Finally, and with difficulty, I recognized an American military vehicle looming on the side of the street, a dusty color, carrying camouflage nets and giving off a sinister look. It was parked on the left side of the highway and was standing still; there weren't any soldiers nearby it.

It was only one parked vehicle--no more no less.

But for poor Iraqis; what they had seen and heard about this kind of vehicle made them try to get as far away from it as they could to avoid appearing in a regrettable incident.

The scene reminded me of wild animals, when they come to drink water at a pond and they find a tiger or lion.

Even if he is not hunting, they try to tiptoe away as quietly as they can, lest they invoke his wrath.

MORE:

**U.S. Occupation Liberates More
Iraqis:
Burned Alive, Dead Kids, Ho Hum,
Just Another Occupation Day**

July 05 Inside Iraq [Baghdad]

After five long hours on the road we reached Haditha, a beautiful town of stone houses and steep inclines all in the direction of the river Euphrates, a stretch of the bluest blue sparkling in the midmorning sun.

But my heart was heavy – we were here to speak to survivors of a tragedy.

Three years ago a roadside bomb targeted an American convoy and killed one soldier, and as a result twenty four Iraqis in neighbouring houses were killed, men, women and children, old and young – indiscriminately.

Haditha!

And three years later the judges found that 24 bodies were not evidence enough.

Some days ago, a car traveling on the Baghdad International Airport road came under fire from the U.S. military with no clear indication as to why.

There were four people inside, two women and a man, employees in a branch of a bank that is open for travelers inside the airport, and their driver.

Eye witnesses heard no shots, saw no weapons brandished, and yet first the driver was killed, and when the car came to a stop one of the doors opened and a screaming woman tried to exit the car, and she was shot down and then there was such shooting at the car that had long since come to a standstill it burst into flames – and still no one was permitted to approach it and put it out.

The U.S. military confirmed the incident, saying they came under fire although no weapon was found.

There was a great uproar about it and MPs denounced the act as an unprovoked barbaric act.

If twenty four bodies couldn't convince judges in the U.S. that there was a crime, how can four?

We have a saying that goes, "He who feels secure from punishment will misbehave."

How will these trigger happy young men/women conduct themselves if it is true that their immunity from Iraqi law is lifted?

I was just wondering.

[Excerpt from comment on this article posted 7.5.08 by Laura]

Impunity has led to horrible abuses of power.

And what of yesterday's home invasion?

US forces "stormed" the house of Hasen Atiyah al-Iqabi.

He wasn't there; his four "elder" sons engaged in an armed fight (NB: most residents have guns for self protection: no doubt this family felt threatened).

2 children were killed (ages 6 and 8).

The 4 other sons and his wife were all injured. 2 later were described as children. How old were these young ones?

Imagine the terror, the suffering. If the occupiers were held responsible, perhaps there would be fewer errors to "regret."

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

71% Of Americans Against Siding With Israel In Conflict With Palestine

7.7.08 By Bradley Burston, Haaretz Correspondent

A public opinion poll released by a research institute at the University of Maryland shows that 71 percent of Americans believe that the United States government should not take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In 13 of the 15 nations [polled], most respondents said Israel was doing its peacemaking "not very well" or "not well at all," including 59 percent of the Americans polled.

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

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 to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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