

GI SPECIAL 6G6:



* OFFER VOID IF INJURED MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY, REQUIRING QUALITY CARE, THERAPY, RECOVERY AND/OR DISABILITY INCOME.

[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

**“We Must, As A Nation,
Once Again, Embrace
Defiance, Rebellion, And
Resistance!”**

**“When In The Course Of Human Events,
An Oppression So Revolts Those
Subject To It, It Becomes Necessary To
Dissolve The Political Bands That Are
The Means Of That Tyranny”**



BBC

07/04/2008 By Adam Charles Kokesh, Iraq Veterans Against The War (www.ivaw.org/)

Branch: United States Marine Corps (USMC)

Rank: Sergeant

Home: Washington D.C.

I was a reservist attending Claremont McKenna College in January 2004 when I volunteered to transfer from November Battery 5/14 (artillery) which was not deploying, to the 3rd Civil Affairs Group which was leaving in less than a month.

I served in the Fallujah area from February to September and received the Combat Action Ribbon and Navy Commendation medal for my service.

While as soldiers who have taken an oath we all have a responsibility to support the system that ensures us the quality of life that we enjoy in America, we also have a responsibility as citizens to ensure that the system is held accountable to the American people and to the highest moral standard. I can be reached at adam.kokesh@gmail.com. See also kokesh.blogspot.com

As a naturally rebellious spirit, Independence Day has a special place in my heart.

In elementary school, I was the kid in the back of the classroom who would always get into arguments with the teacher.

They all said that I should be a lawyer when I grow up, presuming I could muster the patience required for law school. In middle school, I went punk, always had a crazy haircut, and wore a lot of shirts with skulls and other dark themes.

One of them had a skeleton with a k-bar and a Marine Corps 8-point cover on his grape. It read: U.S.M.C. - UNCLE SAM'S MISGUIDED CHILDREN.

When I joined the Marines and started learning about our history, (they taught us about Smedley Butler, but not that he wrote a book called War Is A Racket) the one quote that stuck with me was from the legendary Marine, Chesty Puller.

In boot camp, some platoons get to say, "Goodnight Chesty, wherever you are!" every night in unison while laying in the position of attention in their racks. The quote is, "You're not a real Marine until you get busted down once or twice."

I didn't think I would be able to live up to that standard, but fortunately, I was wrong.

Senior Marines would regale me with tales of their craziness, and brag about doing things like driving drunk, getting pulled over, and having the cop let them get away with it. Then explain it like this, "But America needs crazy mother-f'ers like us around. That's what it takes. Americans sleep soundly at night because they know guys like us can be on any beach in less than 24 hours."

Taking a more strategic look at the Corps's strategic value and chances of survival, former Marine Corps Commandant Lieutenant General Krulak noted, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps, the United States wants a Marine Corps."

It should come as no surprise, that Marines are over-represented in the ranks of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

When I joined the Marines, or rather the Delayed Entry Program (DEP) and took my oath of enlistment, I took it very seriously.

"Support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

I stopped to think about why the document was more important than the institution, and it naturally made sense to me. These are the rules by which we are able to ensure the rights of the people, this is what I want to have my life on the line for.

Of course, the Constitution is simply our best attempt (and I would argue among the best, if not the best created by any society in human history) to enshrine a set of greater values in a practical form of governance.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

This philosophy and these ideals were not anything particularly revolutionary in and of themselves, but when faced with the rejection of these ideals in the tyranny of King George III, the founding fathers were in a unique position to take a stand for those ideals.

It required a certain courage of them, but they sure as hell delivered! “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

The utopian ideal that comes from those principles is one that is void of the violation of those rights by any human against any other, or what some would call a state of anarchy. But out of the realities of the circumstance and the culture at the time, a practical form of governance was necessary, and naturally came the Constitution.

Although beautiful and powerful, this document that created and defined what Benjamin Franklin referred to as, “A republic, if you can keep it,” was far from perfect.

Not only did our founders intend for us to keep it, but strive continuously to improve it, and it prescribed the exact means of amendment.

Along with the cultural evolution that makes change possible, we have been making great progress with our Constitutional Republic.

We have seen the abolition of slavery, a civil rights movement, and a women’s movement, among many other great strides.

As a species, we have gone from the law of the jungle, to feudalism, to kingdoms, to empire, to capitalism with slavery, to capitalism with corporatism, but all in all, things are getting better.

Humanity marches on. You can fight it, or fight for it.

It wasn’t too long ago that the best we could expect out of life was fondly referred to as, “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.” My oh my, how we have progressed as a species since then.

But even in America, it has been a process of two steps forward, one step back. And as a nation, we are progressing down many paths simultaneously. The founding of the federal reserve as not only unconstitutional, but creating unnatural, immoral concentrations of wealth, could be seen as a step backward begun in 1913 that is still with us today.

Within that time frame, there have been many steps forward, and many smaller steps backward.

Clearly, in this framework, the Bush Administration has had more than it’s fair share of steps backwards.

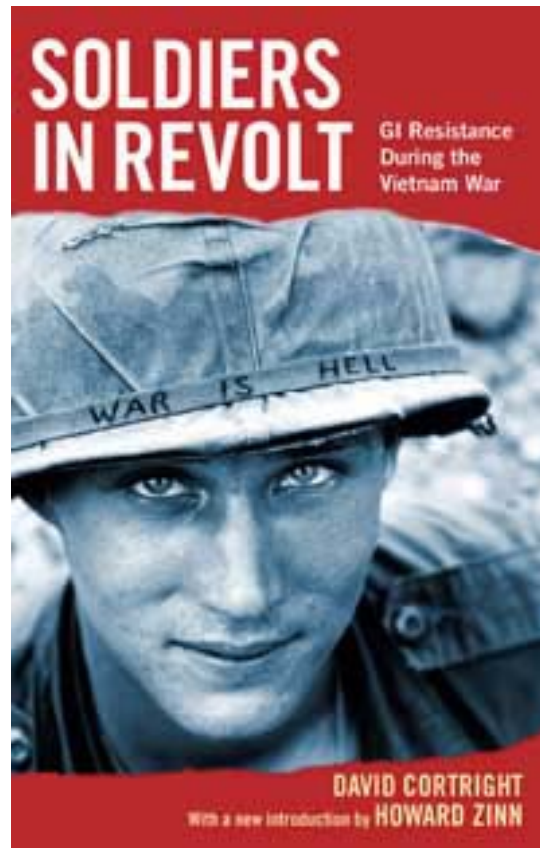
That is why this Independence Day is so desperately needed right now. We have forgotten the ideals put forth in Declaration. As the founders knew, a servile, unquestioning, obedient people, will always produce tyrants.

The mortal flaw of tyranny is that it is dependent upon the obedience of its subjects.

On this Independence Day we must renew our commitment to the ideals of the Declaration. It should be very clear to all patriotic Americans, that when in the course of human events, an oppression so revolts those subject to it, it becomes necessary to dissolve the political bands that are the means of that tyranny.

We must, as a nation, once again, embrace defiance, rebellion, and resistance!

Happy Independence Day . . . if you can live up to it.



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT, Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1975. Now available in paperback from Haymarket Books.



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

Soldier Killed In Iraq Blast To Be Buried In Tucson



06.28.2008 By Carol Ann Alaimo, Arizona Daily Star

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Hammett's five daughters won't be crawling into his lap anymore.

Next week they'll be burying their soldier dad in Tucson.

Hammett, 39, was one of two soldiers and eight civilians felled Tuesday in Iraq by a bomb blast at a municipal office in Sadr City. The father of five girls, ages 1 to 15, was part of a team working to restore local government and services in the former Shiite militia stronghold.

Hammett's mother, Carolyn Moen, and his in-laws live in Tucson, the hometown of his wife, the former Leanna McConnell, a family member said. The Florida-born Hammett considered Tucson his home, too, and listed it as such in Army records.

He is the 36th service member with ties to Tucson or Southern Arizona felled by the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Robert Hammett Sr., 65, of LaBelle, Fla., said his son had two loves: his job and his family. In recent years, the former increasingly took him away from the latter.

"He loved being a soldier, and he loved being a dad," said the elder Hammett, a Vietnam War veteran. "The only thing he didn't like about being in the military was having to be away from home so much.

"As far as I could tell, his girls adored him," Hammett Sr. said of the soldier's relationship with his offspring. "They were always climbing around on him, sitting in his lap or hanging onto his arm. Even the bigger girls."

He said he last visited the family members in July 2007 at their home in Colorado, near Fort Carson. His son was assigned there to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The younger Hammett was on his third Middle East deployment when he was killed in action, Army officials said.

Since 2002, he had spent a total of 29 months — nearly 2 1/2 years — overseas.

In an e-mail two days before his death, the soldier — nicknamed Charlie because his middle name is Charles — confessed to a growing weariness, his father said.

"He sounded tired. He said it's been really rough. Most of the guys he was with were on their third tour, and everybody was just so tired."

Even so, the elder Hammett said, his son was determined to make a difference in the war-torn country. "He knew the job they were doing there was a really important job," he said. "A lot of people are saying we need to get out of Iraq, but he said if the U.S. left, it would quickly degenerate into a civil war, and some other strongman would take over."

As a warrant officer, the younger Hammett was highly accomplished in his military career field. He was a command and control systems technician.

"He was a quiet guy, very intelligent, and as close to a perfectionist as you could get," his father said. "Whatever he did, he gave it his very best.

"I just can't tell you how proud I am of him," the elder Hammett said.

The soldier also is survived by a sister in Tucson and a brother in Florida. Funeral services will be held next week in Tucson.

**NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1:
PACK UP
GO HOME**



Sandstorm envelops 101st Airborne troops. Photograph: Sean Smith; Guardian [UK]
May 19, 2008. [Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

***No Shit Dept.:*
U.S. General Says New Resistance
Fighting Units “So Skilled That He
Has Likened Their Organization To
The U.S. Military’s Secretive And Elite
Delta Force”**

Jul 11 By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - U.S. forces may be close to unlocking the mystery of who is behind a deadly innovation in Iraqi insurgents' weapons, a "lob bomb" now being used in

Baghdad to target U.S. and Iraqi combat outposts, a senior American general said Friday in an Associated Press interview.

Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, commander of U.S. forces in Baghdad, called the weapon “the greatest threat right now that we face,” and he likened the shadowy group behind it to the American military’s elite Delta Force.

The weapon is particularly worrying because it is designed to cause catastrophic damage and cannot be stopped once it has been launched, Hammond, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, said in an interview in his office at this U.S. military headquarters compound just west of the capital.

Hammond said the perpetrators are so skilled that he has likened their organization to the U.S. military’s secretive and elite Delta Force.

He said they have demonstrated an unusual degree of military skill and cunning.

“They don’t leave a forensic trail, and that just means we’re going to have to work a little bit longer” to eliminate them, he said. “Of everything we’ve had to deal with here, this is a tough one.

“They’re sort of the Delta Force of this enemy we face out there.

“They are very good” at covering their tracks, picking out targets and preserving secrecy about their membership and movements.

Reality Check

July 12, 2008 The Associated Press [Excerpt]

“A quiet environment doesn’t necessarily mean a less challenging one. It just gets more complicated,” said a boyish but weary looking [Captain Mike] Forbes on Thursday, standing inside the small patrol base in Mansour that houses 30 members of B Troop, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment.

“The hotter an area is, the simpler,” said Forbes. “You just go find the bad guys and kill them.”

That came sharply home Thursday during Forbes’ first meeting with a local leader of the “Sons of Iraq,” the former Sunni militants who once fought the Americans but switched sides....

As if to remind the soldiers of the stakes, a car bomb exploded on a busy street not far from the patrol base as Forbes wrapped up his meeting. The blast outside a mosque killed two people and injured 10 others.

As Iraqi and U.S. soldiers converged at the scene, men in a nearby shop with shattered glass stared at the car’s twisted hulk.

“It keeps you on your toes because it could all go south at any time,” said 1st Sergeant Richard Shopp, the senior enlisted man at the patrol station.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Revere Family Grieves For Son Killed In War



Rodriguez Ramirez

June 26, 2008 By Jonnelle Marte and Matthew P. Collette, The New York Times Company

REVERE - Resting his arms on his thighs, his eyes tired from grief, Nelson Rodriguez sat in a relative's home yesterday and recalled how his son had found another purpose in Afghanistan.

Amongst barefoot children he had met in the war, children whose faces lit up when he gave them something as simple as a pen or a snack, Sergeant Nelson Rodriguez Ramirez had his faith in his service renewed, his father said yesterday. “He didn't like war, but it was in his heart to be there and protect those kids.”

Saturday, Rodriguez Ramirez was riding in a truck when it struck an improvised explosive device, killing him and three other soldiers.

The 22-year-old father of two, who had been home for his second daughter's birth in January, had plans to visit his family in Revere for his 23d birthday on Aug. 13. His wife, Moraima, and their baby daughter, Kiara, were going to travel from their home in Rochester, N.Y. for the bash.

He would have been home for good in January, when he was going to take steps to join the Coast Guard and study to be a pilot, said his father, who lives in Revere.

“That all fell through when this happened,” he said.

Rodriguez Ramirez is among 527 servicemen and women who have been killed in Operation Enduring Freedom, said Lieutenant Colonel Les A. Melnyk.

When he was killed, Rodriguez Ramirez was assigned to the Second Squadron, 101st Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition), New York Army National Guard, based in Geneva, N.Y. He was posthumously promoted to sergeant, said Eric Durr, a spokesman for the New York Army National Guard.

Rodriguez Ramirez and two of the three others who were killed in Saturday’s attack - Sergeant Andrew Seabrooks, of South Ozone Park, Queens, N.Y.; and Sergeant Anthony Mangano of Greenlawn, N.Y., were posthumously awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross by Governor David Paterson, Durr said. The fourth soldier killed in the blast in Kandahar City was Lieutenant Colonel James J. Walton, 41, of Rockville, Md.

While he was away, Rodriguez Ramirez called his family every day.

“Even though he was so far away, he was so close to me,” said his mother, Diana Ramirez of Chelsea, who said that there were no secrets between her and her second-oldest child and oldest son. “He didn’t give me a chance to miss him a lot.”

Rodriguez Ramirez was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Boston when he was 8 years old. A few years later, his family settled in Revere, where he attended Revere High School for a few years before dropping out, relatives said.

“He was rebelling, like most teenagers do,” said his aunt, Raquel Rodriguez, huddled with family yesterday at her house in Revere.

“But we refused to let him go down the wrong road,” she said.

At the urging of his family, Rodriguez Ramirez enrolled at Westover Job Corps in Chicopee and earned his GED. He took a few computer classes in the Boston area, but decided to move to Niagara Falls, N.Y., to be with the woman he loved. That relationship led to the birth of his first daughter, Ariana, now 4 years old.

To make sure she had everything she needed, he enlisted in the Army National Guard in 2003.

His relationship with Ariana’s mother soured, but he maintained a close relationship with his daughter, who lives in Niagara Falls, relatives said. In December, he married Moraima, and he was on hand for Kiara’s birth before he was deployed in March.

Moraima said in a phone interview yesterday that she found comfort in a quotation a friend e-mailed to her soon after her husband died: “A soldier never dies, he just joins God’s army.”

“He’s always thinking about everybody else before he thinks of himself,” said his wife. “He would always send me flowers to make sure I knew he was appreciative of me waiting for him.”

Relatives credited Rodriguez Ramirez with keeping the large extended family connected. “Sometimes we don’t realize in our busy lives how important it is to be with family, but not him,” said his aunt Raquel Rodriguez.

Yesterday, Rodriguez Ramirez’s family made arrangements for his military funeral, scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday at Immaculate Conception Church in Revere, followed by burial at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett.

They shared their favorite stories about him, how he always wanted to play the red Power Ranger as a kid, how he loved to dance salsa, especially the music of Jerry Rivera, and how he could bring a smile to everyone’s face.

“Any time you looked down, he would always make you happy,” said his brother, Ricardo Rodriguez, 17, of Chelsea.

They wore T-shirts that bore a picture of Rodriguez Ramirez in his uniform with an American flag in the background. The image was inscribed with a Spanish phrase: “You will live forever in our hearts.”

Soldier Killed In Afghanistan Was To Return Home In Two Weeks

June 27, 2008 The Reporter

Spc. Ryan J. Connolly, 24, of Vacaville, died June 24 in Khogyani, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when his vehicle struck a suspected landmine. He was assigned to the 173rd Special Troops Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, Bamberg, Germany.

The welcome home banners were ordered and a celebration was scheduled, but instead the family of Sgt. Ryan James Connolly, 24, is left making funeral arraignments for the Vacaville soldier who was killed in Afghanistan just two weeks before he was to return home.

Connolly was killed Tuesday by a plastic land mine when a vehicle he was riding in with four other troops got too close to the virtually undetectable weapon.

“I’m numb right now, I don’t know what to say,” Robin Nelson, Connolly’s mother said Thursday afternoon at her home in Vacaville. “It’s horrid.”

“He’s the baby,” said Robin with some hesitation.

“We hate to say, ‘was,’ “ added Robert Nelson, Connolly’s stepfather.

It was only in April that Connolly came back to Vacaville on leave with his wife Stefi and 1-year-old daughter Kayla.

“They were a good match,” Robert said. “He had a great time with Kayla. He was going to be a good father.”

It was during that furlough that Connolly’s family joked about how he would handle Kayla dating when she got older. “It’s incomprehensible,” said Robin, sporting a hat Connolly gave her. “To think that someone could plant a plastic bomb to take someone’s life. Now the baby will grow up without a dad.”

Connolly grew up in Santa Rosa, but had ties to Solano County and Vacaville. After the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and while attending Solano Community College, according to his mother, Connolly really thought about joining the military. He felt strongly about protecting American soil,” she said. “What could I do? I didn’t want him to go, but he wanted to do it.”

As a combat medic in the 173rd Special Troops Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, U.S. Army, stationed in Bamberg, Germany, Connolly saw a lot of disturbing things while deployed to Afghanistan, his mother said.

“People don’t understand exactly what goes on over there,” she said. “Ryan liked to help and wished he could help more.”

She explained that Connolly will be awarded for being one of the first soldiers on scene after a 10-year-old suicide bomber killed more than 20 Afghani citizens. Connolly and two others worked together and saved 17 people. “He never doubted his experience,” she said, recalling an e-mail from Connolly after the incident. “He was trained to do what he needed to do.”

Robin Connolly said that the arraignments for a funeral are still being worked out and that she hopes to start an education fund for Kayla soon.

Family Mourns Marine; Mendoza Killed In Action In Afghanistan



June 21, 2008 KSAT

Mendoza, 24, a Marine was killed Thursday in Afghanistan. Mendoza was killed in action, officials said, but the exact cause of death is not known.

Mendoza's family said Saturday that it is not trying to think about his death but instead about the life he lived.

"Matthew was a good man," Mendoza's uncle, Richard Mendoza, said. "You knew it was him when he came in the room."

Outside VFW Post 76, a Marine flag is at half-staff in memory of Matthew Mendoza.

Matthew was not only a member there, but he had roamed the halls since he was a child.

"He loved it here -- grew up here," Richard Mendoza said. "I would think that's probably the reason he joined he was a good person and he cared."

The fallen Marine was a third-generation military man and followed the footsteps of his great-grandfather, grandfather and uncle.

Mendoza's uncle said the Highlands High School graduate played football, enjoyed swims in the Comal River and loved his family and his country. "He was a good kid. He was an honest kid. He was patriotic," Richard Mendoza said.

Richard said he will share the story of his nephew's life with anyone who will listen. "All I can tell you is come down, and I'll tell you all about him," Richard said.

Matthew leaves behind a wife and a 6-year-old son.

He had served two tours in Iraq and was supposed to return from Afghanistan in the fall.

Matthew was going to re-enlist next month, his family said.

TROOP NEWS

**Canadian Troops Push Locals To
Organize A Union:
"If They Just Didn't Show Up For Work
One Day, We'd Be Fucked"**

July 11, 2008 Alexander Panetta, THE CANADIAN PRESS [Excerpts]

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - They lost their limbs serving Canada, and now they're asking to be allowed into the country.

They are among the scores of young Afghan men who have been maimed or killed while working as interpreters for the international armies fighting in their homeland.

They lost limbs serving Canada, now Afghan translators hope to live there.

Canadian soldiers are encouraging their Afghan colleagues to start a union, saying it would protect them against things like arbitrary dismissal or delays in getting insurance payments when they're injured.

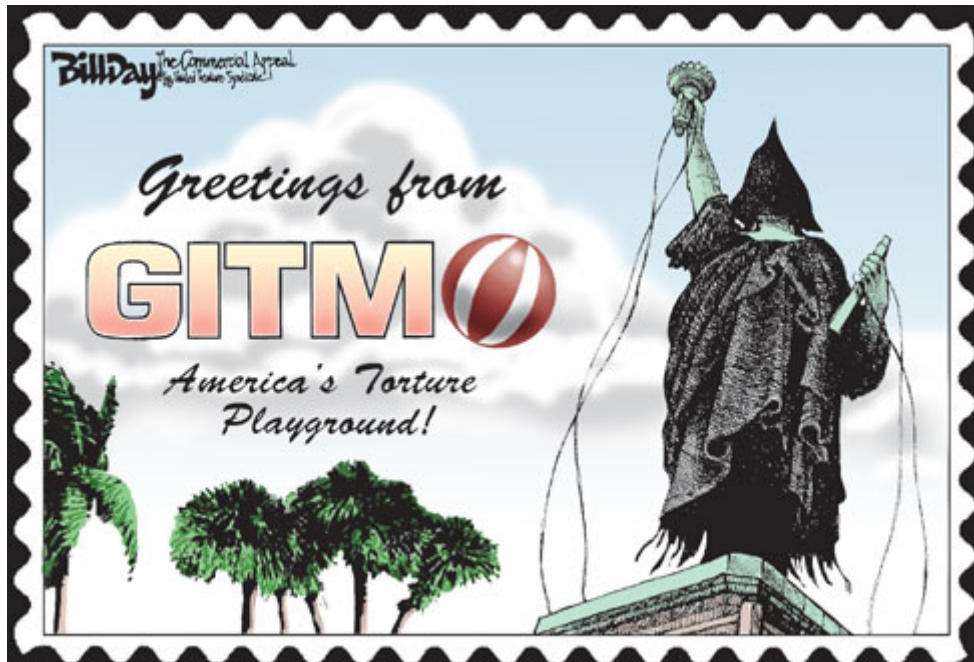
Canadian soldiers hear these complaints about immigration, and especially about the sporadic disbursement of benefits like injury pay.

Several have urged the "terps" to start a union.

"I told them how easily they could do it," said Cpl. Jason Villeneuve.

"If they just didn't show up for work one day, we'd be fucked. . . But they're too scared to do anything."

Another soldier has also been pushing the interpreters to seek additional rights, and says a union would be a good start.



IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“No To America” Rallies Against Permanent Occupation In Many Cities



Rally against the permanent occupation of Iraq in Sadr City, Iraq, July 11, 2008. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

Jul 11 AP

Iraqis have taken to the streets to protest a proposed security agreement between Iraq and the United States.

They say the proposed deal would lead to a permanent U.S. occupation of Iraq.

They held their protests Friday in Baghdad, the southern city of Kufa, and other cities in Iraq, and shouted slogans such as: “No to America.”

Such demonstrations have become a weekly event, usually following prayers held in local mosques on Fridays.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

The Thousand Yard Betrayal Stare



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: July 11, 2008
Subject: Winter Soldier II

Winter Soldier II Investigation
Silver Spring, Maryland
March 13-16, 2008

The Thousand Yard Betrayal Stare

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



Iraqis taken out of their house at gunpoint by foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. 1st Armour Division during a home invasion military operation in Baghdad's Sadr City July 12, 2008. [Photo: REUTERS/Damir Sagol]

[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!**

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

**Two More Years In Fallujah
Prison Camp:
The World's Biggest Military
Penitentiary, Wholly Owned And
Operated By The U.S. Occupation
Military Dictatorship;
“Instead Of Taking The Whole City
Residents To Prison The Military
Made The City Itself As A Prison”
“No One Can Live In A Golden Cage, And
Fallujah Now Is A Cage Yet Not Golden.**

July 10, 2008 Inside Iraq [Baghdad]

To enter, live and sometimes to leave Fallujah you have to have a Fallujah resident badge issued by U.S. marines.

To drive your car inside Fallujah your car must have a badge that carries the drivers' photo and other details.

The city is divided into cordoned neighborhoods, one entrance and one exit for each neighborhood.

Entrances to the city are closed by sunset.

To enter the city: Badges, x-ray, cars and individuals to be searched.

Entering the Green Zone is easier than entering Fallujah and I am entering both Red and Green Zones, as many call them, for the last four years.

You can not invite your friends to the city and you cannot go to a visit outside the city without making sure you will be back on time or to stay out of the city.

To be fair there are things are getting better in Fallujah in certain aspects and in other fields are getting worse.

Few days ago I had to renew my badge that expired on July 4, 2008. As usual I went to one of the entrances and after two hours it's my turn. Three soldiers, three computers, Iraqi interpreter in uniform and two AC units, it was heaven compared to those who live outside.

A man beside me wished he can move his family to this wood made room. No big deal and nothing up normal except as I was looking to my badge expiry date, it is after two years!

The badges we used to get were one year long.

It is good I won't have to be waiting in this line for two years to come but what I heard from people about the two years badges was true.

We are to live in this prison for more two years.

If the checkpoints are to be removed, Al Qaeda will be back, the officials and people are afraid.

If they are not removed life continue to be a prison.

If I was to give one advice to anyone who has the power to make a change I will remind him/them: Al Qaeda imprisoned people, killed, tortured, oppressed and gave nothing but misery and death.

Look to yourself: are you imprisoning people, killing, torturing giving misery and death?

To win peoples' hearts be brave enough and show them your will to be a life maker not death maker.

Ease the conditions of entering and living in Fallujah camp, and I will not say city any more, and make people's life easier, putting in mind trying to keep them safe, and if Al Qaeda disrupted your efforts people will hate them more and will be on your side.

Al Qaeda is an ideology that cannot be defeated by arsenal of weapons. It is an ideology that promote for death. Defeat that ideology by a better ideology that people might follow not by weapons, an ideology that promotes for life.

Few roads were re-opened inside Fallujah camp, and at least one major checkpoint inside the city was removed.

Bridges are being built and other good things but remember no one can live in a golden cage, and Fallujah now is a cage yet not golden.

Why Fallujah? What is the importance?

It is the city where the government and the new “democratic” system can say the ideology of the Baath party was wrong, the ideology of terrorists brought destruction and was wrong.

Not mentioning the destruction because of military operations in 2004.

Instead of taking the whole city residents to prison the military made the city itself as a prison.

Sorry again I used city to describe Fallujah, I should've said prison or camp.

Destruction was brought to the city by everyone and here it is a chance to change all of this. Be brave and give life.

I will tell you about these badges after two years, for hope has become a myth after all the mistakes we have seen.

The Thorny Status Of Forces Agreement: “Step Aside And Let People Decide” “Americans And Iraqis Must Decide Through A Referendum Whether They Want This SOFA Which Is Full Of Nails And Thorns”

If Iraq is to accept such a package of scorn, let it because we ourselves voted, democratically, for such an agreement.
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July 09, 2008 Inside Iraq [Baghdad]

Iraqi and American officials are busy with the joint security agreement known as SOFA (status of forces agreement). The two sides are working hard to win as much as possible in the negotiations and to lose as little as possible.

I'm talking about politicians as if they are the masters and people of the two countries are no more than slaves who the leaders think they can sell and buy.

I dont know why politicians are always think they have brilliant golden brains while people have damaged rusty copper brains which can do nothing but obey the great masters.

Why American politicians think they can keep thousands of American soldiers in Iraq away from their families while the politicians enjoy the days and nights with their families, going to parties or on vacation?

On the other hand, I don't understand why our Iraqi politicians think they can serve my country by tying it to such an agreement with the U.S., since they have failed in making any progress during five full years since the invasion and they will never get meaningful progress because they are not real politicians.

Guys, you brought enough pain and sadness to our poor countries--both the Americans and the Iraqis.

I think it's time for you to step aside and let people decide. Americans and Iraqis must decide through a referendum whether they want this SOFA which is full of nails and thorns.

If Iraq is to accept such a package of scorn, let it because we ourselves voted, democratically, for such an agreement.

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/)

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

UNCONQUERED. UNCONQUERABLE



Palestinians demonstrate in front of the Dome of the Rock mosque in the Al-Aqsa mosque compound, the third holiest site in Islam, in Jerusalem, occupied Palestine, July 12, 2008. Tens of thousands attended a rally for liberation at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem on Saturday to mark the annual festival of the Children of Al-Aqsa. (AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen)

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Welcome To The Occupied USA
#1:

“22-Year-Old Arrestee David Woodman Died In A Hospital From Injuries Suffered At The Hands Of The Police”

“According To Police, Woodman Had An Open Container On The Night Of The Game, And He Ran When The Cops Started Chasing Him”

“Whatever The Pretexts For The Repression, We Should Have No Illusions That The Cops Will Protect And Serve Us”

According to Rivers, he found a gun in a park where his family was having a cookout. The mayor and the cops have been promoting a program that pays people to turn in guns, so Nathaniel got on his bike to take the gun to the police station. He didn't get far though before police knocked him off his bike when they rammed him with their car.

July 8, 2008 By Khury Petersen-Smith, Boston; Socialist Worker

AS IN just about every city in the country, the police in Boston are flooding into neighborhoods and increasing surveillance, all in the name of cracking down on violence. The summer began, though, with two incidents that displayed the Boston cops' own violent tactics.

On May 27, in the Black neighborhood of Roxbury, police hit 20-year-old Nathaniel Rivers with their cruiser and then beat him.

According to Rivers, he found a gun in a park where his family was having a cookout. The mayor and the cops have been promoting a program that pays people to turn in guns, so Nathaniel got on his bike to take the gun to the police station.

He didn't get far though before police knocked him off his bike when they rammed him with their car.

The cops then beat Nathaniel so severely that he needed an EMT's attention afterward.

His cousin, Stephen Lewis, intervened to protect Nathaniel when he saw that the cops were unrelenting.

"They just kept beating him and beating him and beating him," Lewis told the Boston Globe.

"I only stepped in when he said 'I can't breathe!'" The cops responded by beating Lewis, too.

Freda Rivers, Nathaniel's mother, lamented the cops' actions as her son was arraigned for unlawful possession of a firearm the next day, his face bruised from the night before.

"Mayor Thomas Menino is telling these kids to pick up guns and turn them in," she said. "Is this what's going to happen to them?"

Less than a month later, on June 18, the Boston Celtics beat the Los Angeles Lakers, winning the NBA Championship.

After weeks of anticipation, the city erupted in celebration at the longstanding underdogs' win. In a city so divided by racism, it was amazing to see Black and white people from different neighborhoods converge downtown in a spirit of celebration and togetherness.

The cops had other plans, though.

For weeks, they had been boasting of a huge presence downtown during the final games, and they were in full force with riot gear during game six, when the Celtics won.

The cops arrested 24 people that night, wielding clubs all the way.

In press conferences the next day, police and city spokespeople commended the cops on a job well done in keeping the streets safe.

Eleven days later though, 22-year-old arrestee David Woodman died in a hospital from injuries suffered at the hands of the police.

According to police, Woodman had an open container on the night of the game, and he ran when the cops started chasing him.

Because he "struggled," the police "were required to use force."

The fact that Woodman had to be rushed to the hospital, where he went into a coma, speaks to the kind of force the cops used.

Nathaniel Rivers and David Woodman come from different places. Rivers is from the beleaguered Black neighborhood of Roxbury in Boston, and Woodman lived in the affluent, white suburb of Brookline.

Tragically, both suffered at the hands of “Boston’s finest,” both were victims of police repression in the name of law and order, and both victims have been portrayed as the aggressors.

Whatever the pretexts for the repression, we should have no illusions that the cops will protect and serve us.

MORE:

Welcome To The Occupied USA

#2:

**“Don’t Turn Your Back On
Chicago Police, They’ll Shoot
You”**

**“The Only Way We Can Have Justice
Is To Come Together And Rise Up”**

**“We Might As Well Start Fighting. We’re
Going To Be Scared Either Way”**

July 3, 2008 By Sam Stoker, Socialist Worker. Noreen McNulty contributed to this article. [Excerpts]

CHICAGO--A recent rash of police-involved shootings that has left five people dead here in the past two weeks sparked a small, but resolute, protest against police brutality and killing on June 28.

The protest convened in the South Chicago neighborhood where police fatally shot Devon Young, a 26-year-old Black man, in the back of the head June 14.

Young was the second of eight men to have been shot by Chicago police in the past two weeks; five of the shootings were fatal, and three resulted in injury. All eight victims were people of color.

Protesters, outraged by the shootings, marched through the neighborhood, passed out flyers and encouraged people to come out of their homes and protest. “This is the same system it was in the slave days,” one participant said.

“The only way we can have justice is to come together and rise up.”

Protesters marched to a police station where members of the community, and some of the victims' families, spoke vehemently against the killings.

"Don't turn your back on Chicago police, they'll shoot you," said Ashunda Harris, whose nephew Aaron Harrison was killed by police in 2007.

Several officers who had been standing outside the front doors of the police station retreated inside after 9-year-old Joy Cooper picked up the microphone and demanded that police look at, and think about, the hundreds of names of victims of police shootings listed on a large black banner that protesters were holding.

"How does it feel?" she said. "With all these names right here, and you can't look them in the eye." "There are serial killers loose in the streets of Chicago," said Hank Brown, referring to the CPD. "We cannot let this go unanswered."

If the increased police presence so far is any indication of things to come, police violence could get much worse on the streets of Chicago in coming months.

On June 24, a CPD Press Release made known the department's "Summer Safety Plan," which announced intentions to deploy 70 to 80 additional cops to support patrol efforts in "challenged" districts, send helicopters to patrol city parks and beaches, and deploy SWAT teams in "Battle Dress Uniform" to "violence zones."

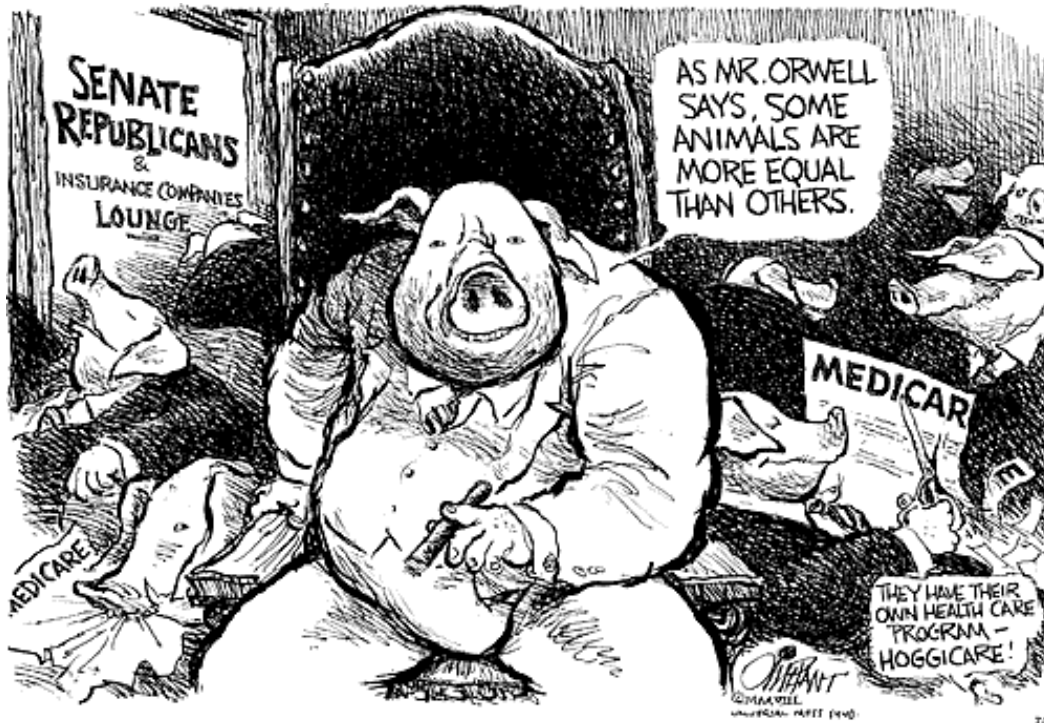
In addition, "Roadside Safety Checks" will include random vehicle inspections, and on weekends, "Roll Calls" will make the police presence known by sounding off sirens and flashing blue lights.

"We might as well start fighting," said Hope Suber, mother of Kevin Suber, who Chicago police shot in the back of the shoulder the same day as, and just a few blocks away from, Young.

"We're going to be scared either way."



CLASS WAR REPORTS



Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

“The military are the final, essential weak point of Bush and Cheney.” David McReynolds 9.29.07

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