

GI SPECIAL 6G8:

**WELCOME TO LIBERATED IRAQ
HAVE A NICE DAY**



An Iraqi prisoner caged at Camp Cropper, a U.S. military-run prison in Baghdad July 2, 2008. More than 20,000 Iraqi citizens are currently imprisoned without trial by U.S. forces. Photo: REUTERS/Damir Sagolj

**“We Are Veterans And
Soldiers, And We Have
Withdrawn Our Consent”**

**“Stand With Us To Force Our
Leaders To Submit, As They
Should, To The Will Of The
People And End This War Now”**

**“Occupation And Independence
Cannot Co-Exist”**

**“It’s Time For Us To Leave Iraq, And
To Let Iraqis Write Their Own
History”**

**“Would We Be Celebrating If Our Declaration
Of Independence Had Been Edited By King
George III? What If Britain Maintained
Troops And Military Bases Inside Our Major
Cities?”**



In our Declaration of Independence, the government derives its power from the consent of the governed. We are veterans and soldiers, and we have withdrawn our consent.

By Kelly Dougherty, Former Sergeant, Army National Guard;
Executive Director, Iraq Veterans Against the War (www.ivaw.org/)

Just a few days ago Independence Day came and went, and did anyone notice?

June 28th was the day the US returned sovereignty to Iraq in 2004, and it should be a day of celebration, a day when Iraqis mark their equal status among nations, just as America did more than two centuries ago.

But even when, finally, the Iraqi people are truly able to steer their own course and run their country as they see fit, I doubt that June 28th will be celebrated as a true Independence Day in Iraq.

Would we be celebrating if our Declaration of Independence had been edited by King George III?

What if Britain maintained troops and military bases inside our major cities?

Would we mark the day this “independence” began with fireworks and parades?

Occupation and Independence cannot co-exist.

Until our troops leave Iraq, until our brothers and sisters come home and we end this grim chapter in our history, Iraq will remain as it is today, four years after its supposed independence: a country wracked with violence where Iraqi civilians and US troops continue to die every day.

By continuing to occupy Iraq, we make a mockery of our own history, our own struggle for independence.

In our Declaration of Independence, the government derives its power from the consent of the governed.

We are veterans and soldiers, and we have withdrawn our consent.

We ask you to stand with us to force our leaders to submit, as they should, to the will of the people and end this war now.

We need to do more than just celebrate our Independence Day this July 4th; we need to live up to the ideals it represents.

It's time for us to leave Iraq, and to let Iraqis write their own history.

**Kelly Dougherty
Former Sergeant, Army National Guard**

**Executive Director
Iraq Veterans Against the War**



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

Remembering Army Specialist Joel Taylor

Jun 28, 2008 By Andrew Doud, Eyewitness News 9

As many people across eastern North Carolina get ready to celebrate the 4th of July, some are reminded just how costly it is to fight for our independence and country.

Earlier this week, Army Specialist Joel Taylor from Beaufort County, died in Iraq.

His father, Scottie Taylor said, "Joel just had a huge desire to serve." Just like his father, his uncle, and his brother.

Just like his father, his uncle, and his brother.

His Brother, John Scott Taylor said, "Joel was a carefree, really fun person to be with. He was goofy and just a funny kid."

He said Joel joined the army after graduating from North Side High School. He was a member of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment but his service to his country and life were cut short earlier this week in Iraq.

"He and two other brothers in his unit were also taken at that time. He was in a convoy and they hit a roadside bomb or IED," said John Scott.

While his family struggles to deal with the loss, his father says Joel knew the risk he was taking. "He loved God and he loved his country and I know he was willing to give his life." Scottie says knowing Joel was prepared for what could happen helps him cope with his son's loss and even though Joel is now one of more than 4,600 troops to pay the ultimate price, he has no regrets. "I wouldn't change anything that happened, even if I could," Scottie Said.

Joel's family has set up this memorial for people who come to pay their respects and comfort those he meant the most to. They said they are thankful for the help and support they have received from the entire community.

His brother said, "We've had people stop off the highway and say I've heard about what happened and I don't know you but I want to help."

Donald Wallace says he's left with fond memories of his grandson. He was proud of who he was, the man he was becoming, and his commitment to his country.

"He died an honorable death serving his county and Joel we love you."

Taylor's family says they will bury Joel's body next to his home.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Resistance Attack In Company Strength Killed 9 U.S. Troops; 15 More Were Wounded

Jul 14, 2008 CNN

Insurgents who squared off with U.S. soldiers in a major battle in eastern Afghanistan overran a military observation point just outside a coalition outpost, but failed to take the base, a U.S. military official told CNN.

The fighting left nine U.S. soldiers dead and 15 wounded.

A U.S. official told CNN that as many as 200 insurgents were involved in the strike, which NATO said occurred at an outpost in Dara-I-Pech.

“What there was was a combat outpost had a major attack on it by a large group of insurgents. They had infiltrated a neighboring village and they fired on the base from that village and then they attacked the base itself.”

TROOP NEWS

ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW



U.S. soldiers unload sandbags as they build an outpost in Salman Pak, about 25 miles south of Baghdad, February 16, 2008. (Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud/Reuters)

ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIER SAYS STOP CALLING UP IRR

July 14, 2008 Army Times ““From The Forums: The best from our online discussion boards: armytimes.com/forums”

I am active duty and feel it is my duty to serve as those above me dictate, but to call people from Individual Ready Reserve is unjustified.

Calling Army reservists is justified, but do not use our domestic forces such as the National Guard to perform foreign jobs that the Army should be doing.

Again, the IRR have done their duty, as this soldier already served a tour and fulfilled his contract of two to six years.

The IRR is for emergencies.

There is not an emergency that we have to call back personnel such as the IRR.

Comrade

LCDR SUMS IT UP IN ONE HONEST SENTENCE

[Worth more than 1000 long, boring, tedious preaching from some self appointed leader of the “anti-war movement.” All respect for some plain truth. T]

From: [LCDR USNR]

To: GI Special

Sent: June 23, 2008

Subject: Re: GI Special 6F14: “Ovation And Cheers From Active Duty”

I agree FUCK BUSH.

The reason that this country is so fucked up is because the military is fucked up and the government and those that run it are fucked up

Half Of UK Armed Forces ‘Ready To Quit’

“The Three Services Are More Than 6000 Men And Women Below Required Staffing Levels”

[Thanks to Pham Binh & Mark Shapiro, The Military Project & JM, who sent this in.]

Jul 9 IAN BRUCE, Defence Correspondent, Herald & Times & AFP & By Caroline Wyatt, Defence correspondent, BBC News & July 10, 2008 Times Newspapers Ltd. & Reuters [Excerpts]

Almost half of UK military personnel are ready to leave the forces, a Ministry of Defence survey suggests.

Among the concerns raised by the 9,000 servicemen and women surveyed were the frequency of tours, levels of pay and the quality of equipment and housing.

More than half of those who responded to the survey were not satisfied with standards of military equipment and resources given to them to do their jobs, while some 40% were unhappy with service accommodation, and 55% were dissatisfied with the standards of maintenance of their service housing.

According to the survey, 47 percent of Royal Navy and Army personnel said they “regularly feel like leaving the (armed forces) for good”, while 44 percent of Royal Air Force respondents expressed similar feelings, compared to 37 percent in the Royal Marines.

More than one-in-three of Britain’s soldiers, sailors and airmen is unhappy about the effect of repeated operational tours in Afghanistan and Iraq on family life, according to the findings of the first tri-service attitude survey published yesterday by the Ministry of Defence.

Asked whether the frequency of tours had an impact on whether to leave or not, 38% of the Army said it had increased their intention to leave, while 59% overall said operation commitments and stretch made them more likely to leave.

Overstretch caused by having too few trained personnel to meet commitments was another major factor in persuading individuals of all ranks to quit the military and look for better-paid civilian jobs.

Army chiefs are seriously concerned over whether such a level of commitment in Iraq and Afghanistan can be maintained. Last month Chief of the Defence Staff Jock Stirrup warned the government: “We are not structured to do two of these things on this scale on an enduring basis but we have been doing it on an enduring basis for years.

“Until we get to the stage when one of them comes down to small-scale, we will be stretched beyond the capabilities we have.”

Every infantry battalion in the Army is short of manpower and there are more than 10,000 foreign and Commonwealth volunteers plugging gaps in frontline “bayonet strength”.

Overall, the three services are more than 6000 men and women below required staffing levels, with growing shortages among submarine crews, naval pilots and medical services.

Websites such as Army Rumour Service have become important means of articulating their discontent anonymously.

“If a police officer is asked to go on-call for three months in a hostile environment, thousands of miles away from home, where lots of people are mortaring him/her and shooting at him/her day and night for weeks on end ... how much do you think he/she will get in overtime payments and other benefits?” asks one poster.

“We need a union not to strike but to stand up for us. I really do wonder how many civis are aware of how much a serving member of the armed forces doesn't get paid?” asks one soldier.

Accommodation, some of which is notoriously poor, is another source of complaint. “Given up complaining, moss growing on walls. bathroom floor that moves with water underneath it.”

The tone is one of mystified anger, summed up by the comment “how the hell the Army get such a bad deal in comparison is totally beyond me!”.

Fucked Again:
18,000 Designated For BCT
Deployments To Obama's Imperial
Slaughterhouse;
“We're Operating At A Very Low
Level Of Dwell”
“We Can't Begin To Significantly
Improve The Dwell”

July 14, 2008 By Michelle Tan, Army Times [Excerpts]

About 18,000 soldiers in four brigade combat teams will deploy to Iraq in spring 2009, following seven other BCTs that will go in the fall as the Army struggles to give combat-weary soldiers more time at home between long, repeat deployments.

Two of the three active Army BCTs identified in this latest rotation will return to Iraq after 12 months at home, the minimum required by the Defense Department, said a senior Army planner who asked not to be identified.

“We're in a period of time I refer to as the echo of the surge,” he said. “We're operating at a very low level of dwell.”

The planner estimated it will take about 15 months to recover from the surge of five BCTs into Iraq that began in early 2007. The surge brought the number of BCTs in Iraq to 18. Two additional BCTs deployed to Afghanistan.

The last of the five surge brigades is expected home at the end of July. When the final surge brigade comes home, the Army will have 13 BCTs in Iraq and two in Afghanistan. The Army will have a total of 43 BCTs in fiscal 2009 and plans to add five more in coming years.

“Just because the surge ended it doesn’t mean the effect of the surge has ended in terms of unit availability,” the planner said.

The latest units called for duty in Iraq, as announced June 30 by the Defense Department, are:

- 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

This is the third Iraq deployment for the brigade.

It first deployed to Iraq from March 2004 to March 2005 and again in October 2006. The brigade will have 12 months of dwell when it deploys again.

- 2nd BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood.

This also is the third Iraq deployment for the brigade, which was in Iraq from January 2004 to March 2005.

In October 2005, the brigade deployed to New Orleans to help with humanitarian relief operations following Hurricane Katrina. In October 2006, the brigade deployed for the second time to Iraq, taking responsibility for central and south Baghdad. This brigade also will have 12 months of dwell when it deploys in the spring.

- 3rd BCT, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y. This is the first Iraq deployment for the brigade since it was formed in the fall of 2004.

This will be its first overseas deployment since its 16-month tour in Afghanistan from February 2006 to June 2007.

- 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania National Guard. This is the Guard’s sole Stryker brigade. In September 2005, it was mobilized to Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. Two of its infantry companies and one unmanned aerial vehicle platoon have deployed to Iraq once before.

In addition, about 15,000 Marines in two Regimental Combat Teams, both of Camp Lejeune, N.C., also will deploy in the spring.

“As always, it’s a simple matter of supply and demand,” he said. “Until there’s a reduction in the number of BCTs required by (Central Command) below what we had prior to the surge, we can’t begin to significantly improve the dwell for forces until we see the effects of Grow the Army.”

“Until the demand declines or the supply increases, the current situation is what it is.”

Chinese Government Torture Manuel Inspired Interrogations at Guantánamo; “The Only Change Made In The Chart Presented At Guantánamo Was To Drop Its Original Title: ‘Communist Coercive Methods For Eliciting Individual Compliance’”

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HULME



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[In reading this, be aware that the reporter’s use of the word “Communist” to describe the Chinese government is a preposterous obscenity.

[There never has been anything “Communist” about it. The predators who joined with Mao called themselves “Communist” to throw a smokescreen over their successful efforts to use the Chinese government they set up to grab the wealth and power of China for their own enrichment.

[Today of course everybody sees and knows them for what they really are: greedy capitalist rats. It's become too obvious for even their pathetic apologists to deny: stock market, private ownership of the means of production, sweatshops, only government approved unions allowed, critics imprisoned, a whole class of rich millionaires, Imperial occupation of Tibet, and all the rest of the usual, customary capitalist ratshit. Duh. T]

July 2, 2008 By SCOTT SHANE, The New York Times [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — The military trainers who came to Guantánamo Bay in December 2002 based an entire interrogation class on a chart showing the effects of “coercive management techniques” for possible use on prisoners, including “sleep deprivation,” “prolonged constraint,” and “exposure.”

What the trainers did not say, and may not have known, was that their chart had been copied verbatim from a 1957 Air Force study of Chinese Communist techniques used during the Korean War to obtain confessions, many of them false, from American prisoners.

The recycled chart is the latest and most vivid evidence of the way Communist interrogation methods that the United States long described as torture became the basis for interrogations both by the military at the base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The C.I.A. is still authorized by President Bush to use a number of secret “alternative” interrogation methods.

The 1957 article from which the chart was copied was entitled “Communist Attempts to Elicit False Confessions From Air Force Prisoners of War” and written by Albert D. Biderman, a sociologist then working for the Air Force, who died in 2003. Mr. Biderman had interviewed American prisoners returning from North Korea, some of whom had been filmed by their Chinese interrogators confessing to germ warfare and other atrocities.

In 2002, the training program, known as SERE, for Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape, became a source of interrogation methods both for the C.I.A. and the military. In what critics describe as a remarkable case of historical amnesia, officials who drew on the SERE program appear to have been unaware that it had been created as a result of concern about false confessions by American prisoners.

Senator Carl Levin, Democrat of Michigan and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said after reviewing the 1957 article that “every American would be shocked” by the origin of the training document.

“What makes this document doubly stunning is that these were techniques to get false confessions,” Mr. Levin said. “People say we need intelligence, and we do. But we don’t need false intelligence.”

Mr. Biderman's 1957 article described "one form of torture" used by the Chinese as forcing American prisoners to stand "for exceedingly long periods," sometimes in conditions of "extreme cold."

Such passive methods, he wrote, were more common than outright physical violence.

Prolonged standing and exposure to cold have both been used by American military and C.I.A. interrogators against terrorist suspects.

The chart also listed other techniques used by the Chinese, including "Semi-Starvation," "Exploitation of Wounds," and "Filthy, Infested Surroundings," and with their effects: "Makes Victim Dependent on Interrogator," "Weakens Mental and Physical Ability to Resist," and "Reduces Prisoner to 'Animal Level' Concerns."

The only change made in the chart presented at Guantánamo was to drop its original title: "Communist Coercive Methods for Eliciting Individual Compliance."

The documents released last month include an e-mail message from two SERE trainers reporting on a trip to Guantánamo from Dec. 29, 2002, to Jan. 4, 2003. Their purpose, the message said, was to present to interrogators "the theory and application of the physical pressures utilized during our training."

The sessions included "an in-depth class on Biderman's Principles," the message said, referring to the chart from Mr. Biderman's 1957 article.

Versions of the same chart, often identified as "Biderman's Chart of Coercion," have circulated on anti-cult sites on the Web, where the methods are used to describe how cults control their members.

Dr. Robert Jay Lifton, a psychiatrist who also studied the returning prisoners of war and wrote an accompanying article in the same 1957 issue of The Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine, said in an interview that he was disturbed to learn that the Chinese methods had been recycled and taught at Guantánamo.

"It saddens me," said Dr. Lifton, who wrote a 1961 book on what the Chinese called "thought reform" and became known in popular American parlance as brainwashing. He called the use of the Chinese techniques by American interrogators at Guantánamo a "180-degree turn."

The harshest known interrogation at Guantánamo was that of Mohammed al-Qahtani, a member of Al Qaeda suspected of being the intended 20th hijacker in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Mr. Qahtani's interrogation involved sleep deprivation, stress positions, exposure to cold and other methods also used by the Chinese.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**“We Are Still Here Even If You
Don’t See Us”
Commanders Of The Mahdi Army
Planning An Elite Resistance
Force Of “Thousands” Of Men
Highly Skilled In Guerrilla Warfare
That Will Target US Troops:
“The Goal Is To Fight And Expel
The Americans From This Land”
“No Mahdi Army Fighter Would Truly
Relinquish Their Weapon Until All
Foreign Troops Had Left Iraq”**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & The Military Project, who sent this in. He writes: They're creating combat and support units.]

July 01 Nizar Latif, Foreign Correspondent, The National [Excerpts]

NASARIYAH, IRAQ: Commanders of the Mahdi Army are still finalising plans for an elite resistance unit that will target US troops in Iraq.

The leader of the Sadr movement, Muqtada al Sadr, announced more than two weeks ago that a specialised armed group would be set up to carry out guerrilla attacks on American troops.

Little is known about the force and it will remain highly secretive so that its fighters can evade capture by either the American military or Iraqi government forces.

But Aaos al Khafagy, the general commander of the Mahdi Army in Nasariyah, a city 370km south-east of Baghdad, told The National the group was likely to contain “thousands” of men highly skilled in guerrilla warfare.

“We are still in the process of deciding the exact framework and the final decisions are up to Muqtada al Sadr,” he said. “The groups will work in every Iraqi city and we expect to need thousands, not hundreds, of fighters to do that.”

The militia commander said Sadr would personally oversee who was selected for membership and would choose only the most capable, most loyal of his followers.

“The goal is to fight and expel the Americans from this land and we will be thinking of that every day,” Khafagy said. “But it will be a fight that takes place at certain times and places, according to the right circumstances.”

Khafagy said the reorganised Mahdi Army would be more effective than the full-strength Mahdi Army had been, despite the reduced numbers of men-at-arms.

“People without experience in fighting should not have to fight – they are only likely to come to harm or to harm innocents and we want to avoid that,” he said.

“Everyone will still be involved in resistance to the American occupation, although it will not be armed confrontations, it will be at an intellectual, spiritual and political level. This is an important role of the Mahdi Army.”

Khafagy said the Sadrist’s change in strategy had come as a result of “experiences and lessons we have learned”.

“We need to get the occupiers out of Iraq, but without causing any harm to Iraqi citizens.”

“Without losing sight of our goals, we must make sure that our reputation is clean and that we are known to be of good morals. The resistance must be something that all Iraqis can support with pride.”

In Kut, one of the southern cities where the Mahdi Army has been locked in a struggle for power against the SIIC, the decision to recast the Mahdi Army as a more concentrated, underground force was seen by militia fighters as a necessary response to new US and Iraqi government tactics.

“The Americans are increasingly pushing the Iraqi Army out in front to do its work, and that meant Iraqis end up fighting Iraqis, something none of us wants,” said Ra’ed al Shammari, a Mahdi Army militant. “We don’t want confrontations with the Iraqi security forces but we do want to fight against the occupiers.”

Shammari said he did not know what his own future would be when the reorganisation took place. “I hope to be in the combat brigades of the Mahdi Army so that I can directly hit the Americans,” he said. “But it is not my choice and if I am chosen to work in the cultural wing then I will that, I will educate my people about the American plans and will resist in that way.”

He added that no Mahdi Army fighter would truly relinquish their weapon until all foreign troops had left Iraq.

“We will keep our rifles to hand for use when necessary and we will only put them down when the US forces have withdrawn.”

MORE:

Jul 9 By HAMZA HENDAWI and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press Writers

“We are still here even if you don’t see us,” said Mahdi al-Frejji, one militiaman.
“There is a time for everything. You just have to wait and see.”

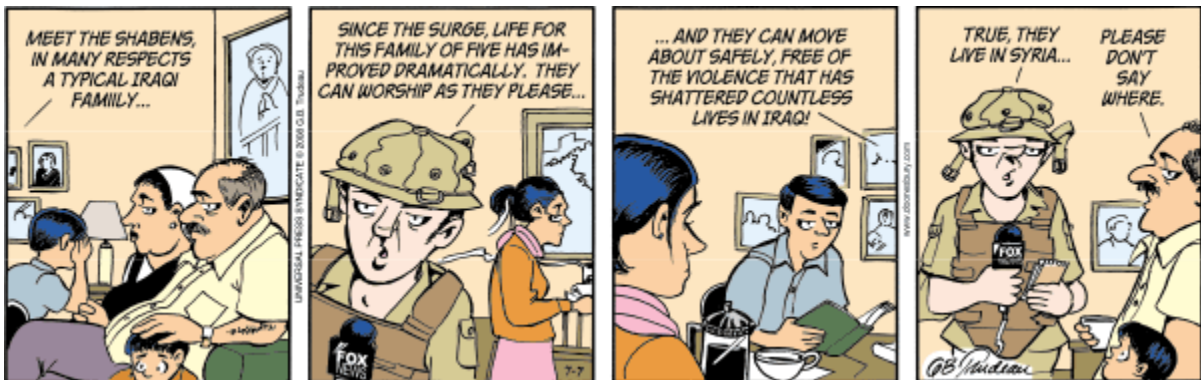
FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

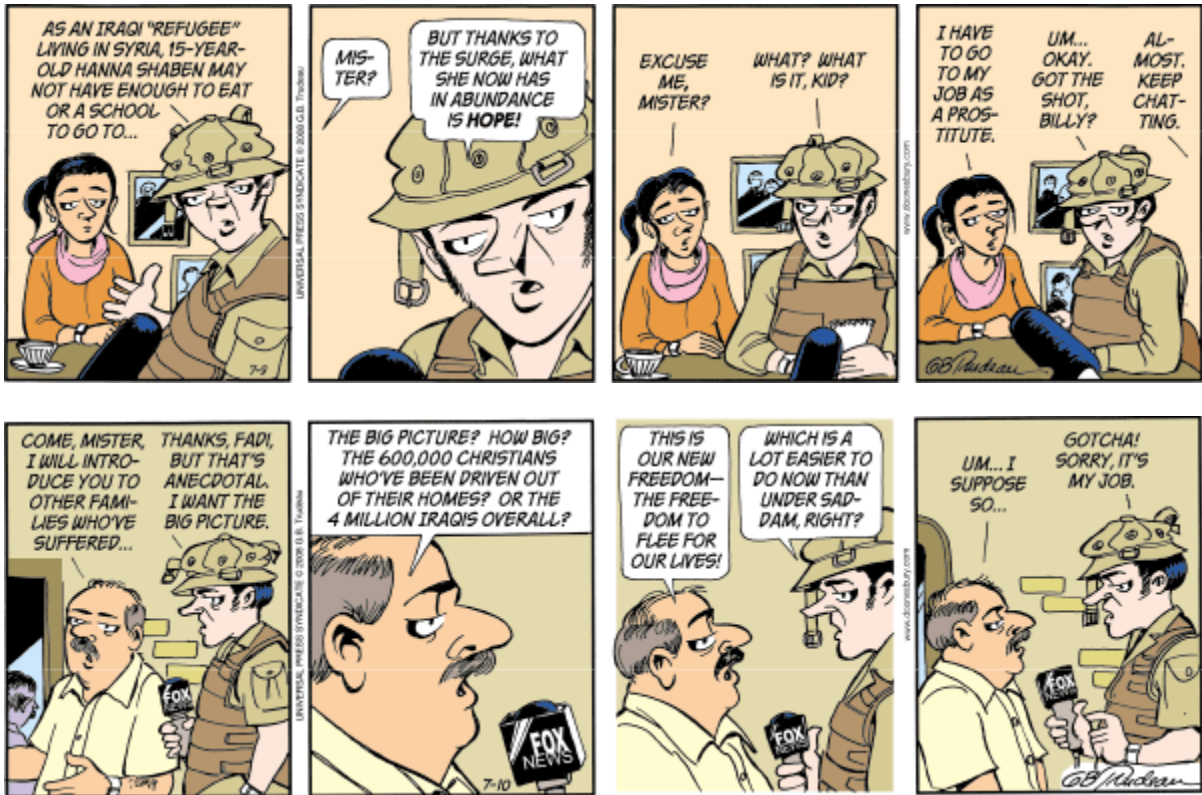
At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

“The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”
-- Camille Desmoulins

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

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





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

PTSD:

“Stress Is The Normal Reaction To An Abnormal Situation”

“It Is Not A Sign Of Weakness, And It Is Not Mental Illness”

Women who have been raped, victims of violent crime, victims of car accidents, witnesses of such events and first responders are all known to experience PTSD in the aftermath.

Do we label them as mentally ill? Do we assume they are dangerous?

July 07, 2008 By Beth Wilson, Army Times

The writer, the wife of an active-duty petty officer first class, hosts “Navy Homefront Talk!” an Internet talk show for Navy spouses, weekly at www.blogtalkradio.com/nht.

Within the ranks of the military, great efforts have been made to remove the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Stress is the normal reaction to an abnormal situation.

Many service members are getting the message: PTSD is not an automatic career killer.

It is not a sign of weakness, and it is not mental illness.

Rather, it is normal, and as Patricia White, a counselor experienced with PTSD, states, "I am more concerned when our service members do not have at least a mild and temporary experience of (combat operational stress) or PTSD."

Recent statistics released by the Rand think tank report that at least 300,000 service members who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from PTSD or major depression. These numbers are expected to climb as deployments continue.

Is America prepared to receive this generation of war fighters experiencing PTSD? Perhaps not.

Just as the military recognized the need to combat the incorrect perception that PTSD is mental illness, I wonder if a similar campaign is needed for the civilian population, based on an experience I had recently.

I was asked a disturbing question while sponsoring a project to send military couples on the romantic honeymoon they never had (<http://www.operationhoneymoon.com>).

We hope to send 50 military couples on a six-day honeymoon cruise. In my fundraising efforts, one company asked, "Will you screen winners for PTSD? We can't have a service member shoot the ship."

What?

This conversation was a conference call with members of the company's management team.

I was shocked at the misunderstanding of the military and PTSD.

They apparently thought all service members take their M16s with them everywhere.

They also held the perception that those battling PTSD are dangerous, prone to "going postal." (Funny, didn't that term come from civilians shooting people?).

They also believed that families and spouses were in great danger from their combat-experienced service member.

The National Institute of Mental Health states that PTSD is indeed an illness, but differentiates it from mental illness.

PTSD is not relegated to just combat.

Individuals who experience a traumatic, perhaps life-threatening, event can experience PTSD.

Women who have been raped, victims of violent crime, victims of car accidents, witnesses of such events and first responders are all known to experience PTSD in the aftermath.

Do we label them as mentally ill?

Do we assume they are dangerous?

No, we recognize that they are traumatized and offer them support, understanding and compassion.

Why, then, would we view combat-related PTSD any differently?

Sadly, with less than 1 percent of the total population serving in the armed forces, much of the nation's citizenry does not have a direct connection to someone who serves. This lack of connection can foster these misconceptions.

This brings me back to my question: Is America equipped to deal with service members battling PTSD?

If the top management of a major corporation holds the views and misconceptions I mentioned, what does the local police department, the future employer or the neighbor believe about those who bravely served their country?

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/)

July 14, 1789:
Magnificent Anniversary:
**“Revolutionaries And Mutinous Troops
Stormed And Dismantled The Bastille”**



Carl Bunin Peace History

Bastille Day in France: Parisian revolutionaries and mutinous troops stormed and dismantled the Bastille, a royal fortress converted to a state prison, that had come to symbolize the tyranny of the Bourbon monarchs.

This dramatic action was proof that power no longer resided in the King as God's representative, but in the people, and signaled the beginning of the French Revolution and the First Republic.

How It Is

[From GI SPECIAL 3B85: 7.10.05]

During the Algerian war a leader of the national liberation front, the FLN, was asked about using terror against French civilians in café bombings in Algiers.

He replied, "If we had an air force I promise you we would only target French barracks, but till then...."

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

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



A frightened boy runs away as an Iraqi citizen is dragged out of his house during a home invasion operation by foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. in Baghdad's Sadr City July 12, 2008. REUTERS/Damir Sagolj

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

“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 up the stairs. You grab the man of the house. You rip him out of bed in front of his wife. You put him up against the wall.

“You have junior-level troops, PFCs, specialists will run into the other rooms and grab the family, and you’ll group them all together. Then you go into a room and you tear the room to shreds and you make sure there’s no weapons or anything that they can use to attack us.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sgt. John Bruhns

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

IF YOU DON’T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

As U.S. Goes Bankrupt Paying For Imperial Wars, Iraqi Collaborator Politicians Handing Out Wads Of Cash; “Money Is Not A Problem”

July. 13, 2008 The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - It is a politician's dream:

Handing out cold, hard cash to people on the street as they plead for help. Iraq's prime minister has been doing just that in recent weeks, doling out Iraqi dinars as an aide trails behind, keeping a tally.

The handouts by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and a handful of other top officials are authorized — as long as each goes no higher than about \$8,000, and the same people don't get them twice.

Aides say they are meant merely to ease the pain a bit, and are motivated by a belief that better conditions will lead to more security.

“Money is not a problem,” al-Maliki told a recent gathering of tribal chiefs in the southern city of Basra, after government forces had defeated Shiite extremists there.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, urged the government to pass out money even faster this week on a trip to devastated Mosul in the north.

As for al-Maliki, Arab leaders have long used personal handouts to also gain political loyalty.

In One ‘Black Night,’ Another Baghdad Neighborhood Is Walled In:

**“This Is A War Against The People
Of Hurriya”**

“Rafah Crossing Welcomes You”

**“Now Some People Are Starting To Pry
Apart The Concrete Blocks With Tools”**



Usama Redha / Los Angeles Times

07/13/08 By Usama Redha in Baghdad, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

The vehicles moved through the cratered roads and alleys, looking for a way to leave the neighborhood.

My microbus driver zig-zagged aimlessly, changing course or going straight as other drivers made hand gestures to indicate that the road ahead was closed or open.

After a while we were all moving like a convoy, a convoy of microbuses searching for a way out of the neighborhood.

It was the day after the wall went up. The wall consists of gloomy concrete chunks, 12 feet high, set side by side to enclose my neighborhood.

Seven miles of it went up overnight.

We call it “the Black Night.”

The wall wasn’t erected completely, so my driver hoped to find an opening he could squeeze his microbus through. Eventually he gave up and went to the exit manned by two checkpoints and took his place at the end of a long line.

When we finally cleared the checkpoints, the other passengers and I saw fresh graffiti that said, “Rafah Crossing welcomes you.”

But we were not in Rafah Camp, we were not in Israel at all; we were in Baghdad and the area was Hurriya.

Hurriya has been a hot zone, used by the Madhi Army militia of the anti-U.S. cleric [translation: anti-occupation nationalist politician] Muqtada Sadr to launch missiles and mortars against American bases in Baghdad. To avoid capture, the militia would hide among the civilians.

Until Sadr renewed a cease-fire declared last year, there were sometimes several attacks a day.

Despite the reduced threat, the Americans informed the municipal council of Hurriya that they intended to wall the suburb on the northwest side of the city, said a council member who declined to be named. The engineers left four entrances.

“But it was not enough because Hurriya is a vast area,” the council member said. “We need at least five for the vehicles and six for people.”

On the first day of the wall, people made their own entrances by squeezing through the cracks.

But the workers came back that night, and the next day, the cracks were gone.

Abd al-Sahib, 34, an electrical engineer, was outraged.

“This is a war against the people of Hurriya,” he said. “I barely could find a hole between a chunk and electricity pole close to my house.”

Whether it is good or bad, this I can say about the wall. It is exhausting me.

I now wait at the checkpoint every day, sweltering in a vehicle with no air conditioning as the thermometer rises past 100.

My father has suffered too. When I dropped by to say hello after work, I saw that his legs were bandaged.

“What happened?” I asked.

"I found a good entrance," he said. "But the second day, when I wanted to use it again, it was smaller, and I didn't have the energy to go looking for another one."

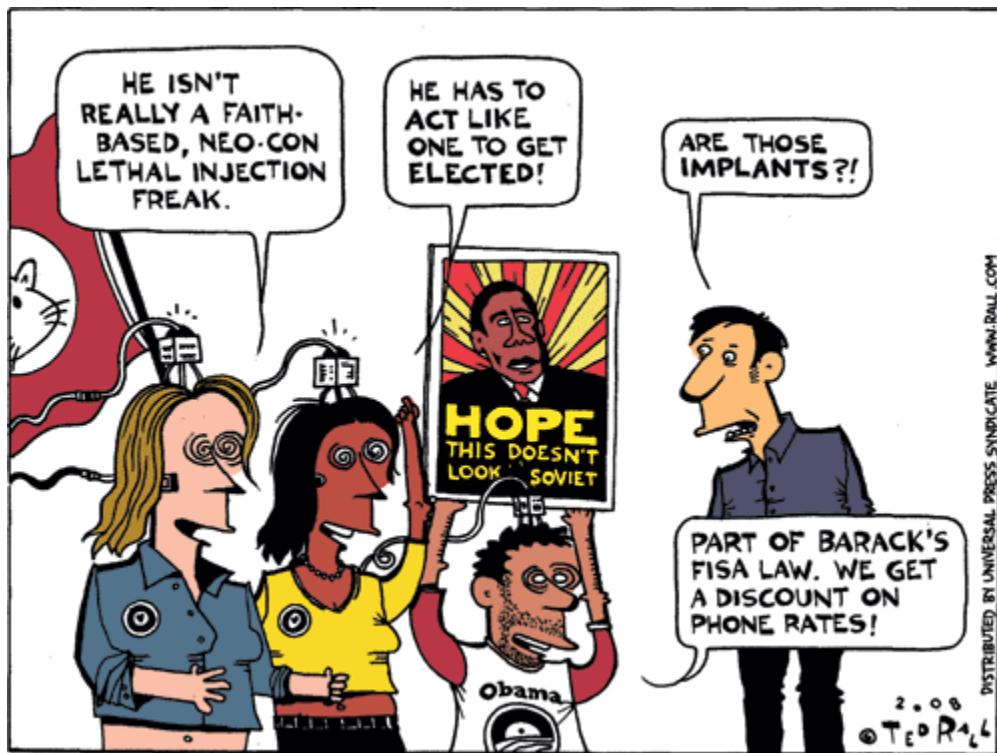
Now some people are starting to pry apart the concrete blocks with tools.

Why We Fight Dept. **Bush Buddy Says Iraq Government Can "Crush" American Ambitions**

Jul 14 By Sam Dagher, CSM [Excerpt]

"The Iraqi negotiators enjoy the trust of their people and can crush the unrealistic ambitions of the Americans in this agreement," boasted Hassan al-Snaid, one of Maliki's senior partisans, on state-owned Iraqiya TV.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Troops Invited:

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

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Protest Is Not Terrorism! COOPER TWO TRIALS ON JULY 16 AND JULY 17

July 12, 2008 From New Orleans Committee Against Repression 504-587-0080

Jamie “Bork” Laughner and Joy Kohler are each scheduled to be tried later this month in Orleans Parish Criminal Court on trumped up felony charges of possessing a false explosive device.

If convicted, they face up to five years in prison.

The alleged “false explosive device” are the lockboxes that Jamie and Joy used on December 19, 2007 to attach themselves to B. W. Cooper apartment buildings scheduled to be demolished in the midst of New Orleans’ worst ever shortage of affordable housing.

Both the defense and the prosecution agree that nobody was injured as a result of the protest and no explosives or other weapons were anywhere near the Cooper Two at the time of their arrest.

It is also worth noting that Jamie and Joy took a vow a non-violence before occupying the vacant public housing buildings.

On the other hand a police witness for the prosecution, NOPD bomb expert Todd Morrell, testified that “almost anything can be a false explosive device”.

The purpose behind the prosecution of the Cooper Two is clearly to silence opposition to the ethnic and class cleansing now underway in New Orleans.

Those who wish to take a stand against political repression and ethnic cleansing in New Orleans are urged to attend the trials of Jamie and Joy at the time and place listed below

9am July 16, 2008: Trial of Farah Joy Kohler to be held in Orleans Parish Criminal Court E in the Orleans Criminal Court Building at Tulane and Broad streets.

9am July 17, 2008: Trial of Jamie “Bork” Loughner to be held in Orleans Parish Criminal Court E in the Orleans Criminal Court Building at Tulane and Broad streets.

New Orleans Committee Against Repression 504-587-0080



“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

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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