

GI SPECIAL 6H15:



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Project, who sent this in.]

Our Common Enemy, And Defending The Constitution:

“At What Point Have We Run Out
Of ‘Democratic’ Options, In Trying
To Peacefully Force Our
Government Obey Our
Constitution?”

“Will Politicians EVER Give Us Back What They Have Taken, Or Must We TAKE It Back?”

“So At What Point Does It Become Necessary To Take Up Arms Against Our Own Federal Government To Defend Our Laws?”

August 17, 2008 By Ward Reilly, Veteran

In our nation, our common enemy is anyone that violates our Constitution.

Right?

So, at what point does it become necessary to take up arms against our own federal government to defend our laws?

At what point have we run out of “democratic” options, such as lobbying, voting, writing, and marching in the streets, in trying to peacefully force our government to obey our Constitution, and its Bill of Rights?

Politicians, security workers, and soldiers, take an oath to “defend the Constitution against ALL enemies, both foreign and domestic”...which establishes the moral and legal conflict for all citizens, both veterans and non veterans alike, that being; if the Commander in Chief, and/or Congress, is violating the laws of the Constitution, and we citizens swore to defend the Constitution, what do we do when we are confronted with the problem of how to defend the Constitution against those domestic enemies?

For citizens that are thinking people, what do they do if it is apparent that the Constitution is being overtly violated, and they took an oath to defend it?

It can't work both ways, which is where the dilemma begins; Are “mis-leading statements” lies? (Rumsfeld said: We know where the WMD's are. They're in the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south and north somewhat"... Bush said “We don't torture”)

Is torture, torture?

Is allowing no legal representation for “detainees”, legal? My Bill of Rights says “NO PERSON shall be held unless indicted by an impartial jury”

Is kidnapping and renditioning to prisons, kidnapping and rendition?

The Bill of Rights says NO PERSON shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, WITHOUT DUE PROCESS”.

How many detainees have died in our custody since 9-11? How can ANY “legal official” say that these things are legal?

“Interpretation” of the law.

Isn't unauthorized spying against Americans illegal?

Bush, Cheney, and Pelosi authorized torture.

My copy of the “Bill of Rights” states that we are “secure against unreasonable searches”. Isn't kidnapping illegal?

How about renditioning and imprisoning secretly?

The Bill of Rights says “and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense”. Isn't harvesting emails and telephone calls spying? Isn't torture illegal? (Japanese soldiers were put to death for water-boarding, by our country after WWII)

As citizens, or as veterans, how long can we allow obvious interpretation of the laws of the Constitution to be violated, before we must FORCE real change?

If we don't defend the Constitution, then we must face the reality that we don't really believe in, or truly care to defend, that Constitution.

How long can we accept the fact that Constitutional laws are broken overtly, and then new laws are written and passed, to make the (already-committed) crimes to be “legal”, before we are forced to confront our federal politicians with force?

At what point have we run out of “democratic” options to create enforcement of our Constitutional laws, before we give up trying?

After citizens have written, spoken, lobbied, marched in the streets, voted, and gained a majority in opinion, and still gotten nothing from federal politicians, what are the remaining options we have besides force, or the surrender of our beliefs?

At what point will the citizens of this country understand the implications, and the shared criminal guilt, of killing more than 1 million innocent people, because our federal government relies on “oops” for a policy to send us to a war in Iraq? (“Oops, we were wrong about WMD's”...Oops, we lied about Saddam's ties to Al Qaida)

Do we wrongly occupy Afghanistan and Iraq (oops) because our government says that “we are going to track down Osama bin Laden?”. (Puhhhleeze).

We are bombing Pakistan, and are responsible for covert military actions against Iran, a nation that hasn't invaded another country for hundreds of years. Are any of these acts' Constitutionally legal?

The legal reality, in my eyes, is that we have kidnapped, imprisoned, tortured, invaded and killed MANY legally innocent people. The reality is that a million+ people are dead, and 5 million are destitute and homeless because of our criminal occupations. All that is legal?

ALL Constitutional crimes that are committed by soldiers and the CIC, are the crimes of every U.S. citizen, because we are ruled by "we the people". Dead is dead, kidnapped is kidnapped, and tortured is tortured...I, nor any other citizen, should EVER accept some appointed lawyer or judge's "legal opinion" that interprets torture as not being torture.

Dead is dead. Innocent is innocent.

One typical example of what we have done: Sami El Hajj, a journalist, was released last week, after being imprisoned and tortured for 6-1/2 years. He was never charged with any crime, and never allowed contact with any legal representation. How is that NOT a Constitutional crime, by ANY "legal" interpretation?

And that is one example of thousands, that we are collectively responsible for. Kidnapped and tortured by EVERY U.S. citizen, period.

Which brings us back to this:

As citizens, veterans or not, how long can we allow the obvious interpretation of the law to be violated, before we must FORCE real change, or face the reality that we don't really believe in our own Constitution?

How long can we accept the fact that Constitutional laws are broken overtly, and then new laws are written and passed, to make the (already-committed) crime(s), to be legal, and before we are forced to confront our federal politicians, with force?

Will "we the people" ever enforce the law, if our federal politicians and justices simply won't, in spite of the wishes of the majority?

Or will political correctness allow the abuse of our laws to continue, because we are afraid to truly effect change with force, if, and when, it becomes necessary?

In our nation, our common enemy is anyone that violates our Constitution, and it's our job to "protect and defend" the Constitution. That's what every soldier that ever died for our country, died for.

So at what point does it become necessary to take up arms against our own federal government to defend our laws?

At what point have we run out of "democratic" options, in trying to peacefully force our government obey our Constitution?

It's time we all face this very-real question.

Will politicians EVER give us back what they have taken, or must we TAKE it back?

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

MORE:

**“Should I Keep Back My
Opinions At Such A Time,
Through Fear Of Giving
Offense, I Should Consider
Myself As Guilty Of Treason
Towards My Country”**

**“The Millions Of People, Armed In
The Holy Cause Of Liberty, And In
Such A Country As That Which We
Possess, Are Invincible By Any
Force Which Our Enemy Can Send
Against Us”**

**“Shall We Acquire The Means Of
Effectual Resistance By Lying
Supinely On Our Backs And Hugging
The Delusive Phantom Of Hope?”**

“There Is No Retreat But In Submission And Slavery!”



Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne!

Mar. 23, 1775, By Patrick Henry, House of Burgesses, Williamsburg, Va.

No man thinks more highly than I do of the patriotism, as well as abilities, of the very worthy gentlemen who have just addressed the House. But different men often see the same subject in different lights; and, therefore, I hope it will not be thought disrespectful to those gentlemen if, entertaining as I do opinions of a character very opposite to theirs, I shall speak forth my sentiments freely and without reserve.

This is no time for ceremony. The questing before the House is one of awful moment to this country.

For my own part, I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery; and in proportion to the magnitude of the subject ought to be the freedom of the debate.

It is only in this way that we can hope to arrive at truth, and fulfill the great responsibility which we hold to God and our country.

Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the Majesty of Heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings.

Mr. President, it is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope.

We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth, and listen to the song of that siren till she transforms us into beasts.

Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation?

For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it.

I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience.

I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past.

And judging by the past, I wish to know what there has been in the conduct of the British ministry for the last ten years to justify those hopes with which gentlemen have been pleased to solace themselves and the House.

Is it that insidious smile with which our petition has been lately received? Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your feet.

Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss.

Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of our petition comports with those warlike preparations which cover our waters and darken our land. Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? Have we shown ourselves so unwilling to be reconciled that force must be called in to win back our love?

Let us not deceive ourselves, sir.

These are the implements of war and subjugation; the last arguments to which kings resort.

I ask gentlemen, sir, what means this martial array, if its purpose be not to force us to submission? Can gentlemen assign any other possible motive for it? Has Great Britain any enemy, in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies?

No, sir, she has none.

They are meant for us: they can be meant for no other.

They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging.

And what have we to oppose to them?

Shall we try argument?

Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. Have we anything new to offer upon the subject? Nothing.

We have held the subject up in every light of which it is capable; but it has been all in vain.

Shall we resort to entreaty and humble supplication? What terms shall we find which have not been already exhausted?

Let us not, I beseech you, sir, deceive ourselves.

Sir, we have done everything that could be done to avert the storm which is now coming on.

We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament.

Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne!

In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation.

There is no longer any room for hope.

If we wish to be free-- if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending--if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained--we must fight!

I repeat it, sir, we must fight!

An appeal to arms and to the God of hosts is all that is left us!

They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary.

But when shall we be stronger?

Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house?

Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction?

Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot?

Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power.

The millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us.

Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us.

The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election.

If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery!

Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston!

The war is inevitable--and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter.

Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace-- but there is no peace. The war is actually begun!

The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms!

Our brethren are already in the field!

Why stand we here idle?

What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have?

Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?

Forbid it, Almighty God!

I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

ACTION REPORTS

Austin Texas Veterans For Peace Care Enough To Go Beyond Mere Words

July 2008, Chapter 66, Austin, TX, Veterans For Peace Newsletter

VFP Chapter 66 is active at Fort Hood, distributing packages that include "Ground Truth", the GI Rights Hotline card, Appeal for Redress petitions, and applications for VFP and IVAW membership.

On "Mission Accomplished Day", we joined IVAW members at Fort Hood at 5am.

We have returned to Fort Hood several times for personal encounters with soldiers.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed By Amarah Rocket Attack

August 19, 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080819-04

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Center Soldier was killed as a result of a rocket attack on a forward operating base near Amarah Aug. 19.

U.S. Helicopter Down North Of Baghdad

Aug 18 (KUNA)

A US military helicopter crashed on Monday in a village in Salahdin province located north of the capital, witnesses said.

The witnesses told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the helicopter crashed in Shuwaikh, north of Baghdad.

A US-Iraqi military force cordoned off the scene of the incident and prevented people and reporters from approaching, thus further details about the chopper crash were not possible, the witnesses said.

US forces maintain an air base in the town of Balad in the province.

Clever Maliki Regime Attacks U.S. Funded Diyala “Awakening Council” Militias: Pissed Off Officer Says “We Are An Experienced Armed Group” “We Are Fully Capable Of Bringing The House Down”

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project, who sent this in.]

Aug 18, 2008 By Hamza Hendawi, The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Shiite-led government is cracking down on U.S.-backed Sunni Arab fighters in one of Iraq’s most turbulent regions, arresting some leaders, disarming dozens of men and banning them from manning checkpoints except alongside official security forces.

But Iraq’s government is suspicious of such groups, fearing their decision to break with the insurgency was a short-term tactic to gain U.S. money and support.

Mullah Shihab al-Safi, commander of Sunni fighters in Diyala, told The Associated Press that many senior leaders of his group had been detained and fighters evicted from their offices. He gave no figures.

Another senior commander said security forces evicted his men from all but seven of about 100 offices in Diyala. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared arrest.

Government officials would not comment on specific claims about the push in Diyala. But aides close to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite, said the government was not willing to tolerate the existence of armed groups with “blood on their hands.”

“The continuation of the Awakening Councils as they are now is unacceptable,” said Ali al-Adeeb, a close al-Maliki aide and a senior member of his Dawa Party.

But acting against the Sunni movements could alienate the once-dominant minority Sunni Arabs at a time when overtures to them appear to be making headway.

“We fought the Americans for four years and we fought al-Qaida, too,” said al-Safi, a former Iraqi army commando during Saddam Hussein’s regime who fought in the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war. “We are an experienced armed group.”

“We are fully capable of bringing the house down.”

One Shiite official who is close to al-Maliki said the prime minister believes his successful crackdown this year on Shiite militias has given him enough authority to go after Sunni armed groups without alienating Sunni politicians.

But a lawmaker from the Iraqi Islamic Party, the country’s largest Sunni party, warned that the government must take into consideration the groups’ contribution to improved security.

“The government must listen to what the Awakening Councils have to say,” Sunni lawmaker Hashem al-Taai said.

MORE:

Clever Maliki Regime, Backed By U. S. Armed Force, Attacks Governor Of Diyala Province, Kill His Secretary



A U.S. soldier from the Second Stryker Cavalry Regiment guards an arrested Iraqi policeman at a U.S. military camp in Baquba, Diyala province August 19, 2008. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

Aug 19, Associated Press Writer

Before dawn Tuesday, Iraqi troops backed by U.S. helicopters swooped down on the provincial government complex in Baqouba, Diyala's capital about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

The troops stormed the office of the provincial governor, Raad Rashid al-Tamimi, triggering a gunfight that killed his secretary and wounded four of his guards, police said.

The head of the provincial council's security committee, Hussein al-Zubaidi, was arrested, police said.

Later, troops raided the home of the president of Diyala University, Nazar al-Khafaji, handcuffed him, placed a hood over his head and led him away, his nephew Ismail Ibrahim Sabi said.

Troops also seized three computers and several books, said Sabi, who was in his uncle's house at the time and works as his driver.

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE
REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK
LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT A PACK
OF TRAITORS IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE
That is not a good enough reason.**



U.S. Army's soldier from the 4th Infantry Division runs through an open area during a patrol in Sadr City in Baghdad May 13, 2008. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Ten French Occupation Soldiers Killed, 21 Wounded By Resistance Ambush In Spir Kundi: “The Engagement Is The First Major Clash To Take Place Within Kabul Province” French Government In Deep Shit: Majority Already Opposed The War

August 20 2008 Jason Burke in Kabul, The Guardian [Excerpts]

Ten French soldiers have been killed and 21 wounded after a Taliban ambush 40 miles east of the Afghan capital, Kabul. According to Afghan officials, four of the soldiers were executed after being captured during a two-day running battle with more than 100 insurgents.

The casualties were mostly from France's 8th parachute regiment, recently arrived as part of a controversial reinforcement of the French presence in Afghanistan ordered by Sarkozy earlier this year.

The French casualties appear to have come after a joint Isaf and Afghan army patrol was ambushed on Monday afternoon in the Spir Kundi district of Kabul province, 20 miles north-east of the town of Sorobi, a strategic bottleneck on the crucial road linking the capital to the city of Jalalabad, near the Pakistani border.

Fighting continued overnight and into yesterday morning, though local officials said that the clash was over by early afternoon. Abdul Wahed, a provincial councillor from Sorobi, said the fighting yesterday had lasted three or four hours.

The French force was backed up by air strikes and Afghan army troops.

“Recently Isaf and ANA deployed into the area and started going on patrol. This was their third patrol and it came under attack yesterday afternoon and it lasted several hours.” Qazi Suleiman, the Spir Kundi chief, said.

But the loss of the French troops will hand a major propaganda victory to the insurgents as will the proximity of their attack to the capital.

The engagement is the first major clash to take place within Kabul province.

The casualties were mostly from France's 8th parachute regiment, recently arrived as part of a controversial reinforcement of the French presence in Afghanistan ordered by Sarkozy earlier this year.

The French government faced its first vote of no-confidence earlier this year when Sarkozy's move to send hundreds of extra troops to Afghanistan was greeted with dismay by the opposition and members of his own right-wing UMP.

Opinion polls have consistently shown that the majority of the population opposes military engagement in the country and yesterday political websites were flooded with angry comments from Sarkozy's critics.

"There are families suffering who must be cursing Sarko for having sent young guys out there to act the big guy in front of his friend Bush," read one comment on Le Monde's political blog.

"Without Sarkozy's political choice these men would still be with us," said another on Le Figaro's website.

"The Current Wave Of Attacks Has Demonstrated The Taliban's Ability To Almost Encircle Kabul"

August 20, 2008 Canwest News Service

The widespread violence across Afghanistan this week surrounding Independence Day should serve as a stern warning about the faltering security situation in the country and its capital Kabul in particular, according to [Senlis Council] a French think-tank.

"The widespread fighting throughout Afghanistan over the last 24 hours, with substantial loss of NATO-ISAF and Afghan lives, sends a clear message that current Western strategy in Afghanistan is failing," the Senlis report states.

"Until now, Western leaders have been in denial about the true extent of Taliban presence in Afghanistan, and their ability to move swiftly on the Afghan capital."

"The current wave of attacks has demonstrated the Taliban's ability to almost encircle Kabul, with numerous groups of Taliban launching attacks from south, west and east of (the city)," the report states.

U.S. Base Gates Attacked In Khost;

“Karzai’s Annual Independence Day Address In Stadium Called Off With No Explanation”

August 18, 2008 By SANGAR RAHIMI and CARLOTTA GALL, The New York Times Company

A bomber drove a car into a crowd of workers at the gates of a United States military base in eastern Afghanistan on Monday morning, killing 12 workers and wounding 22 others, Afghan officials said. The bomber failed to penetrate the base, and no American military personnel were wounded in the explosion, the military said.

Another suicide bomber in a car soon followed. His attempt was thwarted but he escaped.

Early Tuesday, militants wearing vests packed with explosives tried to storm the base, Camp Salerno in the city of Khost, The Associated Press reported, quoting Arsala Jamal, the governor of Khost Province.

The first attacks came on Afghanistan’s Independence Day, commemorating liberty from the British Empire in 1919.

President Hamid Karzai’s annual Independence Day address in the stadium was called off with no explanation with a small commemoration due later in the day.

The Taliban issued a statement that Afghanistan was once more under “occupation” by “crusaders” and called on Afghans to join and fight a jihad, a holy war, Agence France-Presse reported.

In Khost, the police chief said nine people had died instantly in the bombing and three more in the town hospital. Col. Abdul Qayum Baqizoy, the police chief, said the bomber had rammed his explosive-packed car into a line of laborers at a gate where they gathered to be searched before going inside.

British Soldier Killed In Gereshk, Three Wounded

19 Aug 08 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of Corporal Barry Dempsey from The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland, who was killed in Afghanistan on Monday 18 August 2008.

At 0825 hrs local time, a joint Afghan National Army and UK Operational Mentoring Liaison Team were patrolling, when they dismounted in the region of Forward Operating Base Attal, in the Gereshk area of Helmand Province.

An improvised explosive device was detonated which resulted in the death of Cpl Dempsey and shrapnel and blast injuries to one other ISAF soldier, an Afghan National Army soldier and the patrol interpreter. Cpl Dempsey and the three casualties were airlifted to the Joint Force Medical Group Facility at Camp Bastion.

Canadian Soldier Wounded In Panjwaii

August 20, 2008 Canwest News Service

An attack Tuesday in a busy market in the Panjwaii district of Kandahar killed an interpreter and wounded a Canadian soldier.

Resistance Action

08/15/08 DPA & Aug 17 (AFP) & By FISNIK ABRASHI, Associated Press & August 18, 2008 By SANGAR RAHIMI and CARLOTTA GALL, The New York Times Company

Four policemen were killed and five others were wounded when their vehicle was struck by a roadside mine in Gerishk district of the southern province of Helmand on Thursday evening, Andawal said. He said that police forces were patrolling in the area when the attack happened.

Taliban militants took responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on the rebel website, saying that the explosion killed seven police officers.

A roadside bomb hit a police jeep in southern Afghanistan and killed 10 officers. it happened overnight in the troubled Shah Wali Kot district of Kandahar. The policemen were on a routine patrol at the time of the explosion.

An Afghan soldier was killed and six others were wounded in two separate bomb explosions on Saturday, one of them near the capital Kabul.

In Zabul five private security guards died during a four-hour battle Sunday. The militants ambushed a NATO supply convoy escorted by private security, sparking the battle.

Taliban insurgents attacked police checkpoints in Nad Ali district of southern Helmand province Friday. Four police were wounded.

Monday, a mine blew up a police vehicle in the province of Nangarhar and killed two policemen, an official said.

TROOP NEWS



Thanks to Linda Olson, who sent this in. [Military Humor: Tom-phillips.info]

While U.S. Soldiers Die: **Huge Weapons Sales Bring In \$8.7 Billion Of Iraq Oil Dollars;** **U.S. General Is The Used Tank Salesman**

8.19.08 By Charles Levinson, USA TODAY

BESMAYA COMBAT TRAINING CENTER, Iraq — The Iraqi general grabbed the hull of America's No. 1 battle tank and gave it a shake.

"It's very hot," said Gen. Mohan al-Furayji, the Iraqi defense minister's top military adviser. "I'm afraid my soldiers won't be able to operate behind these tanks."

His concerns threatened to derail an arms deal worth as much \$2.16 billion. That alarmed Brig. Gen. Charles Luckey, who, on this sweltering day in the desert, was a salesman of sorts.

You could even say he is the U.S. military's senior used-tank salesman. Luckey is the U.S. officer in charge of foreign military sales to Iraq. It's his job to move the merchandise.

"For as little as \$300 you can get a blast deflector to deal with the heat," Luckey said.

"I might even throw them in for free for you," he added, sweetening the deal.

Iraq is fast becoming one of the United States' top customers for military sales.

Since January 2007, Iraq has spent \$3.1 billion on U.S. weapons.

That number looks likely to grow exponentially as Iraq uses its vast unspent reserves of petrodollars to develop its army into a force capable of defending its borders against hostile neighbors.

In the past two months alone, the Pentagon has alerted Congress of a possible \$8.7 billion worth of additional military sales to Iraq, for everything from lightweight attack helicopters to armored ambulances to binoculars.

Wounded Soldiers Attacked By Barracks Mould Spores: Complaints "Went Unheeded For Months"

Aug 18, 2008 By Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY [Excerpts]

LAWTON, Okla. — Mold infests the barracks that were set up here a year ago for wounded soldiers after poor conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center triggered a systemwide overhaul, soldiers say.

Twenty soldiers, who spoke to USA TODAY early last week, say their complaints about mold and other problems went unheeded for months. They also said they had been ordered not speak about the conditions at Fort Sill.

Col. Robert Bridgford, garrison commander at Fort Sill, said he ordered workers last week to replace ventilation ducts encrusted with mold in two 48-room wounded-soldier barracks at the base.

Early last week, soldiers told USA TODAY that in April they first noticed what looked like layers of mold in flexible air ducts above their rooms when ventilation covers were removed to be cleaned. "(The duct work) was just caked black," says Sgt. Willard Barnett, 51, an Iraq war veteran.

Some soldiers say they have been affected by air in their rooms.

“When I wake up in the morning, I have crud in my eyes, and I have like this slimy phlegm in the back of my throat,” says Spc. James Dodson, 26.

Vangjel and Forster said they were unaware of any complaints in April.

MORE:

Worthless, Despicable Piece Of Shit In Command Of Fort Still Fires Veteran Who Advocated For Soldiers; Iraq Vet Sgt. Says “I Know For A Fact That He Saved A Couple Of Soldiers’ Lives”



Enemy Combatant; Stupid And Dangerous: Maj. Gen. Peter Vangjel
[cache.daylife.com]

Aug 20, 2008 By Gregg Zoroya - USA Today [Excerpts]

FORT SILL, Okla. — An Army social services coordinator here who told USA Today about poor conditions at Fort Sill’s unit for wounded soldiers has been forced out of his job, the employee and base officials said Tuesday.

Soldiers meeting with Army Secretary Pete Geren here Tuesday said Chuck Roeder, 54, was a strong advocate for their problems and should not have been forced to leave.

Roeder was hired at Fort Sill in January. He contacted USA Today in July about problems at Fort Sill, which were confirmed by more than 20 soldiers.

Roeder’s departure Friday, following his contact with USA Today, was purely coincidental, said Col. Sam White, an executive officer at Fort Sill. He said Roeder has a history of confrontations with base officials. **[Another stupid, worthless, lying piece of shit heard from. If his firing was “coincidental,” then why mention “confrontations” with officers?]**

“They can say whatever they want to say, but they’re not being truthful,” Roeder said. “I stand up for soldiers. I’m sure the word got out that I’d encouraged soldiers to speak.”

Roeder, a retired soldier, said he was told to resign or he would be fired

“Chuck’s been there for us many times,” said Sgt. Willard Barnett, 51, and an Iraq war veteran. “I know for a fact that he saved a couple of soldiers’ lives.

“Chuck was there for them and helped them get through a rough time.”

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

While Troops Fought And Died, A “Boatload” Of Thieving BrassRats Stuffed Their Pockets;

As Many As 30 U.S. Army Officers “Actively Engaged In A Conspiracy”

August 13, 2008 By Joel Millman, Wall Street Journal. Leslie Norman contributed to this article. [Excerpts]

A third U.S. Army officer is set to plead guilty in a corruption scheme involving supplies to U.S. troops in Kuwait and Iraq, in a case investigators now believe may grow to include more than 100 co-conspirators.

Maj. James Momon Jr., 36 years old, a career U.S. Army officer who served in Kuwait during the Iraq war, plans to plead guilty Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Washington to accepting bribes or arranging kickbacks from U.S. and Kuwaiti defense contractors selling items such as bottled drinking water and performing maintenance at military installations in Kuwait and Iraq, his lawyer says, after negotiating a plea agreement in June.

A case that once was thought to involve only a handful of contractors and military officers seems to be widening. The case is one of several probes into contracts supporting U.S. troops in Iraq.

The prosecutors' case against Maj. Momon as described in court records alleges he and his colleagues at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait instigated corruption by recruiting retired soldiers to seek deals in which kickbacks were a condition. The charges allege that the conspiracy's principal operators arranged to continue their scheme even after their tours of duty in the Middle East ended.

“We're talking about a boatload of people actively engaged in a conspiracy,” said a U.S. official familiar with the case.

This official believes there may be as many as 30 U.S. Army officers involved and “70 or more of their relatives and associates engaged as facilitators.”

Criminal charges against Maj. Momon allege that contracts ranging from \$3 million to \$20 million each were awarded in which military officers conspired to siphon off as much as 10% of each deal.

In one case, prosecutors allege, Maj. Momon arranged a \$15 million bottled-water contract after the contracting company agreed to pay 50 cents per case back to Maj. Momon, with half those proceeds going on to Maj. John Lee Cockerham Jr. in Texas. Maj. Cockerham, who has pleaded guilty in the case, preceded Maj. Momon as a contracting officer at Camp Arifjan.

Taken altogether, the number of cases and emerging scale provide the clearest evidence yet that controls were inadequate throughout the military supply chain as billions of dollars in contracts were dispensed to support the U.S. military effort in Iraq.

This latest Kuwait supply scandal broke a year ago when investigators from the Pentagon's Defense Criminal Investigative Service identified Maj. Cockerham, who had worked in the Army's contracting office at Camp Arifjan. Maj. Cockerham, who served three tours in Kuwait, was arrested in Texas, together with his wife, Melissa, and a sister, Carolyn Blake.

Mr. and Mrs. Cockerham have since entered guilty pleas on federal charges that they accepted millions of dollars in bribes and kickbacks.

Arrests related to the Cockerham case were expected to be completed months ago.

But now government agents are culling through dozens of additional contracts as Army officers who have pleaded guilty lead investigators to new suspects. Under the terms of his plea agreement, Maj. Momon will provide testimony.

Court documents in Maj. Momon's case identify the participant in the bottled-water contract only as Contractor One. However, in a separate case awaiting trial in Washington, Terry Hall of Rex, Ga., a 42-year-old former U.S. Army sergeant, is facing bribery and conspiracy charges in an identical set of incidents.

Investigators in the two cases allege that Mr. Hall met with Majors Cockerham and Momon in Kuwait in late 2005. The next year, Mr. Hall's companies negotiated bottled-water contracts with the Department of Defense for total payments of \$8 million.

During that period, the prosecutors' court filings allege, Mr. Hall registered a company called Omega Construction & Support Services to "provide a means to funnel bribe payments to Momon without detection." To receive those bribes, investigators say, Mr. Hall opened bank accounts in the Philippines for Maj. Momon and one other U.S. Army officer, who isn't identified.

Besides money wired to the overseas bank accounts, prosecutors' court documents allege Maj. Momon received at least one cash payment of \$100,000 from Mr. Hall in Kuwait, then a second payment of \$100,000 when they met at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport a few weeks later.

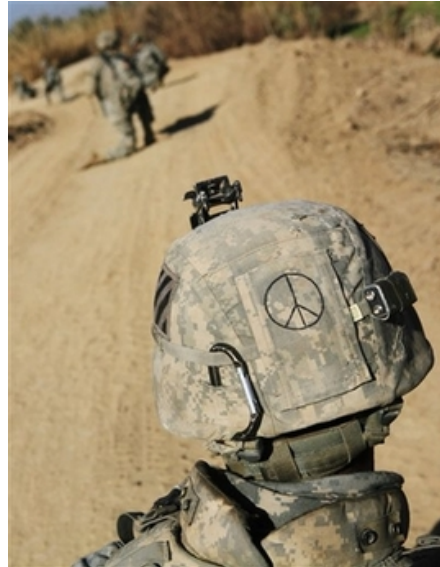
Court papers identify other payments, including payments of \$400,000, \$10,000 and \$800,000 from three other contractors.

Maj. Momon as recently as last month was still considered on active duty. His attorney said he was "in the process" of leaving the military. Under sentencing guidelines, he faces as many as five years in prison. Mr. Momon grew up in a military family.

He spent part of his childhood in Germany, where his father was deployed. He later attended The Citadel, the prestigious South Carolina military academy.

"I just can't believe the charges against him; he was always a straight-laced guy," said Tom Barnes, one of several of Mr. Momon's classmates at the Osterholz American High School in Germany who remembered him as an outstanding student.

The New Issue Of Traveling Soldier Is Out!



U.S. Army soldier, Arab Jabour, south of Baghdad, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

This issue features:

- 1. "My squad and I are all behind IVAW 100%. ... This war is bullshit"**
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/8.08.bull.php>
- 2. "I choose to commemorate July Fourth by recommitting myself to living by the ideals which were blazed that day" says Iraq vet Sergeant Selena Coppa**
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/8.08.4th.php>
- 3. "We Must, As A Nation, Once Again, Embrace Defiance, Rebellion, And Resistance!" says Iraq vet Adam Kokesh.**
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/8.08.kokesh.php>
- 4. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at nearby base.** <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS19.pdf>

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

“Meetings Of A Group Of Factions And Armies Of The National Resistance”

**“They Do Not Close An Eye, Not Until
The Elimination Of The Occupation, Its
Agents And Clearing The Land Of Iraq
From Their Filth”**

16/8/2008, Armed Media Center For The Iraqi Armed Revolution via Ibrahim Ebeid

A spokesman on behalf of the Iraqi Armed Revolution

On intensive meetings of a group of factions and armies of the National Resistance

Sumar headquarters of military operations in the southern sector of the heroic Iraqi resistance witnessed, for two successive days , intensive meetings for a group of factions and armies of the national resistance in preparation for what the Centre announced that the sons of the south, and loyal sons of the Euphrates, committed themselves to participating in the ranks of the Iraqi armed revolution against the occupation and its puppet government, and for the purpose of preparing for such participation and coordination of field positions and of control provisions They adopted the final plans for the jihadist nature of the work of the next six months, participated in these meetings a large number of heads of Clans in Iraq who swore that they do not close an eye, not until the elimination of the occupation, its agents and clearing the land of Iraq from their filth.

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

Resistance Action

Aug 15 (Reuters) & Aug 18 (Reuters) & 8.19.08 By Sahar Issa, McClatchy Newspapers

A roadside bomb wounded three Iraqi soldiers conducting a foot patrol, in the Mansour district of western Baghdad, police said.

A parked car bomb killed one Iraqi soldier when it exploded on Thursday in northern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A car bomber killed five policemen and wounded seven in an attack on a police checkpoint in Ramadi, capital of Iraq's western Anbar province, police said.

Insurgents killed two people working for Iraq's electoral commission and wounded another person in a drive-by shooting near the town of Abul Khasib, some 460 km (285 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

Three police officers and a civilian were wounded in roadside bomb that exploded in the Karrada district of central Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three prison guards in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three policemen, when it exploded near a U.S. military patrol in the Yarmouk district of western Baghdad, police said.

A police source told KUNA that the bomb planted near the road exploded as a police patrol car was passing by in Al-Obaidi, western Iraq. The explosion resulted in the death of one policeman and injury of five others.

Four insurgents men in a white sedan opened fire upon a checkpoint manned by National Police on Mohammed al-Qassim highway, central Baghdad at 1 p.m. killing one policeman, injuring three.

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

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

**GI SPECIALS BY MAIL FREE FOR
ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS**

**IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A SELECTION OF GI SPECIALS MAILED TO YOU, EMAIL
YOUR ADDRESS TO: CONTACT@MILITARYPROJECT.ORG OR DROP A LINE TO:
BOX 126, 2576 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025-5657 USA. 917.677.8057**

Please say how many you wish sent.

NOTE WELL: They will all be different issues of GI Special to satisfy DOD regs that you may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue.*

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Cover-Up



Anti-war rally in London 2004

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: August 17, 2008
Subject: Cover-Up

Cover-Up

When the U.S. Government insists they go to any length not to target innocent civilians,

they are lying.
What happens in the field,
stays in the field.
That has been true ever since soldiers
have used swords.
It is all about cover-ups,
and keeping the Empire public ignorant.

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
August 17, 2008

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

Nope, Still No Oil For Blood: “Attempts At Inviting Foreigners In Have Withered” [Just In Case You Missed It In The Shitstorm Of Fake Left Hysteria About Giant Oil Companies Getting Their Way In Iraq]

August 13, 2008 By GINA CHON, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — Oil negotiations between a handful of foreign companies and the government here appear stalled, setting back once again efforts to open up Iraqi oil fields to international companies.

A petroleum law that would provide a legal framework for foreign investment has long languished in Parliament. Still, momentum had built up in the spring and early summer for a series of limited so-called technical-service contracts negotiated between a group of major oil companies and the Iraqi Oil Ministry.

The deals, essentially consulting contracts, were limited in nature and small-scale by oil-industry standards. They were intended to serve as short-term deals that would halt or

reverse declining production at a handful of specific fields, while tenders for longer-term technical contracts could be vetted.

Oil Ministry officials had said they hoped to sign contracts by the end of June. That deadline came and went without a deal. Now, talks with major oil companies, such as Royal Dutch Shell PLC, BP PLC and Exxon Mobil Corp., appear to have hit new snags.

"I'm not sure if they are going to go through," said Charles Ries, who heads economic affairs at the U.S. Embassy.

The Oil Ministry, which had been championing the deals for months, is now balking.

Oil Minister Hussein al-Shahrestani in an interview said that is because the companies are insisting that part of the payment for the consulting work be in oil, and the foreign companies want preferential treatment for future oil-exploration deals.

Political sensitivities in Baghdad also appear to be in play.

In the meantime, deals for new exploration and production won't occur until Iraq passes an oil law.

That bill has been stalled for more than 18 months, mainly because of differences among Kurdish and Baghdad officials over who has control over signing contracts for development and other issues.

After the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, many Iraqi and U.S. officials, along with many Iraqi oilmen, pushed for opening the fields to competitive bidding. International participation, these people said, would raise production.

Since the invasion, however, several attempts at inviting foreigners in have withered.

After wresting control of its oil resources from Western powers decades ago, many Iraqis are still loath to see foreign companies back.

MORE:

Oooops: Got That Wrong! Chinese Regime Getting An Oil Deal With Iraq! [That's Worth Getting Killed For, No?]

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, and Military Project, who sent this in. He writes: PRO-IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IN BAGHDAD + OIL DEALS WITH CHINA = DEFEAT FOR THE U.S. IN IRAQ.]

Aug 10 By SINAN SALAHEDDIN, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD - Iraq and China are set to revive a \$1.2 billion oil deal that was canceled after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, the Iraq's oil ministry said Sunday.

An initial agreement with China is expected to be signed at the end of August to develop the billion-barrel Ahdab oil field south of Baghdad, the ministry said in a statement.

"Iraq and China are keen to show their cooperation by finalizing an agreement on developing the Ahdab oil field," it said.

The announcement came after a meeting between Iraqi Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani and China's ambassador to Baghdad.

No further details were released, but if the deal is signed it will be the first Saddam Hussein-era oil deal to be honored by the new Iraqi regime.

The two countries restarted talks in October 2006.

The field is located near Wasit province, about 100 miles southeast of Baghdad, and could produce an estimated 115,000 barrels a day. Wasit has been the scene of sporadic attacks since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

MORE:

[Well, The News Isn't All Bad For Our Star-Spangled U.S. Predators] ExxonMobil Racks Up "The Biggest Quarterly Profit For Any U.S. Corporation In History"

August 15, 2008 By Nicole Colson, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

ExxonMobil announced that its earnings for the second quarter rose nearly 14 percent to \$11.7 billion. It's the biggest quarterly profit for any U.S. corporation in history, and it comes on top of Exxon's record-breaking profits last year, when the company made \$40.6 billion over the 12 months.

In all, ExxonMobil had a gross income of over \$404 billion last year--more than the gross domestic product of two-thirds of the world's countries.

Exxon isn't alone. Royal Dutch Shell, Europe's largest oil company, reported a 33 percent increase in second-quarter profits, to more \$11 billion. And BP, Europe's

second-largest oil company, reported it made \$13.4 billion in the first six months of the year.

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.