

GI SPECIAL 6H21:

Honorable Work In Hand #1:



A U.S. soldier attends to a boy who was wounded in a bomb attack in Tikrit, 150 km (95 miles) north of Baghdad August 26, 2008. REUTERS/Sabah al-Bazee

Honorable Work In Hand #2:



Jeff Key, a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, during an anti-war protest at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Aug. 27, 2008. IVAW demands the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

“And His Failures Will Inspire People That They Need To Fix It Themselves”

Quoted by Sarah Knopp, August 29, 2008 Socialist Worker

“Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats are the savior,” said IVAW member Eli Wright.

“But since Obama’s inspired people for change, when he gets elected, people will see him not coming through.

“And his failures will inspire people that they need to fix it themselves.”

MORE:

“To Be Ignored Again By The Would-Be Savior Of America With His Anti-War Rhetoric Is A Disgrace”

“We’re Here To Hold The Democrat Party Accountable”

“We Voted Them In To End This War. They’ve Not Done That”

“We Want Our Brothers And Sisters To Come Home Now, Not Later. Now”



The Iraq Veterans Against the War group led the four-mile procession from the Denver Coliseum to the Pepsi Center, the site of the Democratic National Convention, calling for immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq and improving healthcare for veterans. Photo: Doug Pensinger, Getty Images

08/27/2008 By John Ingold and George Watson, The Denver Post

“The veterans have fought too hard to come back here and be ignored as we have for the past seven years by the administration,” said Liam Madden, a Marine sergeant.

“To be ignored again by the would-be savior of America with his anti-war rhetoric is a disgrace.”

August 28, 2008 By Nicholas Riccardi and DeeDee Correll, Los Angeles Times Staff Writers

“We’re here to hold the Democrat Party accountable,” said Jason Hurd, one of the veterans at the front of the procession. “We voted them in to end this war. They’ve not done that. . . . We want our brothers and sisters to come home now, not later. Now.”

The veterans drew cheers from pedestrians and delegates who crowded the sidewalks to watch them as they snaked toward the Pepsi Center.

8.28.08 By CATHERINE TSAI and COLLEEN SLEVIN (AP)

Jan Critchfield, 24, of Seattle said he served in Iraq in 2004, and after returning home, came to believe that the war was an “unlawful, immoral occupation.”

He said now that he’s back in the U.S., he thinks about what it’s like for Iraqis living with U.S. forces in their country.

“I just can’t imagine driving through my neighborhood at home and seeing a security checkpoint.”



Veterans and active duty military personnel participate in an antiwar protest near the Democratic National Convention site in Denver. (Photo: Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times)

August 27, 2008, By Dan Frosch AND Julie Bosman, The New York Times

The veterans carried a letter intended for Senator Barack Obama, asking Mr. Obama to, if elected, immediately withdraw troops from Iraq; grant full benefits to American soldiers regardless of the terms of discharge; and provide reparations to the Iraqi people.

“We want our brothers and sisters to come home now,” said Sgt. Christopher Goldsmith, shouting into a bullhorn as he addressed the crowd during the march.



MORE:

SSG Says “I’ll Back These People Up”

From: [SSG N (ret’d)] [In Minneapolis]

To: GI Special

Sent: August 30, 2008 9:10 AM

Subject: Re: GI Special 6H20: “Soldiers In Uniform Began The Four-Mile March To The Pepsi Center In Downtown Denver To Protest The Iraq War”

We march again on Monday, I’ll back these people up.

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

New Jersey Soldier Killed In Baghdad



Army Reservist Michael L. Gonzalez, 20, from Spotswood, N.J., died Thursday in Baghdad after being wounded in the blast of an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Dept. of Defense)

ENOUGH: ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. soldier stands guard as his officers arrive to attend a meeting with local tribal members in Yousifiya in south Baghdad. REUTERS/Ibrahim Sultan

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Community Remembers Grover Marine



Lance Cpl. Jacob J. Toves, 27, of Grover Beach was killed Aug. 14 while supporting combat operations in southwestern Afghanistan's Helmand province.

8.14.08 By April Charlton, Senior Staff Writer, The Times Press Recorder

A 1999 Arroyo Grande High School graduate who died last week while serving in Afghanistan reportedly had found something he could belong to when he joined the Marines.

Lance Cpl. Jacob J. Toves, 27, of Grover Beach was killed Thursday while supporting combat operations in southwestern Afghanistan's Helmand province. He was assigned to the 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, which is part of the 1st Marine Division, in Okinawa, Japan.

Toves served as a combat engineer, and had been awarded a slew of medals for his service, including the Purple Heart, Afghanistan Campaign medal, Global War on Terrorism Service and the National Defense medal, according to the Department of Defense. The Department of Defense won't release how Toves was killed to protect the soldiers still serving in the Helmand province, said 1st Lt. Curtis Williamson.

Toves, who was born in Brookings, Ore., on July 24, 1981, grew up in the Five Cities area, attending local schools including Grover Beach Elementary, where he graduated kindergarten. He also attended Ocean View Elementary from first through sixth grade and Paulding Middle School.

"He was one of those average, good kids," said Judy Leonard, Toves' high school guidance counselor. "He wasn't a kid who got into trouble. He was quiet and respectful."

Toves joined the Marine Corps in November 2006, and was under contract as active duty until at least 2010. He completed basic training, Marine combat training and Military Occupational Safety school in June 2007, earning the rank of private first class, according to his MySpace Web page.

Arroyo Grande High teacher Randy Fiser, who had Toves in an architecture class in 1998, also remembered the fallen Marine as someone who was a good student, with a great smile.

"He had a quiet strength and confidence around him," Fiser said, adding he was shocked to learn of Toves' death. "He was quiet and polite, not rowdy or boisterous like most teenage boys."

Fiser saw Toves a few years ago when his former student came back to ask him to write a letter recommending him for military service.

"He was so excited about it," Fiser said, adding he now wished he hadn't signed the letter.

"You can't make decisions for other people, and that's what he wanted" Fiser said. "I told him to keep his head down. I feel so sorry for his family." Childhood friend Lance Padilla, a Nipomo resident, saw Toves the day before he left for basic training, and said his friend believed in what he was going to do as a soldier.

"I definitely think he felt he was doing a good thing," Padilla said, adding Toves' family didn't support his decision to join the military.

Growing up, Toves never showed an interest in joining the military, but after he graduated high school, he began looking to belong, and the Marines offered the camaraderie Toves was searching out, Padilla said.

He also said it's hard knowing he'll never see his close friend again — Toves and Padilla met when they were 5 years old — that he went to school and church with, and spent many days and nights with skateboarding around the Five Cities.

"Everyone should know Jacob was a nice guy who cared about people," Padilla said. "He was a great person."

On his MySpace blog that he wrote in 2006, Toves listed surviving deployment to a war zone among his two-year goals.

"My two year goal is to survive deployment and be an upstanding Marine," Toves wrote on his MySpace blog. "I believe in doing my utmost to encounter, engage, capture or destroy any enemy troops"

He listed his interests as anything with a board — skate, snow, surf, wake, etc. — and music. He also wrote that he was interested in neuroscience, bioengineering, etiquette, the arts, electronics, doctorates and philosophical theology.

According to his MySpace page, Toves was also working at furthering his education, and wanted to have a master's degree within the next five years.

He was single and had no children.

In Jacob Toves' honor, the flags at the state Capitol building will be flown at half-staff, according to a statement from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's office.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been made for Toves.

TROOP NEWS

***"I Know They Sent Us Over Here
Hurt So They Could Keep The
Numbers Up"***

**Criminals In Command Ignore
Medical Profiles To Deploy
“Soldiers With Slings And
Crutches And Some Who Need
Machines To Help Keep Them
Alive Through The Night”
“Once In Iraq, Commanders
Sometimes Ignored Medical
Limitations Set By Doctors”
“They Don’t Care About Lives; They Care
About Bodies” “They Don’t Care Who
Goes Out There; They Don’t Care What’s
Wrong With Them”**



DENNY NELSON: The 19-year Army veteran and Bronze Star recipient was sent to Kuwait while he was still using crutches. (Post: Andy Cross)

Army commanders have final authority to decide who goes to war and who doesn't. The commander considers doctors' opinions but can take a soldier to a war zone even if a doctor says the soldier should not be deployed.

08/25/2008 By Erin Emery and David Olinger, The Denver Post [Excerpts]

In the weeks before Christmas last year, a brigade of battle-bruised soldiers left Colorado's Fort Carson for its third round of war in Iraq.

Sgt. Colin Barton was getting Botox shots in his forehead to kill the relentless pain from a brain injury. Army doctors said he should not wear a helmet — a safety requirement for the flight to Iraq.

The Army sent him anyway.

Sgt. Joshua Rackley, recovering from his eighth knee surgery, was classified as permanently injured.

The Army sent him anyway.

Master Sgt. Denny Nelson and Sgt. Joseph Smith didn't have time to recover from predeployment surgeries.

Nelson hobbled with crutches; Smith wore a post-surgical boot.

Sgt. Tim Graham brought a sleep-apnea machine.

Sgt. 1st Class Walter Overton had a shoulder injury and couldn't lift his gear.

Spec. Joseph Leon was popping morphine pills to dull the nerve damage to his groin.

The Army sent them too.

Five years into the war in Iraq and six years after the invasion of Afghanistan, the Army is sending soldiers with physical and mental injuries back to war, at times overruling physicians' classifications of soldiers as "nondeployable."

Facing demands unprecedented in the history of the all-volunteer force, the Army has deployed soldiers with slings and crutches and some who need machines to help keep them alive through the night.

Thousands are taking pain, sleep or antidepressant medication, with sometimes deadly consequences.

An Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center analysis shows that 43,000 service members — two-thirds of them in the Army or Army Reserve — were classified as nondeployable for medical reasons three months before they deployed anyway.

Army spokesman Paul Boyce said many had minor medical needs that could be resolved in a day. “Our medical personnel know from experience that service members are ruled medically nondeployable for reasons such as requisitioning a second pair of eyeglasses, bringing dental records up to date and filling dental cavities,” he said.

A Denver Post examination of deployment records, internal e-mails and medical files provided by soldiers from one Army brigade — Fort Carson’s 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division — shows that more than 130 soldiers were sent to Iraq last fall despite being classified with medical limitations just before deployment.

In many cases, those limitations went well beyond cavities or missing eyeglasses.

At least 25 of the brigade’s soldiers — including Barton, Nelson, Rackley and Smith — were still suffering from serious and unresolved medical problems as they boarded transport planes bound for Kuwait and then Iraq.

In interviews, soldiers or their relatives described how they worked in constant pain, sought physical therapy in vain and were ordered to perform tasks that violated duty restrictions in what are known as their “medical profiles.”

Army commanders have final authority to decide who goes to war and who doesn’t.

The commander considers doctors’ opinions but can take a soldier to a war zone even if a doctor says the soldier should not be deployed.

Some soldiers who discussed their cases with The Post requested anonymity, fearing retribution, but their accounts were corroborated through Army records, interviews, observations or medical records that they or their families provided.

One soldier said he walked with a cane to relieve the relentless knee pain that kept him awake at night.

Another said he isn’t supposed to stand more than 15 minutes a day, but stands 12 hours at a time as a gunner.

Another left his medication at home — Zoloft and Klonopin for combat stress, and Tramadol for degenerative disc pain in his back — because, his wife said, he feared they would interfere with his job as a sniper who must lie still for hours at a time.

“I have a herniated disc in my neck, and the Army docs said I was fine,” wrote one Fort Carson soldier, who said he was sent to Iraq with two buddies who had broken bones in their hands and couldn’t fire their weapons.

“I know they sent us over here hurt so they could keep the numbers up.”

In a survey of 685 soldiers at Fort Benning and Fort Stewart in Georgia and Fort Drum in New York, the GAO estimated that 14 percent had “medical conditions that could require duty limitations,” including herniated discs, back pain, chronic knee pain, Type 2 diabetes and asthma.

About two-thirds of them were deployed anyway.

The agency could not determine how carefully those limitations were respected once soldiers arrived in a war zone.

But dozens of family members and soldiers who were deployed with medical issues said in interviews with The Post that once in Iraq, commanders sometimes ignored medical limitations set by doctors.



COLIN BARTON: Barton and his wife, Jenifer, pack up to move from Fort Carson this spring. Barton was being treated for severe headaches when he was deployed for a third tour in Iraq, despite instructions to not wear a helmet. (Post, Andy Cross)

After too many blasts from nearby explosive devices in two deployments to Iraq, Barton had incurable headaches. Sometimes they left him dizzy; sometimes he flew into a rage.

An Air Force doctor had begun an experimental treatment, injecting Botox into Barton’s forehead to relieve pressure before his third deployment.

He was scheduled for a follow-up treatment in January, but he was deployed in December with a medical profile instructing him not to wear a helmet.

“In any military plane, you’re supposed to be wearing your Kevlar (helmet). They told me, they’re like, ‘Oh, we got a waiver, you can just wear it when you get on the plane,’ “ he said. “I had it on once for like five minutes and took it off. I started to feel the pressure building up and having the headaches.”

Sgt. Jason Knierim was diagnosed with delayed post-traumatic stress disorder and chronic depression in July 2007 and was given an antidepressant but had no therapy between August 2007 and Nov. 30, when he was ordered to a third tour in Iraq.

At the soldier-readiness processing site, his mental illness was flagged, but a major cleared him for combat duty anyway. “I went into her office, she said, ‘You’re good to go.’ She stamped the paperwork,” he said.

Since his first deployment, Knierim had been haunted by memories of killing a 7-year-old boy who pointed a toy gun at him. When he arrived in Kuwait to prepare for his third tour of duty, he had a mental breakdown. His superiors took his gun away and put him on a 24-hour suicide watch.

Even after that, “the chain of command wanted to send me to Iraq to get my treatment there. They thought I could get enough treatment in theater,” he said. “They told me to get ready to go — they were getting ready to give my weapon back to me.”

He said soldiers such as him become a burden to other soldiers.

“We’re unstable,” he said. “We can’t be relied upon to do our job. We’re taking up someone else’s time, watching us, to make sure we’re OK. Someone has to do that when they could be doing something else.”



JOSHUA RACKLEY: Eight knee surgeries aside, the sergeant was deployed to Iraq, where I had other people carrying my gear for me because he couldn’t carry more than 50 pounds. (Post: Andy Cross)

Rackley had a long history of knee troubles. He had to go through basic training twice just to get into the Army. At 25, he had undergone eight knee surgeries and was listed as nondeployable last year.

When his brigade deployed, Fort Carson’s soldier-readiness processing center insisted, “Look, this soldier’s not going to Iraq. There’s no way,” he said.

Yet two days before Christmas, he was asked whether he could leave Christmas Day for Iraq. He was told the rear detachment at Fort Carson had received an urgent call for more soldiers.

“They need people, is what was told to rear detachment. ‘Send me people...’,” he said. “They needed numbers.”

In Iraq, Rackley tried not to violate his medical profile, which instructed him not to carry more than 50 pounds. When he needed to wear armor, “I had to take out all my plates but two,” he said. “No ammunition, no water. I had other people carrying my gear for me. Soldiers, we help each other out.”

Even carrying a machine gun posed a weight problem. “My first sergeant gave up his own 9mm (pistol) so I wouldn’t be breaking a profile,” he said.

Rackley said others in Iraq are in worse shape. "I know of five other people deployed right now" with more painful injuries, he said. "Mostly back injuries. One with a shoulder injury."

Eight months after Fort Carson deployed the 3rd Brigade, Knierim has been discharged from the Army and is seeking disability benefits from the VA. Leon returned to Fort Carson after doctors decided his groin injury couldn't be treated in a war zone. Barton came back to Colorado to help his wife cope with multiple sclerosis. Rackley went to South Carolina to train for a noncombat job.

Fort Carson is not the only base that has deployed soldiers with serious health problems.

Recently, the Army flew Sgt. 1st Class Jason Dene, the nephew of actress Mia Farrow, from Iraq to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware for surgery.

"He was released from the hospital into the loving arms of the government, who sent him directly back to Iraq," his uncle Patrick Farrow wrote in a letter to the Rutland (Vt.) Herald.

"He was put on active duty while he was still on a liquid diet, unable to eat solid food because of a throat hemorrhage due to a botched surgery at a military hospital."

Dene, 37, of Castleton, Vt., died of a drug overdose in his bunk in Iraq on May 25.

At Fort Hood in Texas, a doctor recently recommended deploying a soldier with eosinophilic granuloma, a rare disease that causes growths in his lungs.

The soldier, Cameron Atkin, declined to comment publicly. But his wife, Britney, and a soldiers' advocate, Carissa Picard, questioned why the Army would deploy any soldier who struggles to breathe whenever he tries to wear body armor.

"Basically the only gear he can wear out of his combat gear is his helmet," his wife said. If he puts on a flak vest, "after a couple of minutes it feels like a 100-pound weight on his chest. He can't breathe."

She said her husband passed out twice doing push-ups and was unable to train for deployment or even fire a gun because he was being treated for the newly diagnosed lung disease.

Among her husband's friends already in Afghanistan, she said, one failed his last four hearing tests, one has a worsening case of glaucoma, one rarely wears body armor because of a slipped back disc, and one has undergone three surgeries on the same ankle.

"They're trying to fill their quotas. They don't care about lives; they care about bodies," she said.

This month, she said, a second Army doctor examined her husband and found him undeployable. There is still a chance his commander could overrule that recommendation.

Fort Carson's 3rd Brigade was originally set to deploy in March. But last fall, with the 30,000-soldier surge showing some signs of success, the date was moved up, "to the left" in Army parlance, to get the brigade into the fight.

E-mails from Capt. Scot Tebo, the brigade surgeon, written Jan. 3 just after the brigade deployed, show the brigade was struggling to find enough healthy soldiers.

"We have been having issues with reaching deployable strength and thus have been taking along some borderline soldiers who we would otherwise have left behind for continued treatment," Tebo wrote to Maj. Thomas Schymanski.

One of those soldiers he evaluated was Nelson, a 19-year Army veteran who is a Bronze Star recipient.

Nelson had fractured a foot while jumping on his daughter's trampoline. He was sent to Kuwait on crutches.

"They're sending units so rapidly, they're having trouble getting them healthy," Nelson said.

After The Post in January reported on the deployment of some injured soldiers with the brigade, Maj. Gen. Graham ordered the post's inspector general to investigate.

The inspector general found "no initial indication that the units deliberately deployed medically unfit soldiers against explicit medical advice," nor that the unit systematically changed medical profiles to deploy more soldiers.

The inspector general did find the brigade sent 36 soldiers "who were rendered nondeployable" by a "medical no-go" and recommended a more rigorous reporting system to ensure that unfit soldiers are not sent to war.

Still, after the inspector general's report, Graham ordered brigade commanders not to send no-go soldiers until he had reviewed their cases and signed off on them personally. Another brigade is due to deploy from Fort Carson in the coming weeks, the first test of Graham's new policy.

"This is hard, this is hard," Graham said. "War is hard. And there is no doubt you can see the Army is working hard to get back to 12-month deployments from 15 months because we know this is tough on our soldiers and families too. It is very hard."

"They just need the numbers"

For Michelle Graham, the wife of Sgt. Tim Graham, a mechanic serving in Iraq, the level of desperation in the Army is no more apparent than in her husband's case.

Graham — no relation to Maj. Gen. Graham — has a permanent profile for severe sleep apnea.

“With his profile, he was not supposed to go. He stops breathing,” Michelle Graham said.

“He has a machine that goes over his face to help him breathe at night. If his machine breaks down, they have to send it back to the States to fix it. He does have a backup, but how long is that going to last?”

She said she does not sleep at night because she worries about her husband. The Army recently changed its regulations, deciding soldiers on sleep machines could deploy safely.

“Tim has a profile that says he’s not supposed to go, but his first sergeant and his commander said, ‘You’re going anyway.’

“It’s numbers, that’s all it is. They don’t care who goes out there; they don’t care what’s wrong with them. They just need the numbers. It’s really frustrating.”

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Heroic U.S. Soldier Teaches Democracy To Ignorant Iraqis



Foreign occupation soldier from U.S. PsyOps rips down and confiscates poster put up by Iraqi citizens in their own country showing anti-occupation politician Muqtada al-Sadr in the Fudailya area next to Sadr City, in Baghdad, Iraq, Aug. 29, 2008. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

MORE:

OK Big Man, Let's See You Go For This One:



Thousands of Iraqi citizens march to condemn the U.S. military occupation of their country after Friday prayers in Baghdad's Sadr City August 29, 2008.
REUTERS/Kareem Raheem

MORE:

No? OK, How About This One?



Thousands of Iraqi citizens march to condemn the U.S. military occupation of their country after Friday prayers in Baghdad's Sadr City August 29, 2008.
REUTERS/Kareem Raheem

Resistance Action

Aug 27 (KUNA) & Aug 28 (Reuters) & August 30, 2008 The Associated Press & DPA

Insurgents killed a member of a local U.S.-allied group and his family north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said Saturday. The man was killed Friday night in his home in the village of Withah in the volatile Diyala province in an attack which was in coordination with an assault on a nearby Iraqi army checkpoint that wounded one Iraqi soldier, the military said.

One policeman was injured Wednesday in an explosion which occurred in Mosul city, northern Iraq. Iraqi police told KUNA that an improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated in a patrol for the Iraqi police east of Mosul.

Seven Iraqi soldiers were killed yesterday when an insurgent terrorist rammed his booby-trapped truck into their unit which was stationed at Ayen Jahash area south of Mosul.

Guerrillas shot dead an off-duty policeman in front of his house in al-Mishahda neighbourhood of western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles), north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb struck a police patrol in eastern Baghdad, wounding three policemen, police said.

Insurgents killed an army colonel and his wife in a drive-by shooting in the al-Adil district in western Baghdad, police said.

Four people were killed in an armed attack near the central Iraqi city of Baquba, a security official said, stating that a leader of the U.S.-funded Awakening councils was among the dead. The attack which took place in al-Ihbas village, 45 kilometres south-west of Baquba

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

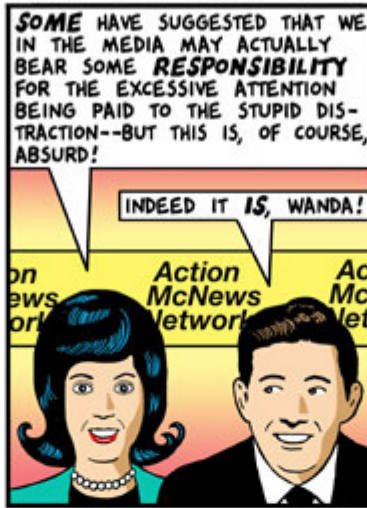
At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is

not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



OCCUPATION REPORT

***Excellent News For The Iraqi
Resistance!!***
**U.S. Occupation Commands'
World-Class Stupidity Recruits
Even More Fighters To Kill U.S.
Troops**



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. humiliates an elderly Iraqi citizen by shoving photos of wanted persons in his face and demanding he publicly turn informer for the occupation during a raid in Al-Fadhaliyah district, east of Baghdad August 29, 2008. Photo: REUTERS/Omar Obeidi

[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!**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

COMMENT UNNECESSARY



McCain at the end of a campaign rally in Dayton, Ohio, Aug. 29, 2008. (AP Photo/Stephan Savoia)

**The Summer's Most Exclusive,
Expensive Whorehouse, So Far:**

“The More Money You Pay, The Bigger The Event You Can Go To”

August 27, 2008 By Elizabeth Schulte, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

As for the Democrats, a brochure sent out on behalf of the Denver host committee advertised it this way: “The 2008 Democratic National Convention will bring together a unique group of business leaders, high-level lawmakers, members of the national and international media and prominent academics.

“This is a rare opportunity to play a leadership role in a substantive discussion on timely issues affecting your industry with company executives, scholars, elected officials and members of the media.”

Those who gave \$1 million or more--the “Presidential Sponsor” level--get convention credentials to all hospitality suites and are assured invitations to private events hosted by Colorado Sen. Ken Salazar, Gov. Bill Ritter Jr., members of the state’s congressional delegation and other leading Democratic politicians.

Smaller donation can buy you advertising at convention events.

For example, to reach the “Mile High Plus” level at the DNC, a donor can pay \$52,800 and be invited to a host committee event, where they can mingle or give away bags with their corporate logo to delegates or the media who attend.

The more money you pay, the bigger the event you can go to.

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

Promoting Nader Is Nothing But Campaigning For More Dead U.S. Troops And More Dead Iraqis:

He's Against Bringing The Troops Home Now; Why Keep On Killing U.S. Troops And Iraqis? “That's The Way You Knock The Bottom Out Of The Insurgency” He Says

[So, if he were elected, no bringing the troops home for six months after his inauguration: July 2009.

[Campaigning for Nader is nothing but campaigning for more dead U.S. troops and more dead Iraqis.

[Nothing new about that. In 2004, he was yammering the same stupid crap about wiping out the Iraqi insurgency. Of course, neither he nor those endorsing his candidacy are willing to go to Iraq and take on that odious Imperial job themselves.

[Fuck no, let others do the dying while they sit safely at home issuing pompous political bullshit advocating his candidacy. Hey, if you want to support the Empire and kill more U.S. troops, take your Imperialism straight up, and vote for Obama or McCain, not some lame-ass soldier-killer wannabe. T]

June 18, 2008 Interview with Democracy Now [Excerpts]

RALPH NADER:

Six-month corporate and military withdrawal from Iraq, during which we negotiate with the Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis for modest autonomy, which they worked out in the 1950s before the dictators took over.

That's the way you knock the bottom out of the insurgency.

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

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

CLASS WAR REPORTS



Cook County Jail Isn't Abu Ghraib In Chicago; It's Far, Far Worse: "Unnecessary Deaths, Amputation And Routine Inmate Beatings"

August 25, 2008 By Stanley Howard, Socialist Worker

Stanley Howard is a former Illinois death row prisoner [and a proud member of the Military Project] who was exonerated and pardoned by former Gov. George Ryan in 2003.

He was a victim of police torture carried out by Chicago police, and from behind bars, he formed the Death Row 10 with other victims of torture. [And he also organized a chapter of the Military Project inside prison: Prisoners Against The War.]

Though still imprisoned unjustly, Howard works with the Campaign to End the Death Penalty and writes regularly for its newsletter, the New Abolitionist. You can write to him at: Stanley Howard N-71620, 2600 N. Brinton Ave., Dixon, IL 61021.

AFTER A 17-month investigation concerning the conditions in the Cook County Jail, U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald issued a scathing report calling for change and reforms.

The 98-page report on the nation's largest county jail was released July 17 and sent to County Board President Todd Stroger and Sheriff Thomas Dart with its findings and recommendations.

It cited many cases of gross "medical negligence, mismanagement and abusive behavior by guards," which led to "unnecessary deaths, amputation and routine inmate beatings."

The outside world would be shocked to hear stories such as that of an inmate left untreated for a gunshot wound, who developed sepsis and died; a female inmate who suffered from HIV and died after a preventable infection went untreated; and an inmate beaten so bad by guards that his dentures were kicked out and he was sent to the hospital on a respirator.

The report pointed out that there is just one dentist for the entire 9,800-inmate population--and he only deals in extractions, with 25 percent of those resulting in infection.

I SPENT time in the jail's maximum security unit between 1984 and 1987, and personally witnessed and experienced the kind of atrocities cited in the report.

I cannot count the number of times I've seen a guard or guards punch, kick, slap or beat down an inmate without provocation.

And when I was sent to the jail from death row in 2001 for a court hearing--in which I was trying to prove that I was tortured by Chicago police into signing a coerced confession to a murder I did not commit--I soon discovered that nothing had changed.

On the second day after my arrival, about 20 members of the jail's Special Operations Response Team (SORT) stormed the housing unit where I was held.

They had all 50 of us get completely undressed, on our knees and facing the wall in the dayroom. It turned out to be a surprise high-level shakedown--one that quickly turned into a routine high-level violation of human, civil and constitutional rights.

Two cellmates were beaten unmercifully by six guards because homemade wine was found in their cell.

And the guy next to me had his head pushed against the wall so hard that it took 12 stitches to close the wound on his forehead.

I was scared to death when one of the guards screamed at me: "Keep your damn eyes looking forward and facing the wall." I thought he was going to let his dog bite me. The dog was foaming at the mouth and so close to me that I felt its breath with every bark. I later discovered that SORT was the source of many lawsuits and much criticism for abusing prisoners, and played a major role in the last sheriff election.

It was easy for such abuse to occur because top brass either condoned, participated in and/or turned a blind eye to it.

Even internal affairs, the office responsible for investigating such abuse, ignored the guards' brutality or worked with top brass to insure that complaints were ruled favorably for the officers.

And knowing that top brass and internal affairs were working with the guards caused inmates to lose faith and confidence in them, which on the other hand, allowed the abuse stay under wraps and operate with impunity.

Sheriff Dart rejected the report's criticism. "They have completely ignored all the positive things we've done and painted a picture that is no way accurate and is horribly disappointing," he said.

County officials tried to place blame for most of the medical problems on a "shrinking budget and significant cuts in staff."

But Fitzgerald quickly countered with the fact that Cook County pays more taxes than anywhere in the country, so lack of money isn't an excuse. "It can't be the only county in the country that can't afford to have a jail that satisfies constitutional standards," he said.

County jails are a major part of the prison-industrial complex.

It's where people are packed in like cattle to wait their turn to be "judged" by this broken, racist and corrupted criminal justice system.

"When you consider the problems with medical care, widespread violent abuse by guards and the fact that it's extremely overcrowded, with hundreds sleeping on the floor each night, it's one of the most dangerous places on earth, and I don't expect anything to change," said 38-year-old Charles G., who spent 14 months in the jail.

I respect Fitzgerald's call for change. Prisoners should be housed in a safe and clean environment with adequate medical care.

But I want to know: Where are the indictments?

If such conditions and abuse were discovered in a nursing home or day care center, it would be closed down immediately, or there would be mass firings and indictments issued.

But since the abuse was inflicted on prisoners, Fitzgerald decided to issue a report with unenforceable recommendations.

Until Fitzgerald convenes a grand jury and starts issuing indictments--beginning with top county officials--nothing is going to change at the jail.

Fitzgerald's call for change is a bold step forward, but indictments would prove that justice is not "just-us"--it's a right.



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