

GI Special: thomasfbarton@earthlink.net 8.11.08

Print it out: color best. Pass it on.

GI SPECIAL 6H7:



?

YES!!

Troops Certainly Can Request GI Special Be Sent To Third Parties

[All identifying information removed for the security of the writer.]

From: [XXXXX]
To: GI Special
Sent: August 09, 2008
Subject: Newsletter request

I am deployed in Iraq and receive and fully support your newsletter.

Could you please include my fiancée on your email distribution list too:
[XX@XXX]?

REPLY:

Yes.

Honored to be of service.

It works best if you let the person know in advance you have asked they receive GI Special.

Also, some cheap-ass mail systems don't have the capacity to receive GI Special without hacking it into little bits and trashing all the photos and headlines. You may wish to inquire if that's happening.

But the whole purpose of this work is to be of use to members of the armed forces, their family members, and veterans.

So an email like this is the best their can be.

Come home safe.

T



U.S. Army soldier wears a peace sign on his helmet as he patrols in Beijia village in Arab Jabour, south of Baghdad, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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

U.S. Soldier Killed In Tarmiya, Two More Wounded

Aug 10 (Reuters) & August 11, 2008 By Tina Susman, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

A U.S. soldier was killed in an attack involving a roadside bomb, a bomber and small arms fire in Tarmiya, 25 km (15 miles) north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said. It said two U.S. soldiers, three Iraqi policemen and 18 other people were wounded.

A bomber detonated the explosives today amid U.S. and Iraqi troops who were investigating an earlier attack.

Police in Tarmiya said the attack there was two-pronged.

First, a bomb was detonated inside a house belonging to a family.

Witnesses and police said the bombers were a group of men disguised as members of the Awakening, the movement comprising civilians allied with U.S. and Iraqi security forces who serve as a neighborhood security force.

They entered the house ostensibly to search it, but planted bombs inside.

Khadhim Hayali, who runs a food store nearby, said nobody noticed anything unusual. "The Awakening forces roam the area all the time," he said.

After the men left the house, a blast shook the street.

When Iraqi and U.S. forces arrived on the scene, the bomber mingled with the crowd and detonated explosives.

Iraqi police said the dead included three Iraqi soldiers, eight civilians, and six Awakening members, along with two U.S. soldiers, but the U.S. military said in a statement that one American was killed and two were wounded.

In Diyala, “American Forces Feel Like Theyre Chasing Phantoms” “The Mission Has Come To Feel Like A Particularly Deadly Game Of Cat-And-Mouse” “At Some Point, Your Luck Runs Out”

July 30, 2008 By YOCHI J. DREAZEN, Wall St. Journal [Excerpts]

TAHWILLA, Iraq -- In Diyala, Iraq's deadliest province, American forces feel like they're chasing phantoms.

U.S. forces flew to this remote farming town five days ago to kick off a broad operation targeting the religious extremists who have long held sway in Diyala. They have since searched every house here for signs of the militants, but have yet to find many men or weapons.

The unseen insurgents are making their presence known, however.

The U.S. forces in and around Tahwillla have been hit by a dozen roadside bombs, most of which appear to have been put in place after the assault began.

“The question is how the bad guys are getting in and out, because they're sure as hell not here,” Staff Sgt. Brian Keller said at his small patrol base in Tahwillla.

“Where are they hiding?”

[Somebody clue the man. They're not hiding anywhere. They're called Iraqis, the ones walking around right in front of him every hour every day. You know, like the Americans walking around in full view of the British soldiers in 1776? Get it?]

The assault marks the fourth time since 2007 that American and Iraqi forces have mounted large-scale efforts to kill or capture the militants who have turned Diyala into the deadliest place in Iraq for American troops other than Baghdad, with 26 U.S. personnel killed here so far this year.

The earlier operations failed because the insurgents melted away into Diyala's deep gorges and thick palm groves, only to return once the troops departed.

The commanders are also planning to build a string of small patrol bases throughout the province so that troops can maintain a permanent presence in towns and villages, such as Tahwillah. **[Right. Wide dispersal of forces in an area controlled by well organized hostile forces is always a wise early move. Perhaps the “commanders” will locate themselves in “small patrol bases” stuck out in the ass-end of nowhere? Leading by example?]**

U.S. forces will initially inhabit the outposts but plan to eventually turn them over to the Iraqi army. [How ‘bout on day one? Or two? Why hang around? Let the heroic Iraqi Stooges-For-Bush battalion “inhabit” those “small patrol bases” right now. Show them some confidence!]

“The difference this time around is that we’re going to continue pursuing and chasing them out into the areas that used to be their hiding spots,” Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling, the top U.S. commander in northern Iraq, said in an interview here.

[“Used to be?” The story above says nobody knows where the fuck the insurgents are hiding. So how does the General know what’s “used to be” and what’s not? Obvious answer: The General is an agent working for the insurgents. They got to him with some of Saddam’s missing gold. Either that or he’s a babbling shit-brained idiot, who has no idea what the fuck kind of silly crap comes out of his mouth. But that could never be true of a General.]

The operation is already running into problems, many of which are self-inflicted. The biggest may have been the Iraqi government’s decision to disclose the pending operation weeks before it began. **[This just gets better and better, doesn’t it?]**

“This success has been achieved from Basra to Mosul, and next will be Diyala,” Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said during a visit to the city of Amarah in late June.

Other senior Iraqi officials made similar comments, which eliminated the element of surprise for the operation and gave the insurgents time to hide in the countryside or leave the province altogether.

“Some of the information about this operation leaked, and some of the big terrorists left the area,” Gen. Ali Ghaban, the head of Iraq’s ground-forces command, acknowledged in an interview.

For the U.S. forces charged with actually finding Diyala’s militants, the mission has come to feel like a particularly deadly game of cat-and-mouse.

During the search of one home here Friday morning, a black-robed Iraqi woman insisted that no men lived in her house.

On their way out of the building, the Americans saw a dishdasha, a white robe worn by many Arab men, hanging in the kitchen, along with several pairs of mens shoes.

The troops have seen more direct evidence of the militants’ presence.

U.S. forces on foot patrol a couple of days ago found several cars packed full of weapons and explosives hidden near a deep canal here. Worried that militants would return at nightfall to pick up the armaments, the troops called in an airstrike on the cars, triggering explosions that were audible nearly a mile away.

Diyalas dried-out agricultural canals are a particular concern for the U.S.

The gorges traverse large swaths of the province and often run as deep as 30 feet, giving insurgents an easy way to travel the province without being spotted.

“You could drive a car through here, or even a truck, and we’d never see it,” Capt. Russell Wagner said as he walked alongside a reddish gorge Monday. “We wouldn’t even see the dust trail.”

His men searched the canal and found makeshift staircases leading down to the bottom of the ravine as well as cables that could be used to raise vehicles or boxes of armaments that had been deposited there.

They didn’t find any actual weapons, though.

American commanders hope to have more success in coming days, and say they feel a sense of urgency about finding the phantom militants and their weapons caches.

Lt. Col. Rich Morales, who is running the operations in Tahwillia, said it was a “miracle” that no U.S. troops had yet been hurt or killed in any of the recent roadside bombings.

One of the explosions hit a vehicle carrying Lt. Col. Moraless operations officer, who escaped unhurt.

“When you have this many IED attacks, the risks start going up exponentially,” he said, using the military acronym for a roadside bomb.

“At some point, your luck runs out.”

[Somebody definitely fucked up somewhere. They gave rank to a human being who can see and understand reality.]

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Canadian Soldier Killed In Zharey



Master Corporal Joshua Brian Roberts

August 9, 2008 CEFCOM NR

OTTAWA A Canadian soldier died of his injuries following an engagement involving coalition forces, insurgents and security personnel from a civilian convoy in the Zharey District around 9 a.m. (Kandahar time) today.

The fallen soldier is Master Corporal Joshua Brian Roberts of the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Shilo, Manitoba. First aid was administered to MCpl Roberts immediately following the incident.

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



A U.S. Marine during a patrol in the town of Garmser in Helmand Province of Afghanistan July 10, 2008. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

Four Dutch Soldiers Wounded By Uruzghan Bomb Blast

Aug 9, 2008 DPA

Amsterdam - Four Dutch soldiers were wounded in the Afghan province of Uruzghan as their military vehicle hit a bomb planted in the road, the Dutch defence ministry told local media on Saturday.

The condition of one of the troops was described as stable but critical.

The incident happened near the military base of Qudus in the Baluchi valley. The four were transferred to the military hospital of Camp Holland in Tarin Kowt.

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

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

TROOP NEWS

***“A Let’s-Pretend That Ends
With A Mass Deployment To
Hell”***

**[Film Review: Full Battle Rattle]
Troop Training On “A Billion-Dollar
‘Virtual Iraq’ At Fort Irwin”**

“The Only Subjects In Full Battle Rattle” Having A Whale Of A Time Are The Americans Who Play Iraqi Insurgents



Welcome To My World

(Photo: Tony Gerber / Courtesy of Film Forum)

[Film Review: Documentary: “Full Battle Rattle”]

Jul 4, 2008 By Brendan Fraser, New York Magazine

Watching the coolly ironic documentary Full Battle Rattle, ones heart goes out to Lieutenant Colonel Robert McLaughlin as he sits in a daze in front of his desert headquarters, having seen most of his battalion slaughtered the night before by Iraqi insurgents.

“Am I a failure?” he asks, then answers, “Actions speak louder than words.”

The poor man:

He did his diligent best to bring order to the tiny village of Medina Wasl. His men murdered only a few innocent civilians, and he more or less averted civil war between Sunnis and Shiites after the assassination of the deputy mayors son (on video, to shouts of “Allahu Akbar!”).

The worst part is that there he was on camera when the massacre of his men went down, celebrating the return of authority to the Iraqi mayor. ("Jobs are coming back to the community!")

Now he has to eulogize the dead.

Then he has to pack up and head to Iraq and do it for real -- and hope to God that life doesn't replicate art.

Full Battle Rattle is an indelible vision of modern war, a not-so-fun fun-house mirror of the Iraq occupation set in California's Mojave Desert.

The place, 1,200 miles square, is called the National Training Center-- a billion-dollar "virtual Iraq" at Fort Irwin with an acting troupe of hundreds (many of them Iraqi immigrants), in which military personnel get a mini-jolt of what they're in for.

The film is freaky, amusing, and sickening in equal measures-- part fly-on-the-wall verite, part multiple-perspective Altmanesque tragicomedy.

Soldiers writhe on the ground choking in their blood, and then Americans and Iraqis pick themselves up and stand in line at ice-cream trucks; its like Disney World with the fireworks aimed lower.

Directors Tony Gerber and Jesse Moss don't lead with their politics, whatever they might be.

And on one level, the mere existence of the center is reassuring: Conventional antiwar wisdom holds that the Cheney-Rumsfeld armchair warmongers had little regard for the welfare of young, inexperienced soldiers with no knowledge of Iraqi culture.

That might have been true at the outset of the occupation, but now our tax dollars are at work creating a kind of alternate reality show in which "simulation architects" concoct intricate scenarios (miscommunications, suicide bombings) and devise meaty roles for Iraqis who worry theyre somehow betraying the folks back home.

But they need the money -- often to send to the folks back home.

The less reassuring part is that the situation -- even fictionalized, softened, without the crucial components of lawless private contractors and reconstruction stalled by incompetence and fraud -- is borderline hopeless.

Full Battle Rattle begins as a showbiz comedy, with an almost stoned view of the occupation, but gradually the bottom crumbles and drops out.

The plastic dummies of dead soldiers have wounds modeled on actual casualties -- theyre horrifying.

The reenactments, meanwhile, take on a mystical quality: The masks become real.

The Iraqi actors -- who know that the political (and physical) infrastructure of their country has collapsed, who still have families in peril -- look askance (no matter what their script says) when McLaughlin tells them that the U.S. will guarantee their security.

A soldier admits there are moments when he despises the Iraqis, even though he knows they're actors.

An illegal Iraqi immigrant, Nagi, who plays a policeman, works like mad to ingratiate himself with the officers:

Maybe if he helps the Americans he will not be sent back, where he will probably be killed for collaborating.

Its a little like what happens to real Iraqi policemen -- except most of them die.

The only subjects in Full Battle Rattle having a whale of a time are the Americans who play Iraqi insurgents.

Gerber and Moss track their planning sessions; the men all but rub their hands with glee at the prospect of causing chaos instead of trying to prevent it.

They get to pick off the enemy the way soldiers do in movies, the way Americans cant in a war they should never have been fighting -- here a catastrophic farce, a lets-pretend that ends with a mass deployment to hell.

Troops, Families At Risk From Military Scams: “Put An Active-Duty Alert On Your Credit Report”

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

August 10, 2008 By Kimberly Lankford, Kiplingers Personal Finance

Military personnel are often young and transient, but they earn a regular paycheck from Uncle Sam. That makes them prime targets for shady sales practices and financial criminals.

Criminals will use any affiliation with the military, whether real or not, to gain a family's trust. Often these are small-time operators going door to door.

In one case, a salesman was peddling phony life insurance just before deployment, preying on families fears and disappearing with several hundred dollars in “premiums.”

Military spouses are susceptible to work-at-home scams when looking for a job in a new town, and they often end up paying \$50 to \$200 or more for a start-up kit and get nothing in return. The Better Business Bureau recently uncovered a scam in which a con artist pretended to be a soldier about to deploy who had to sell his car quickly.

Military families are also magnets for identity thieves because their Social Security numbers are everywhere. Plus, service members may be hard-pressed to monitor their credit records and bills when they're deployed.

Last year, the Federal Trade Commission discovered one brazen ID-theft scam in which the thief, posing as a member of the Red Cross, called a soldier's family members to tell them their relative had been injured in Iraq. The caller then said family members would have to complete certain paperwork and provide personal information before they could get any more details.

What You Can Do:

Check out the company or salesperson with the base community-service office.

Army Community Service at Fort Hood, Tex., has a database that cross-references complaints made to the community service, legal assistance and housing offices on base, as well as the local Better Business Bureau. The base's legal assistance office will also help you review contracts.

The Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board at each base can prohibit anyone on the base from doing business with certain salespeople or companies. Just the threat of being put on the banned list can often help resolve complaints.

Contact the Better Business Bureau. Check a business's complaint record and get help resolving problems through the local BBB.

Put an active-duty alert on your credit report.

This free alert notifies creditors that you're on active military duty and asks them to take extra precautions to verify the identity of an applicant before extending credit.

Include the phone number of a trusted friend or family member for creditors to call while you're deployed. To place the alert, contact Experian.com, Equifax.com or TransUnion.com.

Fort Knox Out-Process

August 07, 2008 From Barbara Via Ray Parrish, Vietnam Veterans Against The War

This is from a recent Returnee through the KNOX out-process.

The Returnee gives permission for this letter to be shared, I think I removed all identifying info from the letter.

barbara
e-mail hotline

AUGUST 2008

I am safe and sound back home after my week at Ft. Knox.

Anyway, I wanted to make sure I wrote back so you would have a recent letter to pass along.

I decided to drive down to Ft. Knox instead of risking the plane, it seemed like better odds.

The hardest thing about the week was actually finding where I was supposed to be when I got there. They gave me directions to the Military Police station at the gate but after the second turn I got lost and there really wasn't anyone around to ask directions of.

I accidentally found the SPF for returnees first and they very politely pointed me in the direction of the MPs.

I was surprised at how nice they were, they were a little stonier when I came back in handcuffs but still pretty nice really.

The Platoon guide shaved my hair, he is one of the returnees that is the intermediary between the sergeants and the other returnees.

I took my own car down so they had to do a quick inspection before they would let me leave: insurance, registration, turning signals, headlights, nothing major. They did the inspection as part of the check-in process so I am guessing if you left your car at the MP station this is when you would bring it over to the PCF.

I had just left mine at the PCF since I walked from there to the MP station.

They lock up all your belongings except for socks, underwear, and a book and phone card. They give you sweats and linens and a foot locker to take upstairs.

We had a formation at 10 then woke up at 5, another formation at 530, breakfast at 6 which was the last time we could go up to our rooms. We had to spend the day in the day room unless we got called up to do duties around the base like moving furniture, garbage pick up, sweeping and mopping.

Everyone was really nice, some sergeants were a little grumpy but all decently polite. The Lieutenant in charge of the PCF said to let him know if anyone was mistreating us, although he said to do pretty much anything we were ordered to.

So, lunch about 1130, duties again till 4 or 5, personal time from 6 till 10. No smoking and no talking to the females. The females had their own separate areas though so this wasn't a big deal. But even if you chatted with them a little at formation it didn't seem to be too tough.

Apparently there was a problem with a guy and a girl a few years ago and the whole group ended up having to stay while they sorted out the legal issues. Everybody would rather get home than get laid really so it isn't a problem.

At night we usually had one one hour duty a night either fireguard, CQ desk, or line of sight duty. I think the last was to keep an eye on the guys who said they might hurt themselves or others on the entrance questionnaire. They had to stay in a special room all together.

I got there Monday evening, and inprocessed Tuesday.

But the people that got there Tuesday inprocessed Wednesday and we all got to leave Friday.

There were about 35 of us, guys and girls by Wednesday. I think 30 of us went home Friday.

Only one guy who had been gone 31 days was returned to unit. And one guy wanted back into the army.

Basically you inprocess one day, do chores the second day, meet with JAG and outprocess the day before you leave and they send you home around 1130. They send people home Tuesday too so if you come in Wednesday or later I guess that is when you go.

They are apparently really starting to look into recruiter issues now, so if you go and only want to be there a week you have to be careful to avoid the recruiter topic.

It sounded like if you wanted to make it a recruiter issue you had to stick around while they did an investigation.

Basically the Section 10 thing is a quick way out that doesn't cost anybody a lot of time or money.

Like the Jag said the Other than Honorable Discharge is just the army's way of screwing you over one last time.

You can write a letter to put with your paperwork that has a very small chance of getting you upgraded to either an uncharacterized or general discharge. It didn't sound like it hurt anything to write this and gave me a chance of getting something better so I did it. Otherwise you have to wait six months to start the appeal process which probably won't get you anywhere. I figured why not?

So Friday they hand you your leave papers and push you out the door and send you your discharge papers in a couple months.

Everyone was pretty nice, did their job, and was really supportive.

I got growled at a couple times because I didnt know a few things the other guys knew but that was it.

I wanted to go home so i just did as directed, but that was pretty much the case with everybody.

There were a few screw up types but for the most part they didnt make things rough for the rest of us and there were a couple of guys that would have been really good friends after we got out if we werent so focused on getting home.

Thats about it!

Thank you so much for all your advice and support.

Yours was by far the best advice I had on how to proceed.

Soldier Says Talking Helps With PTSD

August 07, 2008 by Virginia Reza, Army News Service [Excerpts]

FORT BLISS, Texas – “Alcohol, drugs and partying are not the answer; it just makes things worse,” said Silver Star Medal recipient Staff Sgt. Omar Hernandez. “Talking really helps.”

Hernandez, who underwent treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder when he returned from his third tour in Iraq last year, said he hesitated to seek mental help because he did not want to be perceived as crazy or weak. He serves with B Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

Hernandez’s courageous actions on the battlefield June 6, 2007, earned him the Silver Star. His citation read, “For gallantry in action against a determined enemy Sgt. Hernandez exemplary bravery under fire and a complete disregard for his own safety, enabled him to single handedly pull two members of the Iraqi National Police Force to safety despite having already been severely wounded himself. The gallant actions of Sgt. Hernandez are in the finest traditions of military heroism.”

Hernandez said most servicemembers who witnessed atrocities in Iraq have either mild or severe cases of PTSD, but do not want to admit it.

He was once in the same situation.

He suffered from insomnia and was very angry for getting shot and leaving his comrades behind. He was unable to cry and his emotions were a rollercoaster, he said, but finally he decided to “let it all out,” which he said lifted a huge weight off his shoulders.

“Talking about it helped so much,” said Hernandez. “Soldiers should talk about experiences they encountered down range. It’s about making themselves better in their head and in their heart.”

“And if they don’t feel comfortable talking to people who have not experienced combat issues, they can look me up. I’ll be more than happy to talk to them.”

Staff Sgt. Brandon Falls, Hernandezs platoon sergeant in Iraq, said he was very proud of him.

‘I’ve been in the Army a while, and Hernandez is one of the top team leaders I’ve ever had,’ said Falls.

Falls also agreed Soldiers should talk about their experiences as soon as they return from deployment. He said if it were up to him, he would make it mandatory for all Soldiers to get some kind of counseling until “they get it all out of their system.”

“When I came back, I wanted to talk about everything that happened and it helped me, because after a while I was happy,” said Falls.

“If I had waited, I probably would have developed PTSD.”

**Heartless Shit-Eating Slime-Fuck
Clueless Lame-Brained Limp-
Dicked Waste Of Fucking Space
And Bane Of All Human Existence
Army Recruiter Sgt. Marquette
Threatens Kid With Prison:
Lying Piece Of Shit Says “They’re
Gonna See That You’re A Deserter.
Then They’re Going To Apprehend
You, Take You To Jail”**

“You Will Do Your Time, As You Deserve”



Sgt. Marquette attends recruiters meeting to plan new lies. [travelblog.org]

[The reporter forgot to mention that anybody can quit the delayed enlistment program any time, for any reason or no reason, with no adverse consequences whatever, since the individual is still a civilian. In Texas, and some other places, were a recruiter like Marquette to try locking somebody up by force, against their will, the citizen would be within lawful rights to use such force as may be necessary to escape, including, if required to win free, killing the perpetrator(s) in self-defense. A parent may exercise deadly force if necessary to rescue a kidnapped or captured child. Best to consult your local attorney in advance.

[Thanks to Garrett Reppenhagen, Iraq Veterans Against The War, for the colorful language used above in the headline. T]

Aug 6, 2008 By Amy Goodman, Truthdig [Excerpts]

It was like an action movie.

A young man held at night in a hotel, threatened with prison. He is to be shipped off to war in the morning.

His friends desperately trying to find him.

The down button on the elevator had been disabled. He considered jumping from the window.

When his friends arrive, they encounter military personnel patrolling the grounds.

One sneaks in, gets his friend out, and they drive off into the night.

This was real life for 17-year-old Eric Martinez, a student at Aldine High School in a poor neighborhood of Houston.

He responded to an Army recruitment pitch, called the delayed enlistment program.

But then, as 17-year-olds are wont to do, Eric changed his mind.

When the recruiter came to his house and threatened his mother, she went to the recruiting station to meet with the officer in charge: "She talked to Sgt. Marquette and told him that I didn't want to go, and that's it.

"And Marquette said that I had to go, and if I didn't, that I'd have a warrant for my arrest, and I wouldn't be able to get no government loans or nothing like that.

"So, my mom doesn't really know anything about it, so she believed it, and she told me. And I believed it, too, because I didn't know much about it either."

It was then that they took Eric to the hotel.

Martinez's friend, Irving Gonzalez, knew he was next. He had signed up for the same program.

As the oldest of four children of a single mother, Irving's impulse was to help his family survive, get the signing bonus and gain access to a college education.

He then wanted to get out of the program, to pursue college directly.

He called the recruiter, Sgt. Glenn Marquette. Desperate, he had the call recorded.

Sgt. Marquette: "This is what will happen. You want to go to school? You will not get no loans, because all college loans are federal and government loans. So you'll be black-marked from that.

"As soon as you get pulled over for a speeding ticket or anything with the law, they're gonna see that you're a deserter. Then they're going to apprehend you, take you to jail ... you will do your time, as you deserve."

"All that lovey-dovey 'I want to go to college' and all this? Guess what. You just threw it out the window, because you just screwed your life."

Irving and two others were the ones who sneaked Eric out of the hotel.

After the story broke, Marquette was suspended, and the military says it is conducting an investigation, but neither Martinez nor Gonzalez has been contacted.

Recent history does not bode well.

In 2005, Sgt. Thomas Kelt, who like Marquette worked at the Greenspoint Recruiting Station in Houston, left a phone message for potential recruit Chris Monarch, saying if he didnt show up at the recruiting station that afternoon: "We'll have a warrant, OK? So give me a call back."

The story went national. The military conducted a daylong "stand down" on recruitment to retrain their recruiters.

They said they removed Kelt. In fact, he was promoted to head up a nearby recruiting center.

I asked Douglas Smith, spokesman for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command in Kentucky, about why Kelt wasnt punished. Smith replied that Kelt had received a "negative administrative action ... just because someone has done something wrong doesn't mean that they get the death penalty."

But there's a difference between the death penalty and a promotion.

When I asked Smith what the penalty was, he replied, "I'm not allowed to tell you."

Smith and the rest of the military may dodge reporters questions, but they can be subpoenaed before Congress to testify under oath.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Offensive Hammers Baghdad: Green Zone Struck, Casualties Not Announced

08/10/08 AFP & Associated Press

A security official said three projectiles hit on Sunday the highly-fortified Green Zone, seat of the Iraqi government and foreign embassies. He was not able to say whether there were any casualties.

In Khilani, in the centre of the embattled Iraqi capital, a car bomb exploded as a military patrol escorting a finance ministry convoy transporting money to a state-run bank passed by, killing an Iraqi soldier and two civilians, a security official said. Four soldiers were injured in the attack.

At Maidan, on the southern outskirts of Baghdad, an Iraqi soldier was killed and five others injured when their patrol was hit by a parked car bomb, the official said.

In Kadhamiyah in northwestern Baghdad, a roadside bomb that exploded as a joint Iraqi-US military patrol passed by wounded three soldiers, the official said, without providing their nationalities. The US military did not immediately confirm the attack.

At Hay al Amal in southwestern Baghdad, two Iraqi guards were injured in a roadside bomb attack targetting a private security company, officials said.

A roadside bomb injured four Iraqi policemen in Maysalon square, Baghdad,

A roadside bomb killed one Iraqi soldier, and wounded four Iraqi soldiers, when it struck a patrol in Bab al-Sharji district in central Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded two Iraqi soldiers when it blew up near their patrol in Zayouna district in eastern Baghdad, police said.

Two policemen were wounded when a bomb exploded inside their vehicle in Baghdad on Saturday, police said.

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

**"What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms."
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

**"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**

[Dedicated To The Stupid People Who Think Most People Are Stupid]

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier & Military Project, who sent this in. He writes: So much for the dumb brainwashed racist working class voters that Hillary supposedly represented. Watch this fact get buried...]

Aug 4 (Reuters)

Democrat Barack Obama holds a two-to-one lead over Republican John McCain among low-wage workers but many are uncommitted to either presidential candidate, to according to a new poll by The Washington Post, the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University.

Obama's advantage is due largely to overwhelming support from African Americans and Hispanics, but even among white voters, the Illinois senator leads McCain 47 percent to 37 percent, The Washington Post reported in Monday editions.

Most of the respondents were pessimistic about the impact of the November 4 election.

A majority of those polled, both white and minority, said that no matter who won their personal financial situation would be unlikely to change, it said.

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

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

**U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING
DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR;**

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. photograph an Iraqi citizen in his own house after an armed home invasion in a village near Muqdadiah, about 90 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad in Diyala province, Aug. 1, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

[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.]

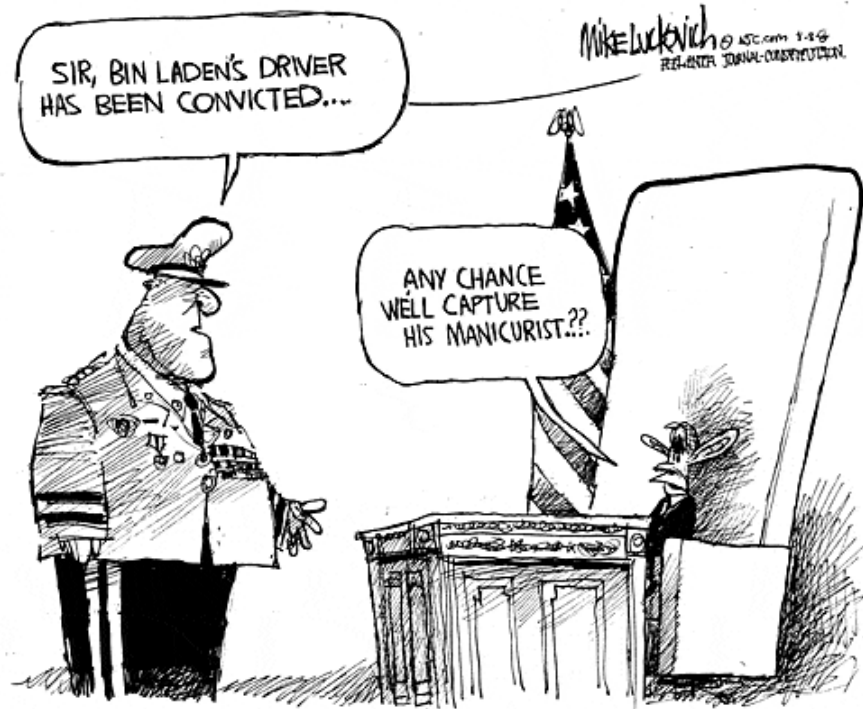
[They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country.]

[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?]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

***Class War Georgia Style:
Primitive Savages In State
Government Devise Way To Keep
Low Wage Workers In Permanent
Debt Slavery:***

**“By April, He Had Paid His Original
\$600 Fine, But Had \$645 To Go To
Cover Middle Georgias Fees”
“Middle Georgia” Blood Suckers Have A
Convicted Felon To Thank For Their
Profits**



Middle Georgia Probation Services at work. [Wolfstad.com]

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

By Celia Perry July/August 2008 Issue, Rolling Stone

Welcome to Americus, Georgia.

Located 10 miles east of the peanut farm where Jimmy Carter was raised, the town has a charming city center with broad streets, a diner that still sells hot dogs for 95 cents, a Confederate flag that flies conspicuously on the outskirts of town, railroad tracks that divide white and black neighborhoods, chain gangs that labor along the roadways, and, on South Lee Street, right across from the courthouse, its very own private probation office.

Middle Georgia Community Probation Services is one of 37 companies to whom local governments have outsourced the supervision of misdemeanor and traffic offenders. Its been billed as a way to save millions of dollars for Georgia and at least nine other states where private probation is used.

But to its critics, the system looks more like a way to milk scarce dollars from the poorest of the poor.

Here's how it works: If you have enough money to pay your fine the day you go to court for, say, a speeding ticket, you can usually avoid probation.

But those who can't scrape up a few hundred dollars -- and nearly 28 percent of Americus residents live below the poverty line -- must pay their fine, as well as at least \$35 in monthly supervision fees to a private company, in weekly or biweekly installments over a period of three months to a year.

By the time their term is over, they may have paid more than twice what the judge ordered.

In his courtroom, which doubles as the Americus City Council's chambers, Judge J. Michael Greene issues a rehearsed warning about these additional charges, though he doesn't point out that they go to a private company; instead, he compares them to "taxes we all pay at the grocery store."

When I was there in April, he admonished the African American defendants before him, "Don't fuss at the court clerks. If you do, you are going to jail. They have no more power over it than the nice lady at the checkout counter."

Carla, a 25-year-old single mother who lives in public housing, has been on probation for more than three years.

"I never see myself getting off of it, she told me.

"I could get off of it this year if they let the fines stay what they is and don't increase them.

"But every week and every month, they go up."

Carla's current case is a traffic violation, issued after she rolled through two stop signs.

Judge Greene placed her on probation and ordered her to pay a \$200 fine plus Middle Georgia's supervision fees.

In January, she prematurely gave birth to her second child. The staples from her cesarean ripped, and she was placed on bed rest. "I couldn't even take my baby to the doctor," she says.

Carla called her probation officer every Tuesday trying to report. "After a while I received a letter saying I ain't reporting or calling or doing nothing I was supposed to do. And she issued a warrant."

One letter she got from Middle Georgia read, "Probation is a privilege (sic) not a right. Probation did not levy a fine -- the courts did."

She was, the letter said, \$245 behind.

Two months later, thanks to various penalties, that amount had shot up to \$525, and her total remaining balance was \$690, more than three times the original fine.

By the time I met Carla, her sister had helped her get a minimum-wage job at the local dollar store.

But she'd stopped contacting Middle Georgia because she feared going to jail (and losing her kids) if she showed her face.

Her friend Erica, who also has a warrant out because of probation fees, told me she worries every time she goes outside.

"You be scared to walk to your mailbox, because thats what the law do -- they ride around and try to find you.

"You're scared to look for a job. But unless you get a job you can't pay your fine. So either way, you're just stuck."

No one at Middle Georgia returned my calls, so I stopped by the company's Americus office; there, I watched a female probation officer instruct a toothless man about the additional fees he needed to pay for improperly storing scrap tires at his auto shop.

"Y'all know this ain't right," he shouted. "You railroading me!" Eventually, another Middle Georgia employee noticed me. I told her I was a reporter. "We don't talk to reporters," she said coolly.

Middle Georgia, along with the rest of the states private probation industry, owes much of its business to Bobby Whitworth, who was Georgia's commissioner of corrections until 1993, when a sex-abuse scandal involving female inmates forced him out.

Gov. Zell Miller promptly reassigned him to the Board of Pardons and Paroles, which positioned him nicely for a side job consulting with a private probation company called Detention Management Services.

Three years later, in December 2003, a jury found Whitworth guilty of public corruption for accepting \$75,000 from the company to draft and lobby for legislation that dramatically expanded the role of private probation companies. Whitworth was sent to prison for six months, but the law remains on the books, and the private probation industry -- led by Georgias two most powerful Republican lobbyists -- has lobbied to be given felony cases as well.

That plan has run into opposition from law enforcement: One sheriff told lawmakers last year that among his peers, private probation was seen mostly "as a moneymaking fee-collection service."

Another said there is generally "not a lot of emphasis on supervision as much as there is on collection."

Lawrence Holt, a thin, 24-year-old African American man, is a supervisor at a mattress factory in Americus. Hes held the job for three years, but lives in the projects and, like every member of his family before him, hits the bottle hard. Hes been on probation since November, because of an arrest for driving under the influence a few days after his brother died of diabetes.

By April, he had paid his original \$600 fine, but had \$645 to go to cover Middle Georgias fees.

He told me he wouldn't mind paying if his probation officer would only help him get treatment. "I throw up blood," he said. "I just can't stop drinking because I got so many problems in my head. I have asked, 'Can y'all find somebody to help me with my alcohol problem?' 'Sir, we cant do that. We don't do that.'"

"These are not cold, hardened criminals," local NAACP chapter president Matt Wright, a 57-year-old caterer, told me.

"These are just people struggling, trying to make it. The probation officers know it's hard for a poor person to come up with that money.

"They trick 'em into getting back in the system. They go back before the judge and the judge fines them again, puts them on probation again."

And the cycle repeats itself.



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