

GI SPECIAL 6/15:



HEY MOM

[Thanks to Anonymous, who forwarded this letter from her son, U.S. Marines, Anbar Province, Iraq.]

From: [XXXXX] [U.S. Marine Corps]
To: [XXXXX]
Sent: Thu, 18 Sep 2008 2:31 am
Subject: HEY MOM

HELLO MOM!!! WELL HERE IS MY ADRESS
SGT [XXXXX]

TO LET YOU KNOW IM DONE WITH THIS FUCKIN SHIT .

I HATE THE RESERVES AND THE OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF THIS SHIT SHOW ..

ITS LIKE A CIRCUS HERE DEALIN WITH THIS ..

TO LET YOU KNOW IM MOVIN ON WHEN I GET HOME FOR REAL .. AND I READ YOUR E-MAIL AND IF YOU REALLY THINK THAT YOUR 100% WRONG IM HERE TO HELP THESE YOUNG KIDS WHO EITHER ARE SCARED OR THEY DONT DO NOTHIN STUPID I KNOW TO MUCH TO LET THESE YOUNGINS FUCK UP CAUSE OF SO[ME] STUPID OFFICER .

I WOULD NEVER ON MY LIFE AND MY FAMILY DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD MAKE ME LIVE TO REGRET IT .. THIS IS WHO I AM AND YOU NEVER RISED SOME KILLER GEEZ LOL I CANT BELIEVE YOU THINK THAT LOL THAT CRACKED ME UP

IM SORRY .. BUT YOU TALK TO THESE GUYS WHO ARE ALL DICKED UP YOU SHOULD TALK TO ME AND THE GUYS IM WITH AND SEE THE OTHER SIDE OF THINGS ... YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED ... AND TO ME THE MARINE CORPS I LOVE THIS FAMILY AND THERE ARE GUYS WHO FEEL THEY SAME AS I DO

WHEN I PUT MY UNIFORM ON I SEE A GOOD PERSON AND YOU FREAKIN KNOW THAT . I TEACH THESE KIDS TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION WITH THERE LIVES SO THEY DONT GET FUCKED LIKED I DID ...

AND I STILL CANT BELIEVE WHAT HAPPEN TO ME [This refers to his job in the USA trying to fire him as “unstable” because he served in Iraq before being sent back again for his current deployment.]

ITS WRONG ON SO MANY LEVELS AND WE WILL BEAT THEM ... I GOT AN E-MAIL FROM [XXX] AND HE SAID THE CASE IS AT THE [XXXX] OFFICE HE SIAD PROB WAITIN ON FOR ME TO GET BACK ..

I WOULD SAY LETS GO TO THE PRESS WITH THIS

I KEEP SAYIN IT AND DAMMIT LETS DO IT.

YOU MADE ME INTO A GOOD MAN IM A LITTLE ON THE ROUGH SIDE BUT I NEED THAT DONT YOU THINK .. ?

YOU GO TO THESE PROTEST AND TO TELL YOU I SEE A DIFFERANCE HERE

THE MARINE CORPS IS FINISHED IN IRAQ

WE ARE NOT EVEN SUPPOSE TO GO ON PATROL HERE THATS THE WORD IM STILL GETTIN I MEAN DAMN IM STILL STUCK HERE IN [XXX: base location] LOL

ITS LIKE A CITY HERE BUSES WOMEN , HIP HOP NIGHT , POOLS , MOVIE THEATERS THANKX TO WHO KNOW WHO .. KBR ... LOL ... PRICKS ...

AND ILL PROB CALL HOME TO WAKE YOU GUYS UP IM SORRY ABOUT THAT BUT I KNOW IF I DONT CALL YOU , YOU GET PISSED LOL WHICH I LIKE TO PUSH YOUR BUTTONS THATS YOUR SON FOR YA LOL ...

OK MOTHER MY TIME IS ALMOST UP AND THERE ARE OTHER GUYS HERE

ILL TALK TO YA LATER .. OOO TELL GRANDS I GOT HER LETTER AND WHEN I BUY PAPER ILL WRITE HER ...

I LOVE YA LOTS !!!!! YOUR PAIN IN THE ASS SON !!!! OOOOO I KNOW I SUCK !!! LOL ..

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Seven U.S. Soldiers Killed In CH-47 Hard Landing West Of Basra

September 17, 2008 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory
RELEASE No. 20080918-01 & 9.18.08 By Dean Yates, Reuters

BASRA AIR STATION, Iraq – Seven U.S. Soldiers were killed when a CH-47 Chinook experienced a hard landing at approximately 12:01 a.m. about 100 km west of Basra Thursday.

The Chinook was a part of an aerial convoy flying from Kuwait to Balad.

A Quick Reaction Force was dispatched from Basra. A road convoy in the vicinity was also diverted to the scene.

The original number killed had been put at five, with two soldiers missing. The remains of those two soldiers were later found, the spokesman said.

MORE:

3 Oklahomans, 4 Texans Killed In Iraq Copter Crash



Cpl. Michael Thompson

September 18, 2008 News.OK

Three members of the Oklahoma National Guard were among seven national guard members killed in southern Iraq early today when their helicopter crashed as it flew into the country from Kuwait, according to a news release from the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Oklahomans killed were Sgt. Dan Eshbaugh, 43, of Norman; Cpl. Michael Thompson, 23, of Kingston; and Chief Warrant Officer Brady Rudolf, 37, of Moore.

The seven soldiers killed in the crash were from the 149th Aviation division. The other four were from Texas.

The military says the CH-47 Chinook was flying in a four-helicopter formation to the U.S. military base at Balad, north of Baghdad, when it crashed shortly after midnight.

The Texas National Guard said the dead include four soldiers from its ranks.

“U.S. Soldier Detained In Iraq After He Allegedly Opened Fire On A Superior”

“Momma, I’m Not So Afraid Of The Enemy. I’m Afraid Of Our Young Guys Over There, Because They’re So Jumpy And So Quick To Shoot”

[Thanks to SSG N (ret’d) & Mark Shapiro, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

September 18, 2008 By RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

A US soldier was detained in Iraq after he allegedly opened fire on a superior and another unit member, killing them both, the US Army said today.

The soldier was subdued by other troops, and medics tried unsuccessfully to save the wounded soldiers, said Major General Anthony Cucolo, commanding general at Fort Stewart in southern Georgia, where the soldiers’ unit is based.

An Army spokesman said the shooting happened on Sunday in Tunnis, Iraq. The alleged shooter’s name was not released.

The Army identified the slain soldiers as Staff Sergeant Darris Dawson, 24, and Sergeant Wesley Durbin, 26.

“We also know the accused is in custody - in control of military authorities in theatre for now - and the investigation is under way,” Cucolo said in a release that gave few other details.

A defence official in Washington, DC, said the alleged shooter is a sergeant who was in a meeting to discuss his leadership performance with Dawson, who was his squad leader, and Durbin, who was a fellow team leader in the squad. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because details of the incident have not been released.

Fort Stewart spokesman Kevin Larson said he did not know if the soldier in custody had been charged by military authorities. Dawson’s stepmother, Maxine Mathis, said the Army had told the soldier’s family few details other than that he was killed by a fellow U.S. soldier.

“I can’t say he died for his country, dying like that,” a weeping Mathis said from her home in Pensacola.

Mathis, whose husband is Dawson’s biological father, said her stepson joined the Army immediately after graduating from high school six years ago. He was serving his third combat tour in Iraq, and had re-enlisted not long before he was killed.

Mathis said he told her, “Momma, I’m not so afraid of the enemy. I’m afraid of our young guys over there, because they’re so jumpy and so quick to shoot.”

“The Security Improvement Is Just In The Media, It Has Nothing To Do With Reality”

Green Zone Periphery Bombed Twice

September 17, 2008 By SAM DAGHER, The New York Times

Eight people were killed and 25 wounded Wednesday in double bombings in a busy section of central Baghdad filled with currency exchange shops and medical clinics, according to an official at the Ministry of the Interior.

The first bomb exploded about 11:20 a.m., in an area called Al Harthiya, adjacent to the fortified Green Zone.

Several witnesses said it appeared to have been placed in a pickup truck that belonged to Raad al-Maliki, a former member of the local municipal council and owner of one of the money changing businesses that dot the area. Mr. Maliki, who was inside his shop at the time, survived.

Almost five minutes after the first blast, a second bomb exploded about 300 feet away, next to a kiosk that sells cigarettes and soft drinks. Iraqi and American soldiers cordoned off the area and cut off traffic on one of the capital's most congested thoroughfares, known as the Baghdad International Expo Street.

“The security improvement is just in the media, it has nothing to do with reality,” said Ali Mahmoud, a grocery shop owner caught up in the bombings.

Great Moments In U.S. Military History:

Massacre At Ad Dwar; “This Family Is An Innocent Family”

Sep 19, 2008 DPA & By STEPHEN FARRELL, New York Times

Baghdad - Salahaddin province deputy governor denounced on Friday a US forces raid in the northern Iraqi province, which left eight people dead, describing the operation as 'tragic'.

'Early excuses presented by US troops to al-Dor town police were rejected,' Abdullah Hussein Jabbara said in a statement to Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

Earlier on Friday, witnesses told dpa that US forces killed a family of eight, including two children, in a helicopter bombing on their house in Salahaddin province.

Two children and three women were among the victims when the Ali Taema household in the al-Dor district, 170 kilometres north of Baghdad, was hit.

'The house is occupied by one family and no one has entered the house when it was raided. The US forces should have made sure before destroying the house,' Jabbara explained.

Jabbara demanded US forces to be more careful in the raid operations 'to avoid the tragic accidents that took place several times before'.

Iraqi officials said the dead were from one family: five men in their 20s and 30s and three women from 20 to 58.

Abdul Karim Khalil Ibrahim, 51, a relative, said that he watched the raid take place from his house.

"The American forces surrounded my cousin's house then they bombed it," he said. "I was watching from my roof through a hole in the wall. The American forces lit the place with flashlights.

"I saw my cousin with his wife escape from the backyard, when the American helicopter shot them and killed them immediately."

After the attack, 400 people gathered at the site, demonstrated peacefully against the raid and marched to the cemetery for the funeral.

Abdullah Hussein Jibara, the deputy governor of Salahuddin Province said that he did not accept the initial explanations offered by the Americans to the Iraqi police in Ad Dwar and that they should have carried out more checks before the bombing.

"I condemn the random targeting of civilians and the excessive use of force against civilians," he said. "It was better to use another method to avoid losses; this is the third incident during the past two months," he said.

Fares Khatab, a sheik of the family's tribe, said his relatives had fled to Ad Dwar from their home in Baghdad to escape the violence in the capital.

"This family is an innocent family,"

**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 4th Infantry Division runs to take cover behind an armored vehicle during a patrol in Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, May 13, 2008. (AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Occupation Soldier Killed In Western Afghanistan

Sept 19 (Reuters)

A soldier from the U.S.-led coalition force was killed in western Afghanistan when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device, the U.S. military said. It did not release the nationality of the soldier.

Occupation Soldier Killed In Eastern Afghanistan

Sep 18 KABUL (AFP)

A soldier was killed after coming under fire from insurgents in eastern Afghanistan.

ISAF did not give the nationality of its latest casualty, killed on Wednesday, but most soldiers in eastern Afghanistan are US nationals.

A statement said only that the trooper was killed "during a small-arms fire attack by insurgents".

Occupation Troops Strike For Afghan Resistance; Kill Collaborator District Governor

09/18/08 AFP

Afghan police alleged Thursday that international troops shot dead a district governor thinking he was Taliban

The NATO-led multinational force said it was investigating the claim its troops had killed the district governor and two of his men in the southern province of Uruzgan late Wednesday.

The alleged incident comes amid growing concern about civilian deaths in military action against insurgents, a sore point touched on by U.S. defense secretary Robert Gates during a visit to Kabul Wednesday.

The governor of Chora district, Rozi Khan, and two of his men were shot dead as they were going to help a friend who believed Taliban fighters had surrounded his home, Uruzgan police commander Gulab Khan said.

The men outside the friend's home were international forces, who in turn mistook Khan and his associates for Taliban attackers, Gulab Khan said.

TROOP NEWS

4000 From Pennsylvania 28th Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

September 18, 2008 WPXI

PITTSBURGH -- About 4,000 members of the 28th Infantry Brigade will be leaving for Iraq this month, around 100 of whom are from Western Pennsylvania, will be leaving for Iraq this month.

They will gather Friday and leave for Camp Shelby in Mississippi between Sept. 22 and 27.

The soldiers will then leave for Iraq sometime in January.

**“I Could Not Live With Myself If I
Kept My Head Down And Went
Into Another Deployment Without
Taking Any Action...”
“The Hardest Stand To Take Is From
Within”**



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

September 15, 2008 by Jennifer Fenton, The WIP [Excerpts]

“We have an entire generation of people in their twenties and thirties who have never gone through a war...the media and government have gotten so good at the creation of messages, people don't know the reality” - Casey J. Porter

Army Sergeant Casey J. Porter has many battles to fight, and unlike the dramatizations of politicians and media commentators, his battles are concrete, real, and hard fought.

During his time as an enlisted soldier deployed in Iraq, Casey has undergone an evolutionary process, one that has taken him from warrior to peace activist.

His talent and passion for filmmaking have given him the perfect medium for his personal expression. Utilizing his current circumstances and natural talent as a filmmaker to speak out against the war, Casey's films have turned the heads of people like Amy Goodman of Democracy Now! and filmmaker Michael Moore.

I was fortunate enough to spend some time with Casey recently.

Phoning from Iraq, his soft-spoken voice was not quite what I expected - his intellect, courage, and tenacity are apparent, even from three thousand miles away.

"Most Americans are not affected on a daily basis by this war; it is not personal for them...I can tell you for example, that what is happening in Iraq is always in the daily thoughts of my mother."

After serving one tour of duty in Iraq, and completing his voluntary commitment to the military, Casey found himself entangled in the controversial military policy, "stop-loss."

The "Backdoor Draft" as some have called it, is the means by which the United States Military may extend the terms of service of a United States soldier to retain them longer than the period for which they volunteered. Critics of "stop-loss" say the policy hurts troop moral and unnecessarily places the burden of war on relatively few families, shielding the majority of Americans from any real sacrifice during wartime.

Shortly before his second deployment to Iraq, Casey became a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) and helped found its Fort Hood chapter.

For Casey, the decision to join the anti-war group was natural.

As he experienced the plight of the Iraqi people and the injury and loss of friends who served, his opposition and activism grew into an all out personal mission.

Casey has taken his misfortune as a "stop-loss" soldier and turned it into an opportunity to make a difference in how the occupation of Iraq is perceived by Americans..

While discussing his films, Casey says, "most importantly, this is not about me at all, but the soldiers around me and those who continue to deploy year after year. This has been, and will always be about them."

To watch his films, What War Looks Like and Deconstructed, one cannot help but feel an intimate connection to the reality in Iraq.

Images of dead bodies, blown-out Humvees, and services for soldiers who have lost their lives challenge the myths, sound bites, talking points, and infotainment created by politicians and media pundits.

"The photos you see of soldiers' services in What War Looks Like were taken by me," Casey explains.

“Standing there and watching fellow soldiers experience such loss changes you. Watching Iraqi children dig through landfills for food changes you. Seeing the senselessness of it all compels me to speak out...

“I know that I am not the only soldier who feels this way about the continued occupation of Iraq. Whether they’re soldiers who have been stop-lossed or this is their first time over here - they are seeing the truth for themselves.”

Casey cites the stark contrast between his daily experiences in Iraq and what is reported in US media as an important reason for taking action.

Crucial details are kept from view - details that dramatically influence the daily lives of thousands of Americans and their families. The hardship of these families, which goes largely unrecognized except for the splattering of yellow ribbon magnets on cars, is the main reason Casey finds himself motivated to act.

“I could not live with myself if I kept my head down and went into another deployment without taking any action...the hardest stand to take is from within,” he says.

After the creation of What War Looks Like and the subsequent Internet stir it caused, Casey realized the potential he had to make a difference with what he calls “guerrilla-style filmmaking.” Casey’s vision for telling the truth and reaching large audiences is slowly gaining momentum on YouTube; his short films continue to garner support from thousands of activists, fellow soldiers, and concerned Americans.



The beginnings of barricades in Iraq. Photograph courtesy of Casey J. Porter

Before we hung up, I asked Casey to comment on the recent lull in the violence in Iraq, which has been credited to “the surge” of forces injected by the Bush Administration in 2007. Casey points to the stifling heat, the re-organization of resistance fighters and the continued construction of walls throughout Iraq’s cities.

The effects of walls and checkpoints, he notes, rarely make it into US media headlines or political talking points.

But one recent report by AP writer Hamza Hendawi supports Casey's assertion: similar to the walls and checkpoints constructed by Israel throughout the West Bank, Baghdad's walls lead to gridlock, rising prices for food and homes, and complaints about living in what feels like a prison. Casey points out that the construction of these walls brutalizes an already brutalized population.

“The look on the faces of the Iraqi people shows just how angry and worn out they feel...and I apologize every chance I get.”

As long as these walls and checkpoints remain, Casey says Iraqis have no real hope of rebuilding a strong stable economy.

This is hardly the free and democratic society promised by the Bush administration.

The continued contradiction between the reality of the war and deliberately inaccurate rhetoric has compelled this soldier to turn his personal misfortune into a source of hope. Casey believes a populace armed with knowledge will act to end the unjustified occupation of Iraq. It is here that Casey has placed his hope for a safe return and an end to this war. And it is in Casey that many have placed their hope for humanity.



Stop-lossed soldier Casey J. Porter in Iraq. Photograph courtesy of Casey J. Porter

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

POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WAR

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

Resistance Action

September 17, 2008 By SAM DAGHER, The New York Times & Reuters & (AFP) & Sept 18 (Reuters) & AP & Sept 19 (Reuters)

On Wednesday, a roadside bomb on the east side of the city in the Zayouna neighborhood apparently aimed at Issam al-Tamimi, the municipal council chief of the Baghdad Jadida district, killed one passer-by and wounded the official's driver and a bodyguard, according to the Interior Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters.

A roadside bomb wounded two policemen when it exploded near their patrol in Mosul on Tuesday, police said.

Four people were wounded, including a policeman, when gunmen threw a grenade at a police patrol in Mansour district in western Baghdad on Tuesday, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three soldiers, when it struck an army patrol in eastern Baghdad, police said.

RAMADI - A leader of a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol was killed when a bomb attached to his car exploded in Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb killed a policeman and wounded three policemen, when it exploded next to a police patrol in east Baghdad's Zayouna neighbourhood, police said.

Three soldiers were wounded when their convoy hit a makeshift mine in Baghdad.

Three police were wounded when a mine went off on Palestine Street as a police patrol passed.

Six police were wounded when three makeshift mines went off in east Baghdad.

A roadside bomb wounded seven government guards when it exploded near their convoy as they escorted Baghdad Municipality employees in northeast Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed Mosul's deputy governor for technical affairs, Shamel Younis, when he was leaving a mosque in northern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, on Wednesday, police said.

A roadside bomb killed three Iraqi soldiers in the northern city of Mosul, a police officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Three policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb hit their patrol on Thursday in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded two policemen when it struck their patrol in the district of Yarmouk, western Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas wounded a government employee in a drive-by shooting in central Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

**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

“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

RNC: “We Live In A Military Occupation”



From: Richard Hastie
To: Thomas F Barton
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2008 5:33 AM

I'm convinced, as far as dissent goes in this country, we do not live in a police state, we live in a military occupation.

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)

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

September 20, 1830: Honorable Anniversary



Richard Allen

Carl Bunin Peace History September 17-23

The National Negro Convention, a group of 38 free black Americans from eight states, met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with the express purpose of abolishing slavery and improving the social status of African Americans.

They elected Richard Allen president and agreed to boycott slave-produced goods and encourage free-produce organizations. The most active would be the Colored Female Free Produce Society, which urged the boycott of all slave-produced goods.

The Encyclopedia of African-American Heritage, by Susan Altman, Copyright 1997, Facts on File, Inc. New York [Excerpt]

September 20, 1830

On this date in 1830, the National Negro Convention met in Philadelphia, PA. This group gathered for the express purpose of abolishing slavery and improving the status of African Americans.

This first meeting of the National Negro Convention would initiate a trend that would continue for the next three decades.

The formation of another organization had been recommended one which would be called the "American Society of Free Persons of Labor." This group would branch out to several states and hold their own conventions.

These, in turn, would lead to the formation of other organizations. The number of conventions, held at local, state, and national levels, blossomed to such a level that, in 1859, one paper would report that "colored conventions are almost as frequent as church meetings."

OCCUPATION REPORT

**Bush's Regimes' Perfect Success
In Iraq!
America's Political System Adopted
And Flourishing:
"Our Political Parties Don't Care About
Us And Money And Power Are Their Only
Concern"**

September 19, 2008 By Lath, Inside Iraq

According to the Iraqi constitution; the provincial election should be implemented this year. Like any other country on this earth; the Iraqi political blocs use every single issue to win the hearts of the electors.

Nowadays, the political blocs concentrate on the services file. They criticize basically the ministry of electricity for the great shortage that Iraqis suffer from as if it's our only problem. Today and during the speech of the Friday prayers; the Shiite sheikh who is theoretically an independent lawmaker talked about the electricity issue again saying that since the ministry started its work two years ago; it didn't make any contract to increase the production.

I don't know where our great politicians were and how couldn't they touch or feel the suffering of Iraqis.

Why did they remember our suffering now?

I think this propaganda is too late.

All the Iraqis realized that our political parties don't care about us and that money and power are their only concern. We just wait for the last day of the age of this failure government and parliament. Until that day; those people means nothing to us but a thorn in the heart of Iraq that casues pain and bleeding.

Cholera Infections Spreading

17 Sep 2008 IRIN

BAGHDAD: The number of confirmed cases of cholera has risen to 107 in central and southern parts of the country, a Health Ministry spokesman said on 16 September.

"The number of confirmed cases has reached 107: Babil 64 cases, Karbala 14, Baghdad 24, Najaf two, Diyala one, Basra one case and the last case in Maysan," said Ihssan Jaafar, director-general of the public health directorate and spokesman for the ministry's cholera control unit.

Since the outbreak in late August, Iraqi health authorities have been accusing each other of not doing enough to curb the spread of the disease.

On 16 September, Zuhair al-Khafaji, head of the Environment Department at Babil Health Directorate, said negligence by the service authorities was to blame.

"It has been confirmed to us that the chloride, which was used before in the water purification plants and which was of Iranian and Indian origin, had expired. But now we are waiting for a new supply of chloride from Amman, Jordan, which is better than the previous one," al-Khafaji said.

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Terrorist Cows Arrested Near Zionist Military Camp

9.16.08 Jericho / PNN

Israeli forces confiscated a herd of cows in the West Bank's Jordan Valley yesterday under the pretext that that they were near a military camp.

Resident Zamil Hijaj commented that the "occupation authorities exceeded all reasonable limits by arresting cows."

He added that Israeli forces have pursued the policy of stealing Palestinian farm animals in the area since 1991.

"It is part of the policy of pressure and oppression exercised by the Israeli authorities on Palestinians in the Jordan Valley."

The initial theft is then followed by what is for all intents and purposes a ransom notice. Israeli forces instruct farmers to pay five Jordanian dinars per sheep, and 10 JD per cow to ensure their safe return.

Zamil Hijaj says that this is better than what happens at the hands of armed settlers. "Mohammad Bani Odeh's luck was bad," he said. "A colony of settlers opened fire on his animals, killing two cows."

On both Sunday and Monday and continuing into today Israeli forces bulldozed vast areas of farmland in the Jordan Valley.

The lands are being taken for tank roads and military training sites. Hundreds of acres are gone now which had been the only area open in the northern West Bank for livestock breeders.

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

**NEED SOME TRUTH?
CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more

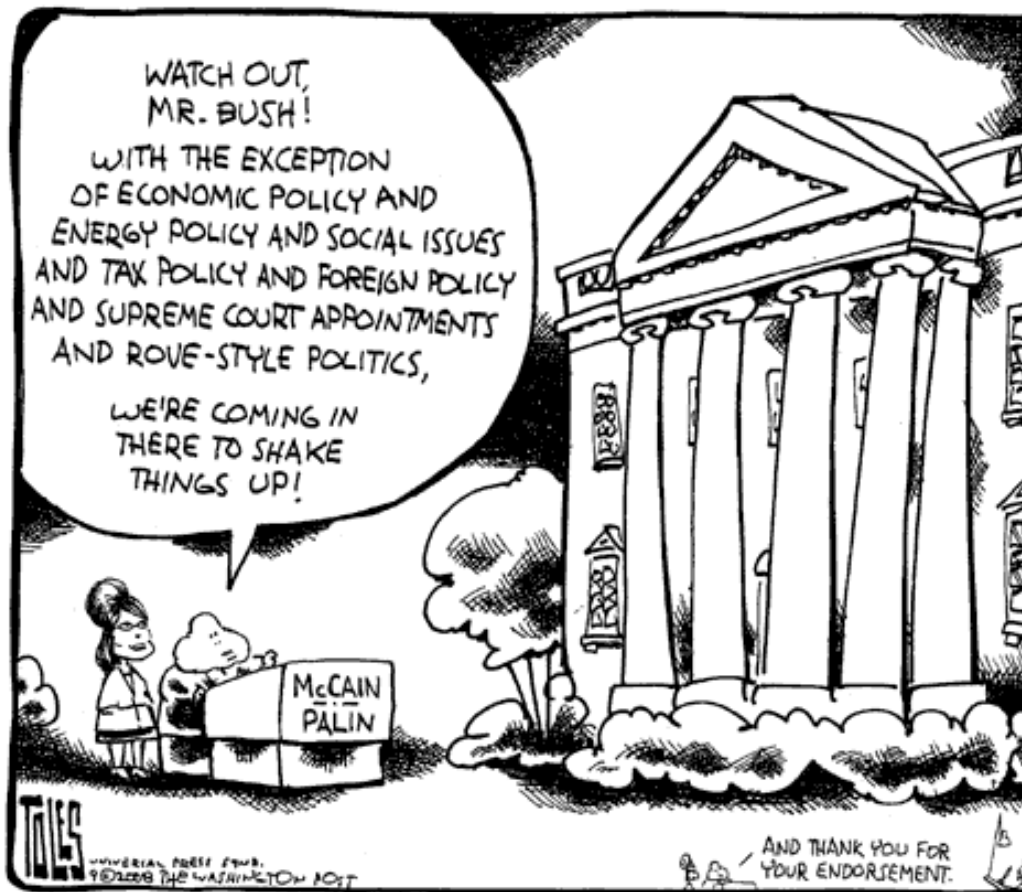
than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



RECEIVED

Update From Denver Post Concerning The Death Of Army Sgt. 1st Class Jason Dene

From: Judith L Dene
To: GI Special
Sent: September 18, 2008
Subject: Update on Denver Post article: The Battle Within

[Denver Post]

“Clarification: An autopsy determined that the death of Army Sgt. 1st Class Jason Dene was an accident.

“His body contained elevated levels of an Army prescribed anti-depressant drug, called an SSRI, which his father said was being used to treat post-traumatic stress disorder. A story published Aug. 25 on page 1A contained an incomplete description of how authorities believe he died.”

The Denver post has made the above changes regarding the death on my husband SFC Jason Dene, would you please add this information to the article that was repeated on your website? It would be greatly appreciated.

[THIS IS THE PART OF THE NEWS STORY REFERENCED]

“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.”

REPLY: The only web site maintained by GI Special is a simple archive of each issue, as published, for the record, in a format without provision for changes after publication.

However, the letter with the Post clarification is published here with the portion above of the original article referencing Sgt. Dene, for the record as well, so people will understand no invidious assumptions of any kind about your husband are or ever were warranted. The cruelty implicit in the careless wording used by the Denver Post compounds the tragedy of his death.

All honor and respect to the memory of Sgt. 1st Class Jason Dene and to you for clearing his name of the lie insinuated by the Post wording.

T

“More, Please”

From: Clancy Sigal
To: GI Special
Sent: September 18, 2008
Subject: more, please

More stories from guys like Colby Buzzell and Dude, please.

Buzzell's piece gave me a big anxiety attack remembering my fears of being called back.

Hope he's OK.

Clancy



GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

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