

GI SPECIAL 6/23:



1st Brig. 3rd Inf. Div.

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: September 25, 2008
Subject: 1st Brig. 3rd Inf. Div. by Dennis

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

1st Brig. 3rd Inf. Div.

Bush and Chaney with
chicken feathers stuck
up their bung
chicken hawks strutting
scratching around
in the white house chicken coop
while the animals on the farm
on wall street concoct
billions they need
as another Soldier arrives in a box
fascist eyes turn from the war
to plunder 401 K's
paper money dragged down
by an elephant and an ass
as another Soldier returns
covered by a worthless
American flag
home owners talk about
buying a gun
pointing it at billionaire banks
who want to take their homes
throw them out in the streets
another Soldier in another war
comes home in a coffin
as they bury him with
an American Express card
the holocaust hurricane godfather
inebriated coward
is surrounded by secret service
storm troopers
more than ever before
he laughs with the mob
who managed the banks
as another Soldier dies
in their money made war
he's turned millionaires
into billionaires
with just the touch of his pen
nobody else in government
will stop him
except for our Soldiers
who can protect us
from terrorists
in command

MORE:

1st Brig. 3rd Inf. Div.

“It Makes Me Feel Good As An American To Know That My Country Has Dedicated A Force To Come In And Help The People At Home”

Looks like this Brigade is key.

We should all get to know them better.

T

[Thanks to Al Jaccoma, The Military Project, & Dave B., who sent this in.]

Sep 24, 2008 Army Times

Washington - The 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team has spent 35 of the last 60 months in Iraq patrolling in full battle rattle, helping restore essential services and escorting supply convoys.

Now they're training for the same mission — with a twist — at home.

Beginning Oct. 1 for 12 months, the 1st BCT will be under the day-to-day control of U.S. Army North, the Army service component of Northern Command, as an on-call federal response force for natural or manmade emergencies and disasters, including terrorist attacks.

It is not the first time an active-duty unit has been tapped to help at home. In August 2005, for example, when Hurricane Katrina unleashed hell in Mississippi and Louisiana, several active-duty units were pulled from various posts and mobilized to those areas.

But this new mission marks the first time an active unit has been given a dedicated assignment to NorthCom, a joint command established in 2002 to provide command and control for federal homeland defense efforts and coordinate defense support of civil authorities.

After 1st BCT finishes its dwell-time mission, expectations are that another, as yet unnamed, active-duty brigade will take over and that the mission will be a permanent one.

“Right now, the response force requirement will be an enduring mission. How the [Defense Department] chooses to source that and whether or not they continue to assign them to NorthCom, that could change in the future,” said Army Col. Louis Vogler, chief of NorthCom future operations. “Now, the plan is to assign a force every year.”

The command is at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo., but the soldiers with 1st BCT, who returned in April after 15 months in Iraq, will operate out of their home post at Fort Stewart, Ga., where they’ll be able to go to school, spend time with their families and train for their new homeland mission as well as the counterinsurgency mission in the war zones.

Stop-loss will not be in effect, so soldiers will be able to leave the Army or move to new assignments during the mission, and the operational tempo will be variable.

Don’t look for any extra time off, though. The at-home mission does not take the place of scheduled combat-zone deployments and will take place during the so-called dwell time a unit gets to reset and regenerate after a deployment.

The 1st of the 3rd is still scheduled to deploy to either Iraq or Afghanistan in early 2010, which means the soldiers will have been home a minimum of 20 months by the time they ship out.

In the meantime, they’ll learn new skills, use some of the ones they acquired in the war zone and more than likely will not be shot at while doing any of it.

They may be called upon to help with civil unrest and crowd control or to deal with potentially horrific scenarios such as massive poisoning and chaos in response to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive, or CBRNE, attack.

[No doubt their mission would also be quite clear should traitors seek to use the power of government against us.]

Training for homeland scenarios has already begun at Fort Stewart and includes specialty tasks such as knowing how to use the “jaws of life” to extract a person from a mangled vehicle; extra medical training for a CBRNE incident; and working with U.S. Forestry Service experts on how to go in with chainsaws and cut and clear trees to clear a road or area.

The 1st BCT’s soldiers also will learn how to use “the first ever nonlethal package that the Army has fielded,” 1st BCT commander Col. Roger Cloutier said, referring to crowd and traffic control equipment and nonlethal weapons designed to subdue unruly or dangerous individuals without killing them. [Like members of Congress.]

“It’s a new modular package of nonlethal capabilities that they’re fielding. They’ve been using pieces of it in Iraq, but this is the first time that these modules were consolidated

and this package fielded, and because of this mission we're undertaking we were the first to get it."

The package includes equipment to stand up a hasty road block; spike strips for slowing, stopping or controlling traffic; shields and batons; and, beanbag bullets.

"I was the first guy in the brigade to get Tasered," said Cloutier, describing the experience as "your worst muscle cramp ever — times 10 throughout your whole body. "I'm not a small guy, I weigh 230 pounds ... it put me on my knees in seconds."

The brigade will not change its name, but the force will be known for the next year as a CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force, or CCMRF (pronounced "sea-smurf").

"I can't think of a more noble mission than this," said Cloutier, who took command in July.

"We've been all over the world during this time of conflict, but now our mission is to take care of citizens at home ... and depending on where an event occurred, you're going home to take care of your home town, your loved ones."

"If we go in, we're going in to help American citizens on American soil, to save lives, provide critical life support, help clear debris, restore normalcy and support whatever local agencies need us to do, so it's kind of a different role," said Cloutier, who, as the division operations officer on the last rotation, learned of the homeland mission a few months ago while they were still in Iraq.

Some brigade elements will be on call around the clock, during which time they'll do their regular marksmanship, gunnery and other deployment training. That's because the unit will continue to train and reset for the next deployment, even as it serves in its CCMRF mission.

Should personnel be needed at an earthquake in California, for example, all or part of the brigade could be scrambled there, depending on the extent of the need and the specialties involved.

The active Army's new dwell-time mission is part of a NorthCom and DOD response package. Active-duty soldiers will be part of a force that includes elements from other military branches and dedicated National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams.

A final mission rehearsal exercise is scheduled for mid-September at Fort Stewart and will be run by Joint Task Force Civil Support, a unit based out of Fort Monroe, Va., that will coordinate and evaluate the interservice event.

In addition to 1st BCT, other Army units will take part in the two-week training exercise, including elements of the 1st Medical Brigade out of Fort Hood, Texas, and the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade from Fort Bragg, N.C.

There also will be Air Force engineer and medical units, the Marine Corps Chemical, Biological Initial Reaction Force, a Navy weather team and members of the Defense

Logistics Agency and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. One of the things Vogler said they'll be looking at is communications capabilities between the services.

"It is a concern, and we're trying to check that and one of the ways we do that is by having these sorts of exercises. Leading up to this, we are going to rehearse and set up some of the communications systems to make sure we have interoperability," he said.

"I don't know what America's overall plan is — I just know that 24 hours a day, seven days a week, there are soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines that are standing by to come and help if they're called," Cloutier said.

"It makes me feel good as an American to know that my country has dedicated a force to come in and help the people at home."

[Considering the type of people who own and control the government in Washington DC, say amen. We may need that help soon enough.]

Troops Cordially Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters 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

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 wars, 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

Here's What You Still In Iraq For: So Two Political Rats Can Play Kissy- Face



Bush Buddy Collaborator Iraqi President Talabani, left, and Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad share a laugh at the UN headquarters, 9.23, 2008. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

NEW GENERAL ORDER NO. 1: PACK UP GO HOME



U.S. soldiers from the Second Stryker Cavalry Regiment in Diyala province August 6, 2008. REUTERS/Andrea Comas

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“I Got A Brother Who’s Just Come Back From Afghanistan” “We’re Not Wanted” “He’s Been Fighting There But Says There’s No Infrastructure So There Can Be No Victory”

27 September 2008 Robert Fisk, Independent [Excerpt]

I’m chewing my way through a plate of spiced but heavy-boned chicken wings – final proof of why chickens can’t fly – at John Wayne airport in Orange County (take a trip down the escalator and you can actually see a larger-than-life statue of the “Duke”), and up on the screen behind the bar pops Obama himself.

The word “Change” flashes on the logo and the guy on my left shakes his head.

“I got a brother who’s just come back from Afghanistan,” he says. “He’s been fighting there but says there’s no infrastructure so there can be no victory. There’s nothing to build on. We’re not wanted.”

At California’s San Jose University, a guy comes up and asks me to sign my new book for him.

“Write ‘To Sergeant ‘D’,” he says with a sigh.

“That’s what they call me. Two tours in Iraq, just heading out to Afghanistan.”

And he rolls his eyes and I wish him safe home afterwards.

O.C. Mom Wants A Proper Burial For Fallen Soldier:

**“Knight Had Expressed Misgivings
About The Training Level Of His
Unit”**

**“He Definitely Said That His (New)
Unit Wasn’t Prepared”**

**“We Got Shot At By Our Own Scouts
And Our Medic Almost Got Shot. ... They
Don’t Care What Condition You’re In”**



Army Spc. Marques Knight

“They also starting to realize how undermanned we are out here and all the extra work and guard we have to do and there is nothing to be done about it.” “The bad guys out here ... I have to admit are smart and they wait for the most perfect times to attack us. ... I’ll have to write you more later; we getting bombed right now ... see ya later.”

September 17, 2008 By VIK JOLLY, The Orange County Register

From his notes and conversations, it’s likely that Army Spc. Marques Irving Knight wasn’t surprised by his death.

He was living a dangerous life. And on Sept. 6, about two months after his deployment to Afghanistan, while on a daytime patrol in Aliabad, the 24-year-old was shot below the lip. By at least one account, he died instantly.

To his superiors and others, Knight was a good soldier trying to figure out his way in the world.

And the life Knight departed was complex. He was estranged from his biological family and, by some accounts, the Army was where he'd turned to as an escape from a rough upbringing.

His family couldn't be reached to confirm this, but fellow soldiers confirm that in his first tour of duty Knight was known as the soldier who didn't get care packages.

But in 2006, after he had been discharged from his first deployment, he moved in with a family in San Juan Capistrano, the family of an Iraq war comrade.

Initially depressed, Knight appeared to be boosted by family life in south Orange County. Those who knew him say he appeared to find renewed optimism. And though disaffected with the Army, he re-enlisted for another four years in 2007, hoping to use the re-signing bonus, a promised \$29,000, to build a brighter future.

Now, the woman who says Knight listed her as his mother on military documents, fears that the soldier who was often forgotten in life may not get the final farewell he sought in death. He's slated to be buried in Alabama, by relatives from whom he was said to be estranged.

"This was not a soldier who was loved and cared for," said Kathi Conroy, 47, whose son served with Knight in Iraq and who took him in for more than a year in San Juan Capistrano.

"I don't want Marques to die like he lived, feeling nobody cared about him."

Conroy met Knight in 2002, at Fort Lewis, Wash., where he and her son, Chris Naganuma, 22, were stationed together. Naganuma and Knight served together in Charlie Company, 3-21 Infantry Striker, 1st Brigade. In parts of 2004 and '05, they fought together in Mosul, Iraq.

During that deployment, Knight was a man with few connections.

"He was always embarrassed that he didn't have anyone," said Conroy, a divorced mother of three.

Conroy said both she and Knight had a gut feeling that he would not return alive from his tour in Afghanistan.

Part of their concern was the rising level of violence in that theater.

But Knight, says Conroy, also was worried that he was fighting with an undertrained light infantry unit.

If he was concerned, it's because he knew, better than most, what he was getting into. Before deploying to Afghanistan, he'd spent more than a year in combat. His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon.

Richard Santana, 27, now a staff sergeant and Army recruiter in Riverside, was Knight's team leader in Mosul. The soldier he described was efficient and cool under pressure.

Santana said Knight "always made sure where the enemy was at; he was always keeping me informed, even when he was being shot at."

Victor Birdseye III, 34, Knight's platoon leader in Iraq, now on his second tour in Baquba, Iraq, by telephone remembered Knight as a quiet, well-liked soldier who enjoyed listening to rap music.

On his off time, Knight was almost never without his MP-3 embedded sunglasses. "I don't know how he heard anything," said Birdseye, laughing.

But Knight had expressed misgivings about the training level of his unit in Afghanistan as compared with the one he had served in Iraq.

"He definitely said that his (new) unit wasn't prepared," said his friend, Naganuma, who was discharged from the Army last month.

A little more than a month before he was killed, Knight e-mailed Conroy from Afghanistan:

"We got into an hour and a half gun fight ... we got shot at by our own scouts and our medic almost got shot. ... They don't care what condition you're in.

"They also starting to realize how undermanned we are out here and all the extra work and guard we have to do and there is nothing to be done about it.

"The bad guys out here ... I have to admit are smart and they wait for the most perfect times to attack us. ... I'll have to write you more later; we getting bombed right now ... see ya later."

The military did not respond to a question about Knight's assessment.

Knight was also a person who appeared directionless after his first four-year stint in the military ended. After staying for six months with Naganuma and his wife in Seattle, he moved to San Juan Capistrano with Conroy and her two younger sons. The family has since moved to Dana Point.

Conroy – who says she's going to Alabama to attend Knight's funeral – felt the Army gave him little training for post-military life.

"He really suffered with the transition and trying to find a male mentor to help him ... was a challenge," Conroy said. "He felt like he didn't have an option. He came out of the Army with nothing."

But with Conroy's family, he found acceptance. Knight told Conroy he wanted to be a personal trainer or a psychologist.

“He would suck it up for four years, and the Army would own him. ... A lot of people don't like their jobs, and a lot of people can set goals,” Conroy said. “You can hang with a job that you don't like.”

The signing bonus is why, said Conroy, Knight ended up re-enlisting. This time, he said, he'd be smart and save it for a fresh start. This time he'd get it right.

Now, Conroy and Naganuma say the military is not fulfilling a dead soldier's last wish.

Conroy says Knight filled out paperwork in which he laid out what should happen to him should he die. Conroy insists Knight wanted his body to be taken care of by her, whom he listed as his mother on military documents.

However, she says the military told her that federal law requires that his body be returned to a blood relative, and she recently was told that officials had located Knight's sister in Alabama.

“He is not a minor ... that was not what Marques chose,” Conroy said.

Naganuma agrees and said Knight's last wish should be carried out.

“It is very highly disrespectful.”

Knight wanted to be cremated and have his ashes spread atop a mountain. The military did not respond to a query about what regulations might override a soldier's wish.

Conroy said Knight didn't desire a military funeral.

“He believed that he could spread his wings and fly.”

GATES TELLS THE TALIBAN NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO ATTACK SINCE WE CAN'T SEND MORE TROOPS 'TIL SPRING: DUMBASS!

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

Sep 23 (Reuters)

The United States will not have enough forces available to meet a request for more troops from NATO's top commander in Afghanistan until next spring at the earliest, the U.S. defense chief said on Tuesday.

"Without changing deployment patterns, without changing length of tours, we do not have the forces to send three additional brigade combat teams to Afghanistan at this point," Defense Secretary Robert Gates told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"My view is that those forces will become available probably during the spring and summer of 2009," he said.

TROOP NEWS

Racist Filth Busy Busy Busy: "David Hernandez, A Decorated Army Veteran Who Served His Country In Different Parts Of The World, Can No Longer See The World After His Country Denied Him A Passport"

Goldfaden pointed out that although midwifery is a long-held tradition among whites, blacks and others living in Appalachia, Texas and other parts of the United States where hospital-assisted birth is unaffordable or unavailable, the denial of passports is only taking place among people of Mexican descent living along the southern border.

Sep 22, 2008 Roberto Lovato, New America Media [Excerpts]

Texas native David Hernandez, a decorated Army veteran who served his country in different parts of the world, can no longer see the world after his country denied him a passport.

Hernandez and other residents living in and around the U.S.-Mexico border are plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit alleging that, in denying them passports, the U.S. State Department is engaging in a new kind of racial discrimination: non-citizen profiling.

"This all started when I sent them (the U.S. State Department) my passport and they sent me a letter saying that it wasn't sufficient. So, I sent them all kinds of documents -a baptismal certificate, military records, pictures of me in the pre-

kindergarten, a copy of my grandmother's birth certificate that showed that she was an American citizen," he said, adding, "and that still wasn't enough.

"I knew something was wrong when they even started asking me for things like Census documents from the 1930's that don't even exist."

Hernandez and the other plaintiffs say that the U.S. government is denying them passports because they are persons of Mexican and Latino descent whose births were assisted by parteras, or midwives.

"The law says that if you're born in this country, have parents who are or who get naturalized, you are a citizen," said Hernandez his voice cracking with anger and frustration.

"We were all born here. We're all citizens. The only difference is that we're Hispanic, we grew up poor and we happened not to be born in a hospital. My mother had to pay a partera \$40 instead."

Lawyers for Hernandez and the other plaintiffs say they have documented a systematic pattern of racial discrimination among hundreds, perhaps thousands of people of Mexican descent who, like him, applied for passports and were subjected to unreasonable and arbitrary demands for an inordinate and often impossible-to-find documents proving they are citizens of the United States.

For Robin Goldfaden, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which is co-counsel in the case along with other law firms, the passport suit "shows a spirit of disregard for birthright citizenship and a reckless disregard for the actual citizenship of an entire class of people."

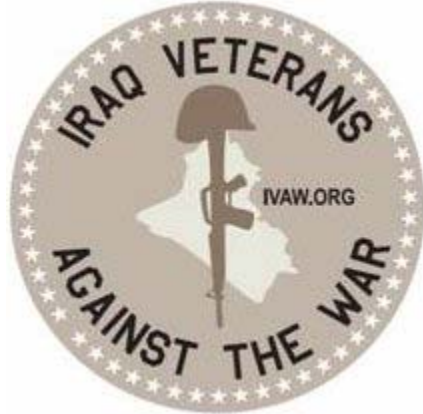
Goldfaden pointed out that although midwifery is a long-held tradition among whites, blacks and others living in Appalachia, Texas and other parts of the United States where hospital-assisted birth is unaffordable or unavailable, the denial of passports is only taking place among people of Mexican descent living along the southern border.

"Some of the plaintiffs in this case were born in the 1930s and earlier, when, for example, half of all babies in Texas were delivered by midwives," said Goldfaden, who believes that the case raises concerns beyond those raised by Hernandez and other plaintiffs. "Anytime the government violates due process and the constitutional promise of equal protection as they did in this case, we should all be concerned."

"I grew up studying the history of civil rights, Martin Luther King and how he had to fight his own government," said Hernandez,"

"But I never thought I'd be fighting for my civil rights. Now I understand history in a different way."

Resisting Empire



**Saturday, October 25th
7pm:**

New York University Room 101

**19 West 4th Street, (near Broadway), New York City
N, R to 8th Street; B,D,F,V to Broadway Lafayette; 6 to Astor Place; A,C to
West 4th Street**

Speakers

Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejia was the first veteran to publicly refuse to redeploy to Iraq. He is the Board Chair of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), and is the author of a memoir, Road From ar Ramadi (Haymarket Books, 2007).

Michael Schwartz is a founding director of the Undergraduate College of Global Studies at Stony Brook University, and author of the new book, War Without End: The Iraq War in Context (Haymarket Books, 2008).

Laila Al-Arian is a freelance journalist and co-author, with Chris Hedges, of Collateral Damage: America's War Against Iraqi Civilians (Nation Books, 2008). She has written for The Nation, USA Today, United Press International, The Huffington Post, and The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

Here and around the world, people want to see an end to the Iraq War and a change in the reckless direction of U.S. foreign policy.

U.S. aggression has inflicted a humanitarian catastrophe-- from Iraq, to Afghanistan, and beyond--with millions of people killed or turned into refugees.

American troops continue to suffer and die, while schools and hospitals fall apart.

A new resistance needs to be built from the ground up.

To build it, we need to hear the stories the mainstream media refuse to tell: the stories of war resisters, unembedded journalists, and activists.

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A National Anti-War Speaking Tour by Haymarket Books, co-sponsored nationally by AlterNet, Nation Books and Iraq Veterans Against the War, October 15th - November 15th

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

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

**Electrical Malfunctions Have
Killed At Least 7 Troops And A
Contractor At U.S.-Occupied
Buildings In Iraq:
“More Than 3,700 Fires At Those
Facilities From May 2007 To
August 2008”**

KBR and Army Contracting Command came under fire in that July hearing of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, whose members were particularly incensed over what is now reported as 18 deaths — an increase of two from earlier reports — because of inadvertent electrocutions, most of them involving U.S. troops, recorded in Iraq since 2003.

Two of the deaths — that of the Army contractor and Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Maseth, a Green Beret who died Jan. 2 while taking a shower at the Radwaniyah Palace Complex in Baghdad — remain under investigation, the task force said.

Government testimony cited a lack of skilled or trained personnel to perform contractor oversight.

Kiss That Civilian Job, Home And Life Goodbye: National Guard Boss Wants 35% More Guard Troops On Fulltime Active Duty!

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Sep 23, 2008 By Rick Maze; Army Times Staff writer [Excerpts]

BALTIMORE — Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. told National Guard members Sunday that continued reliance on deploying reservists is the only way of meeting national security commitments without dramatically increasing active forces.

Speaking at a convention of the National Guard Association of the United States, Casey said there are 60,000 to 70,000 Army or Air Guard members deployed overseas who are vital to having a sustainable force, which he listed among six priorities for the future of the Army.

Increasing the size of the Guard by 10 percent or more is one of the top priorities for the National Guard Association, said retired Brig. Gen. Stephen Koper, the group's executive director.

Of particular concern is the need for more Guard members on fulltime active duty, an idea Pentagon officials have resisted, Koper said.

The Army Guard's longtime and unmet goal is to have about 32,000 guardsmen on active duty, but it is more than 35 percent short of meeting that goal, a level that Koper said would still be inadequate.

“This Young Man Misplaced A Grenade, And They Told Him To Find It,” Mathis Said: “Evidently He Got Upset With That And Locked And Loaded And Went Berserk”

September 29, 2008 By Gina Cavallaro, Army Times [Excerpts]

FORT STEWART, Ga. — A 1 a.m. counseling session at a small outpost in Iraq took a fatal turn Sept. 14, Army officials say, when the soldier being counseled opened fire with his M4 on a fellow team leader and their squad leader.

Both the team leader and squad leader died that night despite efforts to save them.

The incident took place at a joint security station in Jurf as Sakhr, a town about 15 miles southwest of Baghdad on the Euphrates River, where soldiers with A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, were on duty.

The two soldiers killed were identified as Staff Sgt. Darris J. Dawson, 24, of Pensacola, Fla., a squad leader, and Sgt. Wesley R. Durbin, 26, of Hurst, Texas, a fellow team leader.

The soldier who allegedly shot them was in Dawson's squad. The Army refused to identify him pending the filing of charges.

“As best we can determine at this time, the staff sergeant and sergeant went in to talk to the individual, whose performance was lacking. As the counseling session developed, that's when the shooting happened,” division Chief of Staff Col. Terry Ferrell told Army Times on Sept. 19.

The squad leader's decision to hold the counseling session at 1 a.m., Ferrell said, may have been based on the soldier's patrol rotation, and took place inside a guard house.

The timing and location “very easily could have given (the shooter) ample opportunity to have a weapon that was loaded.”

Neither Dawson nor Durbin was wearing body armor, helmet or other protective gear during the counseling, and each was shot multiple times.

The alleged shooter was subdued by fellow soldiers and the two wounded soldiers were treated on the scene by the company's medics.

All flight operations had been suspended that evening because of poor visibility, so the wounded were evacuated in ground vehicles to Forward Operating Base Iskandiriyah, located at a Soviet-era power plant about a 20-minute drive away on the other side of the river.

Durbin died shortly after the shooting, and Dawson was evacuated by ground on a 30-minute drive to the 86th Combat Support Hospital in the Green Zone in Baghdad, where he died despite efforts to save him.

The soldier who allegedly killed Dawson and Durbin was initially detained in Iraq, and when the weather cleared two days later, was flown to a detention facility in Kuwait.

The 4th BCT is under the command of the 10th Mountain Division, but since the brigade only has about three months left in Iraq, unit leaders agreed to transfer the case to 3rd ID headquarters. Commander Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo is now the court-martial convening authority, Ferrell said.

Charges cannot be preferred until the soldier is in 3rd ID's headquarters jurisdiction. Ferrell said Sept. 19 the soldier's name could be released within about a week.

Dawson's stepmother, Maxine Mathis, said Sept. 18 that the family was told "through the grapevine" that the shooter had lost a grenade and her stepson ordered him to retrieve it.

"This young man misplaced a grenade, and they told him to find it," Mathis said. "Evidently he got upset with that and locked and loaded and went berserk." Mathis, who is married to Dawson's father, Darryl Mathis, would not reveal her source.

"I can't say he died for his country, dying like that," a weeping Mathis said from her home in Pensacola, Fla.

Mathis 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. He was the father of four young children.

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."

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.**

Cops Vs Protesters At The RNC



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: September 18, 2008
Subject: Cops vs Protesters at the RNC

Cops vs Protesters at the RNC

I took this picture shortly after this woman was directly hit in the face with pepper spray. She ran into this small grocery store to be treated by the medics. She gave me permission to take her picture, and to get it out as evidence. She told me she did absolutely nothing to provoke this attack. As usual, the police did it randomly.

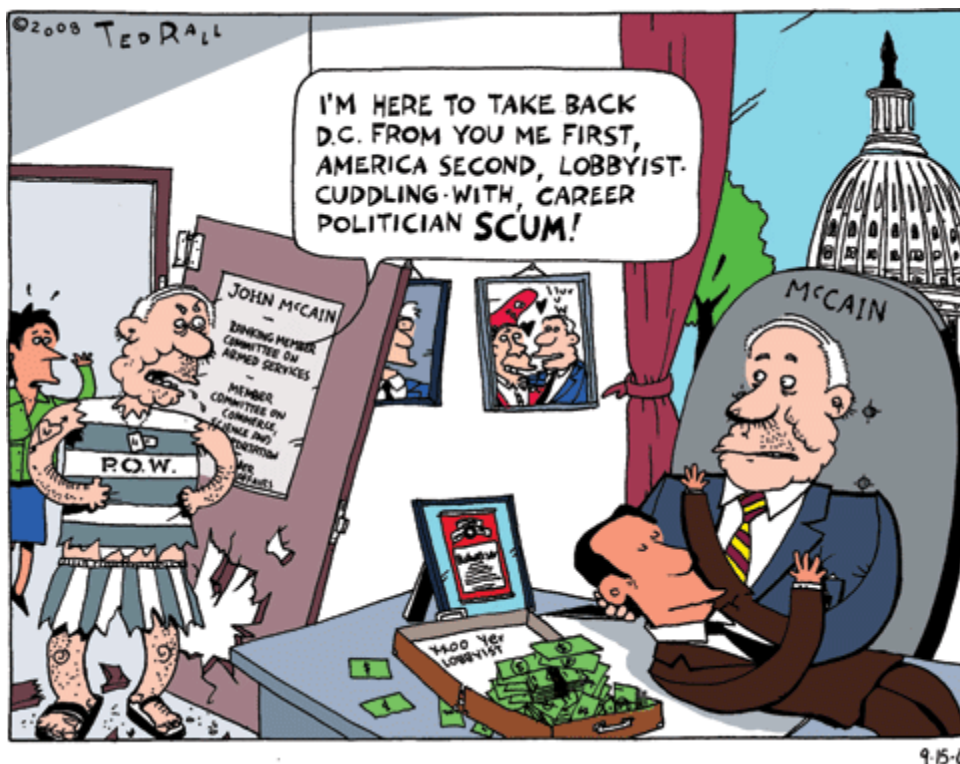
Mike Hastie

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupations 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 to Imperial wars 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/)

CLASS WAR REPORTS



“The Bush Administration And Congressional Democrats Are Agreed On A Bank-Robbery-In-

Reverse To Bail Out The Titans Of Wall Street”

Even with regulations and government oversight, at the heart of the free market is blind, irrational competition, with the primary priority being the enrichment of a few at the expense of society as a whole.

September 26, 2008 Editorial, Socialist Worker [Excerpt]

The Bush administration and congressional Democrats are agreed on a bank-robbery-in-reverse to bail out the titans of Wall Street--but the Republican free-market madmen are getting in the way.

BY DAY, it looked like an honorable agreement among thieves--Democratic and Republican lawmakers joining together over a White House conference table to hammer out the basic points of a \$700 billion bailout of the Wall Street financial system at the expense of the vast majority of Americans.

But by nightfall, the deal was falling apart--with potential consequences so dire from the point of view of the corporate and political elite that even George Bush could grasp it. “If money isn’t loosened up, this sucker could go down,” Bush said during the White House summit meeting, according the New York Times’ account.

Just to be clear: When he said “this sucker could go down,” Bush wasn’t talking about the bailout plan.

He was talking about the American financial system.

THE CRISIS and its phony bailout solution beg a question so obvious that even some politicians are asking it: Why should the banks and financial institutions that caused this catastrophe get rescued, but ordinary people at risk of losing their homes or their jobs have nowhere to turn.

If the government is willing to spend at least \$700 billion on banks, why can’t it find a fraction of that for the other victims of this crisis--the vast majority of them completely blameless, unlike the banks?

Such questions can’t be answered except with the obscene truth--in this twisted system, the lives of a small minority of rich and powerful matter more than everyone else’s.

Voices of outrage against this deal are being heard everywhere--thus, hundreds turned out on Wall Street Thursday for a protest against the bailout. This points to the potential for similar organizing in the future.

Whatever the fate of the Paulson bailout, though, this crisis is an indictment of capitalism.

Even with regulations and government oversight, at the heart of the free market is blind, irrational competition, with the primary priority being the enrichment of a few at the expense of society as a whole.

The scale of this crisis has led to what many are calling “Wall Street socialism”--the gains left in private hands, while the public gets stuck with the losses. It’s time to revive a discussion of genuine socialism: a planned economy, democratically controlled, so all the vast resources and potentials in this world are used for meeting everyone’s needs.

Got an opinion? 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 to contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

RECEIVED

“Can I Share This, Or Do You Prefer Not?”

From: EC
Sent: Sep 28, 2008
To: New Orleans LA Discussion Group
Subject: RE: GI Special 6I21: Deadly Debate

This is the most accurate analysis yet of the debates that I’ve read.

Can I share this, or do you prefer not?

REPLY:

GI Special is available to anybody who wishes to send it anywhere anytime. No restrictions.

Solidarity,
T

**New Orleans Activists Face Stupid, Lying
Bullshit Charges Cooked Up By Stupid,
Lying, Bullshit New Orleans Cop Rat:
Protest Is Not Terrorism:**

DROP THE CHARGES AGAINST THE B.W. COOPER TWO

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

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

The facts of the case contradict the prosecution’s allegation that Jamie and Joy were using the lockboxes as false explosive devices.

Jamie and Joy pledged themselves to engage in only non-violent resistance in the defense of public housing.

Both the prosecution and the defense agree that no one was injured as a result of the December 19th protest.

They also agree that no weapons were found at the scene of the Cooper Two.

On the other hand, NOPD bomb expert Todd Morrell, one of the arresting officers, did testify that as far as he is concerned “almost anything can be a false explosive device”.

It is clear that the main objective behind the D.A.’s prosecution of the Cooper Two is to silence those who are fighting for the right of return for all.

Don’t help let this happen.

Those who wish to take a stand against political repression and ethnic cleansing in New Orleans are urged to attend the upcoming trials.

MAKE THE RIGHT OF RETURN A REALITY FOR ALL!

Next Court Hearing:

9:30am Monday(Sept. 29, 2008)

Orleans Parish Criminal Court E

Orleans Parish Criminal Court Building on Tulane & Broad.

Supporting groups include May Day Nola and C3/Hands Off Iberville. C3/Iberville meets 7pm Thursday at St. Jude’s Church (400 Basin St.)

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

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



GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2008/index.html>;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

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