

## GI SPECIAL 6J25:

**THERE IT IS:  
YOU GET TO CHOOSE WHICH ONE FUCKS YOU  
FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS**



A vendor shows condoms with the likeness of McCain and Obama at an election rally, Bonanza High School, Las Vegas, Nevada October 25, 2008. REUTERS/Steve Marcus

**Two Murderous Fools  
Busy Busy Busy:  
“John McCain And Barack  
Obama, Have Advocated An  
Increase In Conventional Forces  
For Afghanistan”**

# **“‘Are We Really Going To Take A Karzai Government And Prop It Up?’ Asked Another Senior Military Official”**

## **"If You're Talking About Doing That, I Can't See This Ever Ending"**

October 26, 2008 By Peter Spiegel, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

Reporting from Washington -- In a sign that the U.S. military is scaling back its goals in Afghanistan, senior Pentagon officials are weighing controversial proposals to send additional teams of highly trained special operations forces to narrowly target the most violent insurgent bands in the country.

As security worsens in the country, many military leaders are increasingly arguing that an Iraq-style troop "surge" and counterinsurgency plan would not work because of the country's rugged geography and a history of resistance to rule from Kabul.

**Other military officials note that only 12 of the 36 special operations units already in Afghanistan are being fully used.**

**Many lack the supporting infrastructure -- surveillance drones, helicopter transport and intelligence networks -- in part because it is still needed in Iraq.**

**"To add more forces on top of existing forces that haven't been fully engaged makes no sense," the senior military official said.**

**"If you don't know how you're operating the current force, why do you think adding more forces is going to work?"**

**"Are we really going to take a Karzai government and prop it up?" asked another senior military official, referring to Afghan President Hamid Karzai.**

**"If you're talking about doing that, I can't see this ever ending."**

**Both presidential candidates, Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama, have advocated an increase in conventional forces for Afghanistan.**

<p><b>POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED</b></p>
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## **THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS**

### **Warning Concerning Scum At "Juno.Com"**

From time to time this fifth-rate low-rent pretense of an email service has been censoring GI Special, and refusing to transmit it to people, including veterans, who ask for it.

It would appear the censorship is now permanent.

If you use this one, and wish to receive further issues of GI Special, please send an alternate email address.

We do not have time to respond to and individually forward half a dozen notices of undelivered email, so *please* send an alternate address to continue receiving GI Special.

Why send your money to an email "service" that decides what you are allowed to read or not read, and censors material against the wars, [juno.com]?

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **U.S. Soldier Dies From Baqubah Mortar Attack**

Oct 29, 2008 The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska: A soldier from Fort Wainwright has died of combat injuries received in Iraq.

The military identified the soldier as Pfc. Cody J. Eggleston, 21, of Eugene, Ore., who was wounded during a mortar attack Oct. 16 in Baqubah. He died Friday at Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Maryland.

Eggleston joined the Army in July 2007. He is the second fatality in the Oct. 16 attack. Pfc. Heath Pickard of Texas died that day.

Eggleston was an infantryman assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Fort Wainwright.

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# U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



Foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. soldier search an Iraqi citizen's house during an armed home invasion in Baquba, Diyala province some 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad late October 26, 2008. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

**[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.**

**[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]**

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

**"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's**

raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

**BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION;  
POINTLESS WAR:  
ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers patrol a village near Baquba in Diyala province, some 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad October 18, 2008. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

**NEED SOME TRUTH?  
CHECK OUT THE NEW 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/](http://www.ivaw.org/))**

## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

### **Bombing In Fortified Afghanistan Government Building Kills 3**



The scene after a bomber targeted the Information and Culture Ministry in Kabul, Afghanistan.

October 30, 2008 By Laura King, Los Angeles Times

Reporting from Kabul, Afghanistan -- A bomber managed to penetrate a heavily guarded Afghanistan government ministry in the heart of the capital today and blow himself up, killing at least three other people and wounding more than a dozen others. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

The scene at the Information and Culture Ministry was one of chaos in the wake of the blast, with officials shouting and police muscling bystanders away.

The attack contributed to a growing sense of insecurity in Kabul, where violence has been increasing even though Western military officials insist that insurgents do not have a significant foothold in the capital.

Broken glass was sprayed onto the busy street in front of the ministry, which is lined with shops. One side of the building collapsed, and the aqua-blue front gates were bent and twisted by the force of the explosion.

Authorities said up to two other assailants were believed to have taken part in the attack but had apparently escaped.

Witnesses and officials gave varying accounts of how the bombing unfolded. There was an exchange of gunfire at the ministry's entrance shortly before the explosion rocked its main hall, according to police at the scene.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, told the Associated Press that three attackers had taken part in the bombing, forcing their way through the main gate by throwing hand grenades at the guards.

It was not clear how the armed attackers managed to approach the building. Security in the area is heavy; the presidential palace is only a few hundred yards away.

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## **Resistance Action**

Oct 23 By FISNIK ABRASHI, Associated Press Writer & Oct 25, 2008 South Asia News & Oct 30 (Reuters)

In the southern Kandahar province, a bomb placed on a donkey hit a police vehicle patrolling west of the provincial capital, killing an officer and wounding two, said police officer Sadullah Khan.

Two Bangladeshi development managers were captured by insurgents on Thursday, an official from the non-governmental Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) said on Saturday. Akhter Ali and Mohammad Shahjahan Ali, BRAC area managers in Afghanistan's central Ghazni province, were taken from their office in Moi Mobarok in the provincial capital, the Dhaka-based organization said in a statement. Another Afghan national working for the organization was attacked, according to BRAC.

A roadside bomb blast killed four policemen in an area of southern Kandahar province on Thursday, a police officer said.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

**“Guys Were Coughing Up Black Stuff, Coughing Up Blood”  
Burn Pit At Iraq Balad Base “May Have Exposed Tens Of Thousands Of Troops To Cancer-Causing**

**Dioxins, Poisons Such As  
Arsenic”**  
**“Virtually Everyone On Base Had  
Some Version Of Plume Crud”**  
**Soldier-Killing Pentagon Officials  
“Continue To Say Burn Pits Do Not Pose  
Serious Health Risks”**



Air Force Senior Airman Frances Gavalis tosses unserviceable uniform items into a burn pit at Balad Air Base, Iraq. [Senior Airman Julianne Showalter]

**Comment: SSG N (Ret'd):**

What does it cost to purchase, airlift, and transport 250 tons of materiel each day into Balad?

How many of our military will get a section 60 discharge for defending these "freedom convoys"?

This is the same kind of poisoning the FDNY and residents of NYC got after 9/11, and the govt said it was safe.



**Will all you soldiers, airmen, marines, coasties and seamen please come home and defend us?**

**We need you here now.**

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Oct 28, 2008 By Kelly Kennedy, Staff writer; Army Times [Excerpts]

**An open-air “burn pit” at the largest U.S. base in Iraq may have exposed tens of thousands of troops, contractors and Iraqis to cancer-causing dioxins, poisons such as arsenic and carbon monoxide, and hazardous medical waste, documentation gathered by Military Times shows.**

**The billowing black plume from the burn pit at 15-square-mile Joint Base Balad, the central logistics hub for U.S. forces in Iraq, wafts continually over living quarters and the base combat support hospital, sources say.**

And even though the military now has three clean-burning incinerators operating there, officials acknowledged that as of midsummer, the burn pit still was taking in 147 tons of waste per day — significantly more than half the daily output at Balad, home to about 25,000 U.S. military personnel and several thousand contractors.

Balad’s average daily output of almost 250 tons of waste is three times higher than the average of 83 tons per day generated by the city of Juneau, Alaska, which has a comparable population.

**In a memo dated Dec. 20, 2006, Air Force Lt. Col. Darrin Curtis, former bioenvironmental flight commander for Joint Base Balad, wrote of the burn pit:**

**“In my professional opinion, there is an acute health hazard for individuals. There is also the possibility for chronic health hazards associated with the smoke.”**

Air Force bioenvironmental engineers are experts in occupational and environmental workplace hazards.

Most large U.S. installations in Iraq, as well as Afghanistan, have burn pits. A report recently released by the Rand Corp. think tank concluded that the military has no standard operating procedure or training policy for making sure those pits are operated properly.

The report said burn pits are one of a number of examples of improper waste disposal by the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**The burn pit at Balad has consumed Styrofoam, unexploded ordnance, petroleum products, plastics, rubber, dining facility trash, paint and solvents, and medical waste, including amputated limbs, according to Curtis’ memo.**

**He said contaminants, many highly poisonous, that troops may have been exposed to include benzene, an aircraft fuel known to cause leukemia; arsenic;**

**dichlorofluoromethane, or Freon; carbon monoxide; ethylbenzene; formaldehyde; hydrogen cyanide; nitrogen dioxide; sulfuric acid; and xylene.**

“It is amazing that the burn pit has been able to operate without restrictions over the past few years,” Curtis wrote.

**[Why? What the fuck does command care about poisoning troops with shit that won't show up for years? Just let them try to file for payments for in-service disability five or ten or more years from now. The Pentagon fought off paying for Gulf War Syndrome from U.S.-released Iraqi nerve gas for years and years and years: the longer you wait, the more dead, and the fewer they have to pay. Just effective management control of employee expenses in the war business.]**

Air Force Lt. Col. James Elliott, former chief of aeromedical services for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, was deployed to Balad at the time and co-signed Curtis' memo.

**Elliott wrote: “In my professional opinion, the known carcinogens and respiratory sensitizers released into the atmosphere by the burn pit present both an acute and chronic health hazard to our troops and the local population.”**

After spending 4½ months working as a surgeon at the Balad Combat Support Hospital from September 2007 to February 2008, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Steve Bowers said his headaches got so bad that he sought an MRI when he returned home.

“You don't just come out of that environment and recover,” said Bowers, a reservist who works as a surgeon at the University of Texas Health Science Center. “I had headaches for three months after I got home. Guys who spent 15 months there would have a harder health hit.”

**He said virtually everyone on base had some version of “plume crud”: “coughing up black stuff,” sinus problems, nasal congestion, bad coughing and headaches.**

**[So, command knew. Command knew and let it go on. Command, therefore, is criminally responsible. Command, therefore, merits court-martial and the appropriate punishment for what is in fact an attack on members of the United States Armed Forces in time of war, on the battlefield. What punishment does UCMJ provide for that? Three guesses. T]**

**“Everyone acknowledged that it was a problem,” Bowers said.**

“There was kind of a philosophy of, ‘just suck it up.’”

Army Sgt. Loyd Sawyer said he worked at the Joint Base Balad mortuary, about 400 yards from the burn pit. “They had to abandon the guard tower near (the pit) because they kept getting respiratory infections,” he said. “It was just a wall of fire above our unit.

**“Guys were coughing up black stuff, coughing up blood. I had a steroid inhaler because I got bronchitis.”**

When Military Times contacted Curtis by telephone about his memo, he said he wanted to see “some light” shined on the Balad burn pit.

He took e-mailed questions and sent responses to Barbara Fisher, public affairs representative for the 75th Air Base Wing at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Curtis' home base, for release to Military Times.

Fisher initially refused to release Curtis' responses, saying he was not the best person to answer questions about his own memo because he had not been at Balad since early 2007.

Five weeks later, she released his responses, saying there had been "confusion in public affairs channels about who was going to provide you the answers."

In his response, Curtis wrote that he did several days of tests on the plume and on work areas near the burn pit "as a direct result of commanders' and service members' concerns about the smoke" and came to the conclusion that open pit burning "was a health hazard."

"Because my tour was only for four months, I felt writing the memo was one of the ways to put down my concerns so that those following me would be aware of the issues," he said.

Since his assessment, he said, he has been contacted by several people stationed at Balad who "believe their current health problems are associated with their deployment."

"Anything and everything gets burned, and we get to breathe the smoke," an Army aviator wrote on his blog in July.

"Plastics are the worst. I've taken some pictures of the giant plume of jet-black smoke that billows up from the burn pit. There is no way on Earth this would ever be allowed back home because of all the toxins and pollutants that result, but hey, we're not at home, so it must be OK, right?"

Aaron Rognstad, an airman with a blog called Blog Flack, wrote in January: "The burn pit is probably one of the worst things on this base. I don't know how the Air Force, or whoever is in charge of this base, can think that they can just burn all of this toxic s--- and have 30,000 people inhale it on a daily basis. The burn pit is probably the reason I am having constant headaches."

**Bowers said a memo "went out while we were there, saying the plume was sending off toxic levels of all kinds of pathogens, heavy metals and fecal coliforms. But I mean, what do you do?"**

He said troops could tell what was being burned on certain days. "We took off a fair amount of legs, and the Iraqi parts would go in the burn pit," he said, referring to amputated limbs. "We filled up a cooler and they would take it over once a week. That smelled ... horrible."

The base had obtained a medical incinerator, according to Air Force officials, but Bowers said it was damaged and could not be used while he was there.

Air Force Lt. Col. Christopher Coppola, a surgeon who deployed to Balad, said everyone at the base had a memo placed in their medical files in fall 2007 noting they had been exposed to the pit's fumes.

**“I think they were particularly worried about dioxin,” said Coppola, a pediatric surgeon based in San Antonio.**

“The other thing we were worried about were remains. They were throwing in bio-hazardous waste, limbs from amputations.”

And as a doctor, he said, “We worried about patients being able to breathe.”

He said several people came in with complaints about eye and upper respiratory problems, but they could not be directly tied to the burn-pit plume because such conditions also can be caused by the dusty environment in Iraq.

Still, Coppola said he wondered about whether, and to what extent, the smoke from the burn pit contributed to the problems.

A technician from the Army's Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine who was sent to conduct an environmental health assessment in spring 2006 called the Balad burn pit the “worst environmental site I have personally visited,” according to Curtis' December 2006 memo.

In early 2007, after Curtis' memo had risen up the chain of command, CHPPM and the Air Force Institute for Operational Health conducted a joint assessment of the burn pit.

**A draft executive summary, dated December 2007, showed dioxin levels at 51 times acceptable levels, particulate exposure at 50 times acceptable levels, volatile compounds at two times acceptable levels, and cancer risk from exposure to dioxins at two times acceptable levels for people at Balad for a year and at eight times acceptable levels for people at the base for more than a year.**

Harvey said the draft summary contained “incorrect data” and was “prematurely distributed prior to a comprehensive review” by the Defense Department's scientific community.

She said a “software error” had calculated Balad's concentrated levels of dioxin — a contaminant associated with the defoliant Agent Orange that was widely used in Vietnam — at 1,000 times higher than it actually was.

However, that reportedly incorrect assessment showed only whether personnel had been exposed to dioxins — not heavy metals, other poisons or ultrafine particulate matter, some of which Curtis also cited as concerns in his 2006 report.

Ultrafine particulates are tiny bits of easily inhaled matter that can be made up of toxic heavy metals and carcinogens.

“When breathed in, these particles can reach deep into the lungs and cause various health effects,” a CHPPM information paper states.

Some of these other health risks from breathing chemicals and smoke were discussed in April at a meeting of the Defense Health Board.

**According to a transcript of the meeting, William Halperin, chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine at the New Jersey Medical School, noted, for example, that one substance used by pit operators to burn solid waste is jet fuel — exposure to which is known to increase the risk of leukemia.**

Halperin said that although the military's extensive testing in spring 2007 came up with "erroneously high levels of dioxin" in the burn pit smoke, that does not mean there is no risk. "Risk assessment consists of hazard identification: Are the agents there potentially hazardous?" Halperin said. "The answer in this situation is yes."

According to the transcript, Halperin also talked of how much information about the risks should be given to people who may have been exposed.

A risk assessment can "consist of uncertainties," he said. "You're only collecting a moderate amount of information. ... You can extrapolate either too high or too low and come up with something that's beyond what you really should be predicting."

Mark Brown, director of the Environmental Agents Service in the Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards for the Department of Veterans Affairs, attended the same DHB meeting.

"You couldn't get away with this kind of waste disposal in the United States," Brown said, adding that VA already has heard concerns about burn pits from returning veterans.

Halperin argued that the only pollutant verified as being "potentially above the limit" at Balad was particulate matter, and that the levels were "no worse than most metropolitan cities" in the U.S.

But professor James Lockey, director of the Department of Environmental Health at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, raised concerns about the size of the particulates.

Halperin admitted that the report does not discuss ultra-fine particulates or heavy metals.

"Just to talk about dioxin and some other chemicals and ignore the fact that you've got the particulates out there is not going to fly all that well," he acknowledged.

Studies in the U.S. and Europe show burn pits may increase the concentration of particulate matter air pollution, but no studies have been done in Iraq.

"Direct use of available data to estimate health effects to troops in Southwest Asia has been problematic," the CHPPM information paper states.

But according to an AFIOH information paper, even burning waste that is not normally considered hazardous has risks.

The materials commonly tossed in burn pits in Iraq are loaded with potentially hazardous materials, the AFIOH paper says.

Burning plastic water bottles creates elevated levels of “highly toxic dioxins,” which can contaminate food chains by landing on plants that are consumed by animals and in turn accumulating in fatty tissue.

Medical or human waste can create “disease-laden aerosols.” Wood, paper and garbage have been shown to cause “harmful effects to skin, body fluids and ability to fight disease” in animal studies.

And hexachlorobenzene is a carcinogen that can “remain in the environment for a long time, as it breaks down very slowly and sticks strongly to soil and vegetation.”

Early in the Iraq war, troops worked down in the burn pit at Balad, moving the waste around with heavy machinery.

The Pentagon even issued a press release on the pit in 2004, lauding the personnel who pulled two-week rotations wearing respirators, goggles and body armor.

“Three days ago, I was putting a fire out here with a bulldozer and almost got hit by a propane tank that would have killed me if it would have hit me,” an Army enlisted engineer was quoted as saying in the news release.

According to several documents and witnesses, the base had no incinerators for medical waste, so everything from used needles to amputated limbs was tossed into the burn pit. HIV, malaria, syphilis and tuberculosis all can be spread by needles, blood and human organs — as well as by bloody bandages, culture dishes and lancets.

An incinerator for medical waste was not installed at Balad until April 2005, Harvey said.

To date, a total of 41 incinerators have been approved for use at U.S. bases in Iraq, although only 17 are in full operation, Harvey said. Another 17 are being built, and seven await funding. Twenty-two more are planned.

Kurt Kinnevan, division chief of the directorate of environmental integration at the Army Engineer School, said burn pits are one of the most visible signs that the military lacks a consistent policy on waste and environmental sustainability issues in Iraq.

“There’s not one commander I talked to in theater or preparing to go to theater (who) has any idea what he’s going to do with his waste other than take it to the burn pit,” Kinnevan wrote in a December 2007 “Defense Environmental Alert.”

In an interview with Military Times, Kinnavan said engineers were working to better train field troops.

He said there is certainly “more awareness” of the problem now, but much more can be done.

**Meanwhile, defense officials continue to say burn pits do not pose serious health risks. In a statement dated Aug. 6, the Defense Department’s Office of Force Health Protection and Readiness had this to say:**

“While exposure to burn pit smoke may cause temporary coughing and redness or stinging of the eyes, extensive environmental monitoring indicates that smoke exposures not interfering with breathing or requiring medical treatment at the time of exposure usually do not cause any lasting health effects or medical follow-up.

**MORE:**

## **As Troops Are Poisoned By Deadly Agent Orange At Ballad, “The Official Line From The Top Is To Deny That There’s A Problem”**

11.3.08 Army Times Editorial [Excerpts]

More than five years into the war in Iraq and seven years into the war in Afghanistan, the U.S. military continues daily disposal of hundreds of tons of war-zone waste in the most crude and hazardous manner — in open-air burn pits.

Troops with little more protection than cheap dust masks have fed the flames with plastic, rubber and petroleum products; un-exploded ordnance; paints and solvents; and even medical waste, such as bloody bandages and amputated limbs.

**The list of toxins that can be produced in burn-pit smoke plumes is alarming — arsenic, benzene, carbon monoxide, sulfuric acid and dioxin, the cancer-causing main ingredient in the defoliant Agent Orange, among others.**

A technician with the Army’s Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine flatly labeled the Balad burn pit the “worst en-vironmental site I have personally visited.”

**But as has so often been the case across the decades on de-ployment health issues — anthrax vaccine, Gulf War illness, Agent Orange, secret biological training exercises, atomic bomb tests — the official line from the top is to deny that there’s a problem.**

### **Troops 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](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057**

## **THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



A U.S. Army honor guard hold 14 flags for a group burial at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Friday, Oct. 24, 2008. The group burial was for 14 soldiers who were killed Aug. 22, 2007, when their helicopter crashed in Multaka, northern Iraq. Killed were four soldiers assigned to the 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Air Cavalry Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash. Also killed were ten soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. (AP Photo/Lawrence Jackson)

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**“Too Short For This Shit”  
“In Case You Were Wondering What  
Made People Shoot Officers In The Back  
In Previous Wars; These Are The Guys  
That Got Shot In The Back And This Is  
Probably Why They Don’t Leave The  
FOB Anymore”**

October 15, 2008 By Joe; Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too; Kbrsecurity.blogspot.com/

Age: 23  
Gender: Male



Industry: Military

Occupation: Ice Cream Man

Location: An Nasiriyah, Scania, BIAP, TQ, Taji, Balad, Mosul, Baqubah: Iraq

Posts will be more scarce than normal; our new schedule is pretty unforgiving now that the new guys are arriving.

Same mission load with the added bonus of ferrying these assholes around to get inprocessed and qualified to transfer authority. Take a convoy up, sleep, bring a convoy down and immediately take another one back up or take a truck full of guys to the range to qualify or a crew to get verified on the road.

These guys came from the same lackluster training team at Fort Hood that we had; they knew their mission a year ago and they spent 3 months kicking in doors and road marching and other shit when they should have been out in the parking lot learning how to drive the 1151 series Humvee or an ASV.

My training schedule would have these dudes sitting in their trucks for 20 hours in the parking lot to condition their asscheeks to their next 12 months or passing 50 semi-trucks at 50mph to weed out the pussies who freak out and drive off the side of the road.

**But whatever, they showed up like we showed up; with 2 guys per platoon qualified on a crew-served weapon and no one knowing what an 1151 or ASV is or how to drive it.**

We also moved tents; we moved from 4-man tents with mattresses to 15-man tents (same size tent) with cots. You can't turn the AC off and it's absolutely freezing in here.

As I write this I am wearing thermal pants under sweatpants with two sweatshirts on inside my sleeping bag.

Why didn't we have this AC in the old tents? Why is the awesome AC reserved for transient tents?

**We got yelled for trying to take our mattresses to put them on our cots, despite having 6 shipping containers full of brand new ones.**

**They are going to throw these old ones away anyways but we can't take them to the new tents.**

**Of course, this order comes from someone who has his own 2-room trailer with attached bathroom (the sergeant major).**

We are now officially the disgruntled assholes in civilian clothes at the far end of the base, just like how we viewed SFC Nunn's platoon and the rest of the 1-160th when we arrived here.

The Squadron Commander (officially the SCO; unofficially known as the Cinnamon Scone) put up a big spreadsheet at every company TOC; it has pie charts showing how many EO (equal opportunity) complaints the squadron (battalion) has had and how it is unacceptable.

It also has on there how he does not give a shit about his OER (officer evaluation report) and that he will do whatever he wants here.

**Also that despite army regs, we will be taking a PT test here because we should be in the best shape of our lives due to all the time we have off, with provided tables and pie charts comparing our mission load to the 1-160th's with big letters reading: "YOU'RE BUSY BUT YOU'RE NOT THAT BUSY, SHUT THE FUCK UP".**

True, we don't have as many missions as the 1-160th because they supported the surge and now the surge is over, but they also went to every FOB in country and we usually only go to one.

However, their days off were not filled with dumb classes and briefings so they had time to workout. Also, they didn't have 20% of their battalion doing 50% of the work, as is the case with our company.

As expected of him, this data analysis shows the boredom and garrison environment of Kuwait and how much time you have to kill here if you sit here everyday.

**His previous work includes a letter written to every soldier full of swear words and threats, titled: "YOU ARE FUCKING UP AND YOU ARE ABOUT TO GET FUCKED UP."**

**In case you were wondering what made people shoot officers in the back in previous wars; these are the guys that got shot in the back and this is probably why they don't leave the FOB anymore.**

One of the guys in the squad had a t-shirt on that said "Git it done southern style" with the siloheutte of a woman and the confederate flag. The SCO approached him in the chow hall and said "that t-shirt probably doesn't offend the blacks but it might offend women" then told him that "I still love you" and walked away.

I was sitting at the same table and was completely amazed. A real professional soldier and officer.

I'm too short for this shit.

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**

**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**

# **Big Surprise! Evidence Obtained By Torture Ruled Useless**

10.29.08 Washington Post

A Guantanamo detainee's confession to Afghan police was obtained through torture and cannot be used as evidence in his trial, a military judge ruled. The detainee, Mohammed Jawad, is charged with wounding U.S. soldiers with a grenade. The ruling casts further doubt on the wobbly case against Jawad, who is scheduled for trial at Guantanamo on Jan. 5.

The military prosecutor in the case quit last month, alleging that the U.S. government was suppressing evidence that cast doubt on Jawad's guilt.

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## **A Vice-Presidential Candidate For Immediate Withdrawal From Iraq & Afghanistan Visits New Orleans.**

**6:00pm Friday  
October 31, 2008  
Marigny Perks Coffee House  
2401 Burgundy St.  
New Orleans**

From: H  
Sent: October 28, 2008

Do you want to speak with a candidate for Vice-President of the United States who, at the end of the day, answers to the working class rather than the corporate ruling class. If so, then make plans to hear Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for the Vice-President of the United States, on her upcoming visit to New Orleans.

Alyson, unlike Barrack Obama and John McCain, is not a member of the millionaires club called the United States Senate. She is a meatpacker who has devoted her life to fighting for the rights of the oppressed and exploited. And, unlike Obama and McCain, Alyson is putting forward working class solutions to the capitalist crisis now gripping the world. The answer of her campaign to the problem of rising unemployment includes the institution of WPA style public works program and a reduction of the full time work week from 40 hours to thirty-hours without any reduction in pay.

**Alyson, and her presidential running mate Roger Calero, also stand squarely behind the demand for an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.**

And, again unlike Obama and McCain, Kennedy and Calero are fighting for a single payer national health care plan. Finally, Kennedy and Calero stood firm against the Obama and McCain supported \$700 billion bailout for Wall Street.

Don't miss the opportunity to speak to a Vice-Presidential candidate in New Orleans who fights for struggles that really benefit the working class majority of people in this city.

You can meet with the Socialist Worker Party Vice-Presidential candidate at the times and places listed below:

For information call at (504) 587-0080

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Action**



A damaged police vehicle after a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad October 30, 2008. The attack wounded two policemen, police said. REUTERS/Kareem Raheem

Oct 29 (Reuters) & Oct 30 (Reuters)

A parked car bomb near a police patrol killed one policeman and wounded six others in southern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents wounded an Iraqi policeman in a drive-by shooting in western Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three policemen when it struck their patrol in southeastern Mosul, police said.

A sniper shot dead an Iraqi soldier in western Mosul, police said.

A sticky bomb -- designed to be easily attachable to targets by magnets or other means - that had been fixed to a police vehicle wounded two policemen in central Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Three soldiers on a foot patrol were seriously wounded by a bomb in western Mosul, north of Baghdad, police said.

A parked car bomb near a police patrol killed one policeman and wounded six others in southern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three policemen in eastern Baghdad, police said.

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

### **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**

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

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

## October 31, 1978: Honorable Anniversary



Striking Iranian oil workers: Photo: December 1978 issue of Resistance, A publication of the Iranian Students Association in the U.S. (ISAUS)

Carl Bunin Peace History Oct 29-Nov 4

Thirty thousand Iranian oil workers went on strike against the repressive rule of the U.S.-installed Shah and for democracy, civil and human rights.

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Win One For Our Side:  
Jury Refuses To Convict Bronx  
Activist Grandmother Attacked by  
Police:**

# **“Until People Can Walk The Streets Without Fear Of Rogue Police, I Will Continue To Advocate On Behalf Of Stolen Lives”**

October 28, 2008 Juanita Young Support Committee

On October 17, 2008, after two and a half hours of deliberations, a jury of three women and three men returned a resounding NOT GUILTY verdict on all six charges leveled against Bronx [New York] resident Juanita Young.

For four days, the jury heard vastly contradictory testimony from three police officers, an EMT, Young, and her neighbor about an incident that occurred on November 26, 2006, when a 911 call was made for assistance for Young's teenage daughter, who has had emotional trauma since her brother Malcolm Ferguson was killed by police in 2000.

Police asserted Juanita Young assaulted them and prevented them from doing their job.

But, when Young took the stand, she revealed to the jury her years of continual harassment by the police due to her ceaseless activism to get justice for her slain son.

She told the court that what happened on that cold November night was simply a continuation of that harassment.

**The legally blind grandmother, who faced charges of Obstructing Governmental Administration, Criminal Possession of a Weapon, two counts of Attempted Assault, and two counts of Harassment, described up to eight police entering her home and brutally attacking her, then arresting her.**

As the lawyers had been instructed to relate only what took place up to the arrest, the jury never found out about how Young was taken in handcuffs to Jacobi Hospital, where she was handcuffed to a bed for four days while suffering life-threatening asthma, bruised ribs, and head, leg and back trauma.

During that time, lawyers and supporters were given contradictory information as to why Young was being held under such conditions, the charges being changed almost daily.

After four days of this cruel treatment, Young, weak and terrorized, was handed a DAT (desk appearance ticket), which spelled out most of the charges that stood throughout her trial.

**Juanita Young has been a strong and relentless voice against police brutality since the killing of her son, 23-year old Malcolm Ferguson, by plainclothes cop Louis Rivera on March 1, 2000.**

**While the DA and NYPD ruled Ferguson's death as a "justifiable homicide," last year a Bronx jury awarded Young \$10 million in a wrongful death suit (more than her attorneys had asked for). The city is appealing.**

Young is also strong in her support of other families whose loved ones have died at the hands of the NYPD, joining with other families in Parents Against Police Brutality and through her work with The October 22 Coalition and The Justice Committee.

**But, this has made her a hated target of the NYPD, especially the Bronx's 43rd Precinct. Since Malcolm's murder, Young and her kids have been harassed, arrested and, in some cases, brutalized. In 2003, during the course of an illegal eviction from her home of six years, police pushed the handcuffed woman, causing her to stumble down the stairs and fracture her wrist.**

**She was told by one of the cops, "No rallies for you today," and then held for 35 hours.**

**Charged with "criminal trespassing" and refusing to accept an ACD (adjournment contemplating dismissal), Young was acquitted of all charges at a bench trial.**

**Young then brought suit against the NYPD and won, with the jury awarding her \$1.35 million, which the City is also appealing.**

Next, in 2005 she was arrested for "disorderly conduct" during a World Can't Wait rally in NYC, after asking police why they had thrown another protester to the ground.

Refused medical attention while she was having an asthma attack under police custody and then hospitalized for three days, she later received a notice in the mail informing her that the charges had been dropped.

During this last case, once again police attempted character assassination and intimidation to justify their years of attacking Juanita and her family and to silence this powerful voice against police brutality. And, once again, truth won out and their blatant lies were impossible to ignore.

The Juanita Young Support Committee would like to thank the jury for seeing past the fabrications, Judge Clancy for being fair and impartial in the proceedings, Juanita's amazing lawyers Geoffrey Stewart and David Rankin, and all those who supported Juanita through this ordeal, coming to court, getting the word out, writing letters to the DA, etc.

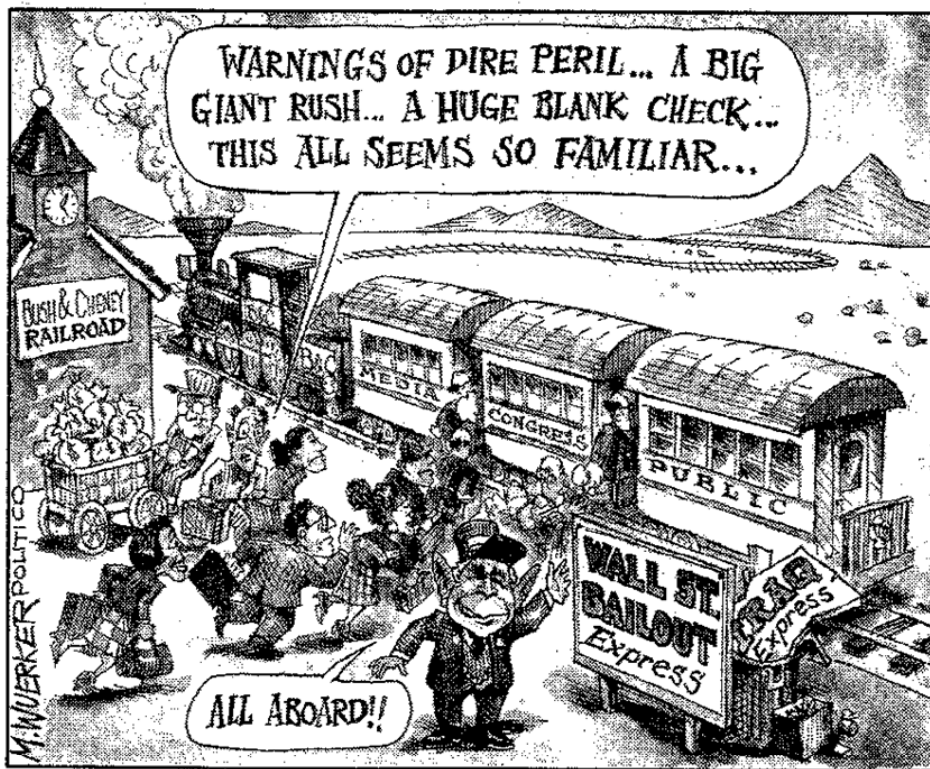
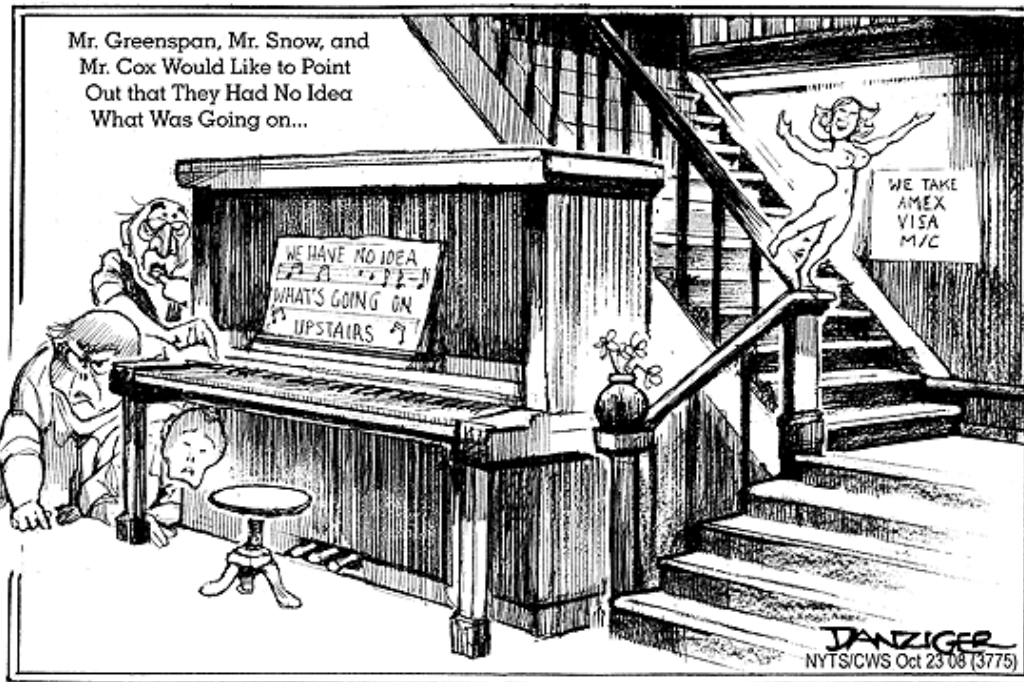
A statement from Juanita Young follows:

"I want to express my sincere gratitude to the jury for their thoughtful and just verdict. The panel acquitted me on all of the bogus charges, sending a strong message to law enforcement that the intimidation and brutalization of citizens will not stand. As a parent of a child wrongly murdered by police, I have paid a heavy price for speaking out against police abuse.

"But I will not be silenced. "Until people can walk the streets without fear of rogue police, I will continue to advocate on behalf of stolen lives."



The Piano Players at the Bawdy House





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

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

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

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/);

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

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