

GI SPECIAL 6K10:

SOMETIMES DREAMS COME TRUE



**Resistance In The
Military:
Dissent From Veterans And
Active-Duty Soldiers:
The GI Resistance Movement,
Containing GIs From Many Eras,
Continues To Grow”**

“Not Only Were We Lied Into The War,” He Says, “But It Is Lies That Are Keeping Us There”



October 10, 2008 By Buzzsawon, Buzzsawmag.org/ [Excerpts]

In 1968, Bill Perry was in Vietnam searching through bomb craters for the dead bodies of Vietnamese men, women and children.

“You would look down in there and you’d see a woman’s torso and legs and then you’d see her upper body over here, and that would count as two bodies,” Perry recalls.

“Then there’d be a mangled woman over there, the head of a baby, a leg of a baby, a torso of a baby over here.”

At the time, one of the few ways of measuring “progress” during the Indochina war was to send soldiers on such body count missions.

“It’s disgusting when you see bomb crater after bomb crater,” says Perry who served with the 101st Airborne Division. “But when you go and look through a couple hundred of them, that’s a lot of dead bodies.”

Perry came home from Vietnam an anti-war activist.

During his deployment he had been impressed by the Vietnamese people he had met. He mentions how unjust it had seemed to declare war on such a simplistic, agrarian society consisting of pious Buddhists who had such respect for one another.

“It was so unfair we were over there shitting all over these people,” he says.

Perry eventually joined the organization Vietnam Veterans Against the War, which boasted 20,000 members during the height of the GI resistance movement in 1971. His participation and the participation of thousands of other veterans in the GI movement is part of the forgotten--or intentionally overlooked--history of how and why the Vietnam War ended.

David Cortright, the author of *Soldiers in Revolt: GI Resistance during the Vietnam War* and himself an antiwar soldier who was drafted and stationed stateside in the late '60s, says that one of the reasons the GI movement has been left out of history is partially due to the discomfort the general public has with the idea of soldiers speaking out. "There's a reluctance in the society, the quite militarized society in which we live, to acknowledge that resistance exists in the military," says Cortright.

"It seems so subversive and contradictory."

Despite what contradictions society may link to the politically outspoken soldier, there's no denying the expanse of the GI movement in the late '60s and early '70s.



Robert Ward Reilly attends an antiwar protest in 2004. Photo courtesy of Ward Reilly.

Robert Ward Reilly, a member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, served from 1971 to 1974 in the infantry. He spent 32 months of his service in the south of Germany, where he says he and many other soldiers were "highly involved" in GI resistance.

"It was all over the whole world," he says, remembering how soldiers would disobey orders, from refusing to cut their hair to not showing up for formation, in an attempt to break down the discipline and structure of the military.

During his time in the service, Reilly went through two special court martial proceedings. One was for desertion, after he and three other soldiers moved to a different town in Germany for 45 days to make a political statement.

"I pled guilty in the hopes of getting thrown out," Reilly says. Instead he was given a prison sentence, which was eventually waived, and demoted to an E1--the lowest enlisted grade of private--before having to return to the infantry.

Not all antiwar soldiers at the time became politically active while still in the service. For many, the realization that what occurred in Vietnam was disconnected from what they were being told by the administration didn't come until after their contracts ended. This was true for Jim Murphy, who served in Vietnam with the Air Force for three months in 1966 and again from 1967 to 1968.

Murphy "woke up" in January 1971 after the Winter Soldier investigations--the first national event organized by Vietnam Veterans Against the War. The event involved testimonies from over a hundred veterans of war crimes and atrocities they claimed to have witnessed or committed during their service in Vietnam.

Two months later, Murphy participated in VVAW's Operation Dewey Canyon--named after two short invasions of Laos--which was a five-day antiwar demonstration in Washington D.C. that culminated in over 800 soldiers throwing their medals, ribbons and other mementos of their combat service onto the steps of the Capital.

"It was just incredible," says Murphy. "The act of throwing your medals back, the whole thing just felt right. For once I was surrounded by people where I felt totally comfortable."

Forty years later, these weathered antiwar activists are responding to a new challenge: a growing antiwar movement among the recent veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Over five and a half years since the invasion of Iraq--and seven years since the beginning of the war in Afghanistan--veterans are once again uniting against wars they deem unjust.

In 2004, when a small contingent of Iraq war veterans gathered at the annual Veterans for Peace conference, Vietnam vets were ready for them. "We made a vow back then that never again would one veteran abandon the next generation," says Reilly, remembering the alienation veterans from his generation felt from other vets when they returned home. "And we stuck to that. We were actually organized and waiting for them to form when they finally started appearing."

Shortly after the conference, the organization Iraq Veterans Against the War was founded.

IVAW has since grown to include 53 chapters around the United States and Canada--four of which are located on Army bases and whose membership consists of active-duty soldiers.

There are approximately 1,200 veterans in the organization who are advocating for the complete withdrawal of troops from Iraq, full benefits for returning veterans and reparations to the Iraqi people.

"(Vietnam veterans) are our predecessors," says Adam Kokesh, an Iraq war vet who is currently on the board of directors of IVAW. "They're the models for our organization."

Kokesh, who served with the marines, volunteered to go to Iraq in 2003 with the 3rd Civil Affairs Group. He was deployed to Fallujah for eight months in 2004, shortly after the Blackwater contractors were killed in the city.

"I was against the war before the war," says Kokesh. "But for a while, I guess, I supported the occupation because I thought we had a responsibility to clean up our mess." However, Kokesh says his experiences in Iraq changed the way he viewed the conflict.

He says he was upset at the lack of priority civil affairs were given. As a soldier who volunteered to go to Iraq with the expectations to work at improving the infrastructure and reconstruction efforts, he became disillusioned when these expectations failed to be met.

"Not only were we lied into the war," he says, "but it is lies that are keeping us there."

Cortright likens this experience to that of Vietnam-era soldiers.

"We were told back then that it was a noble struggle against communism," says Cortright. "Today, our troops, our country was told it was to prevent weapons of mass destruction or to fight against Al Qaeda and the terrorists and all of that turned out to be a lie.

"So that sense of betrayal and of being lied to by your government is very similar."

"I'm stunned by how much involvement there is in the active-duty military considering the fact they're all volunteers," says Reilly.

Jonathan Hutto, an active duty soldier in the Navy, author of *Antiwar Soldier: How to Dissent Within the Ranks of the Military* and co-founder of the Appeal for Redress, a way for active-duty soldiers to voice to Congressional leaders their opposition to the war in Iraq, is one of many active-duty soldiers who have made the choice to speak out.

"The risk is putting yourself out there in such a way where who knows what can happen to you," says Hutto. "This is the largest military industrial complex in the world, so certainly you take that into account. But then again, you don't take it into account to repress yourself, you take it into account, at least for me, it was to prepare myself."

And prepare they do. The Appeal for Redress is a way for active duty personnel to protest the war by following the Department of Defense directives regarding dissent within the military, which has already been taken advantage of by over 1,000 soldiers. The directive guarantees active duty soldiers the freedom of expression as long as it is off base, when they are off duty and when they are out of uniform.

Not all soldiers decide to follow these directives.

Adam Kokesh was still a marine in the Individual Ready Reserve, meaning he no longer was active duty, when he wore parts of his marine uniform, with the insignia removed, during a street theater mock combat patrol in Washington D.C. in March 2007. Afterward he received a letter from the Marines that said he had violated the uniform code of military justice by wearing his uniform at the event.

His response: "go fuck yourself."

Eventually Kokesh had to attend a hearing to determine whether his honorable discharge would be changed to a dishonorable one. Armed with his attorney, Mike Lebowitz, they argued that because Kokesh was in the IRR, he technically was a civilian until recalled to active duty. Therefore, the UCMJ did not apply to him. The situation ended with Kokesh's discharge being changed to general with honorable conditions, which is a step below his original honorable one.

"Every single guy that volunteered and went over and came back could be in the 'war hero' status here in this country for the rest of their lives without saying anything," Reilly points out.

"For them to speak out when there's no need for them to, it just makes them all the more justifiable and real."

Regardless of any increase in pressure from the military, the dissent from veterans and active-duty soldiers persists and the GI resistance movement, containing GIs from many eras, continues to grow.

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Local Soldier Killed In Iraq



November 14, 2008 WCVB

BOSTON -- A Mansfield soldier was one of two U.S. servicemen shot to death Wednesday by an Iraqi soldier in Mosul, Iraq, the Sun Chronicle reported.

U.S. Army Spc. Corey Shea, a cavalry scout for the Army's First Armored Division, was killed when an Iraqi soldier opened fire on Americans at a joint security station, the paper reported. Shea, 21, and another soldier died. Six others were wounded.

Shea was a 2005 graduate of Mansfield High School, where he played hockey.

Shea was supposed to return from Iraq in January.

Iraqi Soldier Kills 2 U.S. Troops In Zenjili; Six More Wounded

Nov 12 AP & Reuters & By FAISAL SIDIQ and ZOE MAGEE, ABC News & McClatchy

An Iraqi soldier opened fire on U.S. troops Wednesday in northern Iraq, killing two American soldiers and wounding six in a military compound before he was shot to death, officials said.

It said he fired a "drum load" of ammunition at American soldiers.

A drum load holds a "significantly" higher number of bullets than the magazine that's issued to Iraqi soldiers. U.S. Army spokeswoman Maj. Peggy Kageleiry said Mohammed said something to another Iraqi soldier and began shooting the Americans.

The U.S. military said the attack on the American soldiers occurred in an Iraqi army compound in the Zenjili district of Mosul province, which has been the focus of intensive joint U.S.-Iraqi operations.

The Iraqi soldier opened fire on the Americans in central Mosul, Iraqi Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Mohammed al-Askari said.

He said the Americans then killed the Iraqi soldier, who was identified as Barzan al-Hadidi.

"There was no communication. This guy walked into the courtyard and said something and started shooting," Kageleiry said.

"This is completely unexpected. These soldiers have a really good relationship with their Iraqi counterparts." **[Obviously.]**

Facts On The Ground

Nov 12 AP

In the first nine days of November, there were at least 19 bombings in Baghdad, compared with 28 for all of October and 22 in September, according to an Associated Press tally.

Theater of the Absurd: Sworn Enemies; A Catch-22 For Iraq Detainees



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: There are some absurdities here, makes the head spin.]

September 04 By Nir Rosen, September/October 2008 Mother Jones

One night in Baghdad, I accompanied Lieutenant Rob Johnston of the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment on a raid into the Abu Dshir neighborhood, searching for supporters of Moqtada al-Sadr and his Mahdi Army militia.

The soldiers broke down the gate of a home and walked in.

“We are not Mahdi Army,” an old man protested. It was a middle-class house with none of the political and religious symbols usually associated with Sadr supporters.

Five women and a child were herded into the living room as three men were interrogated.

“We hate the Mahdi Army,” said an old woman, “believe me.” The women were made to stand, empty their pockets, and pat themselves down.

One of the men was a laborer. Another worked in a pastry shop. Their brother served in the Iraqi army. The men were shown a photo lineup of Mahdi Army suspects, but they recognized none.

“We are not terrorists,” the 70-year-old patriarch said. “We like the government.”

Most of their protests went untranslated, but when the old man complained that his handcuffs were too tight, the 22-year-old Johnston put his finger between the cuffs and the man’s wrists.

“If I can fit one finger, it’s okay,” he told the man, whose sons were taken away, as were their phones, computer, cash, personal papers, CDs, and other objects of interest.

“They probably got some propaganda in there,” a sergeant explained as he carried off a hard drive.

On the way back to base, the tired US soldiers bantered in their Stryker: “You know what I hate most about detainee duty?” said one. “Watching those motherfuckers shit.”

American troops currently hold more than 20,000 detainees in two main Iraq prisons, and unknown numbers in smaller holding facilities. Very few have ever been charged. In December, the 1-28 Infantry asked elders in Baghdad’s Jihad district to name neighborhood residents who should be released.

A list of 700 men was submitted, most of them locked up for being “suspected of Shiite militant activity,” commanding officer Lt. Colonel Patrick Frank told me.

Only 14 were approved that day for release. I went to see the ceremony the troops were holding for the occasion.

The Americans had built a “reconciliation hall” for the committee of men they had selected to guide the neighborhood.

Frank had maps he showed local leaders, with red stars or green stars indicating whether violence had gone down in their area.

He gave a metal emblem of the black lion that symbolized his unit to an American correspondent in case she ever had problems.

“The Iraqis know us and love us,” he said. “Just show it to them and you’ll be fine.”

Outside the hall, an angry young woman waited with her two small children.

Her husband had been arrested 15 months earlier while sleeping on his roof to avoid the summer heat.

He'd been rounded up with all the other men of military age in the area after a neighbor was shot.

Their son had been born while he was in prison.

She did not want to talk reconciliation.

The 14 prisoners were brought in handcuffed.

The few journalists present were ordered not to take pictures until the cuffs were removed.

Behind each of the men sat a “guarantor” for a “bond” they would sign. “It’s not an oath on the Koran,” Frank explained. “It’s on their honor. A guarantor is a mentor, just like in the US when an individual runs into trouble with the law and somebody steps up to mentor them. The reconciliation committee wants to see these 14 men do well.”

The Iraqis seemed slightly amused.

“We want to make this a special event,” Frank said, asking the restless men to quiet down. “Thank you for being patient, but this is for you.”

Prisoners and guarantors got up pair by pair to sign each bond.

An Iraqi lieutenant colonel played his part. “The government is in control now,” he scolded, “not like before. There is a state and there is law.” He urged them to join the army or the police.

Frank was uncertain what to call the prisoners, since “detainees” was no longer accurate.

“We will now ask each individual to stand,” he said. “Raise your right hand. Guarantors, put your left hand on the shoulder of the individual.”

The men began: “I acknowledge that recent signings of the Reconciliation Agreement have ushered in an era of peace and partnership between Shia, Sunni, Kurdish, Christian, the Jaysh al Mahdi, Iraqi Security Forces, and American Forces. Based on a review of my arrest record, Iraqi Government and Coalition Force leaders have agreed that my immediate release would be beneficial to the reconciliation process. I pledge to not commit any violations of the Reconciliation Agreement’s 12 points, violate Iraqi Law, or attack Coalition Forces.”

The men were not told what the 12 points were.

“As a proud Iraqi citizen living in Northwest Rashid”—a geographic designation that Iraqis do not use — “I will become a contributing member of the community in the historic effort to rebuild this proud nation.” The guarantors swore that they were “bound by honor” to notify American or Iraqi authorities if the “individual” violated the oath.

Then Frank spoke. “The coalition would like to welcome all the members of the free Jihad community,” he said. “The area of Jihad has been changed a lot. Violence has been reduced tremendously, and this reconciliation is proof.”

He did not explain with whom the freed men were reconciling.

“With your release from detention, we expect that you will become part of the reconciliation, and we look forward to working with you and the guarantor, the person behind you.

All the citizens of Baghdad are watching Jihad now,” he added, even though the only Iraqi journalist present was a lone freelance cameraman.

I left for a meeting at the Ministry of Interior.

On the way, my driver stopped to buy black market gas from a man sitting on the side of the road, near an Iraqi police truck. I handed over a \$20 bill, which the man thought was fake.

He took it to the police to see what they thought. Iraqis — except for Sunni radicals — fastidiously groom their beards, and I had been too busy to go to the barber.

The police asked for my ID.

Upon hearing my accent and seeing my US passport, they panicked. They couldn’t read English, and I did not look like an American. They ordered me out of the car but kept their distance, believing me to be a suicide bomber.

Only one was brave enough to try to handcuff me, but after he cuffed one wrist I refused to give him the other one, thinking they might kidnap me. We struggled while another policeman poked his Kalashnikov into my rib cage.

I asked them to let me call my contact at the Ministry of Interior, but they feared the phone would detonate the suicide vest I might be wearing.

My driver pleaded with them, claiming I was Iranian, but they insisted I come with them, swearing on all the Shiite imams that they would not harm me since we were all Shiites.

We drove to their headquarters, where their commander stared at my IDs for several minutes as I listed all the officials I could think of.

Eventually he sent me on my way. I ended up spending much of the day at a government safe house, where all the televisions were tuned to Shiite religious channels.

They took me upstairs to their private barber to correct my Sunni-looking beard.

I asked for a Mahdi Army shave, and he happily obliged.

“The Devices Used By Our Security Forces Can Detect Nothing And Its Only A Part Of Some Business Made By Some Officials In The Ministry To Earn Some Money”

November 12, 2008 By Laith, Inside Iraq

Once again, I'll give an example of corruption; the big monster that destroy Iraq. I know I talked about this subject many times but this time its a kind of corruption that causes casualties.

Its the corruption of the explosive detecting devices that the Iraqi security forces use.

While passing through many checkpoint; I found out that these devices are useless and can not detect any kind of explosions.

The first time I found out this fact was few days ago. I was with my friend in his car coming to work. When our car passed through the checkpoint, the Iraqi soldier walked beside the car carrying the detecting device.

The antenna of the device moved towards our car which means that we have explosives. The soldier ordered us to park aside.

My friend did exactly what the soldier wanted. Another soldier came towards us and told my friend to open the trunk and he searched it. he didn't find anything.

While searching our car, a soldier came riding his motorbike and carrying his AK 47 gun. He passed through the checkpoint. I was looking at him when I saw that the device didn't detect anything although the gun was loaded.

I thought it is only the device was broken.

The second incident was in Abo Nowas street in downtown Baghdad. Another kind of the detecting devices is used in one of the check point.

Again, the devices detected something in our car. We stopped and the policeman checked it but he found nothing.

He came towards us and asked “anyone of wear perfume?” I said quickly “yes I do” then the man said “ok you can go.” I was like OMG. What kind of detecting devices our forces have”.

One of my colleagues told me that a high rank officer in the ministry of interior affairs told him that the devices used by our security forces can detect nothing and its only a part of some business made by some officials in the ministry to earn some money.

I don't know what to say about this kind of corruption. It costs lives of innocent people. I don't know when its the time to start the real battle against corruption! I pray it would start so soon because we need to start this important battle.

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. soldiers patrol the town of Baquba in the Diyala province October 14, 2008.
REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

G.I. Killed In Bati Kot

11/13/08 (RTTNews) & The Associated Press & BBC

An attack targeting a U.S.-led coalition convoy at a crowded market in Bati Kot district in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province Thursday killed an American soldier and ten Afghan civilians, besides wounding 58 others, media reports said.

The Nangarhar attacker detonated an explosives-laden vehicle close to the US convoy as it passed a livestock market.

“One American soldier was wounded in the bombing and he died during transportation,” said Major John Redfield, a spokesman for the coalition.

The incident occurred at 7:40 a.m. local time (0310 GMT) when the bomber driving an explosive-laden car detonated it next to a convoy of the Coalition forces on a busy fruit-and- animal market on the Jalalabad-Torkham highway, killing seven civilians on the spot, provincial police chief said.

Charred and twisted remain of cars that were destroyed in the blast smoldered for hours after the attack on Afghanistan's main road to the nearby Pakistani. A U.S. military vehicle was among the wreckage.

Two Royal Marines Killed In Garmsir District

13 Nov 08 Ministry of Defence

It is with deep sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that two Royal Marines were killed as a result of an explosion in the Garmsir District of southern Helmand yesterday afternoon, Wednesday 12 November 2008.

The two Royal Marines were from the UK Landing Force Command Support Group, operating as part of Task Force Helmand's Information Exploitation Group.

They were taking part in a joint patrol with soldiers from the Afghan Security Forces when their vehicle was struck by an explosive device.

Abergele Soldier Shot In Helmand

Nov 13 2008 by David Simister, North Wales Weekly News

A SOLDIER from Abergele is being treated in hospital after being shot while serving in Afghanistan.

Simon Jackson, 19, below, was flown back to Britain on Monday after suffering a gunshot wound to his leg when he was on manoeuvres in the Helmand Province, and is currently undergoing emergency medical treatment.

His father Stephen said: “I felt sick to the stomach. He'd only been out there three weeks, then on Saturday we got the call to tell us he'd been shot.”

It is understood that Simon, a trooper and tank driver, was travelling with the Queen's Dragoon Guards at around 5.30pm last Saturday when he was shot through the leg, damaging his fibula and tibia.

He was transferred from RAF Brize Norton to Birmingham and Solihull Hospital. His injuries are not thought to be life-threatening but he will require skin grafts.

Tanker Bomb Blows Up Kandahar Provincial Council Office

11/12/08 KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AFP)

A bomb-filled tanker exploded outside the office of the provincial council in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar Wednesday, killing six people and wounding 42, a governor said. Wali Karzai, brother of President Hamid Karzai and head of the council, was in the building at the time but was unharmed. "I am fine and safe," he told reporters later.

The insurgent Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast. A spokesman, Yousuf Ahmadi, told AFP by telephone the target was the provincial council.

The explosives-filled tanker dug a crater about four metres (13 feet) deep and eight metres wide into the road just outside the council building, an AFP reporter said.

"Six people were killed including an intelligence employee, two intelligence guards and three passers-by," Kandahar province governor Rahmatullah Raufi told a press conference. "Forty-two others are wounded including two provincial council members.

The explosion destroyed fences around the council compound and knocked down a wall of the building, also sweeping away a security post.

Car dealer Haji Gulalai was at the provincial council office for a meeting. "As we entered the main room to meet with Wali Karzai and council members, we heard a big explosion," he said.

British Forces' Death Toll Hits 300

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, The Military Project]

11.13.08 The Press Association

The British military death toll in Afghanistan and Iraq hit 300 when two Royal Marines were killed in an explosion in Helmand province.

Two-Thirds Of British Population Believe UK Troops Should Be Withdrawn From Afghanistan In The Next Year

13 November 2008 The Scotsman

A survey published by ICM Research yesterday showed more than two-thirds of the population believe UK troops should be withdrawn from Afghanistan in the next year.

The poll was commissioned by BBC4.

Resistance Action

11/12/08 ASSOCIATED PRESS & Nov 14 (AFP) & Nov 15 By HEIDI VOGT, Associated Press Writer Heidi Vogt, Associated Press Writer

Monday, a group of insurgents halted a truck carrying what appeared to be a NATO jeep, setting the military vehicle on fire.

Three Afghan construction workers were shot dead by attackers in a passing vehicle in the eastern province of Khost as they had left their lodgings and headed to work, Ismail Khail district governor Dawlat Khan Qayomi told AFP.

An attacker detonated an explosives-filled car near a police vehicle just outside of Khost city. Three policemen were wounded, one of them seriously, provincial governor Arsala Jamal told AFP. A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said his group had carried out the attack.

Afghan police said two national intelligence agents and one police officer were killed late Friday in a bomb attack on their vehicle south of Kabul. They were hit while responding to an earlier bomb attack that injured three police officers, regional police commander Gen. Zalmay Oryakhail said.

TROOP NEWS

**“I Served My Country With Honor
And I Am Still Trying To Figure Out
For What Reason?”**

“For What Just Cause?”



November 12, 2008 Military Families Speak Out [Excerpt]

Specialist Joe Hafley, a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War and Military Families Speak Out who has had to fight to get treatment for his own Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, agreed.

Hafley served in Iraq with the U.S. Army Reserves from 2004-2005, and his brother, a Major with the U.S. Army Reserves is scheduled to deploy to Iraq early next year.

When Hafley returned from Iraq, the Veterans Administration diagnosed him with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Social Anxiety Disorder, and severe depression -- but ruled that none of those conditions were the result of his service in Iraq.

He said:

“My treatment at the VA was belittling and frustrating.

“To have them diagnose me with PTSD and not attribute it to my service in Iraq is a slap in the face. To have them tell me the problems could be the result of failed relationships rather than the result of my experiences in combat makes me feel that as a veteran I have no place at the VA.

“The thing that is most baffling to me is this 800 pound gorilla in the room not being addressed. Why are we feeling hopeless? Why do we have failed relationships?

“The common denominator is we all served in Iraq.

“Maybe my feeling of hopelessness is that I served my country with honor and I am still trying to figure out for what reason?

“For what just cause?

**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/)



"Must be a tough objective. Th' old man says we're gonna have th' honor of liberatin' it."

By Bill Mauldin, Up Front, Henry Holt and Company, Inc., New York, 1945
[Thanks to "Comrade Tribune," Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR**

NOT ANOTHER LIFE ALL HOME NOW



Relatives and family members of U.S. soldiers of the 1st Armored Division welcome them home at their home base in Wiesbaden, November 12, 2008. The soldiers of the 1st AD returned from a 15 month deployment to Iraq. REUTERS/Kai Pfaffenbach

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**“Iraq’s Two Most Powerful Clerics
On Friday Challenged The
Government’s Planned Security
Pact With The United States”**

“Most People See The Americans As Occupiers”

“I Repeat My Call On The Occupier To Get Out From The Land Of Our Beloved Iraq, Without Retaining Bases Or Signing Agreements”



Nov. 14, 2008: Iraqis in Sadr City, Baghdad hold a picture of nationalist political leader Muqtada al-Sadr and the Iraqi flag as they demonstrate against the proposed security pact between Iraq and the U.S. that would keep U.S. armed forces in Iraq for three more years. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

11/14/08 By HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD – Iraq’s two most powerful clerics on Friday challenged the government’s planned security pact with the United States, undercutting efforts to reach a deal before the U.N. mandate for American troops in Iraq expires Dec. 31.

Nationalist leader Muqtada al-Sadr renewed threats to unleash his militia fighters to attack U.S. forces unless they leave Iraq immediately, and Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani vowed to intervene if he concludes the proposed agreement governing the presence of U.S. forces infringes on national sovereignty.

The pressure from the clerics showcases the precarious position of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Most of his allies reject the deal, including the senior partner in his coalition, the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, and his own spiritual guide, Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah of Lebanon.

Al-Sadr's threat to attack American troops if they don't leave came in a statement that was read to thousands of supporters at Friday prayers in Sadr City enclave and the city of Kufa, south of Baghdad.

"I repeat my call on the occupier to get out from the land of our beloved Iraq, without retaining bases or signing agreements," he said. "If they do stay, I urge the honorable resistance fighters ... to direct their weapons exclusively against the occupier."

Al-Sadr called on breakaway cells from the Mahdi Army to join the "Promised Day Brigade," a name he used for the first time Friday.

It refers to a unit of seasoned and loyal fighters who remained armed after he ordered the militia disbanded in July.

But the biggest threat to the proposed agreement was the warning relayed from al-Sistani, who has the political muscle to sink the deal.

An official close to al-Sistani said Friday that the cleric has vowed to "directly intervene" if the final version of the agreement breaches Iraq's sovereignty. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

Al-Sistani does not talk to reporters, instead conveying his political views through edicts or leaks by officials at his office in Najaf.

The tone of Friday's comment suggests he wants al-Maliki's government to heed his concerns before it refers the draft to parliament.

Most of Iraq's Shiites consider al-Sistani to be infallible, and politicians routinely consult with him before they take a position on key issues.

The agreement would have virtually no chance of parliamentary approval if he publicly spoke against it.

Al-Sistani's reported view was stronger than an Oct. 29 announcement from the cleric's office that said he wanted Iraqi sovereignty to be protected in the agreement.

The escalation by al-Sistani is likely to rattle al-Maliki, whose government has sought changes to the pact to satisfy critics.

Many politicians have looked to al-Sistani for political cover on the question of the agreement, fearing that publicly supporting it in a country where most people see the Americans as occupiers could cost their parties in provincial elections due by Jan. 31 and a national ballot late in 2009.

Resistance Action



A damaged police vehicle after a bomb attack in Baghdad November 12, 2008 wounded two policemen, in Sadoun street in central Baghdad. REUTERS/Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud

11.12.08 (AP) & Reuters & By FAISAL SIDIQ and ZOE MAGEE, ABC News & 11/13/08 Reuters & (CNN)

A roadside bomb blew up in northern Baghdad, officials said. Seven people, including three policemen, were injured.

A parked car bomb wounded two policemen, in Sadoun street in central Baghdad.

A roadside bomb wounded a policeman in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad on Tuesday, police said.

A bomb attached to a car wounded politician Ashur Yalda and his two bodyguards in Kirkuk on Tuesday, police said.

A woman who worked for the Mosul city government was shot outside her home. The attackers then entered the house and killed her sister. They left behind an explosive device which detonated when the police arrived to investigate. Three officers were injured.

A car bomber killed two policemen when he struck a police patrol in western Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles), west of Baghdad, Captain Ahmed al-Dulaimi of the Ramadi police force said.

A parked car bomb wounded five soldiers when it struck an army patrol in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles), north of Baghdad.

A roadside bomb wounded four policemen when it struck a police patrol in central Baghdad, police said.

An Iraqi Interior Ministry official said a car bomb exploded Thursday near an Iraqi army patrol in Hamadaniya, just northeast of Mosul in northern Iraq. Six Iraqi soldiers were wounded.

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

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

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

November 13, 1933: American Working-Class Heroes



Carl Bunin, Peace History November 10-16

The first recorded “sit-down” strike in the U.S. was staged by workers at the Hormel Packing Company in Austin, Minnesota. The tactic worked: Hormel agreed to submit wage demands to binding arbitration.

The success of this strike reinvigorated the labor movement, which had been in decline through the 1920s.

“Four hundred men, many of them armed with clubs, sticks and rocks, crashed through the plant entrance, shattering the glass doors and sweeping the guards before them.

“The strikers quickly ran throughout the plant to chase out non-union workers. One . . . group crashed through the doors of a conference room where Jay Hormel and five company executives were meeting and declared “We’re taking possession. So move out!” (Larry Engelmann, “We Were the Poor -- The Hormel Strike of 1933,” Labor History, Fall, 1974.)

The tactic worked: within four days Hormel agreed to submit wage demands to binding arbitration. The success of this strike reinvigorated the labor movement, which had been in decline throughout the 1920s.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

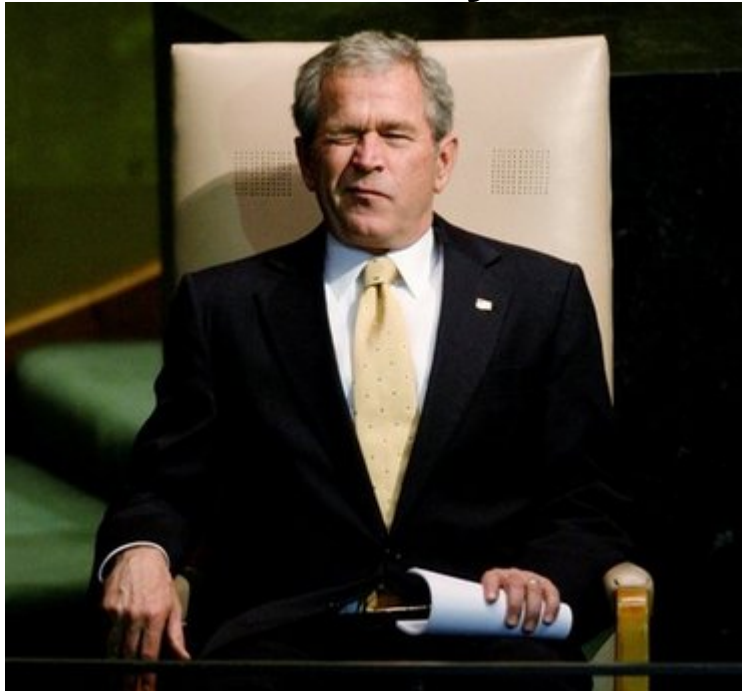
THE CONTRADICTION



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

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

Bush In Race Against Time To Wreck Country



The traitor Bush at the United Nations headquarters in New York, Nov. 13, 2008.
(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

November 13, 2008 The Borowitz Report

Confounding the conventional wisdom that he is a lame duck president with no agenda as his days in office dwindle, President George W. Bush is redoubling his efforts to mutilate the country before his term expires, aides confirmed today.

“President Bush has spent the first seven years and ten months of his presidency doing everything in his power to leave the United States in smoldering ruins,” said White House spokesperson Dana Perino. “He certainly is not going to let the final days of his tenure go to waste.”

While Ms. Perino said that President Bush is proud to have led the U.S. into a “pointless and totally avoidable catastrophe in Iraq” and “the most terrifying financial cataclysm since the Great Depression,” he is “in no way prepared to rest on his laurels.”

Mr. Bush is “delighted,” Ms. Perino said, that the stock market has lost one trillion dollars of its value in the last three days, but “that’s just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the damage he hopes to wreak in his remaining time in office.”

Among the targets for destruction that the President is currently eyeing, Ms. Perino indicated that the demise of the Big Three automakers was at the top of his list.

"If the President could preside over the disappearance of the Big Three and the millions of jobs they represent, that would be the ultimate feather in his cap," she said.

For his part, Mr. Bush took few questions from reporters today, saying that he had to return to the Oval Office to order random airstrikes over Belgium.

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: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Banks Said to be Using Bailout Money to Pay Themselves Bonuses



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

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