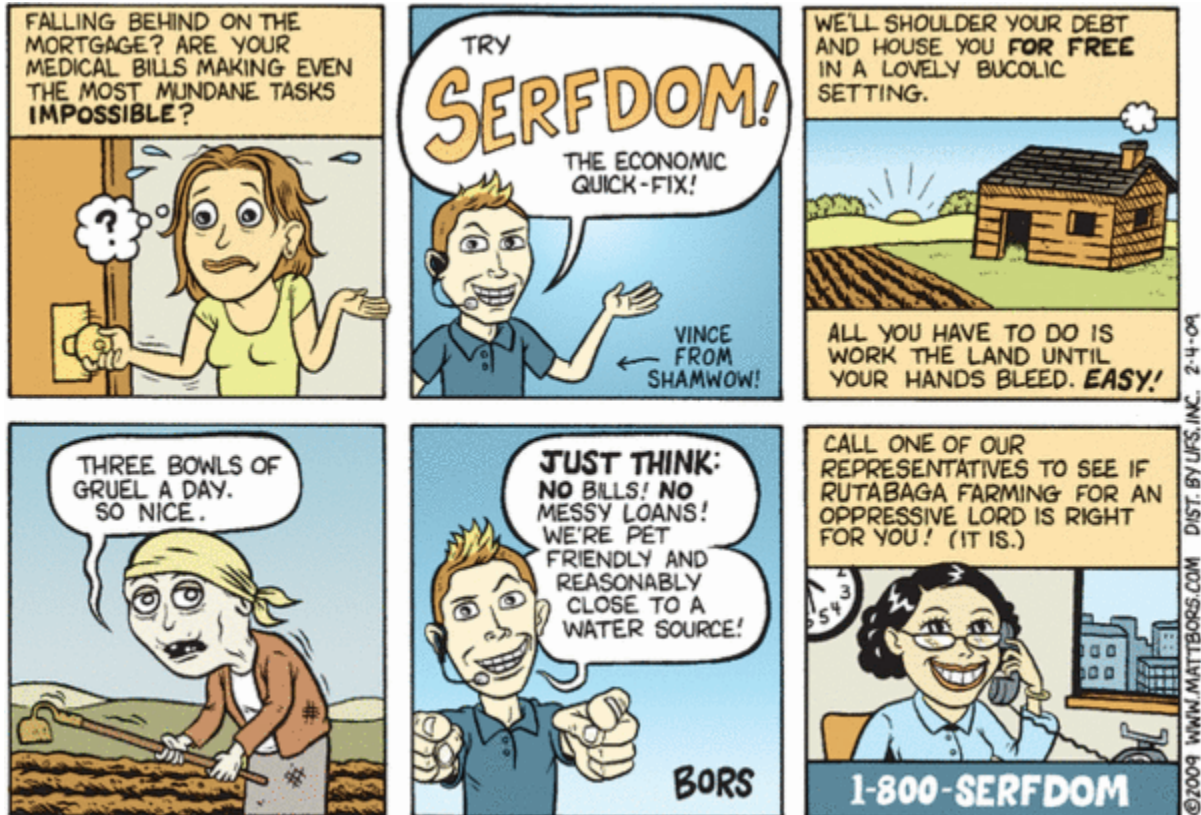


GI SPECIAL 7B7:



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Betrayal At The Top: The Traitor General Who Stopped Withdrawal From Iraq: And The Retired General In The Shadows Who Made It Happen:

“Odierno Launched A Guerrilla Campaign For A Change In Direction In Iraq”

“Plotting With Odierno, Keane Bypassed The Pentagon And Called The White House”

“He And A Small Group Of Advisers Decided On A Course Almost The Opposite Of The Plan Given Them”



February 8, 2009 By Thomas E. Ricks, The Washington Post [Excerpts]

Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno was an unlikely dissident, with little in his past to suggest that he would buck his superiors and push the U.S. military in radically new directions.

A 1976 West Point graduate and veteran of the Persian Gulf War and the Kosovo campaign, Odierno had earned a reputation as the best of the Army's conventional thinkers -- intelligent and ambitious, but focused on using the tools in front of him rather

than discovering new and unexpected ones. That image was only reinforced during his first tour in Iraq after the U.S. invasion in 2003.

As commander of the 4th Infantry Division in the Sunni Triangle, Odierno led troops known for their sometimes heavy-handed tactics, kicking in doors and rounding up thousands of Iraqi "MAMs" (military-age males). He finished his tour believing the fight was going well. "I thought we had beaten this thing," he would later recall.

Sent back to Iraq in 2006 as second in command of U.S. forces, under orders to begin the withdrawal of American troops and shift fighting responsibilities to the Iraqis, Odierno found a situation that he recalled as "fairly desperate, frankly."

So that fall, he became the lone senior officer in the active-duty military to advocate a buildup of American troops in Iraq, a strategy rejected by the full chain of command above him, including Gen. George W. Casey Jr., then the top commander in Iraq and Odierno's immediate superior.

Communicating almost daily by phone with retired Gen. Jack Keane, an influential former Army vice chief of staff and his most important ally in Washington, Odierno launched a guerrilla campaign for a change in direction in Iraq, conducting his own strategic review and bypassing his superiors to talk through Keane to White House staff members and key figures in the military.

["Keane, the Army Vice-Chief of Staff from 1999 to 2003, has ties to a network of active and retired four-star Army generals." From comment on the article from "time1212"]

It would prove one of the most audacious moves of the Iraq war, and one that eventually reversed almost every tenet of U.S. strategy.
[C]ommanders talk about keeping tens of thousands of soldiers there for many years to come.

The most prominent advocates of maintaining that commitment are the two generals who implemented the surge and changed the direction of the war: Odierno and David H. Petraeus, who replaced Casey in 2007 as the top U.S. commander in Iraq and became the figure most identified with the new strategy. But if Petraeus, now the head of U.S. Central Command, was the public face of the troop buildup, he was only its adoptive parent.

It was Odierno, since September the U.S. commander in Iraq, who was the surge's true father.

In arguing for an increase in U.S. forces in Iraq, Odierno went up against the collective powers at the top of the military establishment.

This account of the military's internal struggle over the direction of the Iraq war is based on dozens of interviews with Odierno, Petraeus and other U.S. officials conducted in 2007 and 2008.

In many cases, the interviews were embargoed for use until 2009.

As the newly designated second in command in Iraq, Odierno was given a clear understanding of the scenario that Bush, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and his military superiors expected to play out: The United States would begin drawing down its forces in Iraq, cutting the number of combat troops in 2007 by as much as a third.

But the more the general and his team considered this plan, the less they liked it.

He and a small group of advisers decided on a course almost the opposite of the plan given them.

Odierno realized he would need more troops -- and before long, it was clear to subordinates that Odierno was at odds with Casey, his commanding officer. "Casey fought it all the way," recalled Brig. Gen. Joe Anderson, then Odierno's chief of staff.

In an interview last year, Casey seemed puzzled when told that Odierno had grave doubts about the direction of the war back in late 2006.

"Ray never came to me and said, 'Look, I think you've got to do something fundamentally different here,' " he said.

But to their subordinates, the disagreement was obvious. "We would backbrief one general and get one set of guidances, and then brief the other and get a different set," remembered a senior Army planner in Iraq.

In Washington, Keane had his own doubts about U.S. policy and was not shy about expressing them.

More influential in retirement than most generals in active service, he allied himself with Odierno, advising him to ask for five new brigades.

But when Odierno raised that number with Casey, his commander dismissed the notion. "He said, 'You can do it with two brigades,'" Odierno recalled. "I said, 'I don't know.'"

Plotting with Odierno, Keane bypassed the Pentagon and called the White House, which he had already been lobbying for a troop surge.

Throughout that fall, Keane recalled, he had "a continuous dialogue" with Odierno. "He knows he needs more troops; he knows the strategy has got to change. His problem is General Casey."

The Joint Chiefs backed Casey. But after the Democratic victory in that November's congressional elections, Bush fired Rumsfeld, replacing him with former CIA director Robert M. Gates, who brought a skeptical view of how the Iraq war had been managed.

Shortly thereafter, Gates and Pace, the Joint Chiefs head, left for Iraq. In Baghdad they met with Abizaid of Central Command, Casey and Odierno.

The first two generals were at loggerheads with Odierno, the newer, younger and junior officer pushing hard for more troops. Gates listened without indicating which way he was leaning.

"The surge really began the day that Gates visited," Odierno later concluded.

In a recent interview, Odierno expressed surprise that a book by The Washington Post's Bob Woodward, published just as Odierno took command in Iraq, credited White House aides and others in Washington with developing the surge.

From Odierno's perspective -- and that of many other senior officers in Iraq -- the new strategy had been more or less conceived and executed by himself in Baghdad, with some crucial coaching from Keane in Washington.

"We thought we needed it, and we asked for it and we got it," he said, referring to the strategy.

Odierno's focus is now the future -- and trying to influence the decisions of the new administration.

Obama is likely to find Odierno and other generals arguing passionately that to come close to meeting his commitment to keeping U.S. troops safe, keeping Iraq edging toward stability and maintaining the pressure on extremists, he will need a relatively large force to remain in Iraq for many years.

MORE:

Odierno Refuses To Say How Many Troops He Will Keep In Iraq Cities After The June 2009 Deadline To Get Out Of Them: "Military Planners Are Now Quietly Acknowledging Many Will Stay Behind As Renamed 'Trainers' And 'Advisers' In What Are Effectively Combat Roles"

“No One Expects The American Presence To End Soon” “They Will Still Be Engaged In Combat, Just Called Something Else”

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

December 22, 2008 By ELISABETH BUMILLER, The New York Times Company
[Excerpts]

WASHINGTON — It is one of the most troublesome questions right now at the Pentagon, and it has started a semantic dance: What is the definition of a combat soldier?

More important, when will all American combat troops withdraw from the major cities of Iraq?

The short answers are that combat troops, defined by the military as those whose primary mission is to engage the enemy with lethal force, will have to be out of Iraqi cities by June 30, 2009, the deadline under a recently approved status-of-forces agreement between the United States and Iraq.

Even though the agreement with the Iraqi government calls for all American combat troops to be out of the cities by the end of June, military planners are now quietly acknowledging that many will stay behind as renamed “trainers” and “advisers” in what are effectively combat roles.

In other words, they will still be engaged in combat, just called something else.

Next comes December 2011, the deadline in the status-of-forces agreement to have all American troops out of Iraq.

To try to meet those deadlines without risking Iraq’s fragile and relative stability, military planners say they will reassign some combat troops to training and support of the Iraqis, even though the troops would still be armed and go on combat patrols with their Iraqi counterparts.

So although their role would be redefined, the dangers would not.

“If you’re in combat, it doesn’t make any difference whether you’re an adviser: you’re risking your life,” said Andrew Krepinevich, a military expert at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a research group.

“The bullets don’t have ‘adviser’ stenciled on some and ‘combat unit’ on another.”

Gen. Ray Odierno, the top commander in Iraq, declined to tell reporters this month how many troops might remain in cities after the June 2009 deadline, and said the exact number still had to be negotiated with the Iraqis.

For his part, General Odierno made clear that the Iraqis still needed help — and that the United States would hardly disappear.

“What I would say is, we’ll still maintain our very close partnership with the Iraqi security forces throughout Iraq, even after the summer,” he told reporters.

Military officials say they can accomplish that by “repurposing” whatever combat troops remain.

Officially, a combat soldier is anyone trained in what are called combat-coded military occupation specialties — among them infantry, artillery and Special Forces — to engage the enemy.

But combat troops can be given different missions. From the military’s point of view, a combat soldier is not so much what he is called but what he does.

For example, in an area south of Baghdad that was once called the “triangle of death” because of the Sunni insurgents there, a combat brigade of 4,000 to 5,000 soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division has been replaced with what the Army calls a transition task force of 800 to 1,200 troops with the mission of training and advising the Iraqi Army.

Either way, no one expects the American presence to end soon, clearly not Defense Secretary Gates.

MORE:

**Odierno And Obama Hand In
Hand:
Brothers In Blood To Keep The
Occupation Going:
“No Matter How Obama Chooses To
Label The Forces He Keeps In Iraq,
The Fact Is, They Will Be Occupation
Forces”**

“While Some Have Portrayed This As Obama Going Back On His Campaign Pledge, It Is Not”

[So much for all that silly whining about Obama going to the right, or changing his position on Iraq, or how mean old generals are making him do this or that. He never lied one time about his bloody Imperial intentions. And the pimps infesting the anti-Bush war movement so busy selling Obama weren't against the wars, they were against Bush and the Republican Party. They didn't give a shit about the troops dying in vain; they were simply agents for the Democrats. What do they have to say about a soldier-killing Democratic Party president? When they're not busy bleating out pathetic excuses for the new mass murderer in the White House, their silence otherwise is deafening. T]

[Thanks to Dave Robinson, who sent this in.]

December 6, 2008 by Jeremy Scahill, Antiwar.com [Excerpts]

The New York Times is reporting about an "apparent evolution" in president-elect Barack Obama's thinking on Iraq, citing his recent statements about his plan to keep a "residual force" in the country and his pledge to "listen to the recommendations of my commanders" as Obama prepares to assume actual command of US forces.

"At the Pentagon and the military headquarters in Iraq, the response to the statements this week from Mr. Obama and his national security team has been akin to the senior officer corps' letting out its collective breath," the Times reported. "(T)he words sounded to them like the new president would take a measured approach on the question of troop levels."

The reality is there is no "evolution."

Anyone who took the time to cut past Barack Obama's campaign rhetoric of "change" and bringing an "end" to the Iraq war realized early on that the now-president-elect had a plan that boiled down to a down-sizing and rebranding of the occupation.

While he emphasized his pledge to withdraw US "combat forces" from Iraq in 16 months (which may or may not happen), he has always said that he intends to keep "residual forces" in place for the foreseeable future.

It's an interesting choice of terms.

"Residual" is defined as "the quantity left over at the end of a process."

This means that the forces Obama plans to leave in Iraq will remain after he has completed his "withdrawal" plan.

No matter how Obama chooses to label the forces he keeps in Iraq, the fact is, they will be occupation forces.

Announcing his national security team this week, Obama reasserted his position. "I said that I would remove our combat troops from Iraq in 16 months, with the understanding that it might be necessary – likely to be necessary – to maintain a residual force to provide potential training, logistical support, to protect our civilians in Iraq."

While some have portrayed this as Obama going back on his campaign pledge, it is not.

What is new is that some people seem to just now be waking up to the fact that Obama never had a comprehensive plan to fully end the occupation.

Most recently, from the New York Times:

"On the campaign trail, Senator Barack Obama offered a pledge that electrified and motivated his liberal base, vowing to 'end the war' in Iraq," wrote reporter Thom Shanker on Thursday. "But as he moves closer to the White House, President-elect Obama is making clearer than ever that tens of thousands of American troops will be left behind in Iraq, even if he can make good on his campaign promise to pull all combat forces out within 16 months."

For many months it's been abundantly clear that Obama's Iraq plan is at odds with his campaign rhetoric.

Yet, Shanker writes, "to date, there has been no significant criticism from the antiwar left of the Democratic Party of the prospect that Mr. Obama will keep tens of thousands of troops in Iraq for at least several years to come."

The Times is actually right about this, in a literal sense. There has seldom, if ever, been a public peep about Obama's residual force plans for Iraq from members of his own party, including from those who describe themselves as "antiwar."

But, for those who have scrutinized Obama's plans and the statements of his advisors from the beginning, this is old news. Obama never defined "ending the war" as removing all US forces from Iraq.

Besides the counsel of his closest advisors – many of whom are pro-war hawks – Obama's Iraq plan is based on two primary sources: the recommendations of the Baker-Hamilton "Iraq Study Group" and the 2007 Iraq supplemental spending bill, which, at the time was portrayed as the Democrats' withdrawal plan.

Both envisioned a sustained presence of US forces for an undefined period following a "withdrawal."

In supporting the 2007 supplemental, Obama said it would put the US "one signature away from ending the Iraq War." The bill would have redeployed US forces from Iraq within 180 days.

But that legislation, vetoed by President Bush, would also have provided for 20,000 to 60,000 troops to remain in Iraq as "trainers," "counter-terrorist forces," or for "protection for embassy/diplomats," according to an analysis by the Institute for Policy Studies. The bill contained no language about how many "private contractors" could remain in Iraq. This helped shed light on what Obama actually meant by "ending the Iraq War."

Other glaring clues to the actual nature of Obama's Iraq plan to anyone paying attention could be found in the public comments of his advisors, particularly on the size of the force Obama may leave in Iraq after his withdrawal is complete.

Obama has refused to talk numbers, saying in October, "I have tried not to put a number on it." That has been the position of many of his loyal aides.

"We have not put a number on that. It depends on the circumstances on the ground," said Susan Rice, Obama's nominee for UN ambassador, during the campaign. "It would be worse than folly, it would be dangerous, to put a hard number on the residual forces."

In April, it was revealed that the coordinator of Obama's Iraq working group, Colin Kahl, had authored a paper, titled "Stay on Success: A Policy of Conditional Engagement," which recommended, "the US should aim to transition to a sustainable over-watch posture (of perhaps 60,000-80,000 forces) by the end of 2010 (although the specific timelines should be the byproduct of negotiations and conditions on the ground)." Kahl tried to distance the views expressed in the paper from Obama's official campaign position, but they were and are consistent.

In March, Obama advisor Samantha Power let the cat out of the bag for some people when she described her candidate's 16-month timetable for withdrawing US "combat" forces as a "best case scenario." Power said, "He will, of course, not rely on some plan that he's crafted as a presidential candidate or a US Senator." (After that remark and referring to Sen. Hillary Clinton as a "monster," Power resigned from the campaign. Now that Obama is president-elect, Power's name has once again resurfaced as a member of his transitional team.)

The New York Times also raised the prospect that Obama could play semantics when defining his 16-month withdrawal plan, observing, "Pentagon planners say that it is possible that Mr. Obama's goal could be accomplished at least in part by relabeling some units, so that those currently counted as combat troops could be 're-missioned,' their efforts redefined as training and support for the Iraqis."

Compare all of the above with a statement Obama made in July: "I intend to end this war. My first day in office I will bring the Joint Chiefs of Staff in, and I will give them a new mission, and that is to end this war – responsibly, deliberately, but decisively."

Some may now accuse Obama of flip-flopping.

The reality is that we need to understand what the words "end" "war" "residual" and "decisively" mean when we hear Obama say them.

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

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Four U.S. Soldiers Killed In Mosul

2.9.09 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20090209-05

MOSUL, Iraq – Three U.S. Coalition Soldiers were killed, and another Soldier later died of wounds when a vehicle borne improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle in Mosul, Iraq Feb. 9. . One interpreter was also injured in the attack and later died of wounds.

Fallen Staten Island Marine Honored

February 07, 2009 by Staten Island Advance

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

The ground shook today as members of Marine Cpl. Thomas E. Saba's family and fellow soldiers from his unit stood near his gravestone in Moravian Cemetery, in the New Dorp section of Staten Island, to mark the second anniversary of his death in Iraq.

Above the assembled crowd, two CH46 Sea Knight helicopters thundered through the air, their giant blades whipping through the sky as they made two ceremonial passes over the final resting place of one of their own.

"This was the first occasion to get his fellow Marines together," said Cpl. Saba's mother, Barbara, of Toms River, N.J. She was joined by her husband, Anthony, and one of Cpl. Saba's three siblings, his sister, Mary Ellen Ditchkus. "It's a healing opportunity, and now we can go and have good memories."

Cpl. Saba, 30, formerly of Grymes Hill, was killed Feb. 7, 2007, when the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter he was aboard -- on a mission to evacuate casualties -- was shot down by enemy anti-aircraft fire near Fallujah in the Anbar province, about 20 miles outside Baghdad.

"That was a training mission, and Tommy didn't have to go, he had more than enough training, but, when given the choice, Tommy went and flew that mission," recalled Lt. Col. Michael Farrell, one of Cpl. Saba's commanding officers in Iraq.

Saba had served in Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, The Flying Tigers, based in Okinawa, Japan, since April 2002.

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



U.S. soldiers patrol in Baghdad's Shorja market January 27, 2009. (Mohammed Ameen/Reuters)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

**Blast Kills Two Foreign Occupation
Soldiers In Khost Tuesday, Another
Wounded;**

Nationality Not Announced



A U.S. vehicle carries a humvee which was damaged in an explosion near a U.S. military base in Khost, Afghanistan, Feb. 10, 2009. A bomb struck the convoy in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing two soldiers and wounding one, a spokesman for the alliance said. (AP Photo/Nashanuddin Khan)

Feb 10 (KUNA)

A bomb attack on NATO convoy killed two foreign soldiers and injured another in southeastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, said a military spokesman.

Without giving more details, the spokesman said two soldiers were killed and a third sustained injuries in a bomb attack in Khost province.

Wazir Pacha, spokesman for the Khost police headquarters, said the bomber detonated his explosives-packed car close the NATO forces' convoy.

Afghanistan's Khost province is joining border with the Waziristan troubled region of neighboring Pakistan.

Majority of the foreign troops operating in Khost province are Americans. They are mainly targeting the Haqqani network in Khost, where they have strong pockets of support.

Two Illinois National Guard Soldiers Die In Afghanistan Over Weekend

Feb 9, 2009 Nexstar Broadcasting

A military family is grieving today after one of their own is killed by a roadside bomb.

26 year old soldier Jared Southworth was killed in Afghanistan over the weekend.

Southworth was in the army for 5 years. And this was his first tour overseas.

He had just been in Afghanistan for a couple months.

His family was just notified yesterday and is still reeling from the news. "He just wrote his son a letter last week they'd got it and he was trying to explain to his son he was trying to get the bad guys," hi smother Kimberly Southworth told WCIA-3 today.

Southworth leaves behind a wife a four young children.

A second Illinois soldier was killed in the blast.

About three-thousand soldiers have been sent throughout Afghanistan to train police and troops in the Illinois Guard's largest deployment since World War Two.

French Officer Killed In Logar

Feb 11 (Reuters)

A French officer and an Afghan interpreter were killed in an ambush south of Kabul on Wednesday, an army official said, in a reminder of the risks facing the NATO mission amid a debate over troop reinforcements.

Another French soldier was seriously wounded in the double ambush, in which French and Afghan soldiers were hit by a mine explosion and were then attacked by insurgents, armed forces spokesman Christophe Prazuck said.

The French unit was on patrol together with Afghan soldiers in Logar province, south of Kabul

Resistance Storms Government Buildings In Kabul To Avenge The Government's Execution Of Taliban Prisoners:

“Frightened Employees, Including The Justice Minister, Barricaded Themselves In Their Offices” Coordinated Attacks Kill 20; 57 Wounded

[Thanks to Clancy Sigal, who sent this in.]

02/11/09 (AFP) & By RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr. and ABDUL WAHEED WAFI

Taliban bombers struck government buildings at three sites in Kabul on Wednesday killing at least 20 and wounding 57, in coordinated attacks that demonstrated the ease with which the insurgents can penetrate even Afghanistan’s heavily fortified capital.

At the Justice Ministry, five Taliban guerrillas armed with explosives and Kalashnikov rifles killed two guards, stormed the building, and took control of several floors for about an hour.

Frightened employees, including the justice minister, barricaded themselves in their offices while the armed men stalked the halls for victims. They shot to death 10 people before being killed.

The multiple strikes cloaked this city of four million in chaos and panic for the entire day. Miles of Kabul’s principal thoroughfares were blocked off, as police and soldiers rushed to reinforce scores of checkpoints.

The Taliban said deadly attacks in the Afghan capital on Wednesday were orchestrated to avenge the government’s execution of Taliban prisoners and warned of more attacks to come.

"More of our attackers and guerrilla groups are settled in the city and when they have the opportunity, they will accomplish their attacks," a Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, told AFP by telephone.

Eight attackers simultaneously stormed the prisons directorate as well as the justice and education ministries in Kabul, leaving 26 Afghan officials and security officers dead, and 55 wounded, officials said.

Mujahid said that his group launched the attacks because "Taliban prisoners were martyred without any proof."

The spokesman was referring to state executions last year of at least seven men

An attacker outside the education ministry, about one kilometer from the justice ministry, blew himself up there to break up a strong intelligence presence in the area, Mujahid said.

"Our target was not the ministry of education but our men were surrounded there and to break the cordon, one of them blew up himself there," he said.

"Taliban, for retaliation, directly targeted these two places," he said. "This was revenge we took on the ministry of justice."

He said the Taliban considered anyone who worked in the justice ministry and prisons office as legitimate targets.

The Taliban, who already control much of the countryside, have steadily encroached on the capital and its outlying provinces.

Across the city, streets were empty as residents were too spooked to go outside.

The attacks clearly shook Afghan government officials.

"The enemy still has the capability to bring this amount of weapons and explosives inside the city of Kabul and find their way to government institutions," said Hanif Atmar, the minister of interior.

The most confidence-shaking attack, at the Justice Ministry, began about 10 a.m., when five Taliban took over three of the building's four floors.

The ministry is located in the heart of the capital, a few hundreds yards from the grounds of the presidential palace.

"There's chaos on all four floors," Habib Mushakhas, a senior ministry official, said after police rushed him out of the building. "I heard an explosion, then a firefight. There was a lot of blood in the corridors. I saw one dead body."

Another survivor, a ministry employee named Hafizullah, was trapped in his office for two-and-a-half hours. "There was lots of shooting, and there was blood everywhere," he said.

After a little more than an hour, scores of police and Afghan soldiers rushed into the building and scaled ladders onto upper floors.

More than 20 shots were fired. Soon after, ambulances began taking policemen and soldiers away, their feet hanging off of stretchers poking out the open doors. It was not clear whether they were injured or dead.

TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIE
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The casket of US Army Spec. Matthew M. Pollini is carried out of Holy Family Church in Rockland, Mass., Monday afternoon, Feb. 2, 2009. Pollini, 21, was killed while serving at Forward Operating Base Delta near al-Kut, Iraq on Jan. 22, 2009. (AP Photo/Stephan Savoia)

**There It Is:
No Drawdown Of Middle East Troops
Levels For “Four Or Five Years Into The
Future”**

2.9.09 By Michelle Tan, Army Times [Excerpts]

There are now 15 BCTs in the Central Command area of operations, 12 in Iraq and three in Afghanistan, the senior Army planner said, adding that he and his staff continue to plan for that level of demand four or five years into the future.

Also, the Army National Guard has five brigades conducting security force missions in the Central Command area of operations.

“We’re only supposed to get them once every four years,” the senior Army planner said about Guard brigades. “We’re turning them faster than that right now.”

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

Feb 9 (Reuters) & Feb 10 (Reuters) & Feb 11 (Reuters)

A policeman was wounded by a roadside bomb which targeted a police patrol in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A bomb attached to a car carrying an off-duty security guard of Vice President Adel Abdul-Mahdi wounded him and a pedestrian, police said. Reuters Television footage showed the badly wounded guard lying motionless. Eye witnesses said he died but police did not confirm that.

A car bomb targeting a police patrol wounded three policemen in southern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas stormed a police officer's house in southern Buhriz, 60 km (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad, killing two men guarding the home, police said. As police responded to the shooting, they were struck by a roadside bomb, which killed a policeman and wounded another.

Raad Hussein Abdullah, a senior engineer with the Electricity Ministry, was killed by armed men on Wednesday morning as he left his home in the Ghadir district of eastern Baghdad, the ministry said in a statement.

Insurgents shot and killed three policemen in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb exploded near a car carrying a police brigadier-general, wounding his driver, in Ghazaliya district of western Baghdad, police said. The police officer was not hurt.

A policeman and a civilian were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol in southern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas wounded three members of a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol checkpoint on Tuesday in the Shaab district of northern Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents in a car opened fire at a U.S.-backed neighbourhood patrol checkpoint and wounded two of them in Doura district of southern Baghdad on Tuesday, police said.

**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

**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

DUPED: From Basic Training to V.A. Hospitals



U.S. Army medic (2 tours) Vietnam 1970

From: Richard Hastie
To: Thomas F Barton
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 3:56 AM
Subject: DUPED: From Basic Training to V.A. Hospitals

DUPED: From Basic Training to V.A. Hospitals

**You will be in the military the rest of your life,
because betrayal will be like an alarm clock,
constantly waking you up to remind you that
America is in search of enemies, to justify its
"Military Industrial Complex."**

Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran

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)

[How It Was]
February 11, 1937:
A Victory For Our Side
“They Faced Tear Gas Attacks, Heat Shutoffs, And Battled With Police And Company Security Guards. Michigan Governor Frank Murphy Sent In The National Guard”



Michigan National Guard confronting union supporters outside GM plants in Flint, 1937

Carl Bunin Peace History February 11-17

February 11, 1937:

Forty-eight thousand General Motors workers won a 44-day sit-down strike in Flint, Michigan.

Walter P. Reuther Library:

The Great Flint Sitdown: On February 11, 1937, several hundred members of the United Automobile Workers Union (UAW) emerged from three General Motors (GM) factories in Flint, Michigan to the sounds of cheering crowd.

These workers had just completed a 44-day sitdown strike. Less than two years old, the UAW had won its first major victory.

Auto factories were tough places to work during the early years of the industry. The pace of work was controlled by the ever-increasing speed of the assembly line and the foreman held the power to hire or fire workers at will. Many jobs were physically demanding, machines had few safety devices, and industrial accidents were common. On August 26, 1935, auto workers organized the UAW to bargain for better wages and working conditions.

The Flint Sitdown began on December 30, 1936 when UAW leaders decided to call a strike against GM. The goal of the strike was simple: GM recognition of the UAW.

For over six weeks members of the UAW stopped production and refused to leave the plants they occupied. They slept on unfinished car seats, eating food their families and friends slipped through factory windows.

They faced tear gas attacks, heat shutoffs, and battled with police and company security guards. Michigan Governor Frank Murphy sent in the National Guard.

Faced with an enormous loss of production, GM conceded to the strikers' demands and signed a one-page document, agreeing to bargain with the UAW. This was one of the key events in American labor history.



The Flint Sitdown Strikers win February 11, 1937

MORE:

[How It Is]

A Line From Rimbaud (French Poet, 1854-1891) — Or Tell the FBI, "Art's Dead"



Alex Nixon: Kalamazoo Gazette

Background For The Poem Below: The Strike At American Axle

May 25, 2008 Posted by badone2 on 05/25/08 at 2:21PM: Kalamazoo Gazette

Most if not all of your news articles covered the strike as being purely economic.

Besides economics it was a social fight that hit one core value of this country- "The American Dream".

I grew up being told to work hard and show up on time and everyday and you can achieve things in this country. Be a good employee and you will be rewarded with just dues.

Well, Dick Daucht seemed to reap all the benefits- a profitable company that seems to support him and his family and friends quite nicely (even if they came to the company

with no bonafide experience in the position they hold), good bonuses for all of them, and maybe most importantly the "perception" they run a good American business.

I came to American Axle eight years ago and had to prove myself to them through a interview which they scrutinized my skills.

I had to take a test that further scrutinized my abilities in logic, math and social skills. I went through drug testing, a physical and a back ground check. I tell you all this because the amount of "screening" this company did "weeded" out many of thousands of applicants and probably discouraged hundreds more from even trying to get in.

So in the end American Axle wanted "the best" employees that they could get.

Now, they want the "best" for the least amount of pay and with almost no say in the new contract language.

American Axle, Three Rivers, even has taken away the Tuition Assistance Program so if you want to better yourself through college it's up to you to fund that on your own with your new payrate.

The UAW got SUB pay in the contract which will pay the difference between your normal pay and unemployment pay should you get laid off. The thing is for the people making \$10.00 - \$14.00 an hour unemployment will not need to be subsidized.

It's so limited in funding and capped in weeks by an individuals seniority it is not even a true benefit for many under the new contract.

I have decided to take the money through the buyout and leave because I figure if this is how I am to be treated by American Axle when it is making money it can only get worse when times for them get really hard.

I still ponder what I will tell my kids when they get ready to enter the work force.

After this I don't believe in the "American Dream" anymore.

Good luck to all that stay or go on, it was a good ride.

From: Dennis Serdel
To: Thomas F Barton
Sent: May 21, 2008 6:37 AM
Subject: Therapy

From my friend Gregg on American Axle.

Maybe a better ending would be "Let's go to the golf course and start the Revolution."

Dennis

**We Can Only Win In The Streets
With Hands And Arms And Legs And Feet.
We Can't Win Unless We Beat The Bastards
Senseless**

From: Gregg Shotwell [United Auto Workers Union]
Date: May 21, 2008 3:11:55 AM GMT-04:00
Subject: Therapy

**A Line From Rimbaud (French Poet, 1854-1891)
— or Tell the FBI, "Art's Dead"**

**We can take it out
on our wives, our
teenage sons, the neighbor's
dog.**

**We can speed, get
drunk, break glass,
smoke three cigarettes in a
row.**

**We can sabotage a
machine, poke
fun at a spineless
boss.**

**But how does one confront
a Battenberg, a Wagoner,
a Miller, or Dick Dauch
when**

**They announce to the press
on the nineteenth green
they intend to cut thousands of
jobs?**

**As if a job didn't
mean a husband, a father,
a wife, a mother, a home, a
family.**

**How does one
confront the corporation
that cuts retiree health**

care?

**And demands wage cuts
that condemn employees
to a life of
poverty?**

**Bottom feeders like Wilbur Ross
who call bankruptcy success,
trash pensions, and
celebrate?**

**Or change company names and
resurface making the same
product for higher
profit**

**And lower wages,
no pensions, or health
care for surviving
spouses?**

**We won't win at the bargaining table
where negotiators on both sides all
wear ties and play golf
together.**

**We won't win in court where judges
dine elbow to elbow with donors who
pay more per plate than we make in a
week.**

**We can only win in the streets
with hands and arms and legs and feet.
We can't win unless we beat the bastards
senseless.**

**Then maybe we can talk sense.
Then maybe they will listen.
But first we have to teach them a
lesson.**

**Arm yourselves to the teeth.
Abandon the hideouts.
Take the war to the
streets.**

**Make the sons of bitches pay.
We have nothing left
to lose but our
dignity.**

"Now is the Time of the Assassins."

---- sos, Gregg Shotwell

MORE:

[How It Once Was, And Will Be Again]



Group of union members, Worker's Militia, 1917 Revolution

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. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

JOIN THE STRUGGLE TO STOP THE NEW ORLEANS LAFITTE EVICTIONS!

February 11, 2009 NOLA_C3_Discussion

Support to stop the planned eviction of the residents of the Lafitte Housing Development is growing.

Thirty five national and international human rights groups have recently announced their support for the struggle to stop the evictions in New Orleans. Residents of New Orleans are in Washington D.C. speaking to key members of the U.S. Congress and the Obama Administration to secure official support for the campaign to save Lafitte.

Forty people from around the community rallied on Feb. 4 at the housing development demanding that HANO call off its planned evictions. Even an arctic blast could not stop this action!

JOIN THIS STRUGGLE.

MEETING 7PM THURSDAY AT BASIN HALL IN ST. JUDE'S CHURCH.
BASIN HALL IS LOCATED AT 410 BASIN STREET.

SPONSORS: C3/HANDS OFF IBERVILLE & MAYDAY NOLA.



"Bubble gum, one lollipop, and a share of Ford stock. That'll be \$2.45."

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 Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

GI Special www.militaryproject.org

This is how Obama brings the troops home,
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE.



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www.militaryproject.org

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