Military Resistance 8C3

NOT ANOTHER DAY NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR NOT ANOTHER LIFE



During a medevac flight, the bloody hand of a wounded U.S. Marine is seen shortly after take off over Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 2, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Insurgent Attacks In Baghdad Kill Soldiers And Police

03/04/10 By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) -- A string of deadly blasts shattered an early round of voting in Iraq Thursday, killing 17 people and highlighting the fragile nature of the country's security gains ahead of crucial parliamentary elections this Sunday.

Many of the blast victims were believed to be security personnel, targeted by bombers who hit police and soldiers lined up to vote.

The second attack hit the upscale Mansour neighborhood, where a bomber detonated an explosive vest near a group of soldiers lining up at a polling station, killing six and wounding 18, police said.

The blast left a small crater in the middle of the street, and debris from the explosion splattered around the crater. Pools of blood and burnt human flesh littered the ground along with broken glass, rubble from buildings and the remnants of shops signs. In the third blast, another bomber blew himself up near policemen waiting to vote in the Bab al-Muadham neighborhood in central Baghdad, killing four and wounding 14 others, according to police and hospital officials.

Resistance Action



A blood-spattered Iraqi Army vehicle where a bomber attacked policemen in the Bab al-Muadham neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraq, March 4, 2010. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

March 3 (Reuters) & March 4 (Reuters)

Insurgents threw hand grenades at two polling stations in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, wounding a policeman and a soldier, police said.

Insurgents threw a hand grenade at an Iraqi army checkpoint, wounding six, including two soldiers, in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb went off near an Iraqi army patrol, killing one soldier and wounding four, including a soldier, in the northern outskirts of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb went off near the convoy of a police lieutenant-colonel, wounding two of his guards in the town of Tuz Khurmato, 170 km (105 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Marine Killed By Helmand IED



March 4, 2010: U.S. Marines with their vehicles after one, right, was hit by an improvised explosive device in Helmand province, Afghanistan. A Marine was killed, and another wounded in the incident. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)



March 4, 2010: U.S. Marines carry one of two wounded comrades to a U.S. Army medevac helicopter of the 82nd Airborne's Task Force Pegasus, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. The other of the two wounded Marines later died of his wounds. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

California Soldier Killed In Kandahar



U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division Spc. Ian Gelig, a 25-year-old native of Stevenson Ranch, Calif., killed March 1, 2010 while his unit was conducting a combat logistic patrol in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division)

Foreign "Servicemember" Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan: Nationality Not Announced

March 5 ISAF & AP

A foreign servicemember died as a result of an IED strike in southern Afghanistan today.

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed In Marjah Area; Nationality Not Announced

05 Mar 2010 Press TV

US-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement that one of its soldiers died in a Thursday bomb strike in an area where Operation Moshtarak is continuing.

Utah Marine Killed In Helmand

March 05, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 176-10

Lance Cpl. Nigel K. Olsen, 21, of Orem, Utah, died March 4 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve, based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Arkansas Sgt. Killed In Yosuf Khel

March 04, 2010 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 171-10

Sgt. Vincent L.C. Owens, 21, of Fort Smith, Ark., died March 1 at Forward Operating Base Sharana, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered earlier that day when enemy forces attacked his vehicle using direct fire in Yosuf Khel. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Hickory Marine Killed In Afghanistan

February 23, 2010 By Larry Clark, Hickory Daily Record

HICKORY

A U.S. Marine from Hickory was killed over the weekend in Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Chris Eckard, a 1998 graduate of St. Stephens High School, was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

He is also survived by his mother, his wife and two children and a brother.

His brother, Chad Eckard, said the family does not know the full story, but Chris was serving in southern Afghanistan.

Amid the family's sorrow, Chad Eckard talked about his brother's responsibilities and commitment to service.

"This is hard," he said.

Chris Eckard was in Explosive Ordnance Disposal. It was his first assignment in Afghanistan. He pulled four tours of duty in Iraq, first as a combat engineer and then in EOD.

He had disarmed hundreds of homemade bombs and other explosives, his brother said.

Chad Eckard said it doesn't appear that Chris was trying to disarm a bomb when the explosion occurred. However, details are sketchy.

"A teammate was also injured," Chad Eckard said, but will be able to return to duty.

He said Chris was in the Army National Guard in high school, then joined after graduation. He became a Marine in 2001.

"The Army didn't want to let him go," he said, "but Chris wanted to be a Marine."

He was approved for promotion to gunnery sergeant, Chad said. "He was to receive his bar soon."

Chris Eckard will get the promotion, according to the military code.

Initial information on the tragedy came from friends. First reports said Eckard was killed on Sunday in eastern Afghanistan. The Marine Corps did suffer casualties in that area. In all, five Americans died in Afghanistan over the weekend.

"He was a super-cool dude," said Gary Whitener, who remained friends with Eckard after graduation.

"He was a role model, never in trouble," said Whitener, owner of Air Force One Heating and Cooling in Hickory.

"There are several of us who stay in touch. We've been sharing our memories on Facebook. It's sad. It's terrible. He was great, just great."

Eckard is the second St. Stephens graduate to die in the war on terror.

Marine Cpl. Benny G. Cockerham III, a 2002 graduate, was 21 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2005.

Cockerham enlisted in the Marine Corps shortly after his graduation.

His vehicle was struck by a homemade bomb while he was conducting combat operations near Al Amariyah, Iraq.

He was on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

At least 127 international troops have been killed in Afghanistan this year, including at least 61 Americans, according to an Associated Press count.

Clay County Marine Remembered As Caring, Helpful

February 23, 2010 By Arthur E. Foulkes, TribStar.com

TERRE HAUTE — In the summer of 2007, one year before he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, Gregory Scott Stultz worked full-time at a summer day camp for the Clay County YMCA. During that summer, Stultz made a special effort to bring out the best in the camp's more than 100 kids.

"He was just so excited and eager to help," said Pam Fischer, director of the day camp and a longtime teacher at Jackson Township Elementary School, which Stultz and his siblings attended.

At the day camp, Stultz took it upon himself to talk to kids, especially those who seemed to need a little extra encouragement, Fischer said. He'd tell them to have hope for their futures and encourage them to be the best they could be, she said.

"That was really special," Fischer said.

On Friday, while serving with the U.S. Marines in Afghanistan, Cpl. Gregory Stultz, 22, of Brazil, was killed in action while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The news left Fischer and many others stunned and deeply saddened.

"I cried so hard," Fischer said. "I didn't know I could cry as much as I have."

Fischer, a second-grade teacher at Jackson Township, said the school is making plans to honor Stultz during its Veterans Day ceremony next school year. Several other activities honoring Stultz are also planned, she said.

"Greg was someone I could always count on," Fischer recalled. At the summer camp, she started calling him "eagle eye" because of his ability to spot trouble before it happened.

"He could prevent accidents before they would occur," Fischer said. If Stultz would see a child running into potential trouble, Stultz would "just holler out their name and prevent an accident," she said.

Although he could be very serious, especially when helping kids with their problems, Stultz also had a great sense of humor, Fischer said. During the long days at the summer day camp with more than 100 kids to watch, a good sense of humor was a big asset, she said.

"When we'd need a laugh, Greg would always be there with a laugh at the right time," Fischer said. "He kept us all laughing."

Stultz's body is expected to arrive at Terre Haute International Airport-Hulman Field today at noon. The public is invited to line the route from the airport to French Funeral Home on U.S. 40 in downtown Brazil. The procession will travel west down Indiana 42

from the airport to Indiana 46. It will then travel down U.S. 40 to Route 340 to North Clay Middle School and to Northview High School. It will then return to 340 and then to U.S. 40 to the funeral home.

Resistance In Marjah Area
Attacking With "Four To Six"
IEDs Daily:

Occupation General Has Wonderful News:

"Not Every" Blast Kills Or Maims U.S. Troops:

Red Cross Reports "Little Food Has Reached The Town Recently"

General Mohammad Zahir Azimi, spokesman for the Afghan defence ministry, said the Taliban were being pushed back from the area, but he stopped short of declaring a victory.

Mar 4 AFP & 05 Mar 2010 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Thousands of US-led troops engaged in a major offensive to secure a Taliban bastion in southern Afghanistan are still facing four to six bomb attacks every day, a NATO official said Thursday.

Crude bombs known as improvised explosive devises (IEDs) are the main problem facing the 15,000 US, NATO and Afghan troops as they consolidate control of the Marjah and Nad Ali areas of Helmand province.

Taliban insurgents, who for years controlled the poppy-producing area of the central Helmand River valley with drug traffickers, are still putting up some resistance, said a NATO spokesman Brigadier General Eric Tremblay.

"There are many improvised explosive devices in Nad Ali and Marjah which have been placed by the insurgents," he told reporters.

On an average day there were "anywhere between four and six (IED) strikes," Tremblay said, adding: "Not every strike is causing casualties."

General Mohammad Zahir Azimi, spokesman for the Afghan defence ministry, said the Taliban were being pushed back from the area, but he stopped short of declaring a victory.

Improvised mines and other explosive devices are preventing a return to normal life and will continue to put lives at risk, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) warned today.

"Improvised mines and other explosive devices are posing a deadly threat to civilians in Marjah," said Reto Stocker, the head of the ICRC delegation in Kabul.

"They make it almost impossible for people to venture out or to evacuate the sick and wounded, who therefore receive little or no medical care." As neither patients nor medical staff have been able to move about safely within the town of Marjah, several clinics have closed.

"Little food has reached the town recently, as very few commercial vehicles have been able to enter.

McChrystal "Apologizes" For Massacre Of Civilians In Daykundi:

""What Do We Do With His Apology?"
Said Hussain Dilbarian"
"The Killers Should Be Handed Over To
Us. We Don't Want Anything Else"



Mar. 03, 2010 By DION NISSENBAUM AND NOORUDDIN BAKHSHI - McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

KABUL -- The military helicopters swooped in from behind the three-vehicle convoy as it wound through a remote road in southern Afghanistan, and survivors of last week's deadly attack said they had no idea they were in danger until the lead four-wheel drive vehicle exploded.

After seeing the gruesome aftermath of that rocket strike, survivors of the NATO attack told McClatchy Newspapers, women jumped from the second car and frantically waved their head scarves to try to stop the attack.

A two-star American general is in southern Afghanistan investigating the Feb. 21 strike, which killed 21 Afghans in Daykundi province and quickly prompted U.S. Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal to deliver a videotaped apology.

Survivors said they want more than that, however.

"What do we do with his apology?" said Hussain Dilbarian, a 20-year-old survivor of the strike. "It doesn't make any difference. The killers should be handed over to us. We don't want anything else."

Survivors and local police said that 18 members of Afghanistan's Hazara minority, a group that traditionally opposed the Pashtun-dominated Taliban, were among the 21 people who were killed. Thirteen people were wounded.

In a series of telephone interviews with McClatchy Newspapers, survivors of the attack described a frantic scene as they scrambled for safety and shouted at the helicopters to stop shooting.

Dilbarian said he was riding in a packed Toyota Land Cruiser in the back of the convoy when they heard helicopters behind them.

The SUVs, survivors said, were full of more than three dozen relatives heading to Kandahar for supplies and Kabul for medical treatment.

Though the convoy was driving through Taliban-controlled territory, the survivors said they didn't encounter Taliban checkpoints or fighters in the area.

It was only when the first rocket hit the lead vehicle, the survivors said, that they realized they were a target.

As passengers scrambled for safety, survivors said, women in the second car used their head scarves to try to wave off the attack.

"When they hit the first car, the women and the children came out of the second car so they could see women and children were in the car," said Ali Yar, 40, who was riding in the middle Land Cruiser. "But still they didn't stop the bombing."

Ali said the helicopters hit the last vehicle with a rocket and then used a mounted machine gun to target men as they ran for cover.

Dutch Withdrawing Troops From Afghanistan This Summer Following Collapse Of Pro-War Government: European "Elites In Government" Failing To Maintain Support For War

"And public opinion in Europe in particular, but also in Canada has been turning away from this mission for years now.

03 March 2010 Andre de Nesnera, Washington; VOA News [Excerpts]

About 2,000 Dutch troops have been in Afghanistan's southern province of Uruzgan since 2006. They are part of the 86,000 troop NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

But now Dutch troops will begin to return home this August, following the collapse last month of the government over its Afghan policy. One of the major coalition members - the Labor Party - left the government saying it would not support extending the Afghan deployment.

Many analysts, such as Sean Kay with Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, ask whether the decision by the Netherlands to begin withdrawing troops in August will have a domino effect on other countries.

"If you listen to NATO officials, they will tell you no," said Kay.

"But at the end of the day, decisions on military contributions are taken in the capitals. And they are taken by politicians who have to be responsive to and reflective of public opinion."

"And public opinion in Europe in particular, but also in Canada has been turning away from this mission for years now.

"And the elites in government have been trying to make a stand-up case for the commitment to the alliance and NATO. But that is just becoming increasingly difficult for them," he added.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATIONS

OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!

Obama's Very Special Afghan Prison:

"For Far Too Long, The US Has Been Seizing People In Afghanistan, Including From Their Homes, And Jailing Them For Years, Without Charge Or A Fair Hearing" Some "Have Been Held For As Long As Six Years Without Access To Counsel Or A Meaningful Opportunity To Challenge Their Imprisonment"

The United States is the only nation among the NATO countries participating in the conflict in Afghanistan that subjects individuals it captures to indefinite military detention.

05 March 2010 by: William Fisher, Truthout Report [Excerpts]

Four men who have been imprisoned for over a year - some for almost two years - are going to US federal court to challenge their detention at the notorious Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

The men, whom their lawyers say have never engaged in hostilities against the US and are not members of groups that have engaged in hostilities against the US, have never been told why they are being detained, never been permitted to speak with a lawyer or given a meaningful opportunity to challenge their detention before a court or impartial administrative board.

The habeas corpus petitions were filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in the US District Court for the District of Columbia. The petitions ask that the four men to

be given access to lawyers and be allowed to challenge in court the legality of their detention.

Jonathan Hafetz, an attorney with the ACLU, told Inter Press Service, "These habeas petitions seek the basic right for an individual imprisoned indefinitely by the executive to challenge his detention in a court of law. For far too long, the US has been seizing people in Afghanistan, including from their homes, and jailing them for years, without charge or a fair hearing.

He added, "A court must have a chance to decide whether it's lawful to continue imprisoning these men without charge."

One of the petitions filed today is on behalf of Afghan brothers Sibghatullah Jalatzai, who was a translator for the US military for four years before his detention nearly 20 months ago, and Samiullah Jalatzai, who was arrested without explanation at his workplace nearly 23 months ago.

The second petition is on behalf of Afghan government employee Haji Abdul Wahid and his nephew Zia-ur-Rahman, who were taken from their homes by the US military during a massive neighborhood sweep more than one year ago.

The petitions charge that the military does not have the authority to detain these men and that the lack of access to a court or fair process to challenge their detention violates the US Constitution and international law. Attorneys on the case include ACLU lawyers and Tina Foster of the International Justice Network, which coordinates Bagram habeas litigation.

The United States is the only nation among the NATO countries participating in the conflict in Afghanistan that subjects individuals it captures to indefinite military detention.

Other NATO nations reportedly detain individuals for a maximum of 96 hours and then either release them or transfer them to Afghan custody.

The ACLU said, "There is growing concern that Bagram has become the new Guantanamo, except with hundreds more prisoners held indefinitely, in harsher conditions and with less due process."

The US government has been detaining an unknown number of prisoners at the Bagram detention facility since 2002, and recent news reports indicate that the more than 600 individuals are currently detained there - some of whom have been held for as long as six years without access to counsel or a meaningful opportunity to challenge their imprisonment.

The conditions of confinement at Bagram are reportedly primitive, with allegations of mistreatment and abuse continuing to surface; in fact, at least two prisoners have died there.

A recent investigation by journalist Anand Gopal revealed the existence of another prison on Bagram Air Base - one so secret that even the Red Cross does not have access to it. It is dubbed the "Black Jail" and is reportedly run by US Special Forces.



UNFIT FOR COMMAND; UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE:

POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT THE BLOODSHED

THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE WARS

GUESS WHO'S WORRIED GUESS WHO ISN'T ALL HOME NOW



U.S. army soldier patrols near the town of Shah joy in Zabul province, southern Afghanistan, February 14, 2010. REUTERS/Baz Ratner



A U.S. Marine on patrol in Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province Friday, Feb. 19, 2010. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

TROOP NEWS

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



U.S. Army E-2 Sam Witherwax, of Lake Charles, La., plays with his son, Ethan, 3, after a Casing ceremony at Camp Shelby March 5, 2010. Witherwax is with the 256th Infantry Brigade Louisiana National Guard. It is the brigade's second deployment to Iraq. (AP Photo/Steve Coleman)

HOW MANY MORE FOR OBAMA'S WARS?



During a medevac flight, a U.S. Army Task Force Pegasus Crew Chief helps attend to a U.S. Marine wounded in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 2, 2010. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

ARLINGTON CEMETERY PREPARING FOR MORE FROM OBAMA'S WARS



Section 60 at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., March 4, 2010, as the surrounding earth is groomed and prepared for troops killed in the wars on Afghanistan and Iraq. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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 Douglass, 1852

Hope for change doesn't cut it when you're still losing buddies.
-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War

"The Army Will Fuck You!"
"These 'Re-Up Guys' Will Lie Straight
To An Experienced Soldier, Knowing

Well That Both You And Him Are Fully Aware Of How Fucked Up The Army Really Is" [SOLDIERS' CLASSICS]

[From GI SPECIAL 2#B95, 10.19.04]
[By Jeff Englehart, Military Resistance Organization]

From: A Soldier In Baquaba [Jeff Englehart, name omitted to shield from retaliation by

command]
To: GI Special

Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2004 5:59 PM

Subject: RE-ENLIST?!

...one of their best lines, "Why in God's name do you want to get out now when you're country needs you the most!"

Yea, okay. The American public loves the US soldier. When he is fighting and dying for our country's "freedoms", the masses see him as a hero. However, the neocon infringement on liberties back at home leaves the soldier disillusioned with his purpose in the war. He feels forsaken by his leadership, and most importantly, his government.

Have you ever known someone who just couldn't get the hint?

No matter how many times you tell that individual that you simply loathe him or her, they just never catch on. You try being polite at first, subliminally rejecting any associations with that person. When this doesn't work, you try being overly evasive, continuously avoiding that person at all costs.

Eventually, all measures prove futile and still that person cannot see the blatant disgust you feel for him or her. At this time, brute honesty is the best way to go. Express your discontent with that person, your disgust in his or her ways, and finally top it all off with a firm explanation... "I hate you, please leave me alone!"

I have been propositioned to stay in the United States army so many times that I've lost count. I've told this clusterfuck operation many times my disposition with the army and my dismal chances of staying enlisted. The army never gives up. They never get the hint.

Today was another formal meeting with a high echelon retention officer. These guys are always type-cast for the job. Gung-ho lunatics with crew cuts, pressed uniforms, and an unwavering conviction for the service spread all over their grinning faces. The best way to describe them is overly-enthusiastic car salesmen from Dallas who bleed red, white and blue and wear green fatigues instead of cheap polyester suits.

These are the retention officers, and there is no doubt in my mind that they are the most controlled, manipulated tools in the army.

They have to be, the only way that they can be effective is if they truly believe in all the bullshit. They are just like civilian recruiters, but twice as evil. Civilian recruiters will openly lie to a young punk kid, someone who has no idea what the army is about. But these "re-up guys" will lie straight to an experienced soldier, knowing well that both you and him are fully aware of how fucked up the army really is. But there he goes, telling you how great it is to be a soldier in the army nowadays.

On one occasion a year ago, I was ordered to pay a mandatory visit to the retention office. What fun it was going to be! I had been waiting a very long time for this talk with the retention officer, just so I could hear his inane babble and immediately shoot down his flimsy efforts. But this meeting was somewhat different than what I had normally experienced.

At that time, our unit was still in Germany, preparing to deploy to Iraq. I was called to his office to talk about plans of me volunteering for a year long deployment.

The salesman started by telling me that our whole division was now officially Stop-Lossed, meaning that I would not be getting out of the army on my scheduled date. I would have to serve time in Iraq for up to fifteen months, with no chance for parole. I was expected to wallow in my own misery for an entire year, plus ninety days after the deployment.

I took this rather distasteful, and somehow knew that this was concrete proof that both God and The Government hated me with a passion.

Never the less, I was called into his office to discuss my course of action in dealing with the stop-loss. It was like applying for a loan on bad credit. My options were horrible at best.

He told me that I could voluntarily extend to stay with the unit for one year. There would of course be no financial gain or signing bonus for signing that malevolent and depraved piece of paper. The salesman told me that the advantage in signing this extension would be that, no matter what happens with the stop-loss, I would be guaranteed an exodus date.

I of course had my suspicions, so I asked him the ramifications of this "set in stone" deal. If, by chance, the stop-loss were to get nullified (which had been a standing rumor at the time) would the contract then be void of merit? The salesman approached this question very ambiguously and told me that the stop-loss was never going to be canceled. I had better sign that dreaded contract if I were to be guaranteed an exit date a year after the closure of the deal.

As I was shaking my head in disbelief, another commanding officer approached this baleful orgy to tell me, "You better listen to him kid, because the army will fuck you!"

I decided that the time had finally come to appraise my grim situation. I would never in hell sign any contract for this army again! Somehow I knew that signing that dotted line would end up fucking me harder than the original contract I signed three years earlier. I tossed the pen back on the desk and respectfully told the salesman to go fuck himself. I decided that there was no way another fictitious contract would solve this problem.

Many steps are taken to ensure that a healthy number of soldiers stay in the army. Good old fashioned bribery usually works the best. More money with bigger signing bonuses, more college tuition, or simply that soldier's choice of duty station. More money means a new car, a better stereo, or surround sound television! More tuition pay for a college education that either (1) the soldier will end up dying for in Iraq, or (2) for an education that the soldier will never see, as his life drifts closer and closer to a life time career in the service.

Any duty station that the soldier wants, well...everyone wants Hawaii, but no one ever gets it...how ironic!

To convince soldiers to stay in, other mind trickery has been effective. The used car "Con-Man" will instill doubt into the soldier's self-esteem. Such examples of this bile is, "All you know is the army, its all you've done since you graduated high school. You'll never make it in the civilian world. Why don't you stay with us, receive health care benefits and a steady pay? Why not stay with the winning team?"

...or, "Well, have you talked this over with your wife? Maybe she's happy being a soldier's wife. Maybe she takes pride in the fact that her husband is protecting her and her family and her children's freedoms. Maybe she wants to rely on a husband who can always put food on the table and clothes on the kids' backs."

(But does she want to see her husband disappear for a year at a time while he fights in some random war in the middle east? Does she want to see her husband return in a body bag, and then explain to little Jimmy why there is no dad to play catch with him anymore?)

...one of their best lines, "Why in God's name do you want to get out now when you're country needs you the most!"

Yea, okay. The American public loves the US soldier. When he is fighting and dying for our country's "freedoms", the masses see him as a hero. However, the neocon infringement on liberties back at home leaves the soldier disillusioned with his purpose in the war. He feels forsaken by his leadership, and most importantly, his government.

In our current situation, there are not as many volunteers for an "all volunteer" army as there once was. War mongering politicians in Washington are demanding more boots on the ground, yet they are hesitant to make any drastic changes in replacing units serving in the middle east theater.

Who could blame a civilian for his/her hesitance in signing up, or for that matter, a seasoned veteran for wanting out?

No good can come from an immoral war, and many soldiers are opting never to return to the front lines.

Some returning soldiers have had to deal with severe emotional problems from trauma they received from combat. Suicide rates for wounded or disfigured veterans are on a steady rise. Deployment time tables have now been capped at two years in a combat zone, twice what it was for soldiers who served in Vietnam.

The stop-loss program has also added to low morale within the ranks. Many troops now feel that they will never see the civilian life they once saw at the end of a long, gruesome road.

So the question remains, "Why the hell should I re-enlist?!"

Today, while I was four days away from my original exit date, I was summoned to the retention officer's presence to discuss a possible re-enlistment. Once again, I would have to hear the mendacious talk about a "one big happy army family". Once again, I would patiently sit through my options that the army seems to think are predestined for me. After hearing many of the possibilities for re-enlisting, the captain asked me if I had any questions or concerns. Or more specifically, if I needed to borrow his slick government pen. This is always my favorite part...

I informed him that, in just four short days, I was supposed to leave the army forever. I reminded him about a stop-loss that had prevented me from doing such. I respectfully informed him of my complete and raging hatred I have for the army, and that no sum of money nor status of rank could convince me to stay in.

He looked at me as if I were completely insane. How could I hate the army? How could I turn my back on an organization that has royally fucked not only me, but countless friends in the same situation? How could I not think that the army was the greatest thing in the universe; an unstoppable war machine with a killing efficiency far superior to any weapon of mass destruction? Why would I not sign that dotted line? Why would I not forfeit even more of my young life to mindlessly serve a fascist's empirical quest for world domination?

The expression on the captain's face when he heard such blasphemy was priceless. As I look back on today, my only regret is that I failed to bring a camera.

After setting back in his chair, carefully analyzing the seditious rhetoric he had just heard, he finally asked, "Well then, what else could you possibly do with your life?" I replied very nonchalantly, "I don't know, maybe live under a bridge."

At that point I stood up from his desk, shook his hand, thanked him for a great conversation, and made my way to the door.

As I walked outside and lit a cigarette, a staff sergeant cursed me for smoking within fifty feet of a building. Of course, how could I forget? What a strange society we live in. Somewhere on this camp, a soldier was most likely doing push-ups for forgetting to screw in a light bulb, or some other menial infraction.

The dust from the ground puffed into my nose with each step I took. The blazing hot sun continued to bake the entire landscape at a consistent 102 degrees. As I continued to walk down the hazy road, I couldn't help but to notice the 10x20 foot aluminum boxes that soldiers live in; their homes completely surrounded by a thick layer of sandbags to protect them from incoming mortar shells.

To the south, a billowing black cloud of smoke was hanging ominously over downtown Baquba.

In the distance, an AK-47 was chattering away at some arbitrary target.

Without a doubt, someone was now dead.

Almost to compliment the heavy gunfire, two Kiowa assault helicopters screamed over my head and into the horizon, looking for whatever trouble they might find.

I took a long drag from my cigarette and thought to myself, "Goddamn, I sure do miss the good life."

HEkLe Baquba, Iraq

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Scum In Command Caught Ordering Street Cops To Arrest The Innocent:

"You Have To Arrest Somebody, Even If The Crime Is Not Committed" "We Are Stopping Kids Walking Upstairs To Their House, Stopping Kids Going To The Store, Young Adults. In Order To Keep The Quota,' Answered Officer Polanco"

NEW YORK

An Eyewitness News investigation talks to a police officer who reveals the pressure they are under to make quotas.

When Officer Adil Polanco dreamed of becoming a cop, it was out of a desire to help people not, he says, to harass them.

"I'm not going to keep arresting innocent people, I'm not going to keep searching people for no reason, I'm not going to keep writing people for no reason, I'm tired of this," said Adil Polanco. an NYPD Officer.

Officer Polanco says One Police Plaza's obsession with keeping crime stats down has gotten out of control. He claims Precinct Commanders relentlessly pressure cops on the street to make more arrests, and give out more summonses, all to show headquarters they have a tight grip on their neighborhoods.

"Our primary job is not to help anybody, our primary job is not to assist anybody, our primary job is to get those numbers and come back with them?" said Officer Polanco.

Eyewitness News asked, "Why do it?"

"They have to meet a quota. One arrest and twenty summonses," said Officer Polanco.

This audio recording exclusively obtained by Eyewitness News seems to back up Officer Polanco's assertion of a quota.

You can listen to one officer as he lectures his rank and file officers during roll call at the 41st precinct.

"Things are not going to get any better. It's going to get a lot worse," said a police officer.

He lays out clearly that they need to bring in the numbers.

"If you think 1 and 20 is breaking your balls, guess what you're going to be doing. You're gong to be doing a lot more, a lot more than what they're saying," said the officer.

In another recording, the 41st Precinct Patrol Supervisor appears to step up the pressure to write more and more summonses:

"Next week, 25 &1, 35 & 1, and until you decide to quit this job to go to work at a Pizza Hut, this is what you're going to be doing till then. Do you understand?" asked the patrol officer.

"He's being clear, the only choice that we have is to do it," said Officer Polanco.

Eyewitness News asked, "Are you telling me they're stopping people for no reason, is that what you're saying?"

"We are stopping kids walking upstairs to their house, stopping kids going to the store, young adults. In order to keep the quota," answered Officer Polanco.

"Yeah, they locked us up for nothing," said Zebulun Colbourne.

The Colbourne brothers say they and three other friends were the victims of quotas. All were arrested a few months ago after one of them had fallen while racing each other.

Eyewitness News asked, "You fell and that's how you hurt your eye?"

"Yeah, and they just wanted to arrest us. I told them I fell but that didn't matter to them," said Elijah Colbourne.

All five were accused of engaging in tumultuous and violent conduct that caused public alarm, given a summons for unlawful assembly and locked up overnight.

Eyewitness News asked, "So you're locked up waiting to see the judge, right?"

"Yeah," answered the Colbourne brothers.

Eyewitness News asked, "Then what do they do?"

"We don't see the judge, they let us out the back door after they kept us for a day and some change," said Elijah Colbourne.

The charges were dropped, but Officer Polanco says the patrolman still got 5 summonses toward their monthly quota.

"At the end of the night you have to come back with something.

"You have to write somebody, you have to arrest somebody, even if the crime is not committed, the number's there. So our choice is to come up with the number," said Officer Polanco.

One Police Plaza declined our requests to interview the 41st precinct commander. But, Deputy Commissioner Paul Browne said, "Police Officers like others who receive compensation are provided productivity goals and they are expected to work."

Officer Polanco says if they are just goals, why are officers who fail to make them, reassigned to different shifts or relocated far from home.

It's the consequences of not making the numbers or quotas, he says, that forces officers to give out bogus summonses.

"I cannot be more honest than I've been. There's no reason for me to lie, there's no reason for me to get into the trouble I am, cause I just could've kept quiet and made the money," said Officer Polanco.

Deranged Louisiana Sheriff Recruits 200 Man Militia To Fight "'Cells' And People Operating Within The Parish 'That Have Been Trained As Terrorists'"

"Operation Exodus" To Protect Bossier Parish With "A .50-Caliber Machine Gun Mounted On What The Sheriff's Office Calls 'The War Wagon'"

Mar 04, 2010 USA TODAY

A Louisiana sheriff has begun training 200 local volunteers in basic hand-to-hand combat techniques as part of Project Exodus aimed at protecting the northwestern corner of the state from the danger of terrorists, the Shreveport Times reports.

Reporter Drew Pierson writes that Bossier Parish Sheriff Larry Deen's policing plan involves "a mostly white group of ex-police volunteers and a .50-caliber machine gun" and was inspired in part from the Book of Exodus in the Bible.

"The buck stops with Larry Deen," the sheriff says, according to the Times. "The liability stops with Larry Deen. I am the chief law enforcement officer in this parish, and it is incumbent upon me protect all of the people in it."

Deen rejects any notion that he is setting up a militia. "We run from that word," he says. "We're just the opposite that word."

Doyle Dempsey, chief deputy for support services, says in the training video that if the project is successful "we will be ahead of the curve when it comes to fighting Islamic extremists."

The volunteers will be equipped with shotguns, riot shields and batons, the newspaper says. A .50-caliber machine gun will be mounted on what the sheriff's office calls "the war wagon."

Deen elaborates on Operation Exodus on his website.

An excerpt:

"As evidenced by recent terror threats, it is apparent that homegrown terrorists are in our midst.

"With the easy accessibility of the Internet, it is quite possible that these local and international terrorists can form a national or multiple location attack on our nation at any given moment. And no matter whether we are a direct target or not, fear and panic will still permeate our community.

"Control will have to be regained to ensure the safety of our residents.

"That is where Operation Exodus comes into play. It utilizes preventive measures to safeguard Bossier Parish from the fear and outcry that will inevitably transpire."

Update at 1:26 p.m. ET: TPM Muckraker's Zachary Roth reports sheriff's office spokesman Ed Baswell told him that there have been intelligence reports showing that there have been "cells" and people operating within the parish "that have been trained as terrorists or went overseas to be trained as terrorist."

"It tells us that these are the kinds of thing we can't assume are happening far, far away," Basell said. "Terrorists can tend to strike anywhere and everywhere."

"There's not a state of paranoia, or anything like that," he added.

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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/)

"The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops." Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

CLASS WAR REPORTS



















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