

GI SPECIAL 4K28:



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

Abandoned On The Killing Fields: No Medevac Coming; “ALL Soldiers Need To Know That Unless They Are At A FOB, The MEDIVAC Will Not Be Launched”

[Thanks to Dennis O'Neil, Bring Them Home Now, who sent this in.]

Imagine that you were in the convoy, had just endured the death of two comrades & the wounding of one more (and the Iraqi interpreter), only to find out that you had been abandoned on the killing fields! For however the PAO monkeys try to spin this, the reality is that this group of Soldiers were, at the moment of maximum emotional trauma, told that you are there alone.

06-23-2006 By Roger Charles, Soldiers For The Truth Foundation

SFTT President Roger Charles is an Annapolis graduate, a retired USMC Lt. Col. who commanded an infantry platoon in I Corps during the Vietnam War, is the winner of the prestigious Peabody Award for news coverage, and was a protégée's of the late Col. David H. Hackworth. Rog can be contacted at sfttpres@aol.com. Please send comments to DWFeedback@yahoo.com.

A recent IED attack has surfaced an ugly truth -- the Grunts doing the great majority of fighting and dying in Iraq are considered "more expendable" than their REMF comrades, and the people making this determination are themselves, you guessed it, REMF's!!

(Now, before I get a couple hundred emails protesting my use of "REMF's as disparaging of some of our military who are themselves at risk, let me make this point. There is "risk" back in an FOB, no question.

(Is it the same risk as those who work outside the FOB? Don't think so. Is risk outside the FOB spread evenly? No -- go to one of the infantry companies in Ramadi, or Fallujah, and then compare that risk with someone running convoys between Ramadi and Baghdad. Not the same, but one hell of a lot more than someone back in the TOC at the FOB.

(And, I fully appreciate the risk faced by our Combat Engineers as they clear roads, and our EOD studs as they deal with IED's/EFP's. A special salute to our Combat Medics/Corpsmen out in the killings fields while I'm at it. And, the drivers who haul ass through IED Avenue -- you've damn sure got my respect!!

(But, bottom line -- if I've offended anyone who has dodged the occasional mortar shell in route to Burger King, or who has to make do with a 36-inch plasma tv while others, in the Green Zone in Baghdad have 42-inch sets, then I don't apologize.

(If you want me to place you in the same category as The Grunts, change MOS's!

(Until then, have the intellectual honesty to admit that REMF's are not deserving of the same respect given to Hack's "Warriors," even if you get the same "Imminent Danger Pay." Let me make it clear that while I respect all who serve our great nation, I am not blind to the reality that not all who serve, share the same threat of death, or of crippling or maiming wounds.

(And, as to who is a REMF, and who is not -- it's between you and your conscience. If the "shoe" fits, wear it.)

So, imagine this scenario -- you and your buddies have finished another day of training Iraqi troops and are headed back to your FOB (Forward Operating Base) when an especially nasty IED (in the form of EFP, an "Explosively Formed Projectile") explodes into the lead Humvee in your column of three.

The blast is strong enough to flip the Humvee into the air, landing in a ditch on it's top.

Here's what happened, in the words of America's Grunts who where there.

To: Soldiers For the Truth
From: The NCOs of the 4th INP Brigade SPTT Team

The 4/1 SPPT Team was traveling back from Salman Pak to Camp Rustamiyah along EFP alley (RTE Pluto South) on Sunday May 14th about 5:15pm in a 3 vehicle convoy.

About 3 miles from Camp Rustamiyah, the first Humvee was hit by a massive roadside bomb called an EFP. The bomb blew the HUMVEE into the air and created a giant cloud of debris, dirt and pavement. We stopped as fast as we could and when the smoke cleared enough, we could see the first HUMVEE had been completely blown off the road and was lying upside down in a ditch.

To make matters worse it was also on fire.

The rest of the team tried to free the driver and vehicle commander from the wreckage but the frame of the HUMVEE was bent and the door would not open. The two soldiers in the front were trapped inside the burning vehicle and died.

We could only pray that they were already dead from the EFP blast and did not burn to death.

We tried to pull the front doors off with a winch and a tow strap, but the burning ammunition inside the wreck started to explode and the entire vehicle caught fire and blew up.

The gunner was pulled from the wreckage and was severely wounded with shrapnel wounds from the spalling. The Medic with the SPTT Team was able to start working on the gunner to save his life and we gave the interpreter aid as best as we could.

A MEDIVAC was immediately called for the litter urgent and critical soldier and the QRF rolled from the FOB. About 10 minutes later the tanks and HUMVEES of the QRF got there and secured the area.

What happened at this point is what we need your help with.

The MEDIVAC was denied because we could not guarantee the LZ was not hot.

Even with the QRF securing the area, the MEDIVAC was not launched.

We were told we had to transport the severely wounded soldier and interpreter back to the FOB, have the aid station stabilize them and the MEDIVAC would then fly to the FOB to pick them up.

To complicate matters the QRF did not have an ambulance with them, because the medical unit will not roll any of the 20 odd HUMVEE and M113 combat ambulances with the QRF because it is too dangerous outside the FOB.

We had to put the soldier in a HUMVEE and drive him to the FOB, where the chicken shit medics were waiting inside the FOB gate to transport him, via ambulance to the TMC.

Thank God this soldier is still alive and on his way to Landstuhl. The two soldiers were eventually pulled from the wreckage after a HEMMIT with a tank pump unit put out the fire that engulfed the wrecked HUMVEE.

It took the HEMMIT almost an hour to get to the site, 3 miles away from the FOB, because the KBR contracted Fire Department and EMT unit refused to leave the FOB, because their contract states they will ONLY work within the protection of the FOB.

Their brand new fire engines and rescue vehicles were waiting inside the gate when we finally towed the wrecked HUMVEE back. By the time the HEMMIT arrived, both soldiers were burned beyond recognition. to the point where their own wives could not recognize them. Last night at 1:00am in the morning, we loaded the body bags on a helicopter to BIOP and to start their trip home

When we asked why the MEDIVAC would not land on a secured LZ to MEDIVAC the critically wounded soldier, we were told “the policy is that we cannot afford to lose a Blackhawk and crew flying into potentially hostile LZ.”

We work in Salman Pak, which is almost an hour southeast of Baghdad. If a soldier is wounded, we are expected to self evac him back to Rustamiyah because “it is too dangerous to send a MEDIVAC, Ambulance or M113 combat medic vehicle (even if it is with the QRF).

From the time we landed in Kuwait and after we arrived in Iraq, we were given MEDIVAC procedure cards and even given a MEDIVAC Freq .

We were told that all we had to do is call and follow the procedures on the card and a MEDIVAC would be launched.

This is BOGUS!

ALL Soldiers need to know that unless they are at a FOB, the MEDIVAC will not be launched.

Fire departments, EMT, combat medic vehicles, field ambulances all have orders not to leave the FOB because it is too “dangerous.”

The reality is if you are wounded, you are SOL until your own unit puts you into a HUMVEE and you get back to the FOB.

Please help us contact (deleted) about this policy.

4th ID is telling us that "this is just the way things are."

That, "these things happen."

We need your help before this is swept under the rug.

Editor's note: when asked for more details, how the death-dealing device was situated, etc., here's the reply from a long-time SFTT supporter.

"It was an EFP, half buried and emplaced near a grove of trees. We could not see it...

I was in the vehicle directly behind the EFP strike and we barely managed to evade a secondary EFP. The EFP was a 7-8 array 155mm Iranian made weapon. It was set by the Mahdi Militia, the same Mahdi Militia that the murderous thug al Sadr is the leader of and the Iraq Shia dominated government allows to operate or tacitly approves.

The NCO's put this letter together because nobody is listening to them.

Even the division SGM Major is giving them the cold shoulder.

Read this and if you have any questions, I can answer and corroborate anything in the letter.

Editor's note: In another email, this stand-up Army officer had this to say in response to my query about the current system of MEDEVAC priorities.

Roger,

There are 3 levels, litter, litter urgent and critical. The problem is that the soldiers are given MEDIVAC Cards with freq and procedures, and briefed that if you need a MEDIVAC for a wounded soldier, you call one and it will be sent.

The priority is given to critical care, but the soldiers are told a MEDIVAC will be sent.

The reality is, unless you are at a FOB, a MEDIVAC will not be sent.

The MEDIVAC will only land at the FOBs. There are a plenty of M113s that have red crosses and are configured as ground MEDIVAC, but they are not used because they are deemed "unsafe." Fact is the uparmored HUMVEE has as much or less protection, so that argument loses merit.

Yes, there are plenty of Bradleys in 1-33 CAV at Rustamiyah, but they sit most of the time. 3-67 Armor only runs M1s. There is no Ground MEDIVAC with the QRF.

I talked to the NCOs and they say print it. I have requested a 15-6 as to the MEDIVAC, so the NCOs say address the letter as written By The NCOs.

Editor's note: When I queried our source about whether this policy was theater-wide, or a local commander's decision, here's his response.

Roger,

This is the answer regarding MEDIVAC Ops.

MND-B policy states unless there is Zero risk of hostile fire, the MEDIVAC will only land at the nearest FOB. The unit will self evacuate the wounded to the nearest FOB, where the MEDEVAC will pick them up and transport the wounded to the CASH.

MND-B policy also states that no M703 Humvee Ambulance or M113 Combat Ambulance will leave a FOB. These vehicles are considered to be unsafe against IED and EFP attacks.

Editor's note: Now there's a mind-blowing admission -- the "Dust-off" chopper and crew cannot be exposed to any risk of hostile fire!!

Last time I looked, this was a "hostile fire pay" (aka Imminent Danger Pay) zone... Ummm??

And, please note, this is not a policy set by the crew, or the supporting aviation unit. I have zero doubt that US Army aviators would fly these missions, if permitted. My source then included the following statement from the HQ element justifying the "no fly MEDEVAC, if bullets fly" policy.

From: MCD-B, 4ID HQ, G3 CHOPS

Subject: MEDEVAC

ALL:

I suspect many of your staff, like ours at Division, are in the middle of answering questions regarding MEDEVACs. Please review the MEDEVAC information below with your teams, whether new or seasoned at this point, in order to make sure we are all working from the same understanding of our MEDEVAC call procedures.

The basic scheme is to call MEDEVAC on the established MEDEVAC frequency so the information concerning casualties is passed directly to the people that can help, namely the MEDEVAC CP, hospital emergency room, and Division CP. All soldiers carry a MEDEVAC 9 Line Request card and can call for a MEDEVAC if necessary.

Once the request for MEDEVAC is requested on the MEDEVAC net is that the aircrews can immediately begin preparing for the mission. Once the 9-line is received and verified, the following actions must take place, some simultaneously:

Flight medic verifies nature of the injury and gathers as much information from the unit on the ground as possible so he/she can get a backboard or other extra equipment, like starting the oxygen generator on some of the helicopters.

One pilot goes with a crew chief to the helicopter and begins start-up procedures, which for a UH-60 takes nearly 15 minutes.

The other pilot begins the mission approval process, which requires him to brief his mission and receive risk approval from the appropriate authority, which in the case of MEDEVAC is the Aviation BN S3, XO or Commander.

If the first and primary means for a MEDEVAC call is on Ventrillo, then we add at least 5 minutes to the response time and inject the likelihood of information being transmitted or written down incorrectly as it works its way up from the point of injury, through the various levels of command to Division, then back down to the MEDEVAC unit.

Again, please pass this to your staff can ensure a common understanding of MEDEVAC procedures **and continue to do the very best for our injured Soldiers. (Emphasis added.)**

vr

IRONHORSE!

MND-B G3 CHOPS
LTC D--- H--- (1500-0300)
MAJ G--- D---- (0300-1500)

Editor's Note:

Imagine that you were in the convoy, had just endured the death of two comrades & the wounding of one more (and the Iraqi interpreter), only to find out that you had been abandoned on the killing fields!

For however the PAO monkeys try to spin this, the reality is that this group of Soldiers were, at the moment of maximum emotional trauma, told that you are there alone.

We will not send MEDEVAC, air or ground, to assist.

And, later, when "the policy" is questioned, some field grade REMF will have the audacity to claim that the command will "continue to do the very best for our injured Soldiers."

I don't know what Hack would have to say in response to this sad and pathetic situation, but if he was on-scene, he'd have gone to aid these Soldiers if he had to ride a bicycle, or walk.

Some of you are no doubt wondering why it took so long to get this information posted, since the event took place on May 14. Good question, and I owe an apology to the NCO's who had the cajones to stand up and say, "this is not right, and we will not quietly accept being abandoned on the battlefield."

When this information first came to SFTT, I took it to a national media outlet who promised to give it the attention it deserved, and to do so quickly.

Well, live and learn -- burned again. Won't be going back there soon. Poor judgement on my part, but that's only part of the reason for the delay.

I let some other matters have more attention than they deserved, and I am deeply embarrassed for having let these great troops down. I pray for your safe return, and can only hope to be more effective the next time. I hope you guys forgive me.

s/f,
Rog Charles

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



A U.S. soldier from 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team outside a closed shop in Baghdad October 26, 2006. REUTERS/Namir Noor-Eldeen (IRAQ)

One Soldier Killed, One Wounded In Salah Ad Din Province

Nov. 29, 2006 Multi-National Corps Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061129-10

TIKRIT, Iraq: A Task Force Lightning Soldier assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, was killed when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle while conducting operations in Salah ad Din Province Tuesday.

A second Soldier from this unit was wounded and transported to a Coalition Forces' medical treatment facility.

Soldier Killed In Al Anbar

Nov. 29, 2006 Multi-National Corps Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061129-11

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq: One Soldier assigned to Regimental Combat Team 7 died today from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

West Mobile Soldier Killed In Iraq

Nov 29, 2006 Glenn Austin, WKRG Channel 5

The war in Iraq has hit home in Mobile once again. According to the family, 32 year old Chris Mason was killed by a roadside bomb on Tuesday. Dozens of friends, family and neighbors gathered at the Mason home in West Mobile.

The family said that Chris returned from Iraq about six weeks ago and spoke during a Sunday service at the life church of Mobile. During that speech he talked about how important it was to be in Iraq and was looking forward to returning.

Specialist Chris Mason, U.S. Army : " Folks you got to dig down deep. When things get tough for you, you got to remember you're in a war. You're in a battle for your soul, people. You hear me? And It's no joke. The bullets we play with are real over there and the things that the devil uses on us is real over here."

Chris Mason's body will be returned to the United States sometime next week.

U.S. Humvee Destroyed In Fallujah:

Iraqis Celebrate; Casualties Not Announced



Iraqi citizens celebrate, holding parts of destroyed U.S. military vehicle near Fallujah, Nov. 29, 2006. A roadside bomb struck an American convoy, destroying one Humvee, police said. U.S. military couldn't confirm the attack. (AP Photo/Bilal Fawzi)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Family Says Red River G.I. Killed In Afghanistan

11/29/06 KXAN

SHERMAN, Texas The family of a 31-year-old North Texas G-I says they've received word that he's been killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Lynn Colbert tells K-X-I-I T-V in Sherman that the Army informed her that her son, Staff Sergeant Michael Shank of Bonham, was killed yesterday during a routine patrol.

She says the Army told her that her son died when his Humvee ran over a mine on a mountain road.

She says her son was a ten-year Army veteran who had served in Iraq two years ago and had been in Afghanistan about six months.

TROOP NEWS

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



A portrait of Sgt. 1st Class Schuyler B. Haynes is displayed next to his casket Nov. 28, 2006 in New York. Haynes died Nov. 15 in Baquba, Iraq, of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

**ONLY 144,000 TO GO:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A soldier from the Army 4th Infantry Division is embraced by a family member during a homecoming ceremony in Fort Hood, Texas November 28, 2006. The division returned after spending a one year tour in Iraq. REUTERS/Jessica Rinaldi



A matter of conscience, an act of courage

“As a commissioned officer of the U.S. Armed Forces my legal and moral obligation is to the constitution - not to those who would issue unlawful orders. It is my duty to refuse to fight this illegal war.”

-U.S. Army Lt. Ehren Watada

Come hear Carolyn Ho *Mother of Lt. Ehren Watada*

Speaks out against her son's
Upcoming court martial
For refusing deployment to Iraq



Lt. Ehren Watada and mother Carolyn Ho

“I have come to realize that my son, in a small part, embodies the hope of the nation --- to end an illegal, immoral war that has brought death and destruction to over 650,000 Iraqis and Americans....After all, what is freedom if a man betrays the inner voice of conscience?”

- Carolyn Ho

“Introduction by Margaret Prescod, KPFK Pacifica radio host with Women of Color in the Global Women’s Strike, a tour sponsor with GWS and Payday” philly@crossroadswomen.net

Also Video clip of Lt. Watada speaking

When: Friday, December 8th 6:00PM

**Where: Church Center For The United Nations - (New York City)
777 UN Plaza (44th Street & 1st Ave.), 2nd Floor**

SPONSORED BY: United For Lt. Watada

World Can’t Wait, Drive Out the Bush Regime

Co-Sponsors: New York City Labor Against the War (NYCLAW)

Peace Action of New York State

Not In Our Name

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom

Granny Peace Brigade

Citizen Soldier

To reach Family and Friends of Lt. Watada

www.thankyoult.org and www.ltwatada.org P.O.Box 9727 Seattle, WA 98109-0727
For more information contact Gloria Lum 646-824-2710 or Elaine Brower 917-520-0767

Decorated War Hero Says Iraq War A Pack Of Lies And Australian Troops Have Been Betrayed

"When I pressed them (US intelligence) for more specific imagery or information regarding locations or likely locations of WMD they confessed, off the record, that there had not been any tangible sighting of any WMD or WMD enabling equipment for some years," he said.

"It was all shadows and inferred conversations between Iraqis. There was an overwhelming desire for all of the planning staff to simply believe that the Iraqis had learned how to conceal their WMD assets away from the US (surveillance) assets."

November 25, 2006 Patrick Walters, National security editor, The Australian [Excerpts]

THE former SAS officer who devised and executed the Iraq war plan for Australia's special forces says that the nation's involvement has been a strategic and moral blunder.

Peter Tinley, who was decorated for his military service in Afghanistan and Iraq, has broken ranks to condemn the Howard Government over its handling of the war and has called for an immediate withdrawal of Australian troops.

"It was a cynical use of the Australian Defence Force by the Government," the ex-SAS operations officer told The Weekend Australian yesterday.

"This war duped the Australian Defence Force and the Australian people in terms of thinking it was in some way legitimate."

As the lead tactical planner for Australia's special forces in the US in late 2002, Mr Tinley was in a unique position to observe intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program and the coalition's military preparations in the lead-up to the war.

In Iraq in 2003, Mr Tinley served as deputy commander for the 550-strong joint special forces task group that took control of western Iraq.

During war planning with US and British special forces at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in 2002, Mr Tinley says he never saw any hard intelligence that Saddam Hussein's regime possessed weapons of mass destruction.

"When I pressed them (US intelligence) for more specific imagery or information regarding locations or likely locations of WMD they confessed, off the record, that

there had not been any tangible sighting of any WMD or WMD enabling equipment for some years," he said.

"It was all shadows and inferred conversations between Iraqis. There was an overwhelming desire for all of the planning staff to simply believe that the Iraqis had learned how to conceal their WMD assets away from the US (surveillance) assets."

Coalition special forces troops were charged with hunting down Scud missiles and Saddam's suspected WMD arsenals, operating from just west of Baghdad all the way through to the Jordanian border, and between the Syrian and Saudi frontiers.

After the initial invasion, the search for WMD became something of a "standing joke" with neither coalition troops nor the Iraq Survey Group turning up anything of consequence.

"The notion that pre-emption is a legitimate strategy in the face of such unconvincing intelligence is a betrayal of the Australian way," he said.

Mr Tinley told The Weekend Australian he was now speaking out having expected people "far more capable and more senior than me" to have expressed serious reservations about Australia's involvement in Iraq.

"During our preparations for this war I remember hearing (ex-defence chief) General Peter Gration's misgivings and assumed he did not possess all the information that our Prime Minister did," he said. "I now reflect on his commentary with a completely different view and am saddened that other prominent people in our society didn't speak louder at the time and aren't continuing to speak out in light of what we now know."

He said the Government had broken a moral contract with its defence force in sending it to an "immoral war".

The Government's stance on Iraq and later on issues such as the Tampa had gradually allowed fear to become a motivating factor in the electorate, he said.

Mr Tinley said the Howard Government had failed to be honest with Australians about Iraq and "you can't separate the sentiment of the defence force from that of the people".

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

The Wheels Come Off: **Al-Sadr Nationalists Boycott Iraq** **Government;** **Al-Maliki Cancels Meeting With Bush:** **“Bush Is A Criminal Who Killed A Lot** **Of Iraqis And We Do Not Want Him To** **Interfere In Iraq’s Affairs”**

“This visit hijacked the will of the people during days when the sons of Iraq write their destiny with blood and not ink,” said the statement, which referred to Bush as “cursed,” the “world’s biggest evil” and a “criminal.” [OK for starters.]

11/29/ Wire Services & GIR & The Associated Press & November 30, 2006 Associated Press Writer By HAMZA HENDAWI

BAGHDAD, Iraq: Lawmakers and Cabinet ministers allied to pro-American but anti-occupation nationalist Muqtada al-Sadr Muqtada al-Sadr said Wednesday they have carried out their threat to suspend participation in Parliament and the government to protest Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s summit with U.S. President George W. Bush.

Within hours of the announcement, the White House said Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s first meeting with Bush in their key two-day summit in Jordan was canceled.

Senior Iraqi lawmaker Redha Jawad Taqi said the meeting was canceled at the request of the Iraqis after al-Maliki learned that the Jordanian monarch planned to broaden the discussion to include the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The 30 lawmakers and five Cabinet ministers said their action was necessary because the meeting in Jordan constituted a “provocation to the feelings of the Iraqi people and a violation of their constitutional rights.”

“We are sticking to our position. ... The boycott is still valid,” Falih Hassan, a legislator said.

“Bush is a criminal who killed a lot of Iraqis and we do not want him to interfere in Iraq’s affairs.

“This visit hijacked the will of the people during days when the sons of Iraq write their destiny with blood and not ink,” said the statement, which referred to Bush as “cursed,” the “world’s biggest evil” and a “criminal.”

“The Iraqi government should negotiate with the U.N. Security Council, not with the leader of the country that is occupying Iraq.”

Meanwhile, a statement issued by the Sadrist lawmakers criticized al-Maliki's Shiite-dominated government for its decision to request from the United Nations a one-year extension of the stay in Iraq of the U.S.-led multinational force numbering around 160,000. The request was granted on Tuesday.

The Sadr politicians argued that the multinational force played a “suspicious” role in Iraq and accused al-Maliki of ignoring the views of parliament's 275 lawmakers when it sought a renewal of its deployment.

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

Assorted Resistance Action



Police vehicle destroyed in a guerrilla car bomb attack in centre of Baghdad, November 29, 2006. REUTERS/Thaier al Sudani (IRAQ)

11/29/06 Associated Press & Xinhua & Reuters & November 30, 2006 Associated Press
Writer By HAMZA HENDAWI

In Baghdad, gunfire could be heard for much of the morning near the Green Zone, the heavily fortified area on the Tigris River where Iraq's parliament, U.S. soldiers and American and British embassies are based.

Wednesday, suspected insurgents attacked the police headquarters in downtown Baqouba. Insurgents often kill Iraqi security forces for being allied with the U.S. occupation.

At 7:45 a.m. Wednesday, a roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol in a commercial center of the capital, wounding two policeman, said police Lt. Bilal Ali Majid.

A car bomber struck a police commando checkpoint in southwestern Baghdad on Wednesday. "A bomber rammed his explosive-laden car into a police commando checkpoint in the Shurta al-Rabi'a neighborhood, killing a commando member and wounding three others," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In Salahuddin, a province west of Diyala province, insurgents on Wednesday killed four policemen and wounded six others in a carefully coordinated attack on a police station in Samarra city that used a car bomb and militants armed with guns and rocket-propelled grenades, said police Capt. Laith Mohammed.

Militants briefly occupied the building.

In another town in Salahuddin, suspected insurgents attacked a police checkpoint, killing two policemen and wounding two others, Mohammed said.

Heavy fighting continued in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where clashes between coalition forces and insurgents have killed scores of militants and civilians in the past few days.

GET THE MESSAGE?



Iraqis who support nationalist political leader Muqtada al-Sadr march over the British, American and the Israeli flags in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city Nov. 28, 2006. (AP Photo/Nabil Al Jurani)

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE

END THE OCCUPATION

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**Arlington Northwest In Seattle
2006**



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: November 29, 2006
Subject: Arlington Northwest in Seattle 2006

Arlington Northwest In Seattle 2006

Boot Hill -- brought to you by politicians who never wore boots.

By January 2007, there will be 3,000 American soldiers dead in Iraq--a war that has lasted longer than World War II.

American soldiers returning to their homes will wonder why they were ever there.

I did the same thing when I returned from Vietnam. I talked very little about my experience in Southeast

Asia, mainly because very few people ever asked me anything.

My war experience became a betrayal experience, and the more I felt that way, the deeper I went inside myself.

America was never there to heal us.

Our stories of war had to be told in Vet Centers, far away from those who sent us. This happened year after year, because we were stuck in time.

Political leaders continued to lie, and we continued to bleed in silence.

When I saw other veterans, we didn't have to say a word to each other. We could see the emotional wounds in each other's faces.

One time when I was in Vietnam, I heard a Vietnamese kid yell, " Fuck You G.I."

When I came home, those three words stuck with me.

Everytime I heard politicians lie to me, and define Vietnam for me, they were saying, "Fuck You G.I."

It goes on year after year, as the political elite march across the battlefields of Washington, D.C.

They are fearless in their dress shoes.

Except for a few, they know nothing about war-----nothing.

They are like children playing a violent video game. They have lied to me since I came home from Vietnam in 1971, and they did it again in....

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Mike Hastie
Vietnam Veteran
November 28, 2006

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)

“American Military And Political Leverage In Iraq Has Fallen Sharply” Delusional White House Memo On Iraq Leaked To Public

Against these judgments, some key passages in the Hadley memo seem at odds with the reality on the ground, as if the steady worsening of America’s prospects here has driven the White House to reach for solutions that defy the gloomy conclusions of America’s diplomats and field commanders, not to mention some of Mr. Maliki’s closest political associates.

Nov. 28 By JOHN F. BURNS and KIRK SEMPLE, The New York Times Company
[Excerpts]

BAGHDAD, Nov. 28: When President Bush meets in Jordan on Wednesday with Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki of Iraq, it will be a moment of bitter paradox: at a time of heightened urgency in the Bush administration's quest for solutions, American military and political leverage in Iraq has fallen sharply.

Dismal trends in the war — measured in a rising number of civilian deaths, insurgent attacks, sectarian onslaughts and American troop casualties — have merged with growing American opposition at home to lend a sense of crisis to the talks in Amman.

But American fortunes here are ever more dependent on feuding Iraqis who seem, at times, almost heedless to American appeals, American and Iraqi officials in Baghdad say.

They say they see few policy options that can turn the situation around, other than for Iraqi leaders to come to a realization that time is running out.

It is not clear that the United States can gain new traction in Iraq with some of the proposals outlined in a classified White House memorandum, which was compiled after the national security adviser, Stephen J. Hadley, visited Baghdad last month.

Many of the proposals appear to be based on an assumption that the White House memo itself calls into question: that Prime Minister Maliki can be persuaded to break with 30 years of commitment to Shiite religious identity and set a new course, or abandon the ruling Shiite religious alliance to lead a radically different kind of government, a moderate coalition of Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish politicians.

The memo's assessment of Mr. Maliki tracks closely with what his American and Iraqi critics in Baghdad say: that six months after taking office, he has still not shown that he is willing or capable of rising above Shiite sectarianism.

These critics say, in effect, that the 56-year-old Iraqi leader has failed, so far, to meet the test set by Mr. Bush when the two men met for the first time in Baghdad in June. At that meeting, the American leader told Mr. Maliki he had come to "look you in the eye" and determine if America had a reliable partner here.

Against these judgments, some key passages in the Hadley memo seem at odds with the reality on the ground, as if the steady worsening of America's prospects here has driven the White House to reach for solutions that defy the gloomy conclusions of America's diplomats and field commanders, not to mention some of Mr. Maliki's closest political associates.

Even some powerful figures in the Shiite alliance have spoken recently of Mr. Maliki less as a possible leader of a parliamentary coup against the political movement that nurtured him than as an ineffective and ultimately dispensable figure, much like the man he succeeded in the prime minister's office, Ibrahim al-Jaafari. The United States pressured Mr. Jaafari to step down and endorsed Mr. Maliki's candidacy.

Shiites in Iraq are riven by factional rivalries, and there may be opportunities for the Americans to exploit those divisions to create parliamentary realignments. Indeed, some Iraqi leaders have started exploring new alliances to break the political logjam, possibly involving a parliamentary coup against Mr. Maliki. But if Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani,

Iraq's most powerful Shiite cleric, has been clear about anything, it has been that the Shiites must subordinate their differences to the cause of consolidating Shiite power.

So it is hard to imagine Mr. Maliki approaching Ayatollah Sistani to win approval “for actions that could split the Shia politically,” as the Hadley memo suggests.

Shiite leaders, who are tiring of Mr. Maliki, appear to be thinking of replacing him with another Shiite religious leader, and not of sundering the alliance and surrendering the power the Shiites have awaited for centuries.

But if recent interviews in Baghdad with senior American and Iraqi officials are a guide, a bigger problem for the administration in effecting change here may be that the United States, in toppling Saddam Hussein and sponsoring elections that brought the Shiites to power, began a process that left Washington with ever-diminishing influence.

One reason for the declining American influence lies in policies that, for various reasons, alienated the political class, most of them former exiles like Mr. Maliki who rode back to Baghdad on the strength of American military power.

Many Shiite leaders resent the Americans for compelling them to share power in the new government with the minority Sunni Arabs — a policy, the Shiites say, that guaranteed paralysis for the government.

Sunni leaders still resent the American invasion, and the imposition of an electoral process that ended centuries of Sunni dominance. Just as much, they fume over the pervasive influence of neighboring Iran, which backs the Shiite parties.

And secular politicians, marginalized by the Shiite and Sunni Islamist politicians who dominate the government, say they, too, have lost faith in the Americans, for failing to protect Iraq's secular traditions.

“Politically, their position is weaker in all aspects,” Mahmoud Othman, a Kurdish leader, said of the Americans. “They just got weaker and weaker, and many more people who were supporting them are supporting them less.”

Meanwhile, the faltering of the latest effort to secure Baghdad has exposed the limitations of American ability to change the military equation.

The White House memo raises the possibility of using additional American troops to fill what it calls “the four brigade gap” in troops committed to the Baghdad operation in August — a gap caused by Iraq's new army committing only two of the six brigades it promised.

That shortfall left Americans providing about two-thirds of the 25,000 troops, halting by mid-October the sweeps to clear districts of insurgents and death squads.

But American commanders interviewed said that committing additional American troops could send a signal to Shiites, Sunni Arabs and Kurds that they could continue to quarrel over their share of political and economic power behind an American military shield.

Meanwhile, the political process has almost completely ground to a halt. Mr. Maliki's "national reconciliation plan," intended to reduce violence through dialogue and an amnesty program for militia fighters and insurgents, has stalled.

Political leaders have also made little progress on promises to review the new Constitution, a document resented by Sunnis, and a plan to draft a new law that will set terms for the divisions of oil revenues that account for 90 percent of Iraq's economy.

Saleh Mutlak, a Sunni legislator, was blunt in his assessment of the government: "Do you not recognize that it's going backwards?"

Sectarian rifts between the nation's political leaders have deepened. During a session of Parliament last week, prominent Sunni and Shiite legislators bitterly accused each other of sectarianism and promoting violence. President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, has warned fellow leaders about the possible collapse of the state. And even the Shiite leaders who control the government have taken to conspiring among themselves, with open jockeying for the succession if Mr. Maliki should fall.

At the crux of the most difficult decisions facing Mr. Maliki stands the Shiite cleric Moktada al-Sadr, whose control of one of the largest blocs in Parliament, several ministries and a large and restless militia, makes him arguably the most powerful politician in Iraq. Mr. Maliki is indebted to Mr. Sadr for providing the votes within the ruling Shiite alliance that made him prime minister.

The White House memo suggests that Shiites might be willing to drop their support of the militia if the Americans continue their military pressure against Sunni insurgents. But Shiites see the militia as their last defense against decimation by Sunni insurgents.

For the Iraqi leader, the challenge presented by Mr. Sadr and the Mahdi Army amounts to a zero-sum game. If Mr. Maliki moves too fast against the militia, he risks losing Mr. Sadr's support and splintering the Shiite bloc. If he moves too slowly, he will alienate the Sunni Arabs whose cooperation is crucial to any hope of reining in the insurgency.

Meanwhile, Mr. Maliki is in a vexed relationship with the United States. The Iraqi government needs the United States for the protection its 150,000 troops afford. At the same time, he has felt compelled to push back publicly against American pressures, partly to gain credibility among those in his power base who oppose the American presence, particularly the staunchly anti-American Mr. Sadr. Among other things, he has demanded effective control of Iraq's new 140,000-man army, which remains under overall American command.

According to several Iraqi politicians, Mr. Bush may consent in Jordan to arrangements that give Mr. Maliki at least greater nominal authority over the Iraqi forces, something American commanders — and the White House memo — agree would be important to Mr. Maliki's credibility.

But the Americans will be careful about the practical implications, because of concerns that the Iraqi police and army, overwhelmingly Shiite, could be used as a sectarian militia.

Iraqis are growing impatient. “The government should say they are going to take things into their own hands,” said Adel Abdul Mahdi, the Shiite vice president and one of Mr. Maliki’s rivals for prime minister.

“We don’t have enough time,” he continued. “Iraqis have to deliver. We have to show the world that there is a state.”

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to contact@militaryproject.org:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Good News For The Iraqi Resistance!!

U.S. Occupation Commands’ Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops



An Iraqi woman inspects damage done by occupation soldiers from the U.S. who broke into her home at night in Baghdad's impoverished district of Sadr city. (AFP/Ahmad al-Rubaye)

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into and wreck their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."

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

OCCUPATION PALESTINE/LEBANON

"The Killing Fields of Gaza"



Carlos Latuff on Gaza

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam Veterans, who sent this in.]

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Scum Of The Earth Meet In Arabia; Traitor And Tyrant Play Kissy Face



The traitor Cheney meeting with Saudi tyrant and bloody dictator King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz in Riyadh, 25 November 2006. For their dinner meeting, they were served oil, the blood of U.S. troops, and the severed hands and heads of human beings, fried medium rare, a product of the dictator's executioners. (AFP/SPA/HO/File)

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation 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 - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or 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.net)

Received:

“We Need To Get People To Wake Up”

From: Jack Inabox
To: GI Special
Sent: November 27, 2006
Subject: Right on man .

We definitely need more people seeing the truth my friend. I am an inactive soldier now having served my honorable 4 years .

If they call try to my ass back I'm just going to have to tell them the truth. That I am Bisexual and I am a conscientious objector to warfare of all kinds. My sexuality is secret to most because I'm pretty much just a cool normal guy but my strong views on war are not.

I will be telling my story at web.mac.com/gteng81. Don't worry I'm not hitting on you its for real, we need to get people to wake up.

Can I link your site on my page ?

REPLY:

**GI Special is public information; anyone may refer to it any way they wish.
Respect for your service and opposition to the war.**

T

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