

GI SPECIAL 2#78

John Kerry's Plan For Iraq



Keri Frank during ceremony for her husband U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Phillip Frank April 17, 2004. April 8. REUTERS/Frank Polich

Marine Vet Vs. Soldier-Killing Senator

May 7, 2004 Ruth Conniff, The Progressive

Twenty-four-year-old Marine Michael Hoffman feels betrayed by John Kerry.

Hoffman took part in the invasion of Iraq and served there for a year before returning home recently to tell Americans what he saw.

"The troops aren't fighting for what Bush is espousing on TV," he says. "Basically, they're just fighting for their lives now." Traveling up and down the Eastern seaboard, speaking at rallies for Military Families Against the War and Veterans for Peace, Hoffman sees a growing movement of dissent against Bush's Iraq folly.

"The troops know it's not true that they're there because there were weapons of mass destruction or to bring democracy to Iraq," Hoffman says. Instead, as he sees it, the troops are stuck in a complex and ugly situation, with no clear mission and no way out.

In his anger and forthrightness, Hoffman sounds a lot like another young soldier who returned home from an ill-conceived war to protest against it: John Kerry. But that was back in the early 1970s. Today, Democratic Presidential candidate Kerry is singing a different tune.

He reminded Russert that he supported more troops in Iraq and more money for the military budget.

"I'm incredibly disappointed in Kerry so far," says Hoffman. "I can relate to what he was saying right after he got back from Vietnam. That's where I am right now." To this young soldier, Kerry's support for the war in Iraq "feels almost like a stab in the back."

"He's the one who said, 'No one wants to be the last man to die for a mistake,'" says Hoffman. "That's what he's asking the troops to do right now."

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to the E-mail address up top. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

U.S. Soldier Killed in Iraq Bomb Blast

May 13 BAGHDAD, Iraq

A bomb exploded beside a U.S. military convoy in Baghdad, killing one U.S. soldier and injuring another, the U.S. military said Thursday.

Marine Dies of Wounds; Marine Command Too Frightened Of Resistance To Release Any Details

May 13, 2004 Combined Joint Task Force 7 Release #040513f

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq -- A Marine assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force died May 12 from wounds received earlier that day in the Al Anbar Province.

I MEF force protection measures preclude the release of any information that could aid enemy personnel in assessing the effectiveness or lack thereof with regard to their tactics, techniques and procedures.

ANOTHER MARINE KILLED IN ACTION; Marine Command Too Frightened Of Resistance To Release Any Details

May 13, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release
Number: 04-05-25C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq -- A Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action May 13 in the Al Anbar Province.

I MEF force protection measures preclude the release of any information that could aid enemy personnel in assessing the effectiveness or lack thereof with regard to their tactics, techniques and procedures.

As U.S. Soldiers Fight Shia Cleric's Militia Seven Wounded; Shia Leaders Propose Truce, U.S. Withdrawal

May 12, 2004 Associated Press & 5.12.04 By QASSID JABAR, Associated Press Writer & May. 13 Associated Press & Combined Joint Task Force 7 Release #040513a & May 13, 2004 By HAMZA HENDAWI, The Associated Press & The Telegraph (Britain) May 14, 2004

KARBALA, Iraq - U.S. soldiers backed by tanks and helicopters battled fighters loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr near a mosque in the holy city of Karbala early Wednesday, **hours after Shia leaders agreed on a proposal to end al-Sadr's violent standoff with the U.S.-led coalition.**

Al-Sadr urged fighters in the city to resist American troops and compared their struggle to the Vietnam War.

"I appeal to the fighters and mujahedeen in Karbala to stand together so as none of our holy sites and cities are defiled. We are prepared for any American escalation and we expect one," al-Sadr said Wednesday at a shrine in Najaf, where he is holed up.

American forces killed 20 to 25 "enemy" fighters in the Karbala battles, **while seven coalition soldiers were wounded, a coalition official said on condition of anonymity.**

Much of the fighting in Karbala took place near the Mukhaiyam mosque, which has served as a base for al-Sadr's Al-Mahdi Army militia and is less than a mile from one of the holiest Shiite sites in the world, the Imam Hussein shrine.

Witnesses said American soldiers first tried to enter the mosque, but then engaged in fierce shootouts with al-Sadr followers who had repositioned in the buildings around it. Fighting lasted for several hours in the Iskan and Jamiya areas of the city.

The operation began at about 11 p.m. Tuesday when elements of Task Force 1-37, 1st Armored Division moved into positions around the 12-building Mukhayam Mosque and shrine complex.

The Mukhayam Mosque is located about 500 yards from the Imam Hussein and Imam Abbas shrines.

As Soldiers prepared to enter the complex, they received mortar, small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire from the mosque and from rooftops of surrounding buildings.

During the exchange, a cache of weapons and ammunition in one of the buildings ignited.

At about 2:50 a.m. Soldiers rescued two bound-and-gagged Iraqi police officers from another building. Ammunition found with the policemen, also rigged for demolition, was disarmed.

Militiamen holed up inside the shrine fought the advancing Coalition forces with small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and hand grenades.

Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldiers and Iraqi police officers made the assault into the mosque while other coalition forces established a cordon around the building. Inside, they found 15 artillery rounds, 15 mortar rounds and small arms ammunition.

Footage broadcast by the Fox News network, which has a reporter traveling with U.S. troops of the 1st Armored Division, showed a building on fire and a U.S. vehicle trying to knock down a wall.

On Tuesday, Iraqi leaders in Najaf said al-Sadr will end the standoff with American troops if the coalition postpones its legal case against him and establishes an Iraqi force to patrol the holy city.

However, the offer hinges on an agreement that U.S. forces pull out of the city and nearby Kufa, and al-Sadr's militia lays down its arms, the leaders said.

Al-Sadr made a similar offer earlier this month.

The American-appointed governor in Najaf suggested that US authorities were reconsidering their stated goal of "killing or capturing" Sadr. **The US commander in the area said he was prepared to hand over security of the city to a locally raised security force that could include members of Sadr's Mahdi army.**

Sadr said yesterday: "The dissolution of the Mahdi army depends on the religious authorities. If they issue an edict to disband then we will disband."

Heavy gunfire and explosions were heard Thursday in the holy city of Karbala, where American troops are battling fighters loyal to cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Black smoke rose from the city center.

Much of the fighting appeared to be close to the city's Imam Abbas shrine. Another holy site in the city, the Imam Hussein shrine, is one of the most sacred shrines of Shia Islam. American forces are concerned that any damage to the two shrines could enrage Iraq's majority Shiite population.

In Karbala Thursday, fighters loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr regrouped in alleys north of Imam Hussein shrine. Smoke drifted over the shrine, apparently from a nearby power generator that had been set afire.

Residents said the fighting, which began Tuesday night, left many homes destroyed and shops gutted by fire, and many families fled to safer areas of the city. In some cases, men stayed while women and children left.

Young men gathered at some street corners to watch the fighting. Militiamen in groups of three and four moved in side streets.

Majeed Mohammed Ali, owner of a cloth shop across the road from the Imam Abbas shrine, and two employees loaded his merchandise into a truck for storage elsewhere. "I cannot wait any longer. Many shops have been burned down. I will not reopen my shop until all this is over," Ali said from atop the truck.

Pilgrims pleaded with guards of the two shrines to let them in, but they remained closed. Many of the faithful searched for telephones to assure relatives that they were safe.

Dozens of Iraqi police with assault rifles took up positions behind concrete barriers on the southern approaches to Karbala, possibly to prevent reinforcements from arriving to help militiamen in the city.

Madhi Army Captures Three Police Stations, Weapons And Ammunition In Najaf

May 13, 2004 By HAMZA HENDAWI, The Associated Press & Telegraph Group Limited

On Wednesday night, al-Sadr followers stormed three police stations in Najaf, killing one policemen and injuring two. The attackers captured three police cars,

weapons and ammunition, and destroyed computers and furniture, said Brig. Hassan Hamza, deputy police chief.

More than 40 fighter from the Mahdi army blocked off streets around the building before capturing the police stations.

Gen Hassan Lilu, the deputy police chief, was kidnapped in the raid but later released after being attacked.

Hospital officials in Najaf said four people were killed and six injured in overnight fighting between American forces and al-Sadr supporters.

Filipino Killed In Attack On U.S. Base; President Arroyo Threatens Withdrawal

May 12, 2004 Reuters & TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

A Filipino worker has been killed in Iraq in a mortar attack on a United States military camp, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said.

The contractors were among more than 1,360 Filipinos working at Camp Anaconda in Balad.

"It was a stroke of bad luck that they were exposed and unprotected at the time of the attack," said President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

There are 1,300 Filipinos working inside Camp Anaconda, she said.

He identified the fatality as Raymund Natividad, a warehouse personnel in his late 20's.

In her statement, Arroyo said that if 4,000 Filipino workers in Iraq "cannot be adequately secured, they must be transferred or evacuated to safer areas. This must be made clear to the employers and authorities concerned."

Arroyo directed the Foreign Affairs Department to reassess the security of Filipino workers employed in American military installations in Iraq.

"We cannot allow Filipino lives to be placed at wanton risk in a situation where unpredictable attacks are rife," she said, adding that the attack took place "despite assurances that the safety of Filipino civilian workers in Camp Anaconda has been ensured by newly built, protective underground bunkers."

Brillantes said the Filipinos on the base were employed by the Dubai-based company Prime Projects International, which is under contract to the U.S. military.

Rocket Attack On Baghdad Refinery

May 13, 2004 By HAMZA HENDAWI, The Associated Press

Thursday, a rocket landed in a gas plant at the Dora oil refinery in Baghdad, injuring a worker and triggering a blaze that was quickly extinguished. Dora is the biggest oil refinery in the capital.

Pointless Mission: Bring Them All Home Now!



US soldiers move a cement block back to its original place in a Baghdad street as troops try to re-establish order in Baghdad. (AFP/File/Sabah Arar)

TROOP NEWS

Rumsfeld Has Doubts U.S. Might Lose In Iraq, He Admits

(New York Daily News, May 13, 2004)

For the first time in public, a somber Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld raised the possibility that the U.S. mission in Iraq could fail. Rumsfeld said the prison abuse scandal had delivered a "body blow" to the nation-building effort in Iraq that has cost the lives of more than 770 U.S. troops.

GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans' benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. 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/>

U.S. Supply Lines Cut: “The Guerrillas Are Winning The War”

May 6, 2004 by George Hunsinger

<http://www.antiwar.com/orig/hunsinger.php?articleid=2487> -

The guerillas are winning the war, in part because no segment of the population has turned against them.

They have seized control of the roads, and disrupted the supply lines. "The main problem in Iraq today," writes military critic Carton Meyer, "is the massive logistics effort required to sustain U.S. Forces at over a hundred dispersed camps."

Supplies arrive by ship, with the closest major seaport being in Kuwait. "This means everything must be hauled hundreds of miles over war-torn roads among hostile natives." Most convoys are attacked, supplies run short, ammunition is rationed, and the Army is stretched to the limit.

Member Of 706th Unit In Coma After Mine Explosion

May 13, 2004 (Ohio) News Journal

AKRON -- An Ohio soldier seriously injured in Iraq when a land mine exploded was in a medically-induced coma at a Baghdad hospital, family members said.

Doctors were trying to stabilize Jessica Clements, 27, of Coventry Township, so she can return to the United States for further treatment.

Clements, an Army staff sergeant with the 706th Transportation Company based in Mansfield, suffered injuries to her head, hip, back and buttocks after the fuel tanker she was driving rolled over the mine May 5, said her stepfather, Christopher Wyatt.

The family was told Tuesday she showed signs of emerging from the coma and was able to move her legs and right arm in response to commands, boyfriend Greg Ramos said.



Jessica Clements, 27 AP photo

Before Tuesday, reports of Clements' condition were grim, Wyatt said.

"It was devastating. I could not believe this happened to my child," he said. "You always believe it just wasn't going to happen."

If her condition improves, she could be transferred to Germany and eventually to a hospital in Washington, D.C.

Clements joined the Army reserves nine years ago. She went to Iraq in January, Ramos said.

Wounded Placer County Soldier Home Again; Vietnam Vet Says Bring The Troops Home

May 12, 2004 Shana Franklin, KTXL

SACRAMENTO -- Flanked by friends and fellow Army National Guardsmen, Sergeant David Frame arrived at Sacramento International Airport, shocked by the fanfare.

Sgt. David Frame says, "I wasn't expecting it."

The full time soldier spent two months in Faji, Iraq, north of Baghdad, before a rocket propelled grenade hit his truck carrying supplies to Fallujah. **His knee's future is uncertain.**

Sgt. David Frame says, "I could be back to normal. I could walk with a limp."

The first thing Frame wants to do is play with his own children, who've grown leaps and bounds since he left.

Sgt. Frame's wife, Erin Frame, says, "My daughter turned one while he was gone."

Vietnam Veteran Richard Trujillo says, "It's sad. It's hard. The only solution is to bring these troops home."

This Vietnam veteran broke down in tears.

And now that Sgt. David Frame is home, the Army forbids him from talking to reporters about the prisoner abuse controversy tainting its reputation.

He says he wouldn't have anyway. He's just happy to hobble off toward his Roseville home, stopping for fajitas on the way.

Portugal To “Reassess” Iraq Mssion; 71% Want Troops Out

Agence France-Presse May 13, 2004

LISBON - Portugal will reevaluate the continuation of its national guard contingent in Iraq after the planned June 30 handover of sovereignty to Iraqis, Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso said Thursday.

"What we plan to do in June, when a new government takes over in Iraq, is reevaluate the situation," he told reporters when asked about the mission.

Lisbon dispatched 128 national guards, a militarized police force, to Iraq on November 12 to serve as part of a multinational force providing security in the southern city of Nasiriyah under British command.

Durao Barroso has been under growing pressure at home to withdraw the guards from Iraq since Spain's new government announced in March it would withdraw its troops from the war-ravaged country.

Nearly three out of four Portuguese, or 71 percent, want the national guards to be withdrawn, a poll published last month found.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL 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 in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. **Send requests to address up top. For copies on web site see:**<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>

15 Dropouts Of Bulgaria's Next Iraq Unit; No Thanks, Iraq's Not For Me

Novinite (Bulgaria) May 13, 2004

A total of fifteen Bulgarian soldiers from the country's third Iraq unit, scheduled to leave in August, have stated their will to quit.

The news was broken by Bulgarian Darik radio. A total of 450 military men are already part of Bulgaria's next peacekeeping unit for Iraq.

The same problem bothered the country's Defense Ministry in December. Soldiers from Bulgaria's second unit decided to quit following the December 27 attack that claimed the life of five Bulgarians in Iraq. Those were Bulgaria's first casualties in Iraq.

After Senior Sergeant Dimitar Dimitrov was killed in an ambush in Karbala in April many soldiers from the second battalion that is already in Iraq filed reports to return to Bulgaria. Last week, however, Bulgaria's Army Chief Gen. Nikola Kolev explained that the soldiers that decide to quit their mission in Iraq should be punished.

Wounded Seabees Return to Jacksonville

5/11/2004 By Roger Weeder, First Coast News

JACKSONVILLE, FL -- Iraq has been a dangerous place for a local reserve unit. Two weeks ago, two members of Naval Construction Battalion 14 were killed. Then, more than a dozen others came under attack two days later. Five were killed in that attack, and at least 12 others were injured.

Some of those injured returned to their home base at NAS Jacksonville today, sailors like Thomas Johnson.

Shrapnel hit Johnson in the stomach during a mortar attack. The attack killed some of his friends.

"The first one hit 300 meters away, then the second one hit us. We were crowded up together by the humvees and it hit right in the center of the guys," said Johnson.

Injured Soldier Returns Home To Hudson Falls;

Unarmored Trucks Claim Another Victim

5/13/2004 By: Chris Hamilton, TWEAN News Channel of Albany, L.L.C d.b.a. Capital News 9

Sgt. Troy Mechanick told his story about what happened this past Easter Sunday in Samara, Iraq. Mechanick said he and his fellow soldiers from the 108th Infantry Unit were ambushed from both sides of the road while on routine patrol.

"They tell me the RPG was fired from a mosque. The firefight lasted two to five minutes. There was a soldier from South Glens Falls named Timothy Hague, if it wasn't for him I wouldn't be standing here right now -- he took out some of the bad guys for us," Mechanick said.

Mechanick was traveling in a unarmored five-ton truck when the ambush occurred. Sitting next to him in the vehicle were Robert Hemsing of Glens Falls and the late Nathan Brown of South Glens Falls. Hemsing was injured in the attack. **While Mechanick was recovering at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., he talked to local Congressman John Sweeney about not having an armored vehicle the day of the attack.**

"He did ask us questions in regards to the attack. How things are over there, and what can be done better," Mechanick said. **(How about getting the fuck out for starters?)**

In honor of Nathan Brown and the other soldiers' service that day, he is keeping part of the rocket propelled grenade that hit the truck.

"It was removed from the back of my arm, and it's significant to me to remind me where I was, what I was doing that day, and who I was involved with that given day," Mechanick said.

Mechanick is now recovering from a broken arm, as well as shrapnel wounds. He is on leave for four weeks, and will then head back to Walter Reed Memorial Hospital. **Upon an evaluation, he will be told whether or not he will be able to return to service.**

The Body Of A Fallen Soldier Arrives Home

4/18/2004 By: Jessica Schneider, TWEAN News Channel of Albany, L.L.C d.b.a. Capital News 9

A local soldier killed in Iraq was brought back home Friday afternoon.

The body of Private Nathan Brown, 21, arrived at Albany International Airport. Brown was killed Easter Sunday in an ambush near Iraq. His family and fiancée were at the airport when the casket arrived.

They then followed a motorcade, which took Brown's body to South Glens Falls. People lined the streets as the procession made its way through town. The family made a stop at Brown's grandmother's house before heading to Regan and Denny Funeral Home in Queensbury. Those who came out to pay their respects said their thoughts and prayers go out to Brown's family.

Calling hours will be this Sunday for the family, then Monday for the general public. The family said the funeral will be on Tuesday.

Reservist Fights for Life in Baghdad Hospital; Part Of Skull Removed

5/12/2004 By Tiani Jones, First Coast News

JACKSONVILLE, FL -- Jeanette Blackmon clutches a poem she reads for comfort when she thinks of her husband Jeffery Blackmon, who's in critical condition at a hospital in Iraq.

Mr. Blackmon, a reservist, enlisted in the Navy Reserves in August, and left for the Middle East in March. He was injured in the May 2nd mortar attack in Camp Fallujah, Iraq, in the Al Anbar Province.

His wife, who lives in Kingsland, GA., says doctors had to remove part of his skull because of shrapnel wounds in his head and arms. Doctors had to put the reservist in a medicated induced coma.

Guard Deployments Worry State Officials

5.13.04 By REBECCA COOK, Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE - With so many National Guard troops in Iraq, officials in some states are worried they could be caught short-handed if an emergency flares up at home.

More Guard members are deployed now than have been since the Korean War, about a quarter of the 460,000 nationwide.

Their more frequent and longer overseas deployments "absolutely" affect states' emergency response, said Chris Reynolds, a battalion fire chief in Tampa, Fla., who also teaches disaster management at American Military University.

"We just have to hope their deployments coincide with the off season for fires in California," said Jim Wright, deputy director of California's Department of Forestry.

A recently released General Accounting Office report, however, warns that overseas deployments could strain the National Guard's stateside mission.

"Equipment and personnel may not be available to the states when they are needed because they have been deployed overseas," the GAO report concludes.

North Carolina, ravaged by Hurricane Isabel last year, has been assured by Guard leaders that they are prepared for this season despite the deployments, said Ernie Seneca, spokesman for Gov. Mike Easley.

The West is facing another summer of dry conditions and nasty wildfires.

Florida Cop Mercenary Killed

May 13, 2004 ABC7 News

NAPLES — Collier sheriff's corporal Henry "Hank" Doll was killed in a vehicle crash in Iraq Thursday morning, according to Sheriff Don Hunter. The sheriff's office says early reports indicate the crash occurred on a road between Tikrit and Baghdad around 10 a.m.

Hunter says Doll was working for DynCorp International **as a contract provider of law enforcement** and was deployed in February. **(Translation: Hired killer for the occupation.)**

Doll is survived by two sons, Henry and Alex, and a sister, Mary Ann Pinkerton. Son Alex is a member of the Collier County Sheriff's Office Anti-Crime Unit.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

82% Of Iraqis Disapprove Of Occupation Troops; Half Support Shia Resistance Uprising

5.14.04 Pakistan Daily Times

WASHINGTON: Eighty percent of Iraqis mistrust the coalition authority and **82 percent disapprove of US and allied forces in their country**, The Washington Post said on Thursday quoting an poll conducted for the authority.

The results of the survey, which has not been publicly released, are disheartening for occupation and Washington officials because they seem to indicate that the US effort in Iraq is not winning over Iraqi public opinion, said the daily.

Even more troubling is the fact that the residents of Baghdad, Mosul, Basra, Nasiriyah, Karbala and Ramadi were polled in late March and early April, before the surge in anti-coalition violence and the prisoner abuse scandal, the daily said.

A large proportion of respondents in central and southern Iraq — 45 percent in Baghdad, 67 percent in Basra — said they backed Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada Sadr, who is leading a major uprising against coalition forces and whom the United States wants to kill or capture..

“Welcome To Sadr City. Have A Nice Day”



A Shia Madhi soldier guards the newly built office of Moqtada Sadr in Baghdad's Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City. **Iraqis loyal to Sadr reconstructed the office after it was destroyed by US shelling.** (AFP/Sabah Arar)

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

“Soldier, you *will* die for oil, empire, and George Bush.”



Major General Martin Dempsey, commander of US 1st Armored Division in Baghdad.
(AFP/Roberto Schmidt)

Occupation Cops Dead Near Baqouba

5.12.04 By QASSID JABAR, Associated Press Writer & news.com.au

Wednesday, gunmen fired on a car carrying Iraqi security forces north of Baghdad, killing one man and seriously wounding his brother, Iraqi authorities said. Two other members of the U.S.-backed Iraqi Civil Defense were hurt in the attack near the city of Baqouba.

The two members of the paramilitary Iraqi Civil Defence Corps were returning to their barracks when they were overtaken by another vehicle whose occupants opened fire, Ali Najm said.

Najm took the injured man to hospital after the ambush some 80 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Resistance Raids, Destroys Samarra Police Station, Cops Run Away

5.12.04 By QASSID JABAR, Associated Press Writer

In Samarra, another town north of Baghdad, about 20 gunmen raided a police station Tuesday night, and the seven police inside fled. The attackers then detonated a bomb that destroyed the building and two police cars.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

America's Military Coup?

13 May 2004 By Sidney Blumenthal The Guardian U.K.

Under Bush, the team of Cheney and Rumsfeld spread across the top rungs of government, drawing staff from the neoconservative cabal and infusing their rightwing temperaments with ideological imperatives. The unvarnished will to power took on a veneer of ideas and idealism. Iraq was not a case of vengeance or power, but the cause of democracy and human rights.

The fate of the neoconservative project depends on Rumsfeld's job. If he were to go, so would his deputy, the neoconservative Robespierre, Paul Wolfowitz. Also threatened would be the cadres who stovepiped the disinformation that neoconservative darling Ahmed Chalabi used to manipulate public opinion before the war.

In his Senate testimony last week, Rumsfeld explained that the government asking the press not to report Abu Ghraib "is not against our principles. It is not suppression of the news." War is peace.

Six National Guard soldiers from a West Virginia unit who treated Abu Ghraib as a playpen of pornographic torture have been designated as scapegoats. Will the show trials of these working-class antiheroes put an end to any inquiries about the chain of command?

In an extraordinary editorial, the Army Times, which had not previously ventured into such controversy, declared that "the folks in the Pentagon are talking about the wrong morons ... This was not just a failure of leadership at the local command level. This was a failure that ran straight to the top. Accountability here is essential - even if that means relieving leaders from duty in a time of war."

One high-level military strategist told me that Rumsfeld is "detested", and that "if there's a sentiment in the army it is: Support Our Troops, Impeach Rumsfeld".

The Council on Foreign Relations has been showing old movies with renewed relevance to its members. The Battle of Algiers, depicting the nature and costs of a struggle with terrorism, is the latest feature. The seething in the military against Bush and Rumsfeld might prompt a showing of Seven Days in May, about a coup staged by a rightwing general against a weak liberal president, an artifact of the conservative hatred directed at President Kennedy in the early 60s.

In 1992, General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs, awarded the prize for his strategy essay competition at the National Defence University to Lieutenant Colonel Charles Dunlap for The Origins of the American Military Coup of 2012. His cautionary tale imagined an incapable civilian government creating a vacuum that drew a competent military into a coup disastrous for democracy. The military, of course, is

bound to uphold the constitution. But Dunlap wrote: **"The catastrophe that occurred on our watch took place because we failed to speak out against policies we knew were wrong. It's too late for me to do any more. But it's not for you."**

The Origins of the American Military Coup of 2012 is today circulating among top US military strategists.

Shaft the Reservists, Spare the Spooks; And Send Gen. Taguba To Siberia

5.13.04 By Steve Weissman, t r u t h o u t Perspective

Gen. Taguba agreed that holding prisoners naked for long periods and other coercive measures were a systematic part of interrogation at Abu Ghraib. But he largely ignored how closely some of those measures paralleled the techniques of Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller, then the prison camp commandant at Guantánamo, who had made an official visit to Abu Ghraib last August.

Taguba showed even less curiosity about what crime buffs might call "the physical evidence." If there were no policy to use Gitmo-style Stress and Duress in Iraq, where did the hoods, electrodes, and dog leashes come from? It seems highly unlikely that Pvt. Lynndie England, one of young women photographed with the masturbating Iraqis, brought them in her trick bag all the way from West Virginia.

Seven reserve MPs currently face court martial, while the Pentagon last week shifted Gen. Taguba to a new, deeply unpromising assignment as deputy assistant secretary for reserve affairs.

OCCUPATION REPORT

General Miller The Torture Teacher

13 May 2004 Tim Golden and Eric Schmitt, New York Times

According to information from a classified interview with the senior military intelligence officer at Abu Ghraib prison, General Miller's recommendations prompted a shift in the interrogation and detention procedures there. Military intelligence officers were given greater authority in the prison, and military police guards were asked to help gather information about the detainees.

Whether those changes contributed to the abuse of prisoners that grew horrifically more serious last fall is now at the center of the widening prison scandal.

General Miller's recommendations were based in large part on his command of the detention camp in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, where he won praise from the Pentagon for improving the flow of intelligence from terrorist suspects and prisoners of the Afghanistan war.

In Iraq, General Miller's team gave officers at the prisons copies of the procedures that had been developed at Guantánamo to interrogate and punish the prisoners, according to the officer who traveled with him.

But to at least a few of the officers who met General Miller in Iraq, the Abu Ghraib crisis was partly rooted in what they described as his determination to apply his Guantánamo experience in Iraq.

His hard-charging attitude has also raised questions that go beyond interrogation methods. **He was the official most responsible for pressing a case last year against a Muslim chaplain at the base, Capt. James J. Yee, that was initially billed as a major episode of espionage. In March, the military announced that it would drop all charges.**

But despite the vast differences between the settings, two officials who worked with General Miller in Cuba suggested that he offered very similar solutions to some problems he found in Iraq.

According to several officers who served at Guantánamo, the methods, begun in early 2002, included depriving detainees of sleep; leaving them in cold, air-conditioned rooms; placing them in "stress positions"; and forcing them to stand or crouch for long periods, sometimes with their arms extended, until exhausted.

The Torturing General And The Terrorist SecDef Admire Themselves At Abu Ghraib

13 May 2004 By Robert Burns Associated Press

Abu Ghraib, Iraq - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, making a surprise visit to Iraq, went to the Abu Ghraib prison Thursday and told U.S. troops "we'll get through" the international uproar over abuse of inmates there.

Arriving here with Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Richard Myers by helicopter in a dust storm, the embattled Rumsfeld called the abuse scandal a "body blow for all of us." **(Actually, the "body blows" landed on the prisoners, and worse than body blows but this arrogant, utterly self-absorbed piece of shit is more worried about "us." Too bad the dust storm didn't take the copter down landing at the prison. Fried**

Rumsfeld body parts would have been an appropriate end to the torture story, at the appropriate place.)

Rumsfeld and Myers were accompanied here by Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller, *commander of the prison system in Iraq.*

"I've stopped reading newspapers," Rumsfeld quipped to the troops here. "You've got to keep your sanity somehow. I'm a survivor." **(Not for long.)**

In his talk with reporters earlier, Rumsfeld said, "As far as I'm concerned, I'd be happy to release them all (photos) to the public and to get it behind us." **But the government lawyers argue that releasing such materials would violate a Geneva Convention stricture against presenting images of prisoners that could be construed as degrading, Rumsfeld said. (Winner, utter Hypocrisy Award For 2004; competition now closed. Releasing photos of prisoners being tortured in violation of Geneva Convention won't be allowed because it would violate the Geneva Convention.)**

Miller defended his role in advising U.S. authorities last fall on how to set up a detention and interrogation system that would produce useful intelligence on people involved in the insurgency. (This psycho sadistic piece of shit was just waiting for his big promotion: commander of the whole U.S. prison system in Iraq.)

"I'm absolutely convinced we laid down the foundations for how you detain people humanely," he said. Miller had commanded the U.S. prison compound at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(For more see the centerfold "War Crimes Of The U.S. Empire" at www.socialistworker.org.)

Iraqi Prisoners Give Rumsfeld Fuck You"

May 13, 2004 News 24 (South Africa)

Abu Ghraib - Iraqi prisoners gave US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld a frosty reception on Thursday as he toured the Baghdad jail at the centre of revelations of abuses by US troops, during a surprise visit to Iraq.

Hundreds of Iraqi security detainees watched from behind a concertina-wire perimeter fence as Rumsfeld toured the facility in a Rhino Runner armoured vehicle.

Some of the prisoners gestured a thumbs-down to their surprise visitor, others held aloft a tattered Iraqi flag. Most stood in silence with their arms folded as they were paraded for their US guest.

Edited by Anthea Jonathan

(THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: B WRITES:



“Every time I see Rummy, he hides behind a Bush...”

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL 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 in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. **Send requests to address up top. For copies on web site see:** <http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



**TORTURE REPORT MAY HAVE BROKEN
CLASSIFICATION LAW**

May 5, 2004 SECRECY NEWS from the FAS Project on Government Secrecy
Volume 2004, Issue No. 42

By classifying an explosive report on the torture of Iraqi prisoners as "Secret," the Pentagon may have violated official secrecy policies, which prohibit the use of classification to conceal illegal activities.

The report, authored by Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, found that "between October and December 2003, at the Abu Ghraib Confinement Facility, numerous incidents of sadistic, blatant, and wanton criminal abuses were inflicted on several detainees."

"The allegations of abuse were substantiated by detailed witness statements and the discovery of extremely graphic photographic evidence," Gen. Taguba wrote.

These specific observations, and the report as a whole, were classified "Secret / No Foreign Dissemination."

Why the secrecy?

"There's clearly nothing in there that's inherently secret, such as intelligence sources and methods or troop movements," an astute reporter noted at a Pentagon press briefing on May 4. "Was this kept secret because it would be embarrassing to the world, particularly the Arab world?"

"I do not know specifically why it was labeled Secret," replied Gen. Peter Pace.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he did not know why it was classified, either. You'd have to ask the classifier," he said.

But the classification may have been more than simply unnecessary. It might have been a violation of official policy, which forbids the use of secrecy to cover up crimes:

"In no case shall information be classified in order to ...conceal violations of law, inefficiency, or administrative error [or to] prevent embarrassment to a person, organization, or agency...," according to Section 1.7 of Executive Order 12958, as amended by President Bush (EO 13292):

The Ugliest Thing You Ever Saw

<http://www.andyfoulds.co.uk/amusement/bushv2.htm>

Received:

From: L

To: GI Special
Sent: May 09, 2004 5:29 PM
Subject: Nationalism

thomas, you didn't make the important, dialectical distinction between revolutionary nationalism & bourgeois nationalism:

Response: Nationalism flowered with the capitalist revolutions against feudalism in Europe, and elsewhere, advancing the concept of the nation state as an entity.

Marx rejected nationalism, pointing that out. He argued there is no socialist nationalism, only internationalism, in his famous formulation: workers have no fatherland.

Lenin, who agreed with Marx, also rejected nationalism, pointing out in his works on the right of nations to self-determination, widely available, that no form of nationalism has anything at all in common with socialist politics, but is in fact a completely bourgeois formulation, developed during the rise of and part of the ruling ideology of capitalism.

However, when a nation is oppressed by imperialism, he defended the democratic right of that nation to self-determination, whether the resistance is led by bourgeois forces, or petite bourgeoisie forces leading their class counterparts in the countryside, the peasantry. The role of the petite bourgeoisie using the peasantry to come to power and enrich themselves, while extracting surplus value from the working class, is too obvious now in the real world to ignore.

please follow up with more from the secular anti-imp. rev. so we get a deeper, on-going picture of developments among Iraqi resistance—that was the only such analysis I've seen anywhere—excellent work.

Response: Stuff written about this is very scarce, as you point out. Most intellectuals, who do the reporting and writing, couldn't care less about the working class, here or in Iraq. The individualistic elitism so characteristic of the much of the intelligentsia keeps their eyes focused firmly on locating some wise leaders to worship, who they frequently locate in their mirrors, rather than looking for or trying to help organize real working class movements from below. Will keep looking and run what can be found.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.