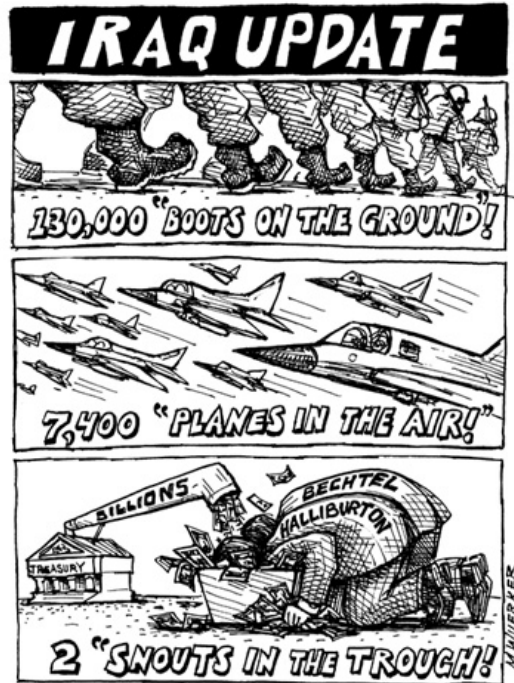


GI SPECIAL 3A18:



BREAKING NEWS: AWOL 2-7 Infantry Specialist Plans To Surrender

To: GI Special

Sent: Monday, January 17, 2005 9:57 PM

Subject: BREAKING NEWS: ARMY SPECIALIST DAVID BEALS

Greetings,

Please feel free to publish.

Regards -
Robert S. Finnegan
Managing Editor
Southeast Asia News
seanews1@yahoo.com

01/17/2005 By Robert S. Finnegan, Managing Editor, Southeast Asia News

Georgia:

Specialist David Beals of the 2-7 Infantry stationed at Ft. Stewart, Georgia has today decided to turn himself in after going AWOL from the Winn Army Hospital following his attempted suicide. Beals plans to return within 72 hours, after taking the time he said was necessary to ponder the few options available to him.

Beals, 25, has already served a tour in Iraq. After witnessing firsthand the killing of innocent civilians by U.S. forces he has decided to apply for Conscientious Objector status. He also stated that he would accept an honorable discharge from the Army.

Remarks made by his platoon sergeant also played a part in Beals' decision, after being continually told by him that "You guys are gonna die, I don't want to deal with shipping your st back when you are coming home in a box."**

Beals then made a decision, telling his wife Dawn "I would rather die at home with you than go over {to Iraq} with these people and let them get me killed." He added that he wanted to be with his family when he dies, rather than in Iraq with individuals who obviously wanted him dead.

After having his stomach pumped and being stabilized at a civilian hospital Beals was transferred to Winn Army Hospital, and there he said his problems began.

"After they got me to Winn and my wife walked me up to the ward, they {the doctors} pushed her out and said 'you have to go, you can't see him,' it was the next night I think, before she was allowed to see me" Beals said. He also stated that Dr. Capp, a civilian doctor at Winn had told both himself and Specialist J.R. Burt of 2-7 who had also attempted suicide that they had two choices: **"You {Beals and Burt} are going to leave on your own and get on the plane, or you are going to leave in shackles and get on the plane."** Beals also said Capp told him that he was malingering to get out of deploying to Iraq.

Beals said he went AWOL from the hospital because he feared that they were going to handcuff him and deposit him directly on the plane, not understanding at that time he could refuse deployment. "The doctor made it clear to me that I could get on the plane or go to jail, those were his exact words" he said.

Having had several days to think about his plight Beals is now sure he will not deploy, even if it means going to jail. "When I was in Iraq the first time, we were proceeding to an objective and there was a truck on the road with a family in it that was hit by an air strike. The mother and the daughter survived but the father and the son didn't. The son was decapitated, and our first sergeant and his driver were taking pictures of them." Beals said this incident was the catalyst that demonstrated to him the reality of this war.

Well aware of the possible consequences he faces for refusing to deploy, Beals is firmly convinced he is doing the right thing. "I won't compromise my beliefs for the Army, come what may" he said.

Telephone calls to Army Public Affairs Officer Lt. Colonel Kent and Winn Army Hospital Public Affairs Officer Laurie Kemp requesting comment were unanswered at press time.

Southeast Asia News Managing Editor Robert S. Finnegan is an internationally published investigative reporter and former Marine Corps Non-Commissioned Officer. Working recently as a Senior Editor and lead investigator on the Bali Bombings for The Jakarta Post, he may be reached at seanews1@yahoo.com. Copyright release granted for further publication at additional news outlets.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Two US Marines Killed

BAGHDAD, Jan. 17 (Xinhuanet) & 18 January 2005 Aljazeera

Two US soldiers [Marines] assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force were killed in action in Al-Anbar province in western Iraq on Monday, the US military said in a statement.

Details on the circumstances of the deaths was not provided, but the deaths may be connected to a Ramadi car bomb attack.

Sunday Accident Takes Second TFB Soldier

01/17/05 CJTF7: Release #050117n

Baghdad, Iraq -- A Task Force Baghdad Soldier, injured when an up-armored humvee flipped over into a canal in western Baghdad on Jan. 16, died of his injuries at a U.S. military medical facility about 3 a.m. on Jan. 17.

Another Task Force Baghdad Soldier died at the scene.

U.S. Casualties Confirmed In Two Ramadi Attacks

BAGHDAD, Jan 17 (Reuters) & AFP

A car bomb inflicted U.S. casualties in the western Iraqi town of Ramadi on Monday, the U.S. military said.

The military said the bomb exploded after Marines showed up to investigate the device, badly damaging two US military vehicles. The military did not elaborate on the number of casualties.

The car sped alongside a convoy in the city centre and blew up at 3:30 pm (1230 GMT), burning two Humvee all-terrain vehicles, the witnesses said.

A second bomb also detonated in the city, damaging other US military vehicles, witnesses said.

The US military headquarters came under gunfire and the atmosphere in Ramadi was tense, Aljazeera has learned.

Troops In Fallujah Die In Combat At A Rate Of About One A Day.

January 18, 2005 By Borzou Daragahi, Special to The Daily Star

BAGHDAD: Wafat Hassan is at hope's end, her tale a long stream of woe that has all but exhausted her tears. After losing her husband, her house and her hometown, she and her five children wound up at a mosque in Baghdad turned into a makeshift refugee camp for 930 Fallujans who've reached the end of the line. "What have we done to deserve this?" she cries. "When can we move back to our homes? Shall we be away from our homes forever?"

Inside the city itself, U.S. Marines in Fallujah continue to come under fire, engage in skirmishes and seize weapons caches. Troops in Fallujah die in combat at a rate of about one a day.

Polish Occupation Troops Legal Advisor Attacked

BAGHDAD, Jan 17 (KUNA)

A group of partisans attacked on Sunday night the residence of the Polish Force's Legal Adviser Mohammad Al-Karradi in the city of Hella south of Baghdad.

Iraqi Police sources said in a statement that unknown gunmen attacked the house using grenades and light machineguns, noting that Al-Karradi's son was injured in the attack, while the house was seriously damaged.

General Says Iraqi Resistance Grows Stronger

Jan 10 TIKRIT, Iraq (AFP)

Violence has spiked against Iraqi and US forces in the battleground provinces of north-central Iraq, with less than three weeks to go before landmark national elections.

US army officers at their headquarters in Saddam Hussein's old palace in Tikrit describe an insurgency that has grown since last March despite the best efforts to win over the Iraqi people living in the northern provinces of Salahuddin, Diyala and Tamim, home to Iraq's alienated Sunni Muslims.

"What we've seen was the insurgency gather steam since last April and May, said Major General John Batiste, commander of the First Infantry Division (1st ID)

Since December, there had been 63 attacks causing casualties among US and Iraqi troops, double the number from the previous month, the officer said.

Forty-four suicide car bombs have been carried out since last March, along with 39 car bombs detonated by remote control. Insurgents are being sheltered by rural farmers as well as entire city neighborhoods, the officer said.

210th FSB Soldiers Recover Blown Up Vehicles; "I Looked Down And There Was A Piece Of The Dude."

January 17, 2005 By Jason Chudy, Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD— When a roadside or car bomb badly damages a vehicle, soldiers from Company B, 210th Forward Support Battalion, receive a call.

The battalion's 10-member vehicle recovery team is responsible for collecting inoperable vehicles in the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division's operating area around much of Baghdad.

“Most have been around central Baghdad,” said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas McDiffitt, vehicle recovery team noncommissioned officer in charge. “Fifty to 60 percent have been on Route Irish (the road from central Baghdad to the airport), the rest were north and northwest Baghdad.”

At best, these bombs have heavily damaged the vehicles; at worst, they've destroyed them. Either way, the soldiers have to go out and pick up what's left.

“They're pretty much blown up,” said Spc. Brandon Beechler. “They're non-mission capable — tires flattened, doors missing, windows blown out.”

Some have burned into nothing more than large hunks of twisted metal. The recovered vehicles will be sent to Kuwait for repairs or, if damaged beyond repair, kept at Camp Liberty.

Even when they aren't shot at, the missions aren't usually pleasant — especially those involving suicide car bombers.

“I got a piece of [body] stuck in my boot and didn't know it,” Valis said about one mission. “I looked down and there was a piece of the dude.”

**Gotta find me a dime... call home... an' get a lift outta here!
ENOUGH. BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW.**



(Ahmed Al-Habbabi January 17, 2005)

TROOP NEWS

General Casey Has Morale Boosting Good News!!

Jan. 17 (Bloomberg)

General George Casey, commander of U.S.-led forces in Iraq, said "The enemy we're fighting is not 10 feet tall."

Local Soldier Opposes Unofficial Draft Policy; Threatened With Prison



Austin, TX – A local Austin soldier and political activist is fighting to avoid being sent to Iraq under an approved federal program designed to supplement the number of active duty troops in Iraq.

Carl Webb, 38, is a member of the Texas Army National Guard and a U.S. army veteran. In 2001 following a 7-year break in service, he enlisted in the National Guard expecting to serve for only three years.

His term of service ends August 22, however, less than two months shy of the end of his service completion he was informed that his term had been involuntarily extended and he would be sent to Fort Hood for training and deployed to Iraq in November.

Webb is one of many reservists who is being compelled to serve in the war in Iraq under the stop-loss program. This program, which made its first appearance in the Persian Gulf War of the early 1990s, keeps soldiers scheduled for deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan from leaving when their term of service ends. More than 10,000 soldiers are covered under the rules now, according to the Virginian Pilot.

Webb, who served in the U.S. Army for 7 active years, conscientiously objects to being sent to Iraq for numerous reasons. The reasons that the U.S. government used to justify the imperialist war in Iraq have proven to be unfounded; however, even if they had been, Webb still would oppose the U.S. going to war against the Iraqi people.

“The war is unethical and illegal U.S. aggression,” he said. “It’s all about oil and profits.”

He is also vehemently against the use of the stop-loss program that imposes a lengthened term on reservists and soldiers who have already fulfilled their military service. The program, however, has its limitations. It only applies to individuals who are within 90 days of being deployed to Iraq.

“This policy is practically an unofficial draft,” he said. “It is conscription against a person’s will.”

There is currently a shortage of military personnel in the U.S. Armed Forces; more than 150,000 reservists are augmenting this shortage. Reservists make up about 40 percent of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Moreover, service people are not informed of the possibility of being forced to fulfill a compulsory extension when they sign up.

In an effort to have the stop-loss program revoked, Webb is in the process of consulting legal counsel to protest his deployment orders and is considering taking legal action that could include filing a class action lawsuit against the United States government.

“In my mind this policy is not only unethical, it is illegal,” Webb said.

For additional information or to set up an interview contact Carl Webb at (865) 936-3849 or carl.k.webb@us.army.mil or carlwebb1965@yahoo.com.

MORE:

“You Will Be Prosecuted For All Violations”

From: us.army.mil

Date: Wednesday, January 5, 2005 7:28 pm
Subject: Re: dropped from our rolls of the 56th BCT

I am trial counsel for the 56th BCT. My name is CPT Steven Carnes.

The matter is my responsibility as trial counsel for the command judge advocate.

In accordance with army regulations, you have been dropped from our rolls of the 56th BCT.

The Provost Marshal Office for Fort Hood will enter your information in the national criminal information system as a deserter from the United States Military. You should contact an attorney immediately as this status has dire consequences.

If arrested you will be prosecuted for all violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

You may also contact Trial Defense Service at Fort Hood, III Corps in person to receive the documentation concerning being dropped from the 56 BCT rolls.

CPT Steven Lee Carnes at steven.carnes@us.army.mil or (512)782-5001

FURY AS BLAIR SENDS MORE SCOTS TO IRAQ

Jan 11 2005 By Pippa Crerar,CO.UK

HUNDREDS more Scottish troops were sent to Iraq last night after fears of a bloody increase in violence before the country's elections.

Around 400 soldiers from the 1st battalion Royal Highland Fusiliers will be in Basra within days. It is just six months since their last deployment in Iraq.

The announcement, by Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon, sparked a furious reaction.

The SNP's Pete Wishart accused the Government of betraying the soldiers.

When the Fusiliers were last deployed to Iraq, 19-year-old Glaswegian Gordon Gentle was killed by a roadside bomb.

His mother Rose said yesterday: 'It sickens me that another load of our boys are going to be sent to Iraq to face death. Yet again, Tony Blair is happy to send our young boys to die to prove he is Bush's puppet.'

A senior military source warned: 'Their job will be to protect voters from the threat of attack and intimidation. **'It will be very dangerous and, unfortunately, casualties are expected.'**

The Secret Is Out: Toll Of British Wounded In Iraq War Reaches 800

January 18, 2005 By Michael Evans, Defence Editor, Times Online

THEY are the forgotten victims of the Iraq conflict — the hundreds of soldiers maimed or wounded in the invasion and its 20-month aftermath.

The number of British troops flown home with serious injuries is now nearly 800, *The Times* can reveal. The Ministry of Defence has previously disclosed only the death toll and the Government has done nothing to draw attention to the wounded, many of whom were hurt during acts of exceptional courage. The Freedom of Information Act is now obliging it to be more open.

Geoff Hoon, the Defence Secretary, has made one visit, 21 months ago, to the Birmingham hospital where they are treated. Neither Tony Blair nor any other senior minister has visited the wounded in the British hospital, although they have seen injured soldiers at a military hospital in Basra.

Most of the wounded and their relatives contacted by The Times were unwilling to talk, because they had been instructed to remain silent by the MoD, because they were awaiting compensation or because they had rejoined the Forces.

But Gordon Stacey, whose son Kevin required emergency brain surgery after his tank was hit by a bomb in Basra last August, said that he felt disgusted by Mr Blair's perceived lack of interest in the war wounded.

"After Kevin was injured it was the beginning of the Olympics and I saw Tony Blair walking around in a T-shirt, shaking hands and smiling and I felt disgusted. Here we were with our boy injured and there was Tony Blair swanning around getting as much publicity as possible from just being at the Olympics," he said.

A Royal Marine said he was disappointed that no government figure had expressed interest in his plight. Asked whether he had been contacted by any member of the Government, Marine Justin Smith, who was seriously wounded during the invasion of Iraq, said: "I didn't get anything at all, though it would have been nice."

The total is more than ten times the number of deaths — 73 — since the military campaign began in February 2003 and would be higher were it not for improved armour and equipment. **It reflects the rising number of attacks in the supposedly safer**

southern sector of Iraq. Most have taken place since combat operations officially ended on May 1, 2003.

The injured are taken to the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham. **The MoD refused to let The Times visit there, saying that it wanted to protect the injured from the media.**

Some British regiments, such as the 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and The Black Watch, have suffered particularly high numbers of injuries.

The 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, based at Tidworth, Surrey, suffered fifty casualties in its six-month tour last year, two of them fatal. Many were serious woundings from rocket-propelled grenade attacks by insurgents.

When The Black Watch was deployed 20 miles south of Baghdad for 30 days in November and December last year, five soldiers were killed, four from hostile enemy action. Another 29 soldiers were injured. Two lost both legs.

Air Force Sought Gay Sex Weapon

January 14, 2005 Tom Musbach and Christopher Curtis, PlanetOut Network

The Pentagon briefly looked into making a weapon that would render enemy troops sexually attracted to one another, according to an official document uncovered by a watchdog group that monitors research into biological and chemical weapons.

The aphrodisiac chemical would be designed to make enemy soldiers sexually irresistible to each other. The resulting widespread homosexual behavior, the proposal suggests, would cause a "distasteful but completely non-lethal blow" to morale.

Steve Ralls, a spokesman for the Washington, D.C.-based Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), said, "It is a homophobic and delusional proposition for the Pentagon to assume a gay opponent is any less formidable than a straight one."

Netherlands Government Refuses To Delay Troop Withdrawal From Iraq

17 January 2005 Arjan El Fassed, Electronic Iraq

Dutch ministers have decided against a gradual withdrawal of the nation's peacekeeping troops from Iraq and the mission will end as planned mid-March, it was reported on Monday.

The Netherlands will pull its soldiers out of Iraq on March 15, Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende confirmed.

Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, Foreign Minister Ben Bot and Defence Minister Henk Kamp met on Monday morning to discuss a proposed gradual withdrawal to ensure a vacuum is not left behind in the Dutch patrol area.

But Henk Brons, a spokesman for Balkenende later told the Dutch news agency ANP that the troops will be definitely withdrawn as planned in March. "During the meeting, the prime minister confirmed that the government will stand by its previous decision to end the Dutch military presence in Iraq on March 15," the spokesman said.

The decision was made despite pressure from the United States and two center-right parties in The Netherlands' ruling coalition which advocated keeping the troops in Iraq longer. Foreign Minister Bot proposed a very gradual withdrawal from Iraq to meet requests from the US and Britain, which were concerned about a possible two to three week withdrawal.

Faced with strong public opposition, the Dutch government gave "political, but not military" support to the US-led invasion of Iraq and deployed a peacekeeping [translation: occupation] force to the south of the country in the summer of 2003. Two Dutch soldiers have been killed and Dutch troops have killed about a dozen Iraqis.

The Netherlands deployed around 1,400 soldiers to Iraq. They have been serving under British command in the southern province of Al-Muthanna.

Bush: Troops Won't Leave Iraq

January 17, 2005 By Nedra Pickler, Associated Press

President Bush says the U.S. military will pull out of Iraq "as quickly as possible," but he is not endorsing Secretary of State Colin Powell's statement that troops could begin returning home this year.

"The way I would put it is, American troops will be leaving as quickly as possible, but they won't be leaving until we have completed our mission," Bush said in a Washington Post published Sunday.

Insecurity Issue:

Anti-War Activists Invade Pentagon, Hang Up “Bring Them Home Now” Banner; Nobody Notices

From: [Jonah House](#)

To: GI Special

Sent: Monday, January 17, 2005 8:09 AM

Printed in Baltimore's *City Paper* the week of Jan 12th. (Edward Ericson Jr.)

ON DEC. 28, TWO BALTIMORE-BASED PEACE ACTIVISTS climbed to the roof of the Pentagon's southeast entrance and hung a banner reading “bring our troops home now” over the door.

The activists, Gary Ashbeck and Steve Kelly, expected to be arrested for breaching security but, surprisingly, were not, despite telling security officers what they had done.

"Gary told them, 'Hey, that's my banner.' They said, 'Get back in line,'" says Kelly, who, after taping the banner to the roof, was arrested for praying at the Pentagon with 16 other protesters.

The incident happened at about 7 A.M., when 70 peace activists associated with Jonah House, a group of Catholic Workers dedicated to serving the poor and calling attention to the horrors of war and nuclear weapons, arrived for their annual Pentagon vigil.

While some activists sang and some left the designated protest zone to get arrested while praying, **Ashbeck and Kelly scaled the entrance way by climbing up a fire escape, Kelly says.**

The pair expected to be stopped before they got to the entrance way, and then expected to be arrested while on the roof, Kelly says. But members of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency, which is in charge of security at the Department of Defense headquarters, did not appear.

"They maybe had their eyes on something else, I'm not sure," Kelly says. "Of course, the real issue is what the banner was saying, which is 'Bring our troops home now.'"

The pair waited a few minutes on the 25-foot-high roof, expecting to be spotted by security. Then they taped the four-foot-by-three-foot banner to the building and climbed down, again expecting to be met by security officers at the base of the building, Kelly says.

Kelly and others at the demonstration say the security force did not notice the banner for several minutes after the men returned to the main protest, and then took 15 minutes to remove it. **"Pentagon security were very up-set that we were able to get up there," says Susan Crane, a member of Jonah House who was arrested that day. "We were in a holding area and they talked to us about it."**

Calls to the Pentagon Force Protection Agency were directed to the press office. Cheryl Irwin, a Pentagon spokes-woman, acknowledges the arrests and the banner. She says the banner was hung not on the Pentagon itself, but on an adjacent Metro station, which is also under the security watch of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency.

The Pentagon Force Protection Agency, created in 2002 to reorganize and beef up Pentagon security, announced in early '03 its adoption of an Air Force program called "Eagle Eyes," which teaches Pentagon employees to observe and report suspicious activities.

"I'm sure if the Pentagon police had seen them they would have asked them to stop," Irwin says. "But I think it was the purpose of this group to try to embarrass the Pentagon police."

Asked if the group did, in fact, embarrass the Pentagon Force Protection Agency, Irwin replies, "No." [Irwin is ready for Occupation Hq in Baghdad, denying reality there is a specialty.]

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 inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Two Collaborator Officials Killed In Region Occupation Had Proclaimed "Secure"

January 17, 2005 The Associated Press

SUWAIRA, Iraq - Two Iraqi government auditors were shot to death after armed gunmen stopped their car in an area southeast of Baghdad that has seen a recent flare-up in violence.

The two Iraqis, who worked in the provincial auditing department in Kut, were shot while riding in their car in Suwaira, about 25 miles southeast of Baghdad, according to an official at a Kut hospital.

The town of Suwaira and the city of Kut lie along a main road southeast of Baghdad that, until recently, had served as a safer alternative route for Iraqis traveling from Baghdad to mostly Shiite southern Iraq.

In recent days, the area around Kut and Suwaria have seen a flare-up in insurgent violence.

On Sunday, a total of 17 people were killed in the area, including three Iraqi policemen and three Iraqi National Guard soldiers killed in separate attacks. As mourners gathered for the policemen's funeral, a suicide bomber killed another seven people - all civilians - and himself.

U.S. and Iraqi officials have classified Kut as among the provinces that are secure enough to hold elections.

Bayji Bomb Kills 10 Occupation Guards, 28 Wounded



A destroyed vehicle is seen following a car bomb at a police station in Baiji. (AFP/Dia Hamid)

01/17/05 CJTF7 Release #050117k & Reuters

Ten Iraqi police officers were killed and 28 others were wounded when anti-Iraqi forces detonated a vehicle borne improvised explosive near a police checkpoint outside the Bayji Police Station on Jan. 17.

Twenty police officers were evacuated to the Bayji Hospital, and eight wounded police officers were evacuated to the Tikrit Hospital for treatment.

Witnesses said burnt bodies were scattered in the compound in Baiji, an oil-refining town north of Baghdad.

CHECK THE BODY LANGUAGE AND FACIAL EXPRESSIONS. THEY'RE NOT SCARED ANYMORE. THEY'RE PROUD. THEY MUST THINK THEY'RE WINNING THE WAR.



A U.S. Army soldier from 2-63 scout platoon of the 1st Infantry Division guards detained Iraqis while looking for witnesses to an attack by unidentified gunman who were firing from a palm grove in a village north of the Iraqi town of Baquba on January 17, 2005. The men were released after brief questioning. REUTERS/Nikola Solic

Eight Occupation Guards Shot Dead At A Buhriz Checkpoint

January 17, 2005 By Richard Allen, Times Online

The soldiers were fired on outside a provincial broadcasting centre in Buhriz, about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, near the troubled city of Baquoba.

Four other Iraqi soldiers were injured in the attack.

More Occupation Allies Killed In Widespread Resistance Attacks

01/17/05 CJTF7 Release #050117d & By Richard Allen, Times Online & Aljazeera

One Soldier from the 2nd Iraqi Ministry of the Interior Commando Battalion was injured when his patrol vehicle struck a land mine near Samarra at 8:48 p.m., January 16.

In a further attack a police captain was killed and another policeman was injured when their car was hit by a roadside bomb in Numaniyah, 85 miles southeast of Baghdad.

Clashes erupted in the southern town of Musayib after fighters opened fire on a polling station. One guard was killed and two others were wounded. One of attackers was also wounded, police said.

In Mosul, mortars were fired at a school that will serve as a polling station, and US troops guarding it returned fire.

Police in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, said mortars were fired overnight at three schools in the city that will be used as voting centres.

Military Supply Trucks Attacked Near Baqubah

01/17/05 CJTF7 Release #050117h

Three trucks were damaged and the drivers report that one of the drivers is missing after insurgent forces attacked their vehicles with rocket propelled grenade and small arms fire northeast of Baqubah on Jan. 16. A 1st Infantry Division Patrol from 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, responded to secure the site.

The trucks were carrying military equipment to a base from the Turkish border when attacked. Two of the trucks were destroyed and one sustained minor damage.

The damaged vehicles are being recovered to Multi-National Force facilities.

U.S. Agents Beheaded In Ramadi

17/01/2005 Thomas Crosbie Media

Rebels waylaid two Iraqi Shiites in the insurgent stronghold Ramadi today and beheaded them in the street.

The victims were spotted coming from a US base in the centre of the city, 70 miles west of Baghdad and were stopped by gunmen, according to a hand-written statement left on the bodies.

The statement claimed the two men, who were from the Baghdad Shiite neighbourhood of Sadr City, confessed to spying for the Americans.

“These are the rotten remains of two rejectionists (Shiites) who came to the city of Ramadi to support the occupying enemy,” the statement said. “The fate of every agent will be slaughter.”

It identified the two as Ahmed Alwan Hussein and Ali Hussein Jassim.

Four other bodies were found earlier in the day in Ramadi, with notes claiming they were collaborators.

<p style="text-align: center;">IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</p>

Mass Resignations “Believed To Have Occurred” --- Contact Lost With Large Areas?

01. 16. 05 (AP) U.S. and Iraqi officials are scrambling to recruit new police and election workers in Mosul after thousands of them resigned in the face of rebel intimidation. A new police chief was appointed a week ago to command a force of barely 1,000 police. Last November the city had 5,000 police.

Similar mass resignations are *believed to have occurred* in other Sunni Muslim areas of northern, central and western Iraq. [What, the occupation doesn't know? Can't find out? What else does this mean?]

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Happy Anniversary! Iraqi Elections Fall On Tet

17 January 2005 Reuters

Iraq's 30 January elections fall on the 37th anniversary of the Tet offensive, the Vietnam war turning point that could hold lessons for Iraqi fighters and US policy makers.

"The fundamental lesson of the Tet offensive is not the immediacy of the event, but it is about the political will of the United States, and how you grind at that and you never let up on that, never lose focus on it," said marine Colonel Thomas Hammes, a leading military expert on insurgencies.

"The overall goal is pretty much the same. The United States is a distant intervening power. They [insurgents] are fighting on home turf. And they believe they can outlast the United States, and that ultimately the American people will tire of that mission, particularly if they can inflict enough casualties," said Cato Institute defence analyst Ted Carpenter. [Got that right.]

Women In Combat: A Question And An Answer

To: F

Date: 16 Jan 2005

Excuse me for bending you ear with something that really pisses me off, but most media, when they wish to be insulting, describe the Iraqis fighting the occupation as "gunmen" rather than insurgents, resistance, etc. etc.

There is very solid information that women take part in armed resistance to the U.S. occupation in some parts of Iraq. They are not gun"men." That term is left over from Northern Ireland. Of course, biased reporters couldn't say "gunpersons," which would look silly. Another problem is that some teens are also in the resistance. What do they do with that? "Gunpersons and gunkids" attacked a U.S. convoy in Mosul wouldn't do either, would it?

Where does this assumption come from that you have to be a man to fight the occupation of your country, and what can be done to stop it? Probably a rhetorical question.

Solidarity

T, GI Special

From: F

To: GI Special

Sent: Monday, January 17, 2005 4:17 AM

Thanks for your email.

I quite agree about the misleading nature of gendered language - and the need to stop assuming that ****only**** men fight wars, although I think it's true to say that men ****predominantly**** fight wars and are overwhelmingly the ones in decision-making roles.

The assumptions that link men with war come from thousands of years of mythology about war being the second most gender-segregated activity, after birth that is.

That this is a myth is what many feminist activists have been trying to get at for a long while - not only does war affect women and men differently, men and women are both involved in supporting and opposing wars.

I am a peace activist, and I've noticed that too often peace efforts are too easily associated with women, whereas men also work for peace and choose to reject the kind of violent masculinity that has been prescribed.

One quote from an interesting book called Women, War, Peace seems relevant (whole book can be downloaded here: http://www.unifem.org/index.php?f_page_pid=149): This report does not claim the universal innocence of women, nor does it argue that women are inherently more peaceful, or that men are more warlike.

Grappling with the concept of gender avoids these stereotypes, and leads to an examination of the different ****roles**** assigned to men and women in making war and peace.

Conflict can change traditional gender roles; women may acquire more mobility, resources, and opportunities for leadership. But the additional responsibility comes without any diminution in the demands of their traditional roles. **Thus, the momentary space in which women take on non-traditional roles and typically assume much greater responsibilities - within the household and public arenas - does not necessarily advance gender equality."**

There is a lot of talk at the moment about DDR - disarmament, demobilization and reintegration - which is the package of benefits, incentives and retraining and transportation, etc given to members of armed groups after wars, usually as part of the peace process.

In saying that women fighters also deserve, and usually do not get this, activist groups are tackling exactly the presumption that you discuss: men fight, women's don't. A report called Getting it Right, Doing it Right discusses this more if you are interested. <http://www.womenwarpeace.org/issues/ddr/ddr.htm>

The approach that completely ignores women fails to address the fact that women **are**** combatants and in some wars have proved themselves as competent at violence and murder as men.**

They are also playing - often through force - essential roles that keep armed groups together.

So women combatants, supporters and dependents have not equally benefited from services, cash incentives, health care, training, travel remittance, small business grants or housing support that flow to their male counterparts as part of DDR packages.

The terrible irony is that women are not invisible to armed groups, who see them as essential, accessible - and often expendable - military assets. Yet having survived the devastating experiences of war as combatants, sexual captives or military "wives" and slave or willing labourers in the conflict period, these women and girls often become invisible when DDR planning begins.

A relevant quote from the above publication that also relates to your comment: "The traditional profile of "the combatant" fails to recognize that armed groups are constituted of men, women and children, in both forced and voluntary capacities. Whatever role they played, women and girls are often classed as "vulnerable groups associated with armed movements" which fails to recognize that women undertake a variety of conflict-related tasks, including actual fighting as well as providing essential services to fighters and the ongoing maintenance of armed groups."

All this is to say that there is a gender difference in how women and men are perceived as combatants, and how they experience wars. All too often, because of the cultural association of men with war and women with peace, women's experience of war becomes invisible, and men's efforts for peace too.

The Security Council passed a resolution in 2000 on Women, Peace and Security that recognised this - resolution 1325 - and it's a small step in the right direction, but there is a long way to go in realizing its goals. If you want to read more about that resolution, it's here: <http://www.womenwarpeace.org/toolbox/toolbox.htm>

The Anti-Imperialist League: USA 1899

"Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us. Our defense is in the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men in all lands. Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under a just God cannot long retain it."

January 13, 2005, Stephen Bender, Antiwar.com

"We deny that the obligation of all citizens to support their Government in times of grave National peril applies to the present situation."

"If an Administration may with impunity ignore the issues upon which it was chosen, deliberately create a condition of war anywhere on the face of the globe, debauch the civil service for spoils to promote the adventure, organize a truth-suppressing censorship and demand of all citizens a suspension of judgment and

their unanimous support while it chooses to continue the fighting, representative government itself is imperiled...."

– from the platform of the Anti-Imperialist League, Boston, 1899

When Mugwumps Attack!

Within a few months of the American bombardment at Manila Bay on May 1, 1898, a group of prominent New Englanders established the first American peace movement of national scope in response to a foreign war.

It was called the Anti-Imperialist League.

Although their members were derided as a collection of "mugwumps" – irascible political independents – their ranks would soon include such celebrated figures as Mark Twain, William James, and Andrew Carnegie. These notables would eventually expand their provincial and social base to include local leaguers from throughout the Midwest clear to the West Coast, ultimately including prominent members such as labor leader Samuel Gompers and progressive reformer Jane Addams.

Eventually, the national League would number nearly 50,000, before commencing a decline in membership with the eventual "pacification" of the Philippines in 1901. In one form or another, the anti-imperialist movement that sprang from the Spanish-American War would continue public education campaigns until the Red Scare of the late 1910s.

While we can still learn a good bit from the League, some care should be taken assessing its legacy. Some of its prominent members made the "anti-imperial" argument by maintaining that "tropical people" were incapable of "self-government." This anachronistic stance allowed the advocates of aggression to don the mantle of the humanitarian bringing enlightened administration and democracy to the benighted many – a now-familiar neocon rhetorical device.

The League, however, also offered powerful, convincing (and most importantly, specifically American) arguments against the first full-fledged "counterinsurgency" war the United States ever fought.

At the core, as pointed out in Robert L. Beisner's *Twelve Against Empire: The Anti-Imperialists 1898-1900*, they believed "that it was wrong for the United States to forcibly impose its will on other peoples. No economic or diplomatic reasoning could justify slaughtering Filipinos who wanted their independence."

The moral imagination of the day was stoked by the evident contradiction between America as the historical rebel against European royalty and America the wolfish devourer of Spain's imperium. In short, the shoe was on the other foot – pursuit of "Empire" was deemed "un-American."

This theme was further enunciated by a German immigrant from the Revolution of 1848, later a senator and eventual editor of *Harper's Weekly*, named Carl Schurz. Democracy, he thought, could not indefinitely "play the king over subject populations without creating in itself ways of thinking and habits of action most dangerous to its own vitality." The

state, embodied in the policies of the president, would be emboldened "purposely and systematically ... to keep the American people in ignorance of the true state of things at the seat of war, and by all sorts of deceitful tricks to deprive them of the knowledge required for the formulation of a correct judgment."

Samuel Gompers, the usually cautious head of the American Federation of Labor, put it more forcefully. "I propose stating as succinctly as possible the grounds of our opposition to the so-called policy of imperialism and expansion. We cannot annex the Philippines without a large increase in our standing army. A large standing army is repugnant to republican institutions and a menace to the liberty of our own people. **If we annex the Philippines, we shall have to conquer the Filipinos by force of arms, and thereby deny to them what we claim to ourselves – the right to self-government.**"

Along with the famous pronouncements of Mark Twain, the eminent philosopher and psychologist William James was among the most disgusted and disappointed by the consequences of the Philippine war. "Could there be a more damning indictment of that whole bloated idol termed 'modern civilization' than this amounts to? Civilization is, then, the big, hollow, resounding, corrupting, sophisticating, confusing torrent of mere brutal momentum and irrationality that brings forth fruits like this?" Like Schurz, he was dismayed at the degree to which his fellow Americans had embraced imperialism and was stunned how "a nation's ideals [could] be changed in the twinkling of an eye." Exasperated, James thundered, "God damn the United States for its vile conduct in the Philippine Isles!"

Platform of the Anti-Imperialist League

In order to get a better notion of the Anti-Imperialist League's rhetoric, below are excerpted passages from its platform. Recall that this was the largely "conservative" critique of imperialism and that even former Presidents Harrison and Cleveland lent their names to it.

*"We hold that the policy known as imperialism is hostile to liberty and tends toward militarism, an evil from which it has been our glory to be free. We regret that it has become necessary in the land of Washington and Lincoln to reaffirm that all men, of whatever race or color, are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We maintain that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. **We insist that the subjugation of any people is 'criminal aggression' and open disloyalty to the distinctive principles of our Government.***

"We earnestly condemn the policy of the present National Administration in the Philippines. It seeks to extinguish the spirit of 1776 in those islands. We deplore the sacrifice of our soldiers and sailors, whose bravery deserves admiration even in an unjust war. We denounce the slaughter of the Filipinos as a needless horror. We protest against the extension of American sovereignty by Spanish methods.

"We demand the immediate cessation of the war against liberty, begun by Spain and continued by us. We urge that Congress be promptly convened to announce to the Filipinos our purpose to concede to them the independence for which they have so long fought and which of right is theirs.

"The United States have always protested against the doctrine of international law which permits the subjugation of the weak by the strong. A self-governing state cannot accept sovereignty over an unwilling people. The United States cannot act upon the ancient heresy that might makes right.

"Imperialists assume that with the destruction of self-government in the Philippines by American hands, all opposition here will cease. This is a grievous error. Much as we abhor the war of 'criminal aggression' in the Philippines, greatly as we regret that the blood of the Filipinos is on American hands, we more deeply resent the betrayal of American institutions at home. The real firing line is not in the suburbs of Manila. The foe is of our own household....

"We hold, with Abraham Lincoln, that 'no man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent.' When the white man governs himself, that is self-government, but when he governs himself and also governs another man, that is more than self-government – that is despotism.

"Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us. Our defense is in the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men in all lands. Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under a just God cannot long retain it."

OCCUPATION REPORT

"How Can We Call You If The Phones Do Not Work?"

2005-01-17 By Ali Youssef - BAQUBA, Iraq, Middle East Online

Hussein's neighbours start gathering to ask the soldiers if they too can go back to their homes past the blocks to get out some of their belongings.

They are told that they need to first go get the imam of the neighbourhood's mosque so the battalion's chaplain can speak with him.

Half-an-hour later, they come back with the imam's deputy, who identifies himself as Abu Ihab.

After listening intently to the man recount the residents' hardship and concerns, Chaplain Tim Wilson promises to help and then starts to speak about the importance of the upcoming elections.

"I need for you to encourage the people to participate in the elections," says Wilson.

Abu Ihab, wearing a red-and-white chequered head scarf, says he would be killed on the spot by insurgents, who have vowed to target all those who take part in the elections.

Wilson then hands him a leaflet with a number and tells him to call to report on insurgents.

"How can we call you if the phones do not work?" scoffs Faris Mohammed, 37, standing nearby.

THIS IS 'SOVEREIGN' IRAQ, SO HE'S GOT A SEARCH WARRANT, RIGHT?



A U.S. soldier searches a house for explosives and insurgents during a raid in Mosul, January 17, 2005. [Everybody knows insurgents and explosives hide in bedroom drawers.] REUTERS/Zohra Bensemra

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

The Iraq Election Farce Rolls On: Americans Get To Vote

[Thanks to Phil G. who sent this in.]

[He writes: No, this is not satire from The Onion. Anyone whose parents were born in Iraq can vote in the planned elections, even if they are not Iraqi citizens]

and even if they have never set foot in the country! This means that some US and Israeli citizens can vote in this great exercise in "democracy", while many Iraqis cannot.

[Compare this to the recent Palestinian elections, in which Palestinian refugees living outside the occupied territories were denied voting rights. What a farce. – PG]

1.17.04 By Tom Brown, DETROIT (Reuters)

A surprisingly low number of Iraqis turned out on Monday in the Detroit area -- home to one of the largest concentrations of Arabs outside the Middle East -- to register to vote in the upcoming election in their homeland.

Iraqis away from home will be eligible to vote in the Jan. 30 election.

John Gattorn, responsible for organizing the Detroit-area registration drive, said about 100,000 of the estimated 150,000 Iraqis living in Michigan were potentially eligible to cast ballots.

But election volunteers far outnumbered potential voters after the registration site opened its doors at 8 a.m. EST, and by late in the day it appeared the nearly 500 Iraqis assisting their compatriots accounted for the lion's share of new registrants.

Detroit was one of five U.S. cities, including Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles and Nashville, where the seven-day voter registration drive opened on Monday. Iraqis in 14 countries outside of Iraq (news - web sites) will be eligible to vote in the election in overseas balloting administered by Switzerland-based International Organization of Migration.

In the Washington area, registration began under tight security at a hotel in New Carrollton, Maryland, as Iraqis from along the U.S. East Coast signed up.

"A slow, steady stream" of voters were arriving to register, said Jeremy Copeland, a spokesman for the Iraq Out-of-Country Voting Program. The mood was "upbeat, with a lot of smiles," he added.

In Southgate, with so many expected, 64 registration booths were set up inside the 104,000-square-foot Southgate facility, each manned by five or six Iraqi volunteers. The booths will later serve as polling stations.

But the "mega-polling center," as Gattorn called it, seemed like overkill given the small number of people actually turning up to register on a bitterly cold morning.

The initial plan was to have multiple registration and voting sites in Michigan, set up in the largest Iraqi communities. Gattorn said he was not given enough time to make security preparations and other final arrangements for more than one site.

There have also been complaints of disenfranchisement of potential voters in San Diego, which has a large Iraqi community but the nearest voting center is in Los Angeles.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. FUEL SUPPLY CONVOY ATTACKED



A Pakistani soldier watches a burning oil-tanker truck set ablaze by Afghan resistance soldiers at the Pak-Afghan border city of Chaman, January 17, 2005. **The truck was part of a convoy supplying oil to U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan.** REUTERS/Saeed Ali Achakzai

Received:

From: B
To: GI Special
Sent: January 16, 2005
Subject: Cleric : Muquatta al Sadar: Talent show?

Iraq to American go back!! This is sacred ground!!! UASS tend to your own !!!!
GO home! OR else Big BROTHER take cover. Best of both worlds?

Baghdad ROCKS LIKE SNAP CRACKLE AND POP: Into your morning.
Menu Roadside or Suicide bomb?
game of hangman in Fallujah ? Bridge, FEEL THE LOVE???? NOT!

Khaldiyah, smoked humveee, don't you agree?
I'M a red head princess, single will you marry me?

Muquatda al Sadar??? How birazzar? NO Children, YELLOW MINI Camel, yellow lab.
I'm at my friends house I'm WAiting!!!!
eye for an I?

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For back issues see: GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/>

The following that we know of have also posted issues:

<http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/> ; www.gifightback.org ;

<http://www.albasrah.net/maqalat/english/gi-special.htm>,

www.williambowles.info/gispecial

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