

GI SPECIAL 5L7:

The Traitor-In-Chief Shows What He Thinks Of The Troops



President Bush visits troops in South Carolina last month. Paul J. Richards / AFP / Getty Images

Military Families Condemn Bush & His War:

**“We Support The Troops; We
Don’t Support Bush”
70% “Favor A Withdrawal Within
The Coming Year Or “Right Away”**

“There Have Been Terrible Deaths On Our Side, And It’s Even Worse For The Iraqi Population. It’s Another Vietnam”

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, & Joel Geier & John FL

December 7, 2007 By Faye Fiore, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON -- Families with ties to the military, long a reliable source of support for wartime presidents, disapprove of President Bush and his handling of the war in Iraq, with a majority concluding the invasion was not worth it, a Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll has found.

The views of the military community, which includes active-duty service members, veterans and their family members, mirror those of the overall adult population, a sign that the strong military endorsement that the administration often pointed to has dwindled in the war’s fifth year.

Nearly six out of every 10 military families disapprove of Bush’s job performance and the way he has run the war, rating him only slightly better than the general population does.

And among those families with soldiers, sailors and Marines who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, 60% say that the war in Iraq was not worth the cost, the same result as all adults surveyed.

“I don’t see gains for the people of Iraq . . . and, oh, my God, so many wonderful young people, and these are the ones who felt they were really doing something, that’s why they signed up,” said poll respondent Sue Datta, 61, whose youngest son, an Army staff sergeant, was seriously wounded in Iraq last year and is scheduled to redeploy in 2009.

“I pray to God that they did not die in vain, but I don’t think our president is even sensitive at all to what it’s like to have a child serving over there.”

Patience with the war, which has now lasted longer than the U.S. involvement in World War II, is wearing thin -- particularly among families who have sent a service member to the conflict.

Nearly seven in 10 favor a withdrawal within the coming year or “right away.”

Military families are only slightly more patient: 35% are willing to stay until victory; 58% want the troops home within a year or sooner.

Here, too, the military families surveyed are in sync with the general population, 64% of whom call for a withdrawal by the end of next year.

“The man went into Iraq without justification, without a plan; he just decided to go in there and win, and he had no idea what was going to happen,” said poll respondent

Mary Meneely, 58, of Arco, Minn. Her son, an Air Force reservist, served one tour in Afghanistan.

“There have been terrible deaths on our side, and it’s even worse for the Iraqi population. It’s another Vietnam.”

“We support the troops; we don’t support Bush,” said respondent Linda Ramirez, 52, of Spooner, Wis., whose 19-year-old son is due to be deployed with the Marines early next year.

“These boys have paid a terrible, terrible price.”

Asked about the Bush administration’s handling of the needs of active-duty troops, military families and veterans, 57% of the general public disapprove. That number falls only slightly among military families -- 53% give a thumbs-down.

And most military families and others surveyed took no exception to retired officers publicly criticizing the Bush administration’s execution of the war. More than half of the respondents in both groups -- 58% -- say such candor is appropriate. Families with someone who had served in the war are about equally supportive at 55%.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Illinois Soldier Killed In Beiji



U.S. Army Pvt. Dewayne White of Country Club Hills, Ill. died in a roadside bombing near Beiji Dec. 4, 2007.

New Jersey Sgt. Killed In Beiji



U.S. Army Sgt. Eric Hernandez of Waldwick, N.J. died in a roadside bombing near Beiji Dec. 4, 2007. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Sgt. Killed In Anbar



U.S. Army Sgt. Kyle Dayton, an 82nd Airborne Division Paratrooper, died of wounds sustained when his unit responded to a logistics convoy accident and one of the vehicles involved unexpectedly ignited, near the Al Anbar Province, Dec. 3, 2007. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Sgt. 1st Class Killed In Iraq; “All The Family Knows Is That He Had Stepped Outside A Tent In Baghdad And That Shots Were Fired”

November 30, 2007 By Courtney Blanchard, Star Tribune

A Minnesota soldier who had planned to come home in January died Wednesday as the result of wounds suffered in Iraq.

Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class John Tobiason, 42, of Hayfield, in southeastern Minnesota, was wounded in an incident that is under investigation, the Department of Defense said Thursday.

He was on his second tour overseas, this time with the 847th Adjutant General Battalion of the 89th Regional Readiness Command based in Wichita, Kan. Previously he had served in Kuwait.

Tobiason, in his 14th year with the Army, had volunteered to stay longer when his tour ended in October, his elder sister, Nancy Mitchell, said late Thursday by phone from her home in Mantorville, Minn.

He would have returned home in January, she said.

Tobiason's death is still under investigation. Mitchell said all the family knows is that he had stepped outside a tent in Baghdad and that shots were fired. She said she expects to see the final report in a day or two.

Mitchell said her brother, who did administrative work, loved the military and had planned to serve 20 years, then retire to a cabin in Minnesota where he could spend his days fishing by a quiet lake.

Tobiason loved to cook, and served for years as an Army cook. When he came home, he would often fry fish for the entire family, his sister said.

He grew up in Bloomington and graduated from Kennedy High School, she said.

“He was a wild and crazy drummer who loved life,” Mitchell said.

When he came home once from an overseas tour, he surprised his sister by jumping onstage before the Byron, Minn., community production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” It was the first time Mitchell, who was one of the dancing and singing extras, had seen her brother after he returned, and they hugged in front of everyone onstage.

In Hayfield, a veterans memorial was just unveiled this Veteran's Day. It has Tobiason's name on a plaque. On Thursday, Mitchell said the family set flowers beside the monument in his memory.

Services are planned next week at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Bloomington. Besides his sister, Tobiason is survived by his mother, Virginia Tobiason, his brother, Jim Tobiason, five nieces and two nephews. He was divorced and had no children.

Tobiason was the 64th Minnesota service member to die in connection with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Cheektowaga Couple In Germany With Wounded Soldier Son: Shrapnel In Brain Keeps Him In Coma



File photo: Army Spc. Michael D. Hauser

12/06/07 By Lou Michel, The Buffalo News

The Cheektowaga parents of a soldier wounded in Iraq have arrived in Germany to be close to their critically wounded son, family members said Wednesday.

Army Spc. Michael D. Hauser, 23, is in a medically induced coma and has a piece of shrapnel in his brain that cannot be removed because the surgery could cause more brain damage, according to an e-mail from Hauser's father to relatives back home.

"It's a possibility that Michael may or may not come out of the coma. Time will tell. One day at a time," Ray Hauser wrote in the e-mail.

The shrapnel, the size of a ball bearing, pierced the young man's skull about an inch above his right eye and below his helmet, said Sandra Hauser, an aunt of the soldier.

The Hausers were originally told that their son was the least wounded of the eight soldiers in an explosion by a suicide bomber early last week while they were on a foot patrol in Baquba, about 100 miles northeast of Baghdad.

But Margaret Hauser spoke with one of the other wounded soldiers and found out the exact opposite was the case for her son — a fact that was also confirmed by doctors, relatives said.

“Margaret was able to talk with one of the other soldiers who had burns on both arms and he told her that Michael was the most injured,” the aunt from Lancaster said. “We were kind of misinformed at first. We’re worried and scared for Mike. We’ll keep our prayers going out for Mike.”

The family did receive some positive news from doctors at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, on Wednesday:

Hauser’s eyes dilated for the first time during a medical examination, indicating brain activity.

A broken bone in his left leg was repaired by doctors.

Swelling on his face has gone down and he has been taken off of one of a series of drugs he is being given.

In addition to his parents, Hauser’s wife, Rachel, and their 4-month-old daughter, Kyli, are now in Germany. Also, Hauser’s brother, Daniel, 22, a Marine serving in Iraq, is at his brother’s side.

During surgery, doctors removed a section of his skull to relieve pressure on his brain, according to one of Ray Hauser’s e-mails.

He and his wife, said Sandra Hauser, “are very worried like all of us, and they’re hoping and praying.”

Doctors, the aunt said, are planning to perform a CT scan on Hauser to measure brain wave activity.

Local Soldier Critically Wounded In Iraq



12/06/07 TurnTo23

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. -- A local soldier who graduated from Liberty High has been critically injured in Iraq.

Family members said Moore was in a Humvee Tuesday along with the rest of his platoon when they hit an improvised explosive device.

Moore suffered third-degree burns to more than 60 percent of his body. No one else in his platoon survived.

Jamin Moore, 21, was deployed to Iraq two months ago.

Family and friends gathered at his parents' home in northwest Bakersfield last night.

They said the football and wrestling star wanted to be on the front lines.

Moore will be transferred today from a hospital in Germany to a burn center in San Antonio.

Happy Victory Time For The Bush Regime? Uh, No Not Quite: “The U.S. Needs More Combat Power To Help Stabilize A Number Of Areas” As Gates Babbles Silly Bullshit, Occupation Commanders Want Endless Whack-A-Mole For The Troops

December 06, 2007 Associated Press

BAGHDAD - U.S. military commanders in northern Iraq told Defense Secretary Robert Gates here Dec. 5 that they need more troops to battle increased attacks by insurgents who have moved north.

The call for the movement of Iraqi and U.S. forces into the north comes as Gates hailed the improved security in Baghdad and said a stable Iraq is within reach.

Up in Mosul, Army Col. Tony Thomas, deputy commander of U.S. forces in the north, told reporters traveling with Gates that commanders would like more U.S.

troops, as well as the return of 1,400 Iraqi troops who were sent to Baghdad as part of the military buildup there earlier this year.

The plan could shift extra troops from other areas of the country that are more secure. **[The stupid fucks never learn do they?]**

Thomas would not say how many troops are needed or where they would be deployed, but he said the U.S. needs more combat power to help stabilize a number of areas - including Diyala province, Mosul and Samara - to help counter an uptick in violence, including bombings. **[Oh, that's all, just Diyala, Mosul, And Samara. Hey, no problem, send the loud mouth shits in Congress and at the Pentagon proclaiming how wonderful it's all going in Iraq. They'd never be missed.]**

"What I heard them say was that they ... did need some additional forces ... particularly west of the river," said Gates, who appeared at a press briefing with Iraqi Defense Minister Abdul-Qader al-Obeidi.

"In many parts of the nation, the positive developments have led to a growing sense of normalcy and hope," said Gates. **[Right. That's why Thomas is yelling for more help. Of course.]**

UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Soldiers from Demon Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division react after coming under fire in western Mosul, Nov. 8, 2007. They were investigating a blast site. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Soldier's Widow: “He Didn't Think He Was Gonna Make It Back” “He Told Me Iraq Was Easy Compared To Afghanistan”



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

12/6/2007 by Mark Hedlund, Reporter, News10/KXTV

When he deployed in June, Army Sgt. Kyle Dayton told his wife he had a bad feeling that he wouldn't make it back. On Monday, the 22-year-old El Dorado Hills man was killed in Iraq, leaving behind his wife and their three month old son he never met.

“Before he left, he told me he didn't think that he was gonna be coming,” said Nicole Dayton, even though she said after he began his latest tour, “He told me Iraq was easy compared to Afghanistan.”

“I just thought he was being paranoid. I always thought of it in my head as a terrible thing that you see on the news, but it doesn't actually happen to you, you know,” she said.

Kyle Dayton was killed in what the U.S. Army calls a “non-combat” incident, though it happened while he helped provide security for a convoy, according to his wife. Dayton was responding to a convoy accident when one of the vehicles exploded or caught fire, according to the army.

Holding their baby at her parent's El Dorado Hills home, Nicole Dayton said what bothers her the most is that her husband never had a chance to see their son in person. Dayton was scheduled to come home on leave next month.

“That’s one of the things I really wish for him, that he had just gotten to hold him just one time, ya know? He was so looking forward to being a daddy,” she said.

Kyle Dayton enlisted right after his 2003 graduation from Oak Ridge High School because he didn’t think he was ready for college, said his wife. He served one year in Afghanistan, came back stateside to Ft. Bragg in North Carolina, then deployed for his tour in the Anbar Province.

“The first six months in Afghanistan he had fun, doing that macho stuff, kicking in doors,” said his wife. “The next six months he just wanted to come back home.”

Showing great strength as she spoke to News10, Nicole Dayton, 19, said her husband would want to be remembered as someone who always liked to have fun. She showed a picture of him wearing his army fatigues, riding a donkey and clowning around while he was in Afghanistan.

“He was serious when he needed to be,” she said, “but he was ready to get out (of the army).” She said he wanted to serve his country but didn’t plan to make the military a career.

“It was a job to him. It was not his life’s passion, like it was for a lot of those guys. he was ready to be done,” she said.

The U.S. Army hasn’t revealed details of Dayton’s death, but family members say they were told he and his commander were checking out a dead body in a vehicle when the vehicle either exploded or caught on fire.

While arrangements for services still haven’t been made, Nicole Dayton said the latest information is that her husband’s body will be returned to Northern California on Sunday, with services most likely Monday.

“He’s the love of my life and I’ll never forget him,” said Nicole Dayton. “I’m gonna make sure that Sean knows everything he can possibly know about his dad.”

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed, Another Wounded; Nationality Not Announced

08 December 2007 By VOA News & AFP

A soldier has been killed in the first day of an operation to retake the southern Afghan town of Musa Qala, the Afghan defence ministry said Saturday.

One ISAF soldier was killed as a result of a mine explosion. An ISAF official confirmed the fatality but said the nationality of the soldier could not yet be released.

NATO said one of its soldiers was killed and another wounded in an explosion today in southern Afghanistan. It did not provide further details.

“Allies” Refuse New Combat Troops For Afghanistan: Occupation Will Get “A Few More Polish Helicopters”

December 08, 2007 Mike Blanchfield, The Ottawa Citizen

Canada continued to press some of its reluctant NATO allies yesterday to contribute more to front-line fighting in southern Afghanistan, but had to settle for a few more Polish helicopters.

NATO still was unable to find another 1,000 to 1,500 troops to join the ranks of 43,000 personnel from 39 countries.

Resistance Action

December 3, 2007 (AP) & Dec 8 By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Writer

A bomber blew himself up next to a police patrol Monday in southwestern Afghanistan, killing two policemen.

The bomber attacked the patrol in Khash Rod district in Nimroz province, wounding three officers, said provincial Gov. Ghulam Dastagir.

Taliban militants armed with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns ambushed a district chief's vehicle in western Farah province, killing him, his son, nephew and three bodyguards, said provincial police chief Gen. Khailbuz Sherzoi.

TROOP NEWS

700 From 4th ID Off To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse

December 10, 2007 Army Times

About 700 soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team, Special Troops Battalion, deployed Nov. 25-26 from Fort Hood's Robert Gray Army Airfield in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to local news reports.

The soldiers will deploy to Kuwait, and then on to Iraq. The remainder of the battalion will continue to deploy through the end of the year, along with soldiers from the division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team in Fort Carson, Colo., according to published reports.

Soldiers Fucked Over For The Holidays: Indiana Guard Troops Can't Get Their Pay



Andrea, Military Wife

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

Dec 6, 2007 By Mary McDermott, 24-Hour News 8 [Excerpts]

INDIANAPOLIS - The weeks leading up to Christmas and New Year's can be stressful for anyone, especially for soldiers about to head overseas and their families.

Andrea's husband is a National Guard soldier who will head to Iraq early next year. Like thousands of soldiers before him, he has spent months at Camp Atterbury in southern Indiana.

The military pays the soldiers for the time they spend training.

But Andrea (she asked 24-Hour News 8 to withhold her last name to protect her husband) says some of her husband's pay is now overdue.

“The third and fourth of November they still haven’t been paid for some of ‘em. And they’ve been promised days like this last day was the 30th and my husband and a couple of other still have not been paid for that,” said Andrea.

Andrea says there have been other miscommunications and that her husband and some of his fellow soldiers say they don’t have enough to do.

Some 3,500 Indiana National Guard soldiers are in the process of reporting to Camp Atterbury for their last weeks of training before they’re deployed.

This is the largest group of soldiers the Indiana Guard has deployed since World War II. They report for what’s expected to be a one-year tour of duty on January 2nd.

Breaking News!

JCS Chief Has Alzheimer’s Disease! Brain-Dead Admiral Can’t Remember Anything!

December 10, 2007 By Rick Maze, Army Times [Excerpts]

The military’s top uniformed officer says there are limits to how much money should be spent on improving military pay and benefits.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said it is important to have a competitive compensation package for active, reserve and retired service members and their families — but it is equally important not to spend so much on personnel costs that no money is left for critical weapons development and procurement programs.

Mullen said the Bush administration and Pentagon leaders deserve “a lot of credit” for improvements in basic pay and medical benefits, especially in reducing the difference between military and private-sector pay and creating a lifetime medical benefit for older retirees.

He did not mention that the Pentagon initially opposed the Tricare for Life program for Medicare-eligible retirees and tried, but failed, to stop Congress from imposing a formula that provided five years of military pay raises slightly larger than private-sector wage hikes.

Mullen also did not talk about how the Bush administration has tried to raise Tricare fees for military retirees and their families, which Congress has blocked, nor did he mention that the administration is opposing a 3.5 percent Jan. 1 military raise, half a percentage point more than the administration asked for.

Collaborators From Iraq Running Away From U.S. Training Posts

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

Dec. 6, 2007 (UPI)

Iraqi law enforcement and military officers training in the United States for special intelligence programs disappeared or left their posts.

The Washington Times Thursday said it has learned nearly a dozen Iraqi officers fled U.S. military training facilities and five Iraqi military personnel training with the U.S. Army disappeared between 2005 and 2007.

The Times uncovered the disappearance of the Iraqi Air Force colonel from a base in Alabama in March.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

05 Dec 2007 Reuters & Dec 6 By LAUREN FRAYER, Associated Press Writer & Reuters & (KUNA) & 12/07/07 AP & Reuters

Two men were killed in Mosul — one who, wielding a knife, lunged at American soldiers as they entered a building, and another who was wrapped in blanket with wires protruding from it, the military said.

In Muqdadiyah, insurgents killed a U.S.-backed fighter, police said.

Clashes broke out Thursday between Kurdish peshmerga soldiers and guerrillas who attacked a Kurdish checkpoint near Khanaqin, 87 miles northeast of Baghdad, close to the Iranian border. Eight Kurdish troops were killed and five wounded.

Armed with a heavy machine gun mounted on the back of a pickup truck, the attackers ambushed the checkpoint in the early afternoon, then withdrew after Kurdish reinforcements arrived.

Nine Iraqi Kurd soldiers were killed during in attack in the province of Diyala when insurgents attacked a base for the Kurdistan affiliated forces the Bishmarka at Qura Tebih town north of Baqouba, Diyala's largest city. Nine Bishmarka soldiers died during the clash

Guerrillas killed a policeman and wounded two others in an attack in the town of Dhuluiya, 70 km (45 miles) north of Baghdad.

A roadside bomb killed one policeman and wounded three others near the city of Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

A female bomber detonated an explosives belt Friday outside the offices of a group that has joined forces with the U.S. military, killing at least 15 people, police said. It was Iraq's second attack involving a woman in less than two weeks.

Ten of those killed in the attack in the Diyala province city of Muqdadiyah were members of the group who have partnered with U.S. forces to rid their neighborhood of militants.

Ibrahim Bajalan, the head of Diyala provincial council, said "She wanted to avenge the killing of her two sons."

Later Friday, a car bombing at a checkpoint near Mansouriyat al-Jabal killed seven Iraqi soldiers and three members of a local U.S. military allied group, according to Iraqi army Capt. Saad al-Zuhairi, who was about 150 yards away. Al-Zuhairi said the driver detonated his explosives when the guards asked to search the car. The attacks were about 10 miles apart. The explosion went off about 9:30 a.m. on the outskirts of Muqdadiyah, which is about 60 miles north of Baghdad, on a road leading to the town market, al-Tamimi said.

Guerrillas wounded three policemen in an attack on a police station in the Sunni Arab district of Adhamiya in northern Baghdad.

A roadside bomb wounded five policeman near the small town of Rashad, 30 km (20 miles) south of Kirkuk.

Guerrillas killed four leaders of neighbourhood police units allied with the U.S. military and wounded two others in a drive-by shooting on Thursday in the village of Rabia in Iraq's remote northwest near the Syrian border, police said.

A parked car bomb targeted the convoy of a police commander, Brigadier-General Kakamen Hameed, in southern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police and hospital sources said. The general was among 10 people wounded, and one of his bodyguards and one civilian were killed.

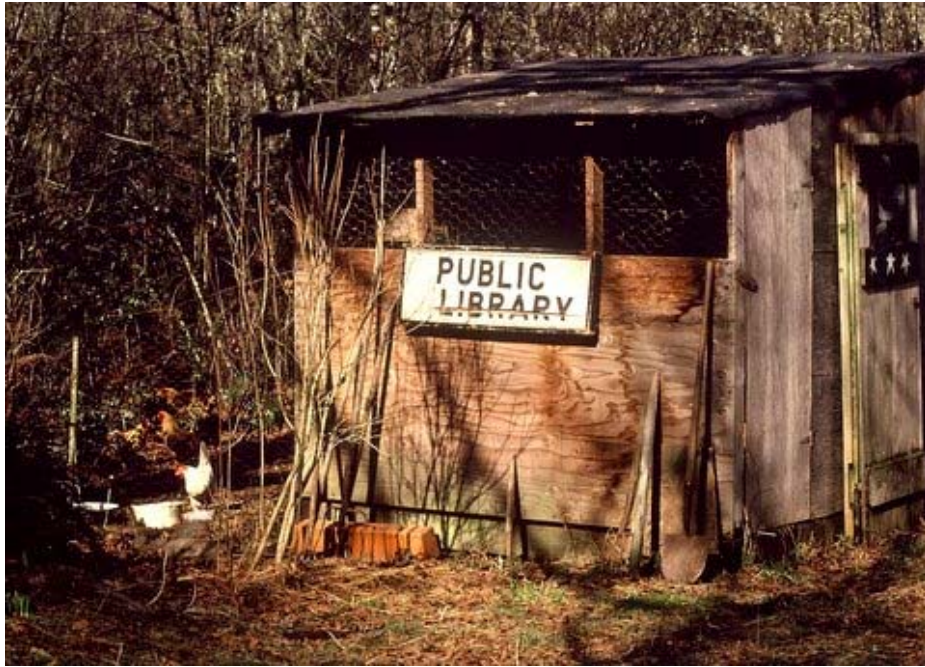
A roadside bomb wounded two policeman when it targeted their patrol in Yarmouk district, west-central Baghdad, police said.

A parked car bomb wounded a policeman, in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

PUBLIC LIBRARY



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2007 2:40 PM
Subject: PUBLIC LIBRARY

PUBLIC LIBRARY

When I think of the horrible cost the Vietnamese people had to pay to kick America out of Vietnam, I am astounded at the absolute lack of character and commitment most Americans are unwilling to pay to save their own country from corporate domination. A million people have died in Iraq, and most Americans are entertaining themselves to death. They are systematically sleepwalking their way to the gallows. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "No Lie Can Live Forever."

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 5, 2007

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: (hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

Big Surprise Just For You: No, The USA Is Not Any Kind Of “Democracy”

December 6, 2007 By Larry J. Sabato, AlterNet [Excerpt]

Just 17 percent of the current American population elects a majority of the U.S. Senate.

This is because even though California has about 70 times the population of Wyoming, both states get two U.S. senators.

The larger states may have 83 percent of the nation's people, but they get nothing without the approval of the lightly populated states.

In the beginning of the republic, the population differential between the large and small states -- and thus the unfairness -- was far less.

Troops Invited:

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

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?

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

OCCUPATION REPORT

60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: Big Surprise



A foreign occupation soldier from the searches an Iraqi citizens personal belongings during a home invasion in Baghdad November 10, 2007. REUTERS/Stefano Rellandini

[61% of Iraqis say they approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces in their country, up from 47 percent in January. A solid majority of Shiite and Sunni Arabs approved of the attacks, according to the poll. 9/27/2006 By BARRY SCHWEID, AP & Program on International Policy Attitudes

Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist by any means necessary. T]

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

**\$1 Billion In Military Equipment
Missing In Iraq;**

Report Shows Vehicles, Machine Guns And More Meant For Iraqi Forces Unaccounted For

[Thanks to Al Jacoma, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

12/06/07 Laura Strickler of the CBS News Investigative Unit [Excerpt]

Tractor trailers, tank recovery vehicles, crates of machine guns and rocket propelled grenades are just a sampling of more than \$1 billion in unaccounted for military equipment and services provided to the Iraqi security forces, according to a new report issued today by the Pentagon Inspector General and obtained exclusively by the CBS News investigative unit.

Auditors for the Inspector General reviewed equipment contracts totaling \$643 million but could only find an audit trail for \$83 million.

**REMEMBER ALL THOSE NEWS
STORIES ABOUT HAPPY IRAQIS
COMING HOME BECAUSE THE
SURGE IS SOOOOO
SUCCESSFUL?**

**Stupid Lying Bullshit From The
World-Class Stupid Liars Of U.S.
Occupation Command Exposed
Again:**

**“I Should Send Two Big Trucks Of
Coffins For The People Who Went
Back On Those Buses. They’re
Digging Their Own Graves”**

“The Emphasis On The Drop In Violence In News Stories On Returning Refugees Masks The Real Reasons Most Iraqis Have Gone Home”

Humanitarian workers, travel agents and displaced Iraqis said that the emphasis on the drop in violence in news stories on returning refugees masks the real reasons most Iraqis have gone home. The first is the Syrian government’s stricter visa regulations, which have left many Iraqis unemployed and with no legal status. The second is the poverty that even formerly middle-class or affluent Iraqis face now that their savings have run out.

December 6, 2007 Hannah Allam, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

Despite reports of more Iraqis returning to Baghdad in response to the drop in violence there, there’s no flood of Iraqis leaving Syria to go home.

The numbers bear that out. While estimates from aid groups indicate that 60,000 Iraqis have returned home from Syria, Jordan and other Arab countries, that number represents only 2.4 percent of the 2.5 million Iraqis who’ve fled their country.

Jawad, a Shiite Muslim, cites her daughter’s recent experience as reason for caution.

At the insistence of her husband, the daughter went back to Baghdad last month, only to find Sunni Muslim strangers occupying her home. Now the daughter lives in a rented apartment in an unfamiliar district populated exclusively by fellow Shiites. In tearful telephone calls, she told the rest of her relatives in Syria to forget about returning.

“We’ve heard there are fewer kidnappings, fewer murders, but they’re still happening,” Jawad said.

Said another refugee, Zaidoun Saad, 30, a Shiite Muslim from the dangerous Baghdad neighborhood of Ghazaliyah, “I should send two big trucks of coffins for the people who went back on those buses. They’re digging their own graves.”

Humanitarian workers, travel agents and displaced Iraqis said that the emphasis on the drop in violence in news stories on returning refugees masks the real reasons most Iraqis have gone home.

The first is the Syrian government’s stricter visa regulations, which have left many Iraqis unemployed and with no legal status. The second is the poverty that even formerly middle-class or affluent Iraqis face now that their savings have run out.

“The main reasons for leaving appear to be the difficulties in making ends meet, as well as inability to renew visas, rather than considerations of improved security in Iraq,” according to an assessment by the U.N. refugee agency.

Down a narrow alley in the Damascus district of Seyyida Zaineb, home to one of the largest Iraqi enclaves, Basma Ahmed sang Iraqi folk songs as she plucked the eyebrows of a client at the beauty salon where she works. Most patrons are too poor to tip, and Ahmed’s meager salary isn’t nearly enough to pay rent and buy groceries for her ailing husband and their three children. She said it’s been three months since she was able to buy meat.

Ahmed, a Sunni, said the family is dangerously close to being forced into returning to their hometown of Baqouba, where militants have shut down salons and threatened beauticians, including Ahmed. She couldn’t make the December rent and prepared to leave for Iraq until sympathetic co-workers pooled their money and bought the family another month in Syria. “And what about next month’s rent?” Ahmed said, working her tweezers. “People say Iraq is safer now, but we wonder if it’s the calm before the storm. And even if I do have to go back, I’d be starting from zero. I have nothing.”

“Yeah, let’s just say we’d all be packing light,” her Iraqi customer interjected, drawing bittersweet laughter from the other women in the salon.

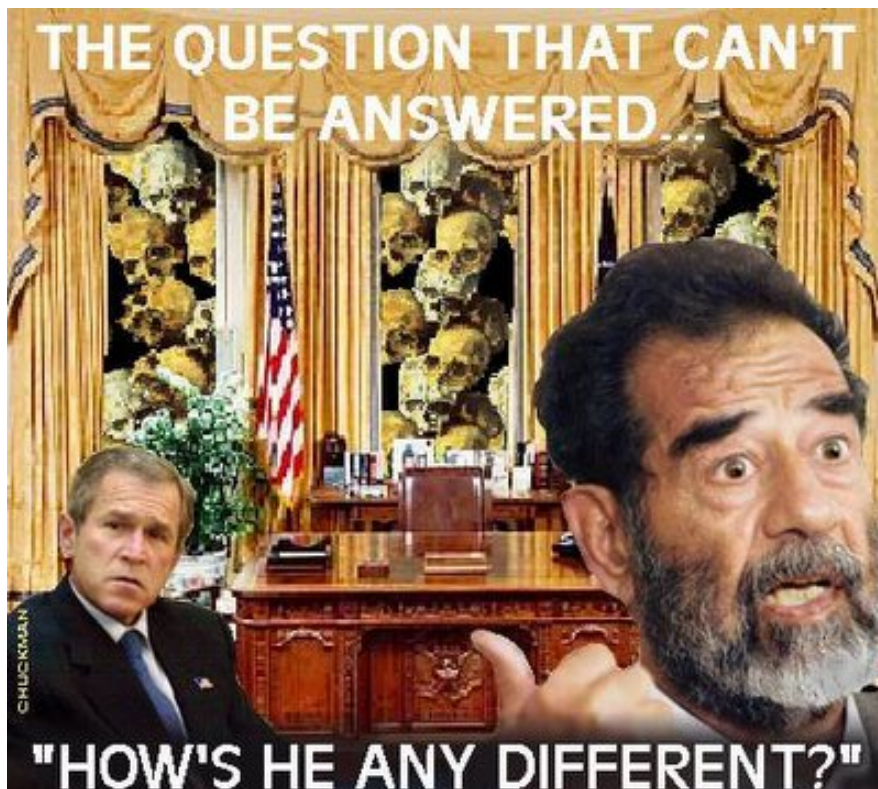
OCCUPATION PALESTINE



The British artist Banksy has painted new murals on the West Bank wall which runs beside Bethlehem to imprison Palestinians. [Thanks to Gerald Ali Via CAWI December 05, 2007]

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

U.S. SecDef Says Iraqi Resistance Victory Within Reach

"I believe that a secure, stable Iraq is within reach." Defense Secretary Robert Gates, December 06, 2007 Associated Press

CLASS WAR REPORTS

THE BANKRUPT EMPIRE HITS THE WALL, CONTINUED: “What We Are Witnessing,” Says Bill Gross Of The Bond Manager Pimco, “Is Essentially The Breakdown Of Our Modern-Day Banking System”



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

December 3, 2007 By PAUL KRUGMAN, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

The financial crisis that began late last summer, then took a brief vacation in September and October, is back with a vengeance.

How bad is it?

Well, I've never seen financial insiders this spooked — not even during the Asian crisis of 1997-98, when economic dominoes seemed to be falling all around the world.

This time, market players seem truly horrified — because they've suddenly realized that they don't understand the complex financial system they created.

Credit — lending between market players — is to the financial markets what motor oil is to car engines. The ability to raise cash on short notice, which is what people mean when they talk about “liquidity,” is an essential lubricant for the markets, and for the economy as a whole.

But liquidity has been drying up. Some credit markets have effectively closed up shop. Interest rates in other markets — like the London market, in which banks lend to each other — have risen even as interest rates on U.S. government debt, which is still considered safe, have plunged.

“What we are witnessing,” says Bill Gross of the bond manager Pimco, “is essentially the breakdown of our modern-day banking system, a complex of leveraged lending so hard to understand that Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke required a face-to-face refresher course from hedge fund managers in mid-August.”

The freezing up of the financial markets will, if it goes on much longer, lead to a severe reduction in overall lending, causing business investment to go the way of home construction — and that will mean a recession, possibly a nasty one.

Behind the disappearance of liquidity lies a collapse of trust: market players don't want to lend to each other, because they're not sure they'll be repaid.

In a direct sense, this collapse of trust has been caused by the bursting of the housing bubble. The run-up of home prices made even less sense than the dot-com bubble — I mean, there wasn't even a glamorous new technology to justify claims that old rules no longer applied — but somehow financial markets accepted crazy home prices as the new normal. And when the bubble burst, a lot of investments that were labeled AAA turned out to be junk.

Thus, “super-senior” claims against subprime mortgages — that is, investments that have first dibs on whatever mortgage payments borrowers make, and were therefore supposed to pay off in full even if a sizable fraction of these borrowers defaulted on their debts — have lost a third of their market value since July.

But what has really undermined trust is the fact that nobody knows where the financial toxic waste is buried.

Citigroup wasn't supposed to have tens of billions of dollars in subprime exposure; it did. Florida's Local Government Investment Pool, which acts as a bank for the state's school districts, was supposed to be risk-free; it wasn't (and now schools don't have the money to pay teachers).

[T]he innovations of recent years — the alphabet soup of C.D.O.'s and S.I.V.'s, R.M.B.S. and A.B.C.P. — were sold on false pretenses. They were promoted as ways to spread risk, making investment safer.

What they did instead — aside from making their creators a lot of money, which they didn't have to repay when it all went bust — was to spread confusion, luring investors into taking on more risk than they realized.

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<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

Housing Rally Disrupts New Orleans City Council: Stop Demolition Of Public Housing, Protesters Urge; “Suber And Others Threatened To Attempt To Block The Demolitions Physically If Necessary”

“We live in a system where if you cheer or chant in the City Council you get arrested, but you can demolish 4,500 people's apartments and everybody's supposed to go along with that? That's not going to happen,” Quigley said.

“There's going to be a lot more disturbing the peace before this is all over, I'm afraid.”

December 07, 2007 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS & By Bruce Egger, Times-Picayune

Protesters angry about the pending demolition of more than 4,000 public housing units stormed a City Council meeting Thursday in a confrontation that ended with a prominent civil rights lawyer being hauled off in handcuffs.

Thursday's fracas was a taste of what's likely to come as former residents of the aging, neglected buildings and their advocates seek to stop demolitions that could begin as soon as Dec. 15 in a city that faces an acute housing shortage.

About three dozen protesters gathered at the City Council chambers to demand that the council's members step in. But when the council took no action, the protesters broke into chants and shouts and forced Arnie Fielkow, the council president, to call the session into recess.

In the ensuing chaos, a sheriff's deputy grabbed and shoved civil rights lawyer Bill Quigley up against the wall, where he was handcuffed. Quigley has led a legal fight against the demolitions.

The deputy's report said Quigley refused to leave the premises and shouted, "I'm not going anywhere."

Quigley said he saw no reason for being detained and taken to a sheriff's trailer on the grounds of City Hall. He was released shortly afterward and cited with a charge of disturbing the peace.

"We live in a system where if you cheer or chant in the City Council you get arrested, but you can demolish 4,500 people's apartments and everybody's supposed to go along with that? That's not going to happen," Quigley said.

"There's going to be a lot more disturbing the peace before this is all over, I'm afraid."

[T]ens of thousands of former residents and other poor residents found themselves unable to find housing in New Orleans because of a housing shortage and inflated rents.

Critics of the plan say the redevelopment plan will drive poor people from neighborhoods where they have lived for generations,

Even after the protesters' repeated chant of "No demolition!" -- mixed with cries of "We want a vote!" -- led the council to recess for several minutes, President Arnie Fielkow's attempts to resume business were drowned out by continued chanting.

Demolition of more than 4,000 apartments in hundreds of vacant brick buildings at several housing developments is scheduled to begin Dec. 15. The

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which has run HANO since 2002, announced in June that it would demolish the city's four largest developments -- St. Bernard, Lafitte, C.J. Peete and B.W. Cooper -- to make way for mixed-income neighborhoods to be built by private developers.

Although council members questioned whether they have any authority to block the demolition of federally built and operated housing complexes, the demonstrators insisted they do.

Malcolm Suber, who said he represented the Coalition to Stop the Demolition of Public Housing in New Orleans, called the HANO-HUD plans “immoral and illegal” and said the city could stop the razing either by having the Department of Safety and Permits refuse to issue demolition permits or through a vote by the Housing Conservation District Review Committee to reject the demolition requests.

Suber and others threatened to attempt to block the demolitions physically if necessary.

Calling the extent of homelessness in the city a “nationally embarrassing, inhumane situation,” the Rev. Marshall Truehill urged the council to “request HUD to immediately open the public housing units that are livable to get men, women and little children out of the cold.”

“How can we as sane-thinking, civil-minded people allow livable housing to be demolished when such conditions exist and worsen every day in our city?” Truehill said.

Several former public housing residents said they have been unable to find satisfactory apartments at affordable rates in New Orleans since they were displaced from their former homes, which they said can easily be made livable again. They said many landlords don’t want to take tenants who can pay only with government vouchers.

Councilwoman Cynthia Willard-Lewis and Councilman James Carter offered the protesters some support, saying they agree that many of the public housing buildings should be saved.

But neither proposed a resolution putting the council on record against the demolitions, with Willard-Lewis saying only that she and others are discussing “legal strategies” that might halt the work.



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