

GI SPECIAL 7E19:

WELCOME TO OBAMAWORLD. HAVE A NICE DAY.



Soldiers from the U.S. Army 26th Infantry, patrol in the mountains of the Korengal Valley in Afghanistan's Kunar Province May 9, 2009. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)

**LOOKING FORWARD TO HOOKING UP SOON;
YOUR BFF ABDUL**



Taliban militants are seen in an undisclosed location in Afghanistan. Picture taken May 8, 2009. REUTERS/Stringer

ACTION REPORTS

“All In All A Positive Experience” “A Total Of 102 Literature Packets And 46 DVDs Were Distributed” [May 16th Outreach Report: New York National Guard]

From: Richie M
To: GI Special
Sent: May 17, 2009
Subject: May 16th Outreach Report: New York National Guard

On Saturday, May 16th at 5:45 A.M. a group of a half dozen activists organized by Military Project set out to greet soldiers at a New York City national guard Armory with the latest copy of Traveling Solider, cookies, brownies, an invitation to a local meeting headlining members of Iraq Veterans Against The War, DVD's of "Sir! No Sir!", a few copies of G.I. Special -- and of course their smiles.

The soldiers arrived to the facility in various forms of attire which included fatigues, Army Jogging Suits and a few in plain clothes carrying backpacks.

Most of the soldiers seemed to arrive by car, a few by foot (or perhaps by public transportation) and some by taxi.

Most of the Guard members we had a chance to interact with took a literature package, DVD, and a bag of treats. The interaction was positive and polite consisting mostly of "Good morning, how are you today", a hand off of the goods, and a "thank you" in response.

Several soldiers walked up and asked for a copy of the literature and others took only literature and no treats. They told us this would be PT day, with a long run in a Bronx public park, so quite a few declined the brownies/cookies to avoid puking during the exhausting run.

However, it was noticeable that at this outreach, to a Headquarters Company, a majority of women soldiers would not take a literature packet, which hasn't been the case in the past.

On soldier, while looking for a place to park, noticed Military Project T standing on the corner. The soldier rolled down his window and greeted T with a handshake as if they were old friends.

Alan reported to have met another soldier whom he has seen for many years and has a friendly repertoire with and was happy to see him still alive. Alan indicated that the soldier no longer takes a literature packet but agrees with most of the views and opinions expressed in the publications opposing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A total of 102 literature packets and 46 DVDs were distributed to the soldiers, in plastic ziplock bags, which keeps them dry in the showers forecast for that day, and also makes them easier for the soldiers to handle and store in their gear.

All in all a positive experience except for one individual who appeared on foot from the west side as the soldiers were preparing to board their bus. He was an older gentleman, dressed in fatigues and wearing a beret which seemed to be placed at the perfect angle which in turn complimented his perfect strut. "Good Morning Sir" I said while extending his arm holding a literature packet. "You have no right to be an American. Leave me the fuck alone" the gentlemen responded while waving me away as if I was a fly while he continued to march passed me.

After which I responded "You have a great day...Sir!"

MORE:

ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

All identifying information – locations, personnel – will be omitted from the reports.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the wars.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Baghdad IED Kills Three U.S. Troops; Nine Wounded: [As Iraqi Government Encourages Former Insurgents To Target U.S. Troops Again] [An Amazing Coincidence]

May 21, 2009 (AP) & May 22, 2009 By Liz Sly and Usama Redha, Los Angeles Times

The U.S. military says 3 soldiers have been killed and nine others wounded in a roadside bombing of an American foot patrol in southern Baghdad.

Army Maj. David Shoupe said the soldiers were killed Thursday when a bomb exploded at about 10:38 a.m. while American troops were patrolling near a popular outdoor market in the southern district of Dora.

Dora is a former insurgent stronghold that has been largely pacified with the help of the Awakening Councils, made up of Sunnis who joined with U.S. forces to fight the insurgency.

[By pure coincidence, or course, these are the same Awakening Councils militia members that are getting shit on by the scum running the government of Iraq: breaking promises to pay them, breaking promises to give them jobs now they're not on the U.S. Army payroll anymore, arresting and imprisoning their leadership, etc. etc. etc.]

[In other words, the government of Iraq is forcing them to become insurgents again. Duh T]

MORE:

“As For The Americans, They Carried Out Around Ten Of Them” “They Were Walking Down The Street, Not Far From Their Cars” [Doura Explosion]

May 22, 2009 by Sahar IIS, Inside Iraq

I walked up to the National policeman and asked him where the incident took place because I was a reporter.

His eyes went round and he said that reporters were not permitted on the site by the Americans – So, I took the crooked way to the site of the explosion through the open air market which is made up of venders that sell everything from vegetables to underwear. I bought some vegetables as camouflage and walked on.

I could see that the streets behind the venders were completely empty. A ghost town.

I walked on until I reached a road down which was a National Police Hummer vehicle (blue and white) and so turned right and walked up that deserted street until a policeman waved to me,

"Hijiyah – go the other way. This road is blocked." And I shouted back, "I want to talk to you." The roads were completely empty all around me. The stores were all shuttered.

When we met in the middle of the distance I told him that I was a reporter and that I wanted to get to the site of the explosion. He said it was not allowed. I asked him whether it was it good that the lives of the innocent are taken in such a manner without even a story written on their behalf???

That set him off:

"It is always like this. Whenever they (the US military) are targeted, they block the streets and begin to remove all evidence of the incident, as if by removing the evidence no incident took place – no people were killed – no families were broken.

“LOOK! (and he pointed down the street) can you see anything? It is as if those people never existed. One whole family was wiped out today.

"As for the Americans, they carried out around ten of them; I couldn't tell how many were dead and how many injured – they all looked dead.

"They were walking down the street, not far from their cars – and there were other people walking down the same street – innocent people who have done nothing except walk down a road that was used at the same time by the Americans.

"And now they are dead. We saw nothing strange. No one looked suspicious. And then the explosion. It is a tragedy. Even children from the houses brought out water to remove the blood stains."

Soldier With Sparks Ties Killed In Iraq

May 6, 2009 By Steve Timko, Reno Gazette-Journal

A 2004 Portola High School graduate killed Saturday by gunfire in Iraq was remembered Tuesday as someone who loved the outdoors and also loved spending time with his father, who now lives in Sparks.

Jeremiah P. McCleery, 24, of Portola died in Mosul along with a fellow soldier from 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division assigned to Fort Hood, Texas.

Josh Rogers, who graduated with McCleery, said he was best known as Miah.

"He was a very loyal friend," Rogers said. "If you broke down in Reno or far away, he'd come pick you up. He always had your back."

Rogers said McCleery liked camping, something he did frequently, and also enjoyed sport shooting, fishing and four-wheeling. He was a great fan of the sporting goods store Cabela's, Rogers said.

Asked when he was his happiest, Rogers said:

"Probably hanging out with his dad. Doing anything with his dad, probably."

McCleery joined the Army in 2007 and was deployed to Iraq in December, Rogers said.

McCleery had several reasons to join the military, he said.

"He always wanted to when he was a kid," Rogers said. "He probably just wanted to out of patriotic duty and go serve.

"I think he wanted to go do his part."

Mike Allen, who lives just outside of Portola ran a Cub Scout troop that McCleery joined. McCleery was part of a group of boys who always hung around the household with his son, Allen said.

"There (were) seven or eight kids in that group, and they were pretty much joined at the hip it seemed for years and years," Allen said.

Many youths from the area join the military as a way to move on with their lives, Allen said.

He recalled seeing McCleery working with his father, Joe McCleery, at a refuse collection company in Truckee. "Miah was a slinger, and his dad drove," Allen said. He also worked with his father at a sheet metal business.

He noted McCleery lost his mother to cancer several years ago.

Gov. Jim Gibbons' office announced the flag atop the Capitol in Carson City will be flown at half-staff today in honor of McCleery. Joe McCleery moved to Sparks about 18 months ago, Rogers said.

"I want to extend the condolences of a grateful state and a grateful nation to the family and friends of Specialist Jeremiah McCleery," Gibbons said in a statement. "His sacrifice for freedom will never be forgotten."

Resistance Action

May 17 (Reuters) & (KUNA) & May 18 (Reuters) & 5.19 The New York Times & AFP & 05/21/09 AP & May 22 (Reuters)

Thursday, a bomb exploded inside a police station in western Baghdad, killing three policemen and wounding 19 others, an Iraqi police official said. The bomb was hidden inside a trash can and carried into the station, he added.

A roadside bomb wounded an Iraqi soldier near an Iraqi base in northern Basra, 420 km (260 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

An Iraqi policeman was killed and three civilians were injured in a car explosion in the northern city of Mosul on Sunday, according to Iraqi police. A police source told KUNA a booby-trapped car was detonated near a police patrol killing a policemen and causing burns to three civilians. The police patrol vehicle was set ablaze, he added.

Attackers killed an off-duty prison official in Mosul, police said.

A roadside bomb killed a police lieutenant-colonel near his house and wounded two policemen and colonel's son in central Basra, 420 km (260 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

In Basra, a roadside bomb killed a senior police officer in charge of training at the local police academy, a local security official said.

A local U.S.-allied Sahwa chief was wounded by a roadside bomb attack on his car in Jarf Sakha, south of the capital.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed a policeman and wounded six others in central Mosul on Thursday night, police said.

A bomber killed eight U.S.-backed paramilitaries as they waited in a line to receive salaries at an Iraqi military base in the northern city of Kirkuk.

Police Maj. Salam Zankana said the victims in the Kirkuk attack were members of the local paramilitary Awakening Council. Eight others were wounded, he said.

Sami Ghayashi, 37, who was among the injured, said the local council members had been waiting three months to receive their salaries.

"While we were waiting at gate talking to one another a big explosion took place," he said from his hospital bed. "I saw several colleagues dead, among them my cousin. I have no idea how this suicide bomber got among us."

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

**The Great Iraqi Army Training
Clusterfuck Rolls On:
“Because Iraq’s Security Forces Are
Paid In Cash That Is Passed Down
The Chain Of Command, Many
Commanders Lie About How Many
Soldiers They Supervise”
“As The Iraqi Army’s Humvees Have
Begun To Break Down, U.S. Officials
Say, Iraqi Commanders Have
Cannibalized Them For Parts” To Steal
Fuel Money**

May 18, 2009; By Ernesto Londoño, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD, May 18 -- Reeling from the recent sharp drop in oil prices, Iraq's government is cutting tens of thousands of security jobs and will be unable to purchase ships and aircraft that Iraqi officials had hoped would allow the country to develop a basic ability to fend off external threats by 2012, the U.S. military's projected withdrawal date.

U.S. officials say they fear the budget crunch will prevent the Iraqi government from keeping billions of dollars' worth of U.S.-donated equipment in working condition, representing a potentially colossal loss for a key American investment.

The Iraqi army currently has 262,000 soldiers on payroll, roughly 12,000 more than its authorized strength.

Because Iraq's security forces are paid in cash that is passed down the chain of command, many commanders lie about how many soldiers they supervise so they can collect the wages of fictional soldiers.

According to a U.S. military summary of the Defense Ministry's personnel audit obtained by The Washington Post, there are Iraqi army majors who currently make \$70,000 a month through embezzlement.

U.S. officials believe that as much as 25 percent of the ministry's annual payroll budget is stolen, according to a U.S. official who provided the confidential estimate on the condition of anonymity.

Because the audit is likely to expose corrupt officers, the U.S. assessment said, some Iraqi army leaders are "predicting violent outcomes."

One senior Iraqi leader agreed to participate on the condition that the building where the audit is being conducted receive more security because "he's convinced someone is going to blow it up," according to the U.S. document.

The budget squeeze is also heightening concerns about the Iraqi government's ability to continue paying U.S.-formed -- and formerly U.S.-funded -- paramilitary groups that are now working under its supervision.

The government promised to shift 20 percent of the 94,000 men in those groups to security jobs, but because of the hiring freeze, fewer than 5,000 of them have made the transition.

Also worrisome, U.S. military officials say, is the Iraqi government's failure to spend money on maintenance and spare parts for the vast fleet of armored vehicles and other military equipment the United States has donated to Iraq's armed forces in recent years.

The Iraqi army and national police have received more than 5,000 U.S. Humvees in recent years and expect an additional 4,000 as U.S. troops continue to withdraw.

Many vehicles are starting to fall apart, U.S. officials say.

As the Iraqi army's Humvees have begun to break down in the field, U.S. officials say, Iraqi commanders have cannibalized them for parts.

Some are reluctant to take the vehicles in for repairs because they know they're unlikely to get them back for months and because they don't want to give up the fuel stipend.

Happy Iraq Citizens Express Their Deep And Lasting Gratitude To Passing U.S. Soldiers For The Continuing Occupation Of Baghdad



May 13, 2009: Iraqis watch a passing U.S. military patrol in the Hurriyah neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq. (AP Photo/Dusan Vranic)



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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

IED Kills Two Americans In Convoy To Bagram Base; One Civilian, One An Unidentified “Civilian”



The wrecked military vehicle after a road side bomb blast on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, May 20, 2009. The roadside bomb killed an American service member and a U.S. civilian. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

May 20 (AFP)

A bomb ripped through a vehicle in a US-led military convoy near the Afghan capital on Wednesday, killing an American soldier and a US civilian, the military said.

The vehicle was destroyed in the attack, about 35 kilometres (20 miles) from Kabul, where foreign troops cordoned off the area as an ambulance helicopter swooped in to pick up casualties, an AFP reporter at the scene said.

"One service member died of wounds," Lieutenant Colonel Christian Kubik told AFP. "There was a second person killed," he said, describing the man as an American citizen. He could not give further details.

"We think it was a roadside bomb," Kubik said, when asked about the cause of the explosion.

US military spokesman Colonel Greg Julian said a US soldier and a US civilian were killed. "They were en route in a convoy to Bagram and an IED (improvised explosive device) struck them," he said.

An Afghan driver on the busy road, which connects the capital and the largest US base in Afghanistan at Bagram, said he saw at least one dead person.

"I saw one of the foreigners who was stuck in the wreckage of the vehicle and he was dead. They were trying to pull him out," said the driver, Sakhi Dad.

"It was a remote-controlled mine, I think, because all I saw was a blast and then I pushed the brake and stopped," he told AFP.

The road is regularly used by the US military.

“Munitions Procured By The Pentagon Have Leaked From Afghan Forces For Use Against American Troops”

“Captured Taliban Rifles Provide A Glimpse At Arms Diversion As Well”



Weapons from a police post linked to an attack on Americans. Most rifles were the kind issued by the United States.

May 19, 2009 By C. J. CHIVERS, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

KABUL — Insurgents in Afghanistan, fighting from some of the poorest and most remote regions on earth, have managed for years to maintain an intensive guerrilla war against materially superior American and Afghan forces.

Arms and ordnance collected from dead insurgents hint at one possible reason:

Of 30 rifle magazines recently taken from insurgents' corpses, at least 17 contained cartridges, or rounds, identical to ammunition the United States had provided to Afghan government forces, according to an examination of ammunition markings by The New York Times and interviews with American officers and arms dealers.

The presence of this ammunition among the dead in the Korangal Valley, an area of often fierce fighting near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan, strongly suggests that munitions procured by the Pentagon have leaked from Afghan forces for use against American troops.

The scope of that diversion remains unknown, and the 30 magazines represented a single sampling of fewer than 1,000 cartridges.

But military officials, arms analysts and dealers say it points to a worrisome possibility: With only spotty American and Afghan controls on the vast inventory of weapons and ammunition sent into Afghanistan during an eight-year conflict, poor discipline and outright corruption among Afghan forces may have helped insurgents stay supplied.

The United States has been criticized, as recently as February by the federal Government Accountability Office, for failing to account for thousands of rifles issued to Afghan security forces.

Some of these weapons have been documented in insurgents' hands, including weapons in a battle last year in which nine Americans died.

Access to Taliban equipment is unusual. But after the ambush, the company allowed the items to be examined by this reporter.

Photographs were taken of the weapons' serial numbers and markings on the bottoms of the cartridge casings, known as headstamps, which can reveal where and when ammunition was manufactured. The headstamps were then compared with ammunition in government circulation, and with this reporter's records of ammunition sampled in Afghan magazines and bunkers in multiple provinces in recent years.

The type of ammunition in question, 7.62x39 millimeter, colloquially known as "7.62 short," is one of the world's most abundant classes of military small-arms cartridges, and can come from dozens of potential suppliers.

The examination of the Taliban's cartridges found telling signs of diversion: 17 of the magazines contained ammunition bearing either of two stamps: the word "WOLF" in uppercase letters, or the lowercase arrangement "bxn."

"WOLF" stamps mark ammunition from Wolf Performance Ammunition, a company in California that sells Russian-made cartridges to American gun owners. The company

has also provided cartridges for Afghan soldiers and police officers, typically through middlemen. Its munitions can be found in Afghan government bunkers.

The “bxn” marking was formerly used at a Czech factory during the cold war. Since 2004, the Czech government has donated surplus ammunition and equipment to Afghanistan. A.E.Y. Inc., a former Pentagon supplier, also shipped surplus Czech ammunition to Afghanistan, according to the United States Army, including cartridges bearing “bxn” stamps.

Most of the Wolf and Czech ammunition in the Taliban magazines was in good condition and showed little weathering, denting, corrosion or soiling, suggesting it had been removed from packaging recently.

A.E.Y. was banned last year from doing business with the Pentagon, but its legal troubles stemmed from unrelated allegations of fraud.

Given the number of potential sources, the probability that the Taliban and the Pentagon were sharing identical supply sources was small.

Rather, the concentration of Taliban ammunition identical in markings and condition to that used by Afghan units indicated that the munitions had most likely slipped from state custody, said James Bevan, a researcher specializing in ammunition for the Small Arms Survey, an independent research group in Geneva.

Mr. Bevan, who has documented ammunition diversion in Kenya, Uganda and Sudan, said one likely explanation was that interpreters, soldiers or police officers had sold ammunition for profit or passed it along for other reasons, including support for the insurgency.

“Same story, different location,” he said.

The majority of cartridges in the remaining 13 Taliban magazines bore headstamps indicating they were made in Russia in the Soviet period. Several rounds had Chinese stamps and dates indicating manufacture in the 1960s and '70s. A smaller number were Hungarian. Much of this other ammunition was in poor condition.

Hungarian and Chinese ammunition had also been provided to the Afghan government by A.E.Y., making it possible that several of the remaining magazines included American-procured rounds.

The American military did not dispute the possibility that theft or corruption could have steered Wolf and Czech ammunition to insurgents.

Capt. James C. Howell, who commands the company that captured the ammunition, said illicit diversion would be consistent with an enduring reputation of corruption in Afghan units, especially the police.

“It’s not surprising,” he said.

Captured Taliban rifles provide a glimpse at arms diversion as well.

After the battle in the eastern village of Wanat last year, in which 9 Americans died and more than 20 were wounded, investigators found a large cache of AMD-65 assault rifles in the village's police post, which was implicated in the attack, according to American officers. In all, the post had more than 70 assault rifles, but only 20 officers on its roster. Three AMD-65s were recovered near the battle as well.

The AMD-65, a distinctive Hungarian rifle, was rarely seen in Afghanistan until the United States issued it by the thousands to the Afghan police. They can now be found in Pakistani arms bazaars.

In the American ambush last month, all of the 10 captured rifles had factory stamps from China or Izhevsk, Russia. Those with date stamps had been manufactured in the 1960s and '70s.

Photographs of the weapons and serial numbers were provided to Brig. Gen. Anthony R. Ierardi, the deputy commander of the transition command.

Upon checking the Pentagon's new database, the general said one of the Chinese rifles had been issued to an Afghan auxiliary police officer in 2007.

Resistance Action

May 19 (KUNA) & The Canadian Press & (KUNA) & By Reza Shir Mohammadi, Quqnoos

Witnesses said the injured policemen also included chief of police department in Arghandab district.

Officials said the police party was on routine patrol in Arghandab district when the bomber detonated himself close to them.

Late Tuesday, a bomber blew himself up in the city's northern Arghandab district near the local police detachment, killing three officers and injuring nine others, the district chief said. The area's chief of police, who was walking with his men when the attack occurred, was among the injured.

Militants killed three workers of a construction company in the western zone of the country on Tuesday. Armed men attacked the office of a construction company in Nimroz province this morning.

Unknown gunmen attacked a mayor on Sunday in a district of Farah and leave him with serious wounds. Mayor of Dilaram District came under the gunfire of the armed men when he was returning to his home, Farah Police Chief, Colonel Abdul Ghafar Watandar said. The mayor is taken to a US-led military hospital in the province.

Killed Off In Kandahar:

The Number Of Assassinations Of Local Traitors Is Growing

May 19, 2009 by Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson, All Things Considered [Excerpts]

The number of assassinations in Afghanistan is growing, particularly in Kandahar province, where Taliban militants are strong and well-organized.

Kandahar Gov. Tooryalai Wesa blames the killings on militant groups like the Taliban. But he says he lacks the thousands of additional police officers needed to secure the province and prevent assassinations.

"They are not in the position to come to face-to-face fighting," he says of the Taliban. "This is, I think, the easy way for them, and this is an effective way for them — that's to ride a motorbike and then walk on the street or ride on the street, and see who is alone and who is the right target. They can do that."

Provincial officials have been provided bodyguards, Wesa says. And some Afghans who feel threatened have moved into safe houses.

The entire council of ulama, or Muslim scholars, and other clerics who preach against militants feel they are under siege. Four mullahs have been gunned down in Kandahar in recent months.

One of the clerics, Qari Sayed Ahmad, who delivered anti-militant sermons at his mosque in Kandahar last year, was shot dead in April as he returned home.

The targeted killings led Sayed Mohammad Hanefi and dozens of other pro-government clerics to hastily move into the Afghan National Army compound in Kandahar.

Hanefi says he does much of his preaching these days from a makeshift radio station in the compound. If he does leave the compound, it's with no fewer than 10 police officers.

For now, provincial council members meet in the well-guarded home of council leader Ahmad Wali Karzai — who survived an attack Monday on his motorcade as it made its way to the capital, Kabul.

Karzai, a younger brother of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, was not harmed in the attack, but one of his bodyguards was killed.

But other would-be targets say the assassinations have halted much government and social work in Kandahar.

Another Great Moment In U.S. Military History:

“Convoy Kills Farmer When He Was Irrigating His Farms”

19 May 2009 Written by Reza Shir Mohammadi, Quqnoos

US troops gunned down a local farmer Monday in Pushtrod District of the western Farah province, an official said

The US convoy opened fire on the farmer when he was irrigating his farms early Monday morning in the district, north of the provincial capital city.

Bilqees Roshan, a provincial council member said the body of the farmers is flamed. Local residents revealed the troops have thrown a hand grenade on the body of the civilian after shooting him.

Later, dozens of the villagers took the body of the farmer to the provincial capital to complain to the provincial governor.

The angry locals threw stones to the office of the governor after the top provincial official avoided to listen to the accusations of the villagers, the provincial council member said.

The police force disrupted the protest with warning fire.

The US troops have not made any comments over the killing of the non-combatant, but they have mistakenly gunned down many civilians pretending them Taliban elements.

Notes From A Lost War:

“The Journalists And Italian Diplomats Were Protected By Six Naval Commandos And Two Armored Vehicles”

05/19/09 By Gregory Viscusi, Bloomberg

On the night of May 15, an Italian patrol was ambushed in Badghis province, north of Herat, the second firefight for the Italian contingent in three days.

In both cases, the Italians shot back and didn't sustain casualties.

Herat, with a population of about 500,000 and animated tree-lined avenues, has few of the police checkpoints and concrete blast barriers that mar central Kabul.

Yet even though there hasn't been an attack on Italian soldiers in the city center since 2006, the Italians take few chances.

On a recent visit to take reporters to a hospital, a school, and a woman's jail and training center the Italians have built, the journalists and Italian diplomats were protected by six naval commandos and two armored vehicles.

U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



A foreign occupation armed forces member from the USA puts his hands on the body of an Afghan citizen without consent during a patrol in the Golestan district of Farah province May 8, 2009. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 50,000 Afghan troops over here to the USA. They can kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]

[Those Afghans are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate

they are to live under a military dictatorship run by Barrack Obama. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS:
That is not a good enough reason.**



A U.S. soldier 10th Mountain Division stops traffic while on a patrol in Logar province April 13, 2009. REUTERS/Ahmad Masood (AFGHANISTAN)

**\$15 Billion U.S. Funds For
Afghanistan MIA:**

Civilian War Profiteers Got Money To Train Local “Security Forces”

May 19 AP

WASHINGTON – A top government watchdog says the military command overseeing \$15 billion in U.S. programs to develop Afghanistan’s security forces cannot be sure the money is being managed effectively.

In its first audit report since being formed a year ago, the office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said Tuesday the Combined Security Transition Command "lacks effective contract oversight capabilities."

It is the command’s responsibility to make sure U.S. tax dollars are spent properly, the audit says.

That means command staff must visit locations where contractors are working to verify that contractors are following the terms of their deals with the government.

That, said the audit, is not happening.

**OCCUPATION ISN’T LIBERATION
ALL TROOPS HOME NOW!**

TROOP NEWS

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The remains of Army Staff Sgt. Gary L. Woods, Jr. of Lebanon Junction, Ky., Army Pvt. Second Class Bryce E. Gautier, of Cypress, Calif., Army Cpl. Jason G. Pautsch, of Davenport, Iowa., Army Sgt. Edward W. Forrest, Jr., of St. Louis, Mo., and Army Staff Sgt. Bryan E. Hall, Elk Grove, Calif., at Dover Air Force Base, Del. April 12, 2009. The five died April 10, 2009 when their military vehicle was struck by a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in Mosul, Iraq. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Pentagon Paid Bonuses To War Profiteer KBR For Electrocuting U.S. Soldiers In Iraq

May 20, 2009 By Thomas Ferraro, (Reuters)

The U.S. Army paid "tens of millions of dollars in bonuses" to KBR Inc, its biggest contractor in Iraq, even after it concluded the firm's electrical work had put U.S. soldiers at risk, according to a source close to a U.S. congressional investigation.

The panel says KBR has been linked to at least two, and as many as five, electrocution deaths of U.S. soldiers and contractors in Iraq due to "shoddy work."

Investigators believe hundreds of other soldiers may have received electrical shocks, the source added.

Military reports have criticized KBR's work in Iraq in recent years.

Yet afterward, the company received "tens of millions of dollars in bonuses," said the source, who declined to be identified.

"We want to know why," the source said.

A September 30, 2008, letter to KBR from an officer in the Defense Department's Defense Contract Management Agency had harsh words for the company.

"We cannot overemphasize the significance of the lack of sustained electrical support services being provided by KBR in Iraq to maintain the minimum life, health and safety standards in support of our warfighters," wrote Captain David Graff, an agency commander.

"Primary safety threat, theater wide, is fire due to the inferior 220 electrical fixtures found throughout Iraq," it said. "Improper installation, substandard equipment purchases (such as light fixtures) and heavy usage appears to be the three primary causes of these fires."

US Officers Charged With Murdering Spanish Journalist

AFP 21 May 2009

MADRID - A Spanish judge on Thursday revived murder charges against three US soldiers over the killing a Spanish television cameraman during the shelling of a Baghdad hotel in 2003.

The same judge, Santiago Pedraz, had thrown out the charges one year ago, citing "insufficient evidence" of deliberate intent on the part of the three to target civilians inside the hotel where journalists were known to be staying.

But Perez on Thursday cited new evidence, including reports by experts and from a former US soldier, for his decision to revive the charges.

[The "former US soldier" is Adrienne Kinne, a former Army sergeant who worked in military intelligence in Iraq, and served in the military for ten years, from 1994 to 2004, now a member of Iraq Veterans Against The War. She reported to her superiors that the hotel with journalists in it had been targeted for attack in error. They told her that was none of her business. T

"There are reasonable indications to believe" that the three soldiers were responsible, he said in his ruling.

Pedraz ordered the charges against the three soldiers in April 2007.

Sergeant Thomas Gibson, Captain Philip Wolford and Lieutenant Colonel Philip de Camp are accused in connection with the tank shelling of the Hotel Palestine on April 8, 2003.

Jose Couso, who worked for private Spanish television station Telecinco, died in the incident.

Another cameraman, Ukrainian Taras Protsyuk, also died while three other staff members of the Reuters news agency were wounded.

Judge Pedraz had argued at the time that the soldiers "knew that the Palestine Hotel (like the zone in which it was situated) was occupied by civilians."

A US inquiry carried out in 2004 found no fault or negligence on the part of US troops.

[The "US inquiry" is 100% right and true. The attack was conscious and deliberate, to kill journalists. That's why it couldn't be either a "fault" or involve "negligence." Since the intention was to attack the journalists, it could only have been a "fault" or "negligence" if orders had not been followed and the attack had

not been carried out. Which is why it is murder: the deliberate killing of civilian noncombatants in time of war. T]

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

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 wars, 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. Phone: 917.677.8057

Thieving Captain Going To Prison; Sold Balad Army Supplies To An Iraqi Businessman

May 19, 2009 By Tim McGlone, The Virginian-Pilot

An Army captain from Suffolk pleaded guilty Monday to a federal charge of stealing Department of Defense equipment, including a bus, eight trucks and five trailers, and selling them to an Iraqi businessman.

Elbert W. George III, 36, admitted that he committed the conspiracy while stationed in Iraq. He and an accomplice made between \$400,000 and \$1 million, according to court records filed in the case.

George pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Alexandria to one count of conspiracy to steal government property. He faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced in July.

The accomplice, Sgt. 1st Class Roy Greene Jr., 32, of Sylvester, Ga., pleaded guilty to the same charge last week.

George served as a logistics officer for the military transition team at Forward Operating Base Paliwoda, Iraq, from August 2007 through July 2008. In that job, he was responsible for obtaining supplies for his unit.

George and Greene had the authority to obtain supplies and equipment from the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, which is responsible for disposing of excess military equipment. The surplus property is typically donated to state or local governments in the United States or to the Iraqi military.

The two men made regular monthly visits to the supply center at Joint Base Balad. There, they enlisted another, unidentified sergeant to assist in creating phony documents permitting the Iraqi businessman, also unidentified, to enter the base and pick up the items, according to the court records.

The businessman paid George and Greene in cash, with \$100 bills, and they in turn paid the unidentified sergeant 10 percent of the proceeds, the records say.

The pair admitted stealing a bus, eight trucks, five trailers, 19 generators and other items and selling them to the businessman.

After one sale, in April 2008, George returned to his Suffolk home in the 4000 block of Brookline Drive carrying \$20,000 in cash, according to the court records. Other proceeds were converted to money orders and mailed home.

George engaged in the thievery "knowingly and willfully and not because of accident, mistake or other innocent reason," said a statement of facts filed in court by the government and signed by George.

The status of George and Greene with the Army could not be determined Monday.

Other suspects involved in the scheme have not been publicly identified.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

“Hope for change doesn’t cut it when you’re still losing buddies.”

-- J.D. Englehart, Iraq Veterans Against The War

We stand in a moment of time between the eternal past and the eternal future, content that, for us, all that was before and all that will be cannot exist for us, and yet we exist because all that was before us gave us our moment in time, and we will share the responsibility for all that will exist in the eternal future.

-- Abraham Lincoln

Firearms are second only to the Constitution in importance; they are the peoples’ liberty’s teeth.

-- George Washington

Collateral Churches



Small A-frame chapel destroyed by explosions--An Khe, Vietnam April 1971

From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: May 20, 2009
Subject: Collateral Churches

Collateral Churches

**When innocent civilians are killed on purpose,
there is no such thing as collateral damage.
This is when words like murder, terrorism,
and atrocity are born.
This is when denial is born.
This is what the churches across America
refuse to believe.
They think when civilians are killed,
it is a tragedy.
They absolutely do not believe that killing
civilians Are military targets.
Because, they cannot accept immorality
by their government.
And, this is why there is an absolute necessity
to have matrimony between Church and State.
It relieves us of our guilt,
and keeps the great truth a great silence.**

**Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
May 19, 2009**

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)

May 23, 1838: Infamous Anniversary



Carl Bunin Peace History May 21-27

U.S. General Winfield Scott ordered the forced removal of the Cherokee Indians from the east to the "Indian Nation" (what is now Oklahoma).

Approximately one quarter of the 10,000 died on this march called "The Trail of Tears."

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters 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. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with **Iraq Veterans Against the War** to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

CLASS WAR REPORTS



GI Special Available In PDF Format

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email contact@militaryproject.org

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

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WARS**

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