

GI SPECIAL 6K1:

BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: HOME, NOW



U.S. soldiers in a village near Baquba, in Diyala province October 18, 2008.
REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

Vote For The Soldier Killer

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: November 01, 2008

**By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th
Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against
The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan**

Vote For The Soldier Killer

**Vote for the Soldier killer on the black and white ballot
vote for the corporations the bloody war profiteers
vote for an empty wallet a dead billfold and purse
vote for those who gave all the money away on wall street
vote for those who slaughtered and IED-ed your 401 k's
vote for the change left in your pocket
after you payed all the bills, vote for your credit cards
while the Dow jumps around like it is on crystal meth
the hell with the Soldiers so far away
who gives a damn if they die, it's every man for himself now
gas prices down just before elections what about that
vote for a job in the long voting lines, vote for your next meal
but the only ones hiring are the army the navy
the air force and marines
but the Soldiers are just Workers in uniforms
that die faster than a slow death like the cancer back home
Factories are broke like old beat up cars
sitting in the weeds with flat tires all around
dead carp rot in a pond by another closed shop
like a coffin with jagged windows
that stare back like black stars from the street
gangs rule the night because the cops are all gone
street lights shot out to sell drugs
houses burn down because the firefighters
are standing in an unemployment line in an America gone bad
living hand to mouth but who gives a damn
about the people in the streets
who gives a damn about winter while the banks
mortgage companies now own all of these homes that the people
used to live in with plywood on the windows
plywood on the doors, lawns are now three feet high
Vote for the home killers, vote for no jobs
on the black and white ballot
who cares if Bush and the white collar gangs
run off after shaking the piggy banks up side down
until the last trillion fell out
leaving the collapse of a country, collapse of a world behind
Garbage in the streets shots fired in the night
4 hours of electricity in Baghdad
Vote for more war in Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and...**

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

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

IRAQ WAR REPORTS



Steve Bell 2008

***Good News For The Iraqi
Resistance!!***

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



An Iraqi citizen ordered to hold his hands up in his own house by foreigner occupation troops from the U.S during an armed home invasion in Baquba, Diyala province October 26, 2008. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic

[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi 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 Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Foreign Occupation Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Afghanistan; Nationality Not Announced

Oct. 31 (Xinhua)

One serviceman was killed by small-arms fire on Friday in eastern Afghanistan, a Coalition statement said.

However, it did not provide any further information about the incident just saying “the incident is under investigation and the name and nationality of the service member are being withheld in light of Coalition policy.”

UK Special Forces Commander In Afghanistan Resigns “In Disgust” Government’s Shitty Equipment Killed His Troops: “The Snatch Vehicles Had Become Known By Troops In Iraq As Mobile Coffins”

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

November 1, 2008 (CNN) & The Press Association & BBC

The commander of British special forces in Afghanistan, who has in the past expressed concerns about military equipment failures, has resigned, the Ministry of Defense said Saturday.

The British newspaper The Daily Telegraph reported Saturday that Morley “resigned in disgust” because military commanders and government officials repeatedly ignored his warnings about the safety of Snatch Land Rovers used by the British Army in Afghanistan.

The paper said he believed the MoD was guilty of “gross negligence” and that its failure to supply better equipment was “cavalier at best, criminal at worst”.

The Telegraph reported Morley was especially angry over the June 17 deaths in Afghanistan of four of his soldiers, including Corporal Sarah Bryant, the first female coalition soldier to die in Afghanistan.

The soldiers died when an explosion hit their vehicle near Lashkar Gah in southern Afghanistan. The Telegraph reported the soldiers had been traveling in a Snatch Land Rover.

The BBC’s defence correspondent Caroline Wyatt said the Snatch vehicles had become known by troops in Iraq as “mobile coffins”.

A former member of the Royal Green Jackets who served in Iraq, Steve McLoughlin, told BBC Radio Five Live that the issue needed much more attention.

“You drive over a landmine in a very-lightly armoured Land-Rover Snatch - it’s not much different from driving over it in a Ford Escort.

“At the very least you’re going to lose limbs - horrific injuries if you survive - you’re probably going to get killed outright.

“The government doesn’t like talking about this issue. They get some faceless MoD bureaucrat to issue a two-line statement, then it’s gone and forgotten.”

In his resignation letter, Morley said “chronic underinvestment” in equipment by the Ministry of Defense was to blame for their deaths, according to the Telegraph.

The Ministry of Defense describes Snatch Land Rovers as protected patrol vehicles for use in “low-threat areas.” Originally used in Northern Ireland, they are now deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, the ministry says.

Rose Gentle’s son Fusilier Gordon Gentle died when his vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in June 2004 in Basra.

A vital piece of kit that could have protected the vehicle was later found to be lying unused in a nearby storeroom.

She said: “I’m glad that Major Morley is making a stand. I only hope that it means that the government will finally do something and withdraw these vehicles. It should have been done a long long time ago. The Government have been talking about replacing Snatch Land Rovers but they need to put their money where their mouth is now.

“I have been asking for this for four years. It is too late for Gordon and the others who have died but there are a lot of boys out there still who deserve better protection. They need the right equipment for the job.”

TROOP NEWS

Marine Recruiters Retreat: Iraq Veterans Against The War Hold The Ground



As a new round of chants started up, members of the IVAW arrived. They immediately unfurled their IVAW banner and stood behind the Marines.

One of the Marine recruiters turned around and said, "We're not Iraq veterans." Bryan Casler, a former Marine and IVAW member, replied, "But we are."

October 26, 2008 By Adriano Contreras, Rochester Institute of Technology Antiwar, The Sitch [Excerpts]

ROCHESTER, N.Y.--Campus Antiwar Network activists at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT Antiwar) organized a counter-recruitment action on October 24 that resulted in zero recruitment and led to Marine recruiters leaving the Student Alumni Union 30 minutes ahead of schedule.

Activists leafleted on Thursday morning to get students out to participate in the Friday action. A majority of people was supportive, and some expressed an interest in participating. On Friday morning before recruiters arrived, protesters gathered their literature and signs, and held a brief discussion on why counter-recruitment organizing is so important.

The action itself was a huge success. Every member of the chapter turned out, as well as friends, coworkers and some allies in the International Socialist Organization and Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW). At any given time, at least 18 people were chanting and raising placards or banners.

Activists lined the space where people enter the union. As a result, people entering went around the recruiters.

As a new round of chants started up, members of the IVAW arrived. They immediately unfurled their IVAW banner and stood behind the Marines.

One of the Marine recruiters turned around and said, “We’re not Iraq veterans.”

Bryan Casler, a former Marine and IVAW member, replied, “But we are.”

Within five to 10 minutes, the recruiters were out the door.



The Sitch

**“This Bullshit About Bringing
Democracy Or Liberation Is
Nonsense”**

**“There Is No Such Thing As
‘Investigative’ Journalism In The
Army, Said Critchfield”:**

**“I Was A Propagandist, Pure And
Simple”**



October 27, 2008 By Camille White-Avian and Ximena Lemoine, Socialist Worker
[Excerpts]

PORTLAND, Ore.--Winter Soldier hearings, featuring the testimony of veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars as well as other eyewitnesses to horrors of occupation, turned out 300 people on October 18 at the First Unitarian Church in Portland.

The opening panel, “Voices of Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan,” included testimony from Iraq war resister Camilo Mejía and other soldiers, who at times brought the room to tears with stories of their experiences in Iraq.

“We are responsible as soldiers, we are murderers of over one million Iraqis,” said Evan Knappenberger, who brought 10 pages of testimony but only had time to read small parts. “I participated in burglary, trespassing, knowledgeable negligence, criminal assault and battery, rape by association, and gangsterism. I am standing here today as a criminal--in a sense of the word that only someone who has worn the uniform can understand.”

Other veterans explained why activists had to oppose the war in Afghanistan, that there was no more justification for that war than the one in Iraq.

Chanan Suarez Diaz described being in a combat zone as surreal and numbing. "It comes to a point that you see so much destruction you become numb.

"This bullshit about bringing democracy or liberation is nonsense--we've killed over one million Iraqis." Diaz ended his account by adding that no military that is responsible for the destruction of Iraq could be seen as anything but oppressive--no matter what country it is in.

Jan Critchfield described his life as a "journalist" in the Army National Guard. "There is no such thing as 'investigative' journalism in the Army," said Critchfield. "I was a propagandist, pure and simple."

The event--modeled on national Winter Soldier hearings organized earlier this year just outside Washington, D.C., by Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW)--was sponsored by IVAW Seattle Chapter, the American Friends Service Committee, PDX Peace Coalition, and the American Iranian Friendship Council, among many others.

**“Any Iraqi Who Drew Up Anti-
Coalition Literature Was
Immediately Arrested, He Said”
“That’s The Kind Of Freedom We’re
Bringing To Iraq”
“The Freedom Not To Dissent”**



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: Interesting to compare these comments to the story of the 1st BCT in the states.]

October 18, 2008 by Laura Gunderson, The Oregonian [Excerpts]

Christopher Arendt said he joined the National Guard after hearing war stories from his grandfather, who had proudly counted the number of shells he'd fired during World War II.

In 2004, seven years after his grandfather's death, he recalled forcibly extracting a Guantanamo Bay detainee from his cell and watching as the man's head was smashed into a metal fence post.

At that moment, he told a crowd of more than 100 at the First Unitarian Church in Portland on Saturday, Arendt couldn't tell the difference between himself and the images he'd seen of Nazi soldiers. now living in Portland. "What I hate about myself over there was the callousness, the emptiness. I wish I was angrier while I was there.

"But it's impossible to keep yourself -- the sane, the normal, the feeling. You figure, 'I'll feel later.' Three years later I'm still trying to do that."

Arendt was one of 10 American military veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan who participated in the Winter Soldier, a relaunch of the Vietnam-era practice of soldiers' publicly testifying against the war.

Some on the stage shared stories of combat or difficulties they've faced upon returning home.

Others told of ways they are working to end the war, such as Camilo Mejia, the National Guard staff sergeant who was imprisoned for desertion.

He and others at the event organized by the American Friends Service Committee of Portland, asked the audience not only to call for an end to the violence in Iraq, but also in Afghanistan.

Irony and thinly veiled anger rang out in many tales, such as that of Army counterintelligence agent Josh Simpson, who spent a year in Mosul.

There, he'd follow hundreds of tips from paid Iraqi informants about supposed terrorists, he said. They'd raid a suspect's home to find nothing, he said, still -- as his commanders prided themselves in detainee counts -- they'd usually arrest the suspect and pay the informant more money.

Any Iraqi who drew up anti-coalition literature was immediately arrested, he said.

"That's the kind of freedom we're bringing to Iraq," he said. "The freedom not to dissent."

While some soldiers hit familiar issues that drew cheers from the anti-war crowd, Seth Manzel gave another perspective.

An Army sergeant from Seattle, Manzel recalled a cool evening when tracers of flying bullets began to zip over his convoy in what became a milelong ambush. Once the shooting stopped, he'd noticed a semi-truck barreling toward him.

He fired two warning shots. The truck stopped, but a passenger car sped around it and continued. Concerned the car was loaded with explosives, he fired more warnings with his pistol.

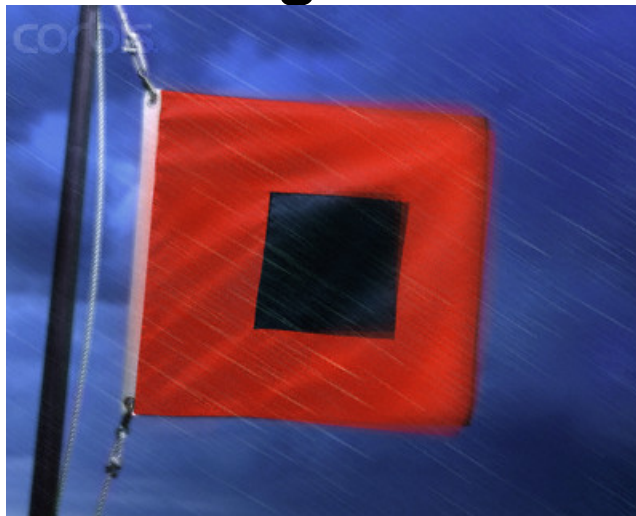
"I fired another warning shot," he said, "then I emptied my pistol into the car and it came to a stop."

He'd never thought his 9-mm could do what it did, he said. It had ripped into the car, through the stomach of the driver and into the back of a passenger in the rear seat.

"It turned out the men were in vests," meaning they were members of a U.S. backed militia, he said. "They were probably in the same ambush and trying to get to us. I couldn't have allowed a civilian car to come that close to our vehicles."

"I'm not trying to justify anything," he finished. "These are just the choices people have to make there. You take these things home with you."

Union Members At Several Locals Vote For Nationwide General Strike Against The Wars In Iraq And Afghanistan



[Pro.corbis.com]

By Steve Hoffman October-November 2008 Freedom Socialist [Excerpts]

Public workers are fed up with watching the crucial services they provide slashed to free up money for the war machine. And like everyone else, they are chafing under the relentless pressure of skyrocketing food and fuel prices, job losses, and stagnant wages.

So members in several local unions quickly embraced two resolutions that opposed the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and boldly proposed strike action and pro-labor solutions to the deepening economic crises.

One resolution was written for the national convention of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

It called on AFSCME leaders to organize a nationwide strike to save public services by ending the war and taxing corporations and the rich.

The second resolution was addressed to the annual convention of the Washington State Labor Council (WSLC).

It called on the two main labor federations, the AFL-CIO and Change to Win, to launch a nationwide general strike against the war, high oil prices, mortgage foreclosures and evictions, and the lack of affordable healthcare. It also [opposed] attacks on immigrant workers.

The resolutions were drafted by Freedom Socialist Party activists in AFSCME Local 304, and then circulated to other Local 304 members for input and feedback. The drafts were also discussed and publicized by Organized Workers for Labor Solidarity, a Seattle area multi-union caucus.

The resolutions were then presented to the general membership of Local 304 at a June union meeting. Both resolutions met with enthusiasm and passed unanimously. Their next stop was AFSCME Local 843, where they received a round of applause — and approval.

The AFSCME national strike resolution was also adopted by Seattle-area AFSCME Local 341.

And in July, the president of AFSCME Local 444 in Oakland, Calif., emailed the message: “I am proud to inform you that our local voted to endorse the AFSCME Local 304 Antiwar Strike Resolution.”

It’s no coincidence that the call to action resonated among AFSCME members; most work for state and local governments that face severe budget cuts.

In California alone, a \$16 billion shortfall threatens to slash funding for healthcare for the poor and elderly, education, libraries, and parks.

Governor Schwarzenegger’s solution is to reduce all state employees to the federal minimum wage!

For these workers it was a no-brainer to demand that the billions of dollars wasted on war and corporate tax breaks go instead to save public services, create jobs to rebuild infrastructure and public housing, and guarantee healthcare for all.

In late July it was time to take this message to the 6,000 attendees of the national AFSCME convention in San Francisco.

But the national AFSCME leadership keeps tight control over conventions, and they were not about to let a call for a militant strategy gain traction.

They are far more comfortable lobbying Democratic Party politicians and relying on government-approved methods, like arbitration, to negotiate contracts.

The following week the general strike resolution stepped into the batter's circle at the WSLC convention in Vancouver, Wash.

Supporters caucused and hit the convention with resolution copies and a cover letter signed by 28 unionists from 18 different WSLC-affiliated unions, both private and public sector.

As in AFSCME, resolutions are reviewed by a committee, and this one sparked an hour-long heated debate. Some committee members tried to stop the resolution, arguing that it should go through delegates' international unions to the AFL-CIO instead of the state labor council. Sponsors defended their right to seek support in both venues at the same time.

Several backers, including leaders from unions of electrical and longshore workers, further argued that a general strike is what today's dire situation calls for.

A Vietnam vet spoke passionately about the ruined lives of soldiers and tremendous strain to veteran's hospitals caused by the war.

Several members motivated the need for a serious hearing before the delegate body. Instead, committee members weakened the resolution, calling for a rally in place of a general strike. They sent on the amended resolution to the convention as a whole with a "do pass" recommendation.

Supporters of the strike call quickly drafted up a flyer, calling for return of the original language.

In debate, they pointed out that countless rallies have already failed to stop the war, that labor's survival is on the line. As one delegate summed up, the power of workers is in their ability to "shut down production." Delegates on both sides of the debate agreed on the need to stop the war, and seriousness of the times.

The weaker version prevailed, with language calling for a nationwide rally.

But many delegates took this to mean that labor should spearhead a major demonstration, along the lines of the 1999 protest in Seattle against the World Trade Organization.

**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

“I Get Yelled At For Telling The Guys At The Iraqi Army Checkpoint To ‘Kill Whitey’ And ‘Fight The Power’ After I Stop The Truck To Give Them Chemlights”

October 26, 2008 By Joe; Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too; Kbrsecurity.blogspot.com/

Age: 23

Gender: Male

Industry: Military

Occupation: Ice Cream Man

Location: An Nasiriyah, Scania, BIAP, TQ, Taji, Balad, Mosul, Baqubah: Iraq

Another day.

All the same really; hot in the day, cold at night.

It's like Groundhog's Day here; wake up, eat chow, go up north, sleep, eat chow, go back up south...etc.

It's started to rain recently; there's a thunderstorm outside right now and I am running on battery power because the generator is down. Giant steel boxes full of electric parts don't do well with lightning.

I am "off" today; 16 hours in a guard tower, guarding nothing.

Empty connex's and an LMTV in a pit surrounded by hesco barriers and razor wire.

We were recently delighted to learn that we are now able to go back out with less than the required 8 hours of sleep!

Since an entire troop has been pulled from the line to train the new guys, our names are now highlighted in red on the trip ticket, enabling us to be manifested for missions with 6 hours of sleep, 4 hours of sleep or even no sleep.

I'm sure any accidents that come of this will be blamed on soldiers playing too many video games at the USO or not having enough endurance because we don't do PT everyday, not the fact that we've been driving on the same boring roads for 30 hours without any sleep.

At least when I nod off and flip my truck into a ditch, I'll have my PT belt on over my vest so my corpse can be found.

We had a formation last night; some guys got promoted and three guys got their CIBs (combat infantryman badge) because a TCN truck got hit by an IED.

The definition for a CIB is to receive and return fire in combat. I think they are especially undeserving because they pushed the truck remains into the median and carried on without really stopping, never mind the fact that they neither received enemy fire or returned it, but whatever.

The sergeant major stopped in, wearing sweaty PT clothes as if our formation was somehow interrupting his PT time. It is an upgrade though; he usually wears civilians despite his rule that everyone in formation be in a clean uniform.

The Squadron Commander showed up too; his usual 20 minutes late strolling back from the chow hall eating ice cream, as we stand at attention while the CSM runs around looking for him.

He pinned the CIBs and then yelled at us to be more professional; someone in civilian clothes did not salute the incoming battalion commander of the relieving unit (also in civilian clothes), and it makes us look like shit.

What the fuck?

How do you recognize a dude you've never met, in civilian clothes nonetheless?

Why the fuck is this asshole even in civilian clothes; doesn't he have paperwork or some shit to be signing to take over?

Why is he strolling around the base?

We're supposed to be done in about 3 weeks with the changeover; the brigade in charge of us has ordered us to only take the new guys out on 2 missions before handing control over. We went out on 5 with the 1-160th and we still didn't know shit.

It's a pretty easy mission though, very infantry-proof: drive the ice cream from base to base without killing civilians or falling asleep. Someone from a different company rides a bicycle behind our formation, ringing the bell as he goes. I laugh out loud despite everyone being at attention; this deployment is like a gay version of Apocalypse Now.

What, they're out of rainbow sherbert in Balad? The horror...the horror...

We took our PT test. The majority of us failed, mostly on purpose.

If you do less than 10 push-ups or sit-ups, you do not fail but are forced to re-test, so we do 11 of each then stop which qualifies us as failures but not re-tests.

The 2 mile course goes around the chow hall, so guys jogged and went inside only to come back out with Baskin Robbins, finishing the course while walking and eating ice cream. I walked 1 minute for every \$100 I'm owed.

My grader informs me that my time to pass is less than 45 minutes and that I've failed.

No shit.

My team leader yells at me that my money problems aren't an issue and there's nothing he can do about it; he can only give me \$4500 worth of smiles.

Anytime he talks to me, I snap to parade rest and stare into the distance behind him; this really pisses him off.

He tells my squad leader that he thinks I am suicidal or that someone died at home and I am counseled.

On one occasion in the truck, I drive and chew on coffee beans or smoke, saying nothing. My team leader, as usual when bored, begins to tell us how he thinks he's doing a really great job considering he is an E-4 in an E-5 slot.

We (myself and the gunner, Misfit, a decent guy from our platoon who is now available because his TC got pulled off the road for calling his driver crazy for being on anti-depressants) say nothing and our TC goes nutso, yelling at us for being shitbags and not understanding what a great job he is doing.

Misfit comments that it's not hard to do a great job when you don't do anything but sit in a seat and send arrival and departure times on the BFT, which is a computer in the truck for sending messages to any other truck or position with a BFT.

Our TC goes ballistic, screaming into the mic at the top of his lungs. I click him off and continue driving and chewing on coffee beans.

Our headsets are Bose noise-canceling headsets with a microphone, so with the mic clicked off and a \$500 pair of noise-canceling earmuffs on, I don't hear anything.

Very tranquil drive. I get yelled at for telling the guys at the Iraqi Army checkpoint to "kill whitey" and "fight the power" after I stop the truck to give them chemlights.

Misfit is right; the TC's only real job is to be responsible for any shit that happens, unless it's our TC who throws us under the bus constantly.

Every other TC in our escort team drives or guns from time to time, not only to get experience but to give their guys a break.

Our TC does not do this; he has forced drivers nodding off at the wheel to continue to drive on the basis that he is an NCO and has a gunner/driver attached to him so that he does not have to perform those tasks.

He had to drive the truck from maintenance to commo one time and crashed into a hesco barrier at the breakneck speed of 5mph, because he's been here 10 months and has never driven a humvee.

Also he hasn't driven in the civilian world in 4 years because he cannot be licensed in any state due to his stack of DUIs.

At the range, the 240B has a malfunction and the guy behind the gun is a fresh E-1 from basic training who does not know the gun. I sit on the hood smoking and wait for my TC to stare and beat on the gun like a monkey for about 10 minutes before he asks for help and I show the new guy how the gun works. Kind of an alpha male thing on my part, I guess, but then again I'm not going out of my way to help this guy.

Jim is sick. He's 33 and been smoking for 18 years; he went to the TMC complaining of neck pain and the doctors found a lump in his throat. He goes tuesday for a biopsy to see if the mass is cancerous or not. If it is, he will be flown to Germany or home to get worked on. They told him he needs to wear civilian clothes in Kuwait City; no ACUs or PT clothes.

Jim told the doctor (a Navy Lieutenant-Commander), that if the Army wanted him to have civilian clothes on a combat deployment, they would have been issued. The doctor agreed and issued him a \$300 voucher to buy civilian clothes at the PX. Same old Jim, haha.

People keep bothering me to know what my plans are now that I will be coming home.

I hate this shit. I hate people planning my time.

We call this the "fruitbowl effect" here, in Jim's honor. While home on leave, Jim's wife had his days planned out for him and didn't give him a chance to unwind. After about a week, while yelling at him to get ready so they could go visit someone, he knocked over one of those Del Monte fruit cups and screamed "I don't want my days planned out!"

His wife tried to call the armory to tell them he had gulf war syndrome or some shit and he broke the phone. When you snap on someone, you are "fruitbowling."

My plan right now is to have no plan. I fully intend on sitting on my couch drinking beers/whiskey/both at once without wearing a PT belt.

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. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Action

Oct 31 (Reuters) & Nov 1 (Reuters)

A roadside bomb wounded two Iraqi soldiers when it struck their patrol in western Mosul on Thursday, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three Iraqi soldiers when it struck their patrol in eastern Mosul, police said.

A sniper shot and wounded one policeman at his checkpoint in western Mosul, police said.

Militants blew up a section of a Baghdad water pipeline, shutting off drinking water to hundreds of thousands of people, the U.S. military said on Friday. The explosion on Thursday tore an 18-inch hole in a pipeline carrying drinking water to Baghdad's Adhamiyah, Rusafa and Karrada districts, a U.S. military said, adding that it expected the pipeline would be fixed by the end of Friday.

Insurgents killed an off-duty policeman in southern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, on Thursday, police said.

Insurgents killed two Iraqi soldiers on Friday in an attack on a military checkpoint in northern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents killed one policeman on Friday near his home just west of Kut, 150 km (105 miles) southeast of Baghdad, police said.

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

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 Douglas, 1852

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

**“When someone says my son died fighting for his country, I say, “No, the suicide bomber who killed my son died fighting for his country.”
-- Father of American Soldier Chase Beattie, KIA in Iraq**

November 1, 1954: Algerians Open Their War For Liberation:

**“The Battle Of Algiers, Like The
Battles Raging In Baghdad Today,
Was Characterized By Attacks On
Civilian Targets”**

**“Give Us Planes And Tanks And We
Will Abandon Terror,” Ben Bella Said**



French troops attack Algerian civilians

In outraged reaction, French forces responded by taking a far larger number of Muslim lives.

These events served to polarize the two communities in such a way that a narrowly based insurrection became a nationwide revolution; thousands of men joined guerrilla units, while France rapidly built its own forces into the hundreds of thousands.

Carl Bunin Peace History Oct 29-Nov 4

A war of independence to end French colonial rule over the north African nation of Algeria began when 60 bombs were set off in Algiers, the capital.

MORE:

Answers.com & JOHN CHERIAN, Frontlineonnet.com [Excerpts]

The Algerian war of independence began in the early hours of 1 November 1954 and ended officially on 3 July 1962, when France's President Charles de Gaulle formally renounced his nation's sovereignty over Algeria and proclaimed its independence.

The French occupation of Algeria, begun in 1830, led to a colonial situation in which a minority of European settlers and their descendants dominated the Algerian economy.

They maintained that domination through monopolies of political power and the means of coercion.

During the first half of the twentieth century, a series of initiatives by various indigenous leaderships sought first to secure meaningful political participation for the Muslim majority within the colonial system and later to negotiate autonomy, confederation, or independence.

When these efforts proved fruitless, a group of radical young nationalists founded the Comité Révolutionnaire d'Unité et d'Action (CRUA; Revolutionary Committee of Unity and Action), which began, in the spring or summer of 1952, to plan an insurrection.

Estimates of the number of militants taking part in the initial insurrection range from nine hundred to about three thousand.

It began with attacks on French installations in several parts of the country, but the most effective actions took place in the Aurès region of the southeast.

Fifty years ago, on November 1, a series of 60 explosions rocked Algiers, killing 10 persons. The well-planned operation targeted police stations, bridges, municipal buildings and electrical facilities.

The French colonial administration had no inkling of the events that were to unfold.

Algeria was the jewel in the French crown. Many Frenchmen had taken it for granted that Algeria would be a French possession forever.

More than a million Frenchmen had settled in Algeria, since the 19th century, occupying the best agricultural land, and lording it over the local populace. The French government had started viewing Algeria as a province of France, rather than as a colony

The events of November 1, 1954, marked the birth of the National Liberation Front (FLN).

On that day the FLN issued its first official communique in French, announcing the start of the liberation struggle. It emphasised that the task of achieving the goal of independence was in the hands of the FLN.

The statement, which emanated from Cairo, claimed responsibility for the explosions and called for “the restoration of the Algerian state”.

The first communique of the FLN was aired over Egypt’s “Voice of the Arabs” radio. Not only the French authorities, but the Algerian public and the Arab world in general were taken by surprise when the announcement about the formation of the “Revolutionary Committee for Unity and Action” was made. Three of the nine original leaders of the Algerian revolution were based in Egypt. The other six operated underground in Algeria.

During the ensuing winter, the French managed to contain the insurrection, limiting its manifestations to distant and inaccessible regions.

In August 1955, the leadership, concerned that neither the bulk of Algerians nor the European community were taking the insurrection seriously, decided to begin targeting European civilians in some twenty-six localities in the eastern part of the country.

As many as 123 people were killed in what were called the Philippeville massacres.

In outraged reaction, French forces responded by taking a far larger number of Muslim lives.

These events served to polarize the two communities in such a way that a narrowly based insurrection became a nationwide revolution; thousands of men joined guerrilla units, while France rapidly built its own forces into the hundreds of thousands.

In order to accommodate the dramatically broadened movement, the revolutionaries organized a clandestine congress in the Soumamm valley of the Kabylia during August and September 1956. It created a broad Conseil National de la Révolution Algérienne (CNRA) to serve as a protoparliament and a Comité de Coordination et d’Exécution (CCE; Committee of Coordination and Implementation) to bear the executive functions.

One of the first decisions of the new executive was to initiate, at the end of September 1956, the urban warfare strategy that became known as the Battle of Algiers. The French colonial power had constructed a “wall” in the 1950s to keep out Algerian “terrorists” coming in from neighbouring countries such as Morocco and Tunisia.

The Battle of Algiers, very much like the battles raging in Baghdad and other cities today, was characterised by attacks on civilian targets, like restaurants and buses.

The Algerian resistance had come in for criticism from the Western media for its choice of tactics.

“Give us planes and tanks and we will abandon terror”, Ben Bella said at that time.

[T]he recourse to urban warfare brought the war home in a physical way to the majority of Colons, who were urban residents, and attracted the attention of metropolitan Frenchmen and the wider world for the first time to the Algerian situation.

After several abortive attempts at negotiations, the provisional government and France finally signed the Evian Agreement on 18 March 1962, which led to unequivocal independence in July.

The Algerian war of independence is one of the bloodiest wars fought on the African continent. More than 1.5 million Algerians died in the struggle. The French lost over 27,000 soldiers, and over 4,000 civilians.

THE Algerian revolution is a landmark in the struggle against colonial rule. Its success 50 years ago in the face of overwhelming odds continues to inspire people fighting against oppression.

November 1, 1970: Honorable Anniversary

Carl Bunin Peace History Oct 29-Nov 4

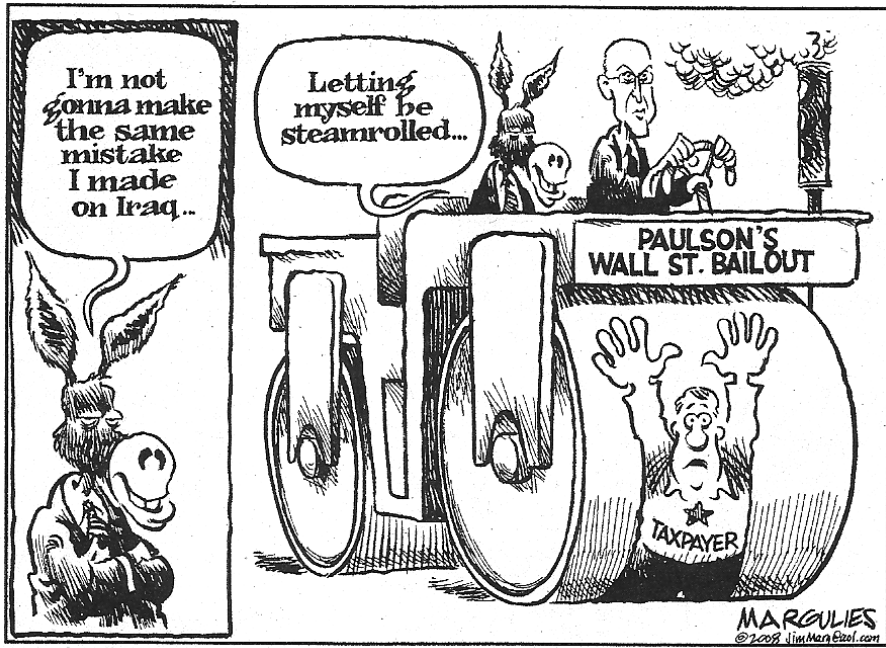
Detroit’s Common Council voted for immediate withdrawal of U.S. armed forces from Vietnam.

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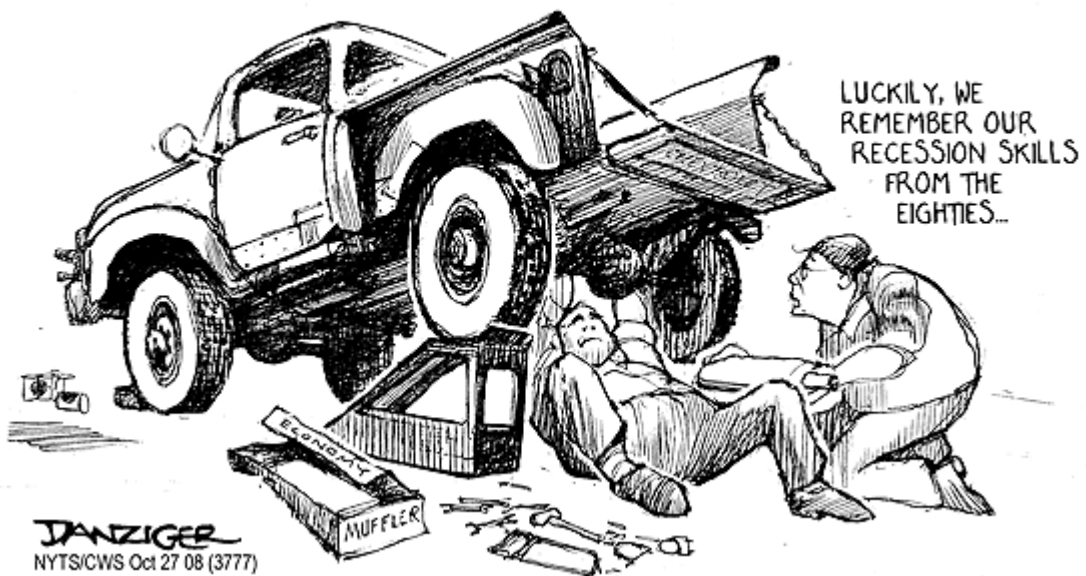
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DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS

Lefty-loosey, righty-tighty... remember?



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in. She writes: just wish they were saying "army" instead of "eighties," and doing it on what we will all be using soon--a bicycle.]

Department Of Homeland Security Immigration And Customs Enforcement Terrorists Attack U.S. Citizens In Bay Area: "Eddie Falcon Of The IVAW Said 'These Are The Same Tactics Used In The War In Iraq'"



October 29, 2008 By Diana Macasa, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

ACTIVISTS FROM several Bay Area groups helped organize an emergency-response rally in front of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) building in San Francisco on October 23 to protest a string of raids that took place throughout the Bay Area the day before.

The Movement for Unconditional Amnesty called the demonstration, and some 150 people turned out to call for justice against this attack on the immigrant community.

A number of groups, including UNITE HERE Local 2, ALDI (the Latin American Alliance for Immigrant Rights), CISPES, POWER, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and Iraq Veteran Against the War (IVAW), helped build the event. Independent congressional candidate Cindy Sheehan and Eric Quesada, who is running for supervisor in the Mission District, participated in the rally.

Speaking at the rally, Alex Revelo described how ICE agents stormed into his family's house without declaring their purpose, rounded everyone up, and threw him and his mother into the cold.

“I am an American citizen, and they treated me this way,” Alex said. “I can’t imagine how they treated the others, so I’m speaking out today because I want justice.”

ICE’s harassment didn’t stop with Alex’s family.

“ICE agents broke down the front door, detonated an explosive device, handcuffed the adults and older children, and held all family members, including an 8-year-old child, at gunpoint,” the Sentinel reported.

“ICE also brutally attacked a woman, causing her to lose consciousness and require hospitalization.”

As Eddie Falcon of the IVAW said, “These are the same tactics used in the war in Iraq.”

As an immigrant woman from POWER said at the rally, “We clean their houses, their toilets, and we’re continually crapped on. This is how we’re treated.”

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And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

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