

SOUND OFF!



VOL. I, NO 6

THE NEWSLETTER OF VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH, INC.

10 OCTOBER 2005

FIRST CALL - THEME OF THE ISSUE AND/OR CLIPS & QUOTES

VUFT is devoted to the truth, and nothing is off the table when it comes to telling the truth to our fellow citizens, in or out of uniform. Some truth definitely needs to be told about the current policies that have led to using torture (yeah, it's torture, not "discomfort" or "stress" or any other euphemism) as a regular means of extracting information from prisoners and detainees.

This installment of **SOUND OFF** will stress this issue, because we must not only tell the truth to others, but also we must remind ourselves of the oath we took to defend the Constitution of the United States, and by doing so, tell ourselves the truth too. That blessed document establishes treaties as the supreme law of the land. When we violate treaties such as the Geneva and Hague Conventions, we violate our own Constitution, thus violating our oath. Despite individual failures in the past, we do not torture because we espouse a moral position for ourselves and our nation, even in combat. Finally, we do not torture for the simple and pragmatic reasons that torture doesn't elicit truth, but it sure as hell encourages like behavior on the part of our enemies.

As you know if you have read our previous literature, we do not take a position, as an organization, on any war. We understand that wars will continue to happen until humankind can figure out how to deal with grave issues in a better way. Individually we have members who oppose and who favor this war. Our concern with torture, however, transcends this understandable variance in point of view. We will condemn any administration that favors torture, or which fails to establish firmly that any instance of torture under our flag is unacceptable, without reservation. Thus we praise the 90 members of the Senate of both parties who have attached an amendment to the current Defense Appropriations Bill to reaffirm this position for the Armed Forces of the United States, and condemn the threat by this administration to veto this bill because of the inclusion of this amendment.

Please sign the open letter for an independent commission on torture on the Veterans for Common Sense website.
<http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/index.cfm?Page=Campaign&MemberID=0&subPage=MoreInfo&CampaignID=23>

There are 24.5 million veterans – only 1 in 12 citizens: no wonder it's so hard to get others' attention on the issues. Census Bureau PIO – "Facts for Veterans' Day 2005"

REVEILLE - WAKE-UP CALLS

SENATE VOTES TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN



On Tuesday the Senate unanimously passed legislation ([S.392](#)) authorizing President Bush to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Tuskegee Airmen in honor of their unique military record. As an escort fighter wing during World War II, they never lost a bomber to enemy fighters. During WWII, Tuskegee Airmen were credited with destroying 261 aircraft, damaging 148 aircraft, flying 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa. They destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200 bombing missions. If the Senate's vote is ratified by the House of Representatives, the Tuskegee Airmen, with nearly 1,000 members, will be the largest group to ever receive the award.

Please contact your [representative](#) and encourage him/her to vote for this much deserved award [[HR 1259](#)].

Congratulations to our own Tuskegee Airman, Art Hicks, member of the Advisory Committee.

ASSEMBLY - PROGRESS OF THE ORGANIZATION



The Chair and several members of the board met with members of the Veterans' Caucus of the Democratic party in Manhattan Beach on October 1. The caucus voted to give an additional cash contribution to the work of VUFT. We set up a booth both days on the sacrifices of this war, which was well received. More news at **RECALL**.

REMINDER: Part of our task is to expand our current anecdotal evidence of the failure of the system to include factual and referenced instances of failures. If you know of specific cases of failure of service to any current or past veteran of our wars, or their families, please forward the information to muren@vuft.org, with a copy to the editor at scook@vuft.org.

MAIL CALL - LETTERS FROM MEMBERS AND OTHERS

“...You guys have a great newsletter. ... Keep them coming ! “

Don Harper, Sacramento
Organizer, Veterans' March for Benefits

“This is good stuff...”

Paul Rieckhoff
Executive Director
[Operation Truth](http://www.operationtruth.org)

RECALL - FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION

REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM FOR TROOPS STALLS

By John Files – New York Times - October 3, 2005

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2 - The Pentagon has not completed guidelines for allowing soldiers, their families and charities to be reimbursed for some combat equipment they bought for use in Iraq and Afghanistan, a year after the passage of legislation calling for such a program.

The measure, which allows for groups and individuals to make claims of up to \$1,100, called for the Department of Defense to set rules for a reimbursement program by February 2005.

The sponsor of the original legislation, Senator Dodd, D-CN, says he plans to introduce an amendment to a defense bill this week to take authority for the program from Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and give it to military commanders in the field.

"We should not be sending our young men and women into harm's way less than as well prepared as their nation can prepare them and provide them with the kind of protection they deserve," Mr. Dodd said. "The Pentagon has never acted on this legislation despite the fact that it is the law of the land." <More at http://www.truthout.org/docs_2005/100305R.shtml>

NOTE: On Wednesday, the Senate approved Sen. Christopher Dodd's amendment to the Defense Appropriations bill, demanding that the Secretary of Defense reimburse members of the military for equipment they had to purchase while stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Senate has insisted on its amendment, and has asked for a conference. Now it is up to the House/Senate conferees

GIVING “GRATITUDE” A NEW MEANING

Take a look at HR 2290 (<http://thomas.loc.gov>), the innocuously named “Family Budget Protection Act of 2005”. The act proposes to make automatic cuts in entitlements if total entitlement spending exceeds certain strict guidelines. The bill exempts Congress's Federal Employee Retirement System and the Civil Service Retirement System, among others. It **DOES NOT** exempt the military retirement system, TRICARE, or military survivors benefits. This from the “grateful nation”. Makes one wonder what “grateful” means, doesn't it?

Thanks to Jim at vetissues@yahoogroups.com for the heads-up.

PROGRESS OF THE “CALIFORNIA SHARED SACRIFICE ACT”

During the Oct 1-2 Executive Board conference of the California Democratic Party, two more Assemblypersons agreed to co-sponsor this legislation, and a State Senator promised to consider the legislation for concurrent submission in the state Senate. Progress is slow but continuous. We expect the bill to come on the floor at the next session starting 4 January 2006.

RETREAT – NEWS

CODY: RECRUITING WOES MEAN STOP-LOSS MUST REMAIN

Matthew Cox - Oct 05, 2005

Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody conceded today that the Army's missed recruiting goal means there's no way to cut back on stop-loss anytime soon.

<More at <http://www.armytimes.com/story.php?f=1-292925-1151117.php>>

SERVICEMEMBERS TO RECEIVE GREATER INSURANCE COVERAGE

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs - PRESS RELEASE - September 28, 2005

Washington, D.C. – Today, the House passed H.R. 3200, as amended, allowing for the maximum coverage for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) to be permanently increased to \$400,000.

H.R. 3200, as amended, the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Enhancement Act of 2005, makes permanent the maximum coverage available to servicemembers and veterans. A temporary \$400,000 ceiling was enacted earlier this year in the war supplemental appropriations act and expires on September 30, 2005. H.R. 3200, as amended, will make the increases permanent. <More at <http://www.vawatchdog.org/housecvanews/housecvanews09-28-05.htm>>

SENATE APPROVES \$50 BILLION MORE FOR WARS

Spending for Iraq, Afghanistan wars would exceed \$350 billion

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Senate voted Friday (10/7) to give President Bush \$50 billion more for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and U.S. military efforts against terrorism, money that would push total spending for the operations beyond \$350 billion.

In a 97-0 vote, the Senate signed off on the money as part of a \$445 billion military spending bill for the budget year that began October 1. The measure would also put restrictions on the treatment of detainees who are suspected terrorists -- a provision that has drawn a White House veto threat and demonstrated a willingness by Republican lawmakers to challenge Bush.

<More at http://www.cnn.com/2005/POLITICS/10/07/congress.defense.ap/index.html?section=cnn_allpolitics>

US POLICYMAKERS DESPAIR OF IRAQI ARMY

By Martin Sieff - United Press International - Monday 03 October 2005

"It doesn't feel like progress when we hear today that there is only one Iraqi battalion fully capable." Sen. Collins (R-ME)

US politicians and policymakers' perceptions towards the Iraq war have reached another tipping point: There is now a widespread recognition shared among senior uniformed US military officers and Washington foreign policy analysts that plans to rapidly build up the Iraqi army as a new, independent effective fighting force have failed disastrously.

The Senate heard testimony last week from some of America's top generals that the war in Iraq is going worse than ever and that only 1 out of 119 Iraqi army and security battalions can operate by itself in combat situations without US military backup.

Top US generals admitted in testimony Thursday to the Senate Armed Services Committee that only a single Iraqi battalion was prepared to operate on its own without US military support. This was a stunning decrease from the three battalions that US generals had assured Congress in previous testimony were ready to operate independently.

<More at http://www.truthout.org/docs_2005/100405B.shtml>

[CALIFORNIA'S] NATIONAL GUARD MAY BE GETTING SPREAD THIN

By Rone Tempest – LA Times Staff Writer - September 26, 2005

L.A.'s blackout focuses attention on whether there are enough troops to handle an emergency.

SACRAMENTO — When the lights went out in Los Angeles two weeks ago, one day after a purported Al Qaeda terrorist threat to the city, concern quickly spread to California National Guard headquarters here.

With more than 25% of its troops deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and the U.S. Gulf Coast, state National Guard leaders prepared to mobilize even more soldiers for law enforcement duties in California's largest city.

<More at <http://national-guard-news.newslib.com/story/2554688/>>

AT HEARINGS, STATES AND NATIONAL GUARD MAKE APPEALS FOR AID

By Scott Shane - September 29, 2005

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 - The National Guard has only a third of the equipment it needs to respond to domestic disasters and terrorist attacks and will need \$7 billion to acquire the radios, trucks, construction machinery and medical gear required, the Guard's top commander told a Congressional committee on Wednesday.

Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said that after Hurricane Katrina, guardsmen using old radios were unable to talk to active-duty troops with the latest communications systems as they patrolled New Orleans.

http://www.democraticunderground.com/discuss/duboard.php?az=view_all&address=102x1816577

SIX DEMOCRATIC WAR VETS SEEK HOUSE SEATS

By Kimberly Hefling - The Associated Press - Tuesday 04 October 2005

Washington - Lawyer Patrick Murphy and five other veterans of the Iraq war are asking questions about President Bush's policies in Iraq as part of their broader Democratic campaigns to win congressional seats in next year's elections.

Given their experience in Iraq, the six Democrats in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Maryland and Virginia say they are eminently qualified to pose the tough questions. Their reservations mirror public opinion, with an increasing number of Americans expressing concern about the mission and favoring a timetable for withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Note: Fairness point: *please let me know of Iraq/Afghanistan veterans standing as Republican candidates.*(ed.)

<More at http://www.truthout.org/docs_2005/100405L.shtml>

TO THE COLOR - GATHERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
29 Oct	09:30	Sacramento – Capitol North Steps*	March	Various Veterans Groups	Veterans Benefits
11-Nov	11:00	NYC – Madison Sq Park /5 th Ave	Parade	NYC Event Planning	Celebrate Vets

***Northern California March/Rally to support Veterans' Benefits**

Saturday 29 October 2005 – 0930 - Sacramento, CA on the North Steps of the Capitol. Guest Speakers: Congressman Pete McCloskey (USMCR Ret), Jim Cook (USMCR Ret), Chuck Brown (USAF Ret). This rally is supported by various Veterans Organizations including VUFT (all three speakers are members of VUFT). Please be there and support this effort. For information contact Don Harper at govia@comcast.net, or call him at 916.489.5669. **See you there!**

TATTOO - CURRENT ISSUES

TORTURE AND ABUSE IN WAR ARE ILLEGAL, IMMORAL, AND STUPID

I often disagree with John McCain, but he is dead right with these amendments [ed.]

MCCAIN'S ANTI-TORTURE AMENDMENTS

By Nat Hentoff - Published September 19, 2005 [excerpts]

... remarks made July 24 by Republican Senator John McCain of Arizona on the Senate floor as he was introducing amendments to the \$42 billion Pentagon authorization bill for 2006. The amendments concerned abuses of our detainees (prisoners). "Our enemy doesn't deserve our sympathy," Mr. McCain said, "but this isn't about who they are. This is about who we are."

... Mr. McCain's first amendment would have established "the Army Field Manual as the standard for interrogation of all detainees held in the Department of Defense (DOD) custody."

...Another McCain amendment would have required that "each individual detained in a DOD facility who is a national of a foreign country be registered with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

...A third amendment would have prohibited the "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of anyone in American custody" -- the very language of the U.N. Convention Against Torture, which this country has ratified.

..."We are Americans," Mr. McCain said ..., "and we hold ourselves to humane standards of treatment of people no matter how evil or terrible they may be... President Bush understands that the war on terror is ultimately a battle of ideas, a battle we will win by spreading and standing firmly for the values of decency, democracy and the rule of law. I stand with him in this commitment."

... "We are not simply any other country. We stand for something more in the world -- a moral mission, one of freedom and democracy and human rights at home and abroad." <More at <http://washingtontimes.com/op-ed/20050918-101526-8443r.htm>>

NINE EXPLAIN INTERROGATION VOTES

Friday, October 7, 2005

[FreeRepublic.com calls them "The 9 Brave Ones That Voted Against McCain"]

Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO) "... all it does is tie the hands of the Department of Defense at a time when maximum flexibility within the boundaries of the U.S. law is needed."

Sen. Christopher S. Bond (R-MO) "The last thing we want to do is put undue burdens on military and intelligence officials who are on the ground trying to obtain critical information on the war on terror."

Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) John Hart, a spokesman for Coburn, said: "...the amendment... would put at risk some of our undercover officers by making them subject to two sets of laws governing their conduct."

Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS) "We agree that prisoners should not be mistreated, but we disagree that the military combat manual should be the standard for dealing with all prisoners whether they are terrorists or not."

Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) "... the amendment gives the false impression that torture and abuse of detainees was the official policy of the United States government."

Sen. James M. Inhofe (R-OK) "...we are spending far too much of our time and effort on the prisoner abuse issue and not enough time on the quality of our interrogations....the more we air this issue publicly, the more we are emboldening the terrorists. The more we talk about our methods of interrogation we must remember that the enemy is listening."

Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) "We have learned that one of the most effective tools we have in getting this information is the terrorists' fear of the unknown. Passing a law that effectively telegraphs to the entire terrorist world what they can expect if they are caught is not only counterproductive, but could be downright dangerous."

Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) "I am dubious, for complex technical reasons, of the amendment that has been offered . . . because I am not sure it makes good legal sense to have a law that is a moving law... that complies with the Army regulations."

Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK) "There are people who are not in uniform, who may not even be citizens of the United States, who represent us in very strange and dangerous places, whose lives may be put in jeopardy by the process that is spelled out in this amendment."

<More at http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/10/06/AR2005100601802.html?nav=rss_politics>

HUMANE TREATMENT: THE PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY TO ORDER THE TORTURE OR ABUSE OF PRISONERS

Houston Chronicle Editorial - Oct 08, 2005

The United States Congress should not have to pass a law requiring humane treatment of U.S. prisoners. Sadly, a clear requirement is necessary, and the Senate was right to vote 90-9 to provide one.

In the war on terror, the United States is the good guy. Unfortunately, reports of mistreatment of suspected terrorists at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the documented abuse of prisoners at the infamous Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq have clouded the issue and besmirched the United States' image.

Objecting to the amendment sponsored by Sen. McCain (R-AZ), Sen. Stevens (R-AK), said there are times when we need to treat terrorists as they treat us. He is mistaken. As McCain and others pointed out, our standards are superior to the terrorists'. We benefit by resisting the urge to become like our ruthless enemies.

The amendment could face stiff opposition in the House, where abhorrence of torture might not be as deeply rooted as it is in the Senate. But overwhelming, bipartisan passage of the amendment in the Senate places the House on the spot.

President Bush threatens to veto a \$440 billion military spending bill if the amendment is attached to its final version. Bush has cried wolf, but has never cast a veto. Vetoing this bill could produce a crisis and endanger the U.S. war effort in Iraq.

White House officials objected to the amendment because it would limit the authority and flexibility of the president. True, but no president should have the authority or flexibility to order the torture or abuse of prisoners. It doesn't produce usable intelligence, it endangers the safety of captured U.S. troops and it's wrong on its face.

The similarity of the alleged mistreatment at Guantanamo Bay to the documented prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib and other prisons in Iraq and Afghanistan suggests a pattern of official encouragement or indifference. Either way, the House should follow

the Senate's lead, and President Bush should welcome a measure banning inhumane treatment of prisoners at the hands of the U.S. military. <http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/?Page=Article&ID=5051>

MCCAIN'S STAND FOR U.S. VALUES

San Francisco Chronicle Editorial - Oct 08, 2005

It is a grim measure of the state of the Bush administration's approach to human rights that the U.S. Senate would need to include a prohibition on torture in a military spending bill.

Even more damning, the White House is threatening a veto of the \$440 billion package unless the torture ban is removed.

The amendment was sponsored by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), a former prisoner in the Vietnam War who knows something about inhumane treatment.

McCain made an impassioned plea for his fellow senators to make a clear and binding commitment that our soldiers would follow the prisoner-treatment guidelines in the Army Field Manual. Such a measure, he said, would leave no confusion about whether cruel and degrading treatment would be tolerated.

It would, he added, help repair some of the damage to this nation's reputation caused by the abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. The amendment was supported by former Secretary of State Colin Powell, a retired four-star Army general.

As co-sponsoring Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) noted, "We take this moral high ground to make sure that if our people fall into enemy hands, we'll have the moral force to say, 'You have got to treat them right,' " Graham said. "If you don't practice what you preach ... nobody listens."

The measure cleared the Senate 90-9. However, the House spending bill did not include the torture-ban provision, and the veto threat will put pressure on Republicans to delete it when the two bills go to a conference committee to reconcile differences.

Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK), who spoke against the amendment, suggested that in a war against terrorism, our enemies are not "entitled to the same type of treatment" as in other wars.

McCain had good answers for that argument as well. "Our enemies don't adhere to the Geneva Conventions," he acknowledged.

But as McCain said, the way this nation treats its prisoners is not "about them." It is "about us." The vote was a proud moment for the U.S. Senate.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2005/10/07/EDGUNF33VT1.DTL>

OFFICER'S ROAD LED HIM OUTSIDE ARMY

By Richard A. Serrano - Times Staff Writer - September 25, 2005

Capt. Ian Fishback repeatedly voiced his concern about prisoner abuse in Iraq to his superiors, but felt he was being brushed off.

WASHINGTON — When Army Capt. Ian Fishback told his company and battalion commanders that soldiers were abusing Iraqi prisoners in violation of the Geneva Convention, he says, they told him those rules were easily skirted.

When he wrote a memo saying Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was wrong in telling Congress that the Army follows the Geneva dictates, his lieutenant colonel responded only: "I am aware of Fishback's concerns."

And when Fishback found himself in the same room as Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey at Ft. Benning, Ga., he again complained about prisoner abuse. He said Harvey told him that "corrective action was already taken."

At every turn, it seemed, the decorated young West Point graduate, the son of a Vietnam War veteran from Michigan's Upper Peninsula, whose wife is serving with the Army in Iraq, felt that the military had shut him out.

So he turned to those he knows best. He sought guidance from fellow infantry commanders and his West Point classmates, and learned that they agreed with him that abuse of prisoners was widespread and that officers weren't adequately trained in how to handle them. <More at <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article10394.htm>>

HOUSE GOP MAY TRY TO WEAKEN DETAINEE RULES

Liz Sidoti - The Associated Press - Oct 08, 2005

Leading House Republicans signaled Friday that they will try to weaken a Senate effort to limit interrogation techniques that U.S. service members can use on terrorism suspects.

... "We're not going to be delivering a bill to the president's desk that is veto bait," said Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

... Sen. John Warner, R-Va., and the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the provision was needed "to make absolutely clear the policy of the United States."

... Vetoing a measure that provides money for pay raises, benefits, equipment and weapons for troops during wartime could open the president to a flood of criticism.

... If McCain's provision is stricken from the final bill, Warner said his committee would renew efforts to make the provision a law.

<More at <http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/?Page=Article&ID=5052>>

FURTHER READING/RESEARCH ON THE SUBJECT OF TORTURE

The Geneva conventions and their agreements are as follows:

[First Geneva Convention](#) "for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field" (first adopted in 1864, last revision in 1949)

[Second Geneva Convention](#) "for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea" (first adopted in 1949, successor of the 1907 Hague Convention X)

[Third Geneva Convention](#) "relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War" (first adopted in 1929, last revision in 1949)

[Fourth Geneva Convention](#) "relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War" (first adopted in 1949, based on parts of the 1907 Hague Convention IV)

There are two additional protocols to the Geneva Convention:

[Protocol I \(1977\)](#): Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts It has not been adopted by several nations, including the United States, Afghanistan and Iraq, because it would extend Geneva Conventions protection to some [unlawful combatants](#)

[Protocol II \(1977\)](#): Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts

In addition there are multiple Hague Conventions that amplify certain aspects of the conduct of war. The complete texts of all of the "Laws of War" are available at <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/lawofwar/lawwar.htm>

Finally, there have been questions about the preparation of military personnel for the task of handling, controlling, and interrogating prisoners. Two long-standing documents are informative, as they have been used in training for all Army personnel for decades; they are also used in all joint training on the subject:

The Army Field Manual FM 27-10 "Law of Land Warfare" (1956) <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/policy/army/fm/27-10/index.html>

FM 34-52 "Intelligence Interrogation" (1987) <http://www.globalsecurity.org/intell/library/policy/army/fm/fm34-52/index.html>

NONE OF THIS IS NEW!

On 7 June 2004 Senator Dick Durbin proposed an anti-torture amendment, co-sponsored by Senators Levin [D-MI], Specter [R-PA], Feinstein [D-CA], Leahy [D-VT], Kennedy [D-MA], McCain [R-AZ], Clinton [D-NY], which was approved by voice vote on 16 June 2004, and subsequently ignored by the Pentagon. Senator Durbin's very moving statement before the Senate on 16 June 2004 can be found at <http://www.americanprogress.org/site/pp.asp?c=biJRJ8OVF&b=91568> [ed]

IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN JUST "A FEW ROGUE SOLDIERS"

CONVICTED US SOLDIER SAYS 'WORSE THINGS' HAVE HAPPENED AT ABU GHRAIB

Agence France Presse - Oct 05, 2005

A US soldier convicted of humiliating and abusing Iraqi prisoners said in an interview she knew of "worse things" happening at Abu Ghraib and insisted military commanders were fully aware of what was going on in Iraq's infamous jail.

The comments, made by Private First Class Lynndie England in her first post-court marshal interview, contradicted assertions by top Pentagon officials that a small group of out-of-control soldiers were responsible for abuse at Abu Ghraib, and that however repulsive that mistreatment was, it did not amount to torture.

<http://www.commondreams.org/headlines05/1003-03.htm>

TAPS – PASSINGS AND WAR STATISTICS

OIF/OEF – HACK DATE MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 2005

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

KILLED US	1,955
WOUNDED US	≥ 14,902
KILLED UK	96
KILLED OTHER COALITION	102
WOUNDED/INJURED COALITION	591
KILLED CONTRACTORS	273
KILLED IRAQI POLICE/MILITARY	≥ 33,347
KILLED IRAQI CIVILIANS	≥ 29,795
WOUNDED IRAQI MIL/CIV	≥ 134,586

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

KILLED US	242
WOUNDED/INJURED US	583
KILLED COALITION	120
WOUNDED/INJURED COALITION	360
KILLED AFGHANI POLICE/MILITARY	≥ 8,619
KILLED AFGHANI CIVILIANS	≥ 3,525

NOTE: SOME NUMBERS DO NOT CHANGE BETWEEN ISSUES BECAUSE UPDATED FIGURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME.

VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH, INC.

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VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH, INC

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LAST NAME: _____

First name, MI: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Years of Service: From Mo/Day/Yr ___/___/____. To Mo/Day/Yr ___/___/____

Dues Enclosed: 1 Year (\$20) _____ Lifetime (\$100) _____

Additional Donation: _____

I would like to serve on the following committee(s) [optional]:

Finance

Fundraising

Organization Building

Other states

Growth/Outreach

Veterans & Other Veterans' Groups

Events

Planning and execution

Communication

Website, Media Contact

Materials

Posters, Flyers, etc. production

Message

Writing, editing, newsletter

Local Organizing

Form community group

REMARKS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ Date: ___/___/____