



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

General Meeting (2007-15)

Agenda 528

19 July 2007

British Columbia Regiment (DCO), Vancouver, B.C.



VVIC 2nd Vice President Thomas O'Malley

Moment of Silence

United States Military Casualty Reports Received since 04 July 2007

Lance Cpl. William C. Chambers, 20, of Ringgold, Ga. Chambers died July 1 from a non-hostile boat accident in the Euphrates River just off the shore of Al Anbar province. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. The accident is under investigation.

Lance Cpl. Jeremy L. Tinnel, 20, of Mechanicsville, Va. Tinnel died July 1 from a non-hostile boat accident in the Euphrates River just off the shore of Al Anbar province. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. The accident is under investigation.

1st Lt. Christopher N. Rutherford, 25, of Newport, Ohio, died July 2 near Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the Forward Support Group, 19th Engineer Battalion, Fort Knox, Ky.

Pfc. Steven A. Davis, 23, of Woodbridge, Va., died July 4 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with grenades. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Pfc. Andrew T. Engstrom, 22, of Slaton, Texas, died July 4 in Taji, Iraq, from injuries suffered in a non-combat related incident. Engstrom was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. His death is under investigation.

Chief Warrant Officer Scott A.M. Oswell, 33, of Washington, died July 4 in Mosul, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his helicopter struck a power line. He was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Air Cavalry, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Petty Officer First Class Jason Dale Lewis, 30, of Brookfield, Conn. Lewis died July 6 as a result of enemy action while conducting combat operations in the vicinity of Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to an East Coast-based SEAL team.

Petty Officer First Class Robert Richard McRill, 42, of Lake Placid, Fla. McRill died July 6 as a result of enemy action while conducting combat operations in the vicinity of Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to an East Coast-based SEAL team.

Petty Officer First Class Steven Phillip Daugherty, 28, of Barstow, Calif. Daugherty died July 6 as a result of enemy action while conducting combat operations in the vicinity of Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to an East Coast-based SEAL team.

Sgt. Thomas P. McGee, 23, of Hawthorne, Calif., died July 6 of wounds sustained when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Wazi Khwa, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 546th Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Pfc. Joseph A. Miracle, 22, of Ortonville, Mich., died July 5 of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire and indirect fire in the Watapor Valley of Kunar Province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 173d Airborne Brigade, Vicenza, Italy.

Spc. Christopher S. Honaker, 23, of Cleveland, N.C., died July 5 of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire and indirect fire in the Watapor Valley of Kunar Province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 173d Airborne Brigade, Vicenza, Italy.

Maj. James M. Ahearn, 43, of Calif. Ahearn died July 5 when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Sgt. Keith A. Kline, 24, of Oak Harbor, Ohio. Kline died July 5 when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Spc. Michelle R. Ring, 24, of Martin, Tenn., died July 5 of wounds sustained from enemy mortar fire in Baghdad, Iraq. She was assigned to the 92d Military Police Battalion, Fort Benning, Ga.

Spc. Jeremy L. Stacey, 23, of Bismarck, Ark., died July 5 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Spc. Roberto J. Causor Jr., 21, of San Jose, Calif., died July 7 in Samarra, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Spc. Anthony M.K. Vinnedge, 24, of Okeana, Ohio, died July 5 at the Radwaniyah Palace Complex, Iraq, of injuries suffered from a non-combat related incident. Vinnedge was assigned to Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 107th Armor Cavalry Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard, Greenville, Ohio. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. 1st Class Sean K. Mitchell, 35, of Monterey, Calif., died July 7 in Kidal, Mali, of injuries sustained from a non-combat related incident. Mitchell was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, Stuttgart, Germany. His death is under investigation.

Pfc. Jason E. Dore, 25, of Moscow, Maine, died July 8 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Cpl. Jeremy D. Allbaugh, 21, of Luther, Okla. Allbaugh died July 5 from wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Lance Cpl. Steven A. Stacy, 23, of Coos Bay, Ore. Stacy died July 5 from wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Lance Cpl. Angel R. Ramirez, 28, of Brooklyn, N.Y., died Feb. 21 at Marine Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., after being medically evacuated following a non-hostile incident in Al Qaim, Iraq, on Dec. 21, 2006. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Sgt. Gene L. Lamie, 25, of Homerville, Ga. Lamie died July 6 in Iraq of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Pfc. Le Ron A. Wilson, 18, of Queens, N.Y. Wilson died July 6 in Iraq of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Cpl. Kory D. Wiens, 20, of Independence, Ore. Wiens died July 6 in Muhammad Sath, Iraq, of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 94th Mine Dog Detachment, 5th Engineer Battalion, 1st Engineer Brigade, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Pfc. Bruce C. Salazar Jr., 24, of Tracy, Calif. Salazar died July 6 in Muhammad Sath, Iraq, of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Col. Jon M. Lockey, 44, of Fredericksburg, Va., died July 6 in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries sustained from a non-combat related incident. Lockey was assigned to Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. The incident is under investigation.

Master Sgt. Randy J. Gillespie, 44, of Coaldale, Colo., died July 9, in Herat, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered during small arms fire outside of Camp Stone. He was assigned to the 56th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

Sgt. Eric A. Lill, 28, of Chicago, IL, died July 6 in Rustamiyah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations in Baghdad. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Capt. Maria I. Ortiz, 40, of Bayamon, P.R., died July 10 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from enemy indirect fire. She was assigned to the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

1st Sgt. Jeffrey R. McKinney, 40, of Garland, Texas, died July 11 in Adhamiyah, Iraq, of injuries suffered from a non-combat related incident. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Courtney T. Johnson, 26, of Garner, N.C., died July 11 in Besmaya, Iraq, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with indirect fire. He was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga.

Sgt. Allen A. Greka, 29, of Alpena, Michigan, died July 13 of wounds sustained from a land mine detonation during a dismounted patrol in Jisr Diyala, Iraq. He was assigned to the 3d Battalion, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 3d Brigade Combat Team, 3d Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Pfc. Christopher D. Kube, 18, of Sterling Heights, Mich., died July 14 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Spc. Robert D. Varga, 24, of Monroe City, Mo., died July 15 in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries suffered from a non-combat related incident. He was assigned to the 984th Military Police Company, 759th Military Police Battalion, Fort Carson, Colo. The incident is under investigation.

Pfc. Benjamin B. Bartlett Jr., 25, of Manchester, Ga., died July 15, in Mosul, Iraq, of wounds suffered from a rocket propelled grenade. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Sgt. John R. Massey, 29, of Judsonia, Ark., died July 15 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations July 14 in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to C Battery, 142nd Fires Brigade, Arkansas Army National Guard, Ozark, Ark.

Casualty Count is now 4078

Since 10 November 2001

VVIC Meeting Business

Guests Present

Announcements and Acknowledgements

President's Remarks

(D. Sinclair, AUS)

1st Vice President's Remarks

(G. Flowers, USMC)

2nd Vice President's Remarks

(T. O'Malley)

Chief of Staff's Remarks

(S. O'Grady, AUS)

Master At Arms Remarks

(K. Payne, USN)

General Collection

Minutes of the previous meeting

Finance Officer's Report

Intelligence Officer's Report

1. Junk email on VVIC system addresses. Rotating address defense.
2. Vet phone 604-462-0450 to be terminated 26 July. Same same with the VVIC fax line 604-462-0453. For the last several years this number has been financed solely by the CF instead of the VVIC. Southern Cross

considerations are paramount in this action.

3. Anyone heard anything back from the visit of the District Commander?

Service Officer's Report

1. P. Knauth, AUS

From M. Ribotto in Ontario:

A committee of the executive, needs to go down and demand a meeting with Pace (with whatever it takes) and read him the fucking riot act.

We have a member who was an infantry commander. He can tell more horror stories than a lot of us who are rated. He traveled (at a good expense) to CONUS in order to enter a VA PTSD program and we are now waiting 3 yrs later for Pace to get his head out of his ass. He has a CIB-that should be enough.

Now can we get the prez and a few others on the exec, to go down and unfuck this guy?

If we can't, then membership in the VVIC becomes.....?????????? (end)

Additionally, Lt. Knauth requests that someone check the Bellingham Vet Center for any mail he might have laying around.

2. D. Sinclair
3. D. Drysdale

Inspector General's Report

Quartermaster's Report

Legislative matters:

1. More on the 1996 Veteran's Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996
2. Keeping watch on pending legislation.

Administrative Items:

1. Website photos:

This long running request is becoming a burden. We need these photos guys. What's the story?

- a. Sinclair
- b. Payne
- c. Lang
- d. Mella
- e. McInnes
- f. Thomson

Old Business:

New Business:

1. The CPI and how it has been revised to your detriment – and likely will be again.
2. Your participation in the political process. Stop talking shit and start telling your MP and Congress critters what is on your mind!

New Business from the floor:

The next General Meeting is 02 August 2007 at 1930 hours at the British Columbia Regiment.



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

Minutes 527

**General Meeting held on 05 July 2007
British Columbia Regiment, Vancouver, B.C.**

VVIC President Don Sinclair chaired the meeting.

A moment of Silence was held and the names of 61 U.S. Military casualties were read out plus the names of 4 Canadian Military casualties from Afghanistan.

10 Names on the sign-in sheet and includes family members S. Carmack and A. Reid plus Assoc., members B. Montgomery and Dave Holwill.

Handouts and Attachments:

Handouts

- 1: Agenda # 527 as compiled by VVIC S-2 W. Carmack.

Attachments

- 1: Minutes of VVIC General Meeting #526.
- 2: Heart breaking life of War's "worst wounded" GI - by M. Marchione of Assoc., Press.
- 3: Maggots found coming from the throat of Veteran in VA hospital - source WAVY TV News, Hampton Virginia.
- 4: Filner says PTSD Misdiagnoses cheats Vets - by Rick Maze of the Army Times.
- 5: Retired Marine is Top Gun at Sub Shop - Miami herald.
- 6: Funds for the Vets and Wounded - Washington Times editorial.
- 7: The War Prayer - Mark twain.
- 8: Battle Stress may lead to Misconduct - by Craig Zoroya of U.S.A. Today.
- 9: Vets helping Vets - Vets press.

VVIC President Don Sinclair's Remarks: only date available for a VVIC summer picnic at the Peace Arch Border crossing is the 14 and 15th of Sept.,

Chief of Staff's Steve O'Grady's Remarks: Thanks Prez Don Sinclair for bringing to the meeting a beautifully made pipe tobacco humidor made from the casing of a WW 1 18lb., artillery shell, crafted by his late uncle back in 1917 in France.

Finance Officer Larry Reid's Report: Financial report will be tabled at our next VVIC meeting on the 19th of July.

Intelligence Officer's Report:

- 1: Renewal of VVIC Internet Service provider cost \$203.40 US.
- 2: Vet telephone line will be terminated after 20 years. - VVIC correspondence now done solely on the internet.

Administrative Items: Photos still needed for Sinclair, Payne, Lang, Mella, McInnes and Thomson.

Old Business: The Wannabee situation- old ghost from the past PJ Wannabee Tim Mitchell may have been "located". Discussions within VVIC will continue as to "what next" now that he has been located and still in the Duncan Area.

This General Meeting finishes with the reading of a letter sent in by long-time VVIC member G. Love, USMC. The letter is titled "The Way Things really work - Phony Vietnam Vets Proliferate". The gist of the letter is that in the year 2000, the number of people claiming to be Vietnam Veterans has climbed to nearly 15 million up from 11.2 million claimed in a census in 1995. The believed actual figure of those who served is around 9 million with approximately 30% of those service-people deceased. Ergo somebody is apparently lying to the census.

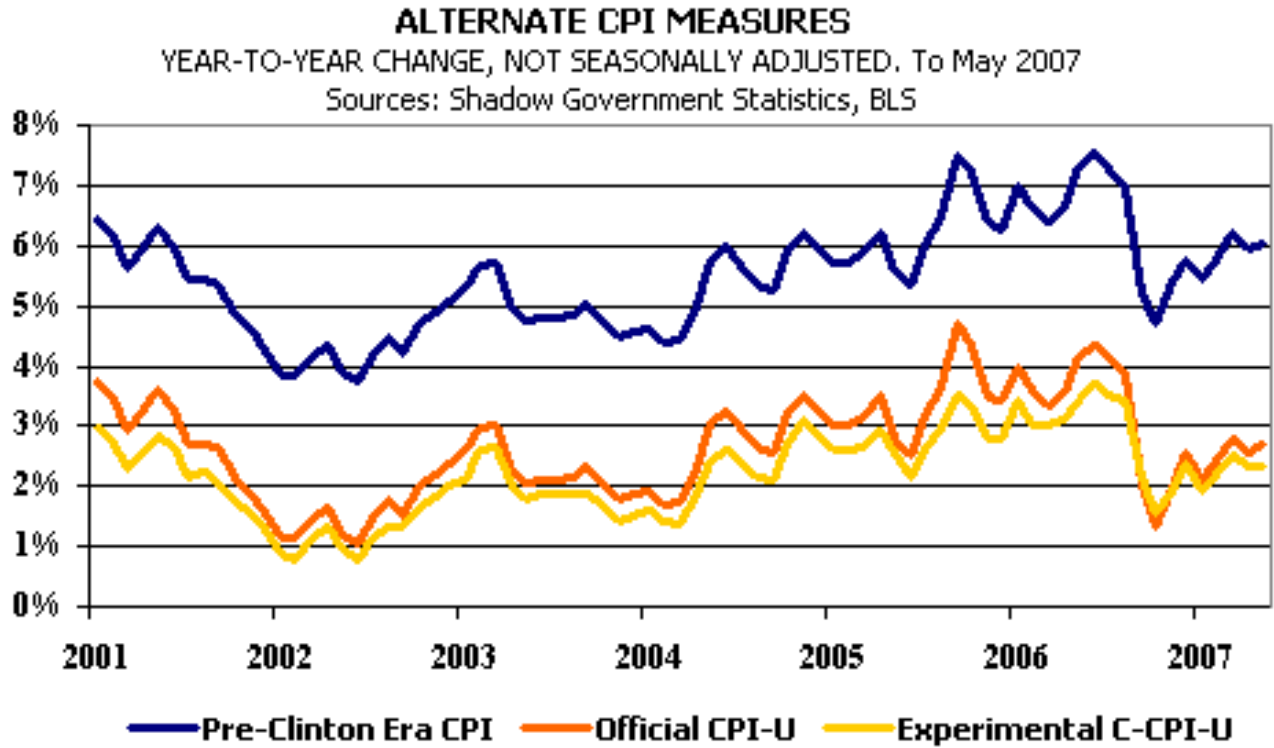
On our sick list for this period we have Brother Lang and his Dad, both still on the mend. Our thoughts are with both of you Keith, hopefully we'll see you on the 19th.

Our next VVIC General Meeting is on the 19th of July at the B.C.R. The American Legion Post #75 meeting will start at 19:30 hrs., to be followed by the VVIC General Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 2102.

Steve O'Grady,
Chief of Staff





Bush 'Strongly Opposes' Troop Pay, Benefit Initiatives

Tom Philpott | July 13, 2007

Talk about lousy timing.

With [President Bush's](#) popularity scraping bottom in opinion polls, with U.S. casualties rising in Iraq in a force surge that has stretched soldier tours to 15 months, the Bush administration July 10 said it "strongly opposes" key military pay and benefit gains tossed into their [fiscal 2008 defense bill](#).

Initiatives the administration "strongly opposes" include:

- A military pay raise for next January of [3.5 percent](#) versus 3 percent endorsed by the White House.
- Lowering the age-60 start of reserve retirement annuities for reserve component members by the length of their future mobilizations.
- Expanding eligibility for [Combat-Related Special Compensation](#) to service members forced by combat disabilities to retire short of 20 years.
- Directing pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide the Department of Defense with same price discounts for [TRICARE retail pharmacy](#) network that are provided already on medicines dispensed from base pharmacies.

The administration also grumbled that the Senate intends to block for another year [TRICARE fee increases](#) for under-65 retirees and dependents.

The objections appear in a "Statement of Administration Policy" from the White House's Office of Management and Budget delivered to Senate leaders as they opened floor debate on the defense authorization bill.

A day later, Senate Republicans, at White House's urging, blocked amendments to the bill that would have shortened Iraq tours for U.S. ground forces and slowed frequency of wartime [deployments](#). Republicans said the amendments really were aimed at changing administration policy in Iraq.

Here is more on Senate provisions that the White House opposes:

PAY RAISE – Like the House, senators favor a 3.5 percent military pay raise for 2008 versus the administration's proposed 3 percent to match private sector wage growth as measured by the government's Employment Cost Index (ECI). The White House calls the extra half percentage point unnecessary and notes that [basic pay](#) has jumped by 33 percent since 2001. The added cost of the bigger raise, \$2.2 billion through 2013, is money "that would otherwise be available to support our troop," said OMB letter.

The White House will lose this one. [Congress](#) intends to approve the ninth consecutive military raise to be set at least .5 percent above private sector wage gains, continuing to close a perceived "pay gap" with civilians. However, a Congressional Budget Office report released in late June suggests no such gap exists. When housing allowances growth and associated tax advantages are weighed, the pay gap for the enlisted force, which advocates say started in 1982, actually was closed by 2002. Since then, the military pay gap has become a "pay surplus," even excluding improvements in [special pays](#) and [bonuses](#), CBO says.

Military associations dispute the CBO findings and support congressional efforts to continue to special military pay adjustments. The House in May voted to sustain the string of ECI-plus-a-half-percent military raises through 2012. The Senate bill deals only with the 2008 raise. When House-Senate conferees work a final compromise bill later this summer, the CBO findings could persuade conferees to adopt the Senate pay raise plan.

TRICARE INCREASES – Dr. S. Ward Casscells, the new assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, has said he intends to work with Congress and service associations on more modest TRICARE fee increases for under-65 retirees and their dependents than has been pushed so far by the Bush administration. The OMB letter doesn't reflect that air of compromise.

By not allowing the TRICARE fees and deductibles to rise as the administration planned, OMB chided, the Senate is adding \$1.86 billion, again "funds that would otherwise be available to support our troops."

RESERVE RETIREMENT – The Senate bill would lower the start of reserve retirement at age 60 by three months for every 90 days a reservist or Guard member is recalled after the change is enacted. The administration opposes this

move, arguing it fuels growth in military deferred compensation and overall entitlement spending and will “only marginally” improve career retention among for Reserve and Guard members.

CRSC FOR ‘CHAPTER 61’ RETIREES -- The Senate bill would expand eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation to certain retirees forced by their disabilities to leave service short of 20 years. Only those disabled by combat injuries would be eligible. CRSC payments would be set by plugging into the usual retired pay formula the smaller number of years that disabled retirees have served.

The House voted to expand CRSC only to Chapter 61 retirees who served at least 15 years and have combat-related disabilities rated 60 percent or higher. House-Senate conferees will have to reconcile the differences.

The administration opposes such “piecemeal changes to [disability compensation](#),” said OMB, noting that several commissions are studying disability pay. Congress should await a comprehensive reform package.

Sens. [Jim Webb](#) (D-Va.) and [Chuck Hagel](#) offered [an amendment](#) July 11 that would have assured active duty service members as much time back home as they spend deployed. Reserve component members would have been guaranteed a three-to-one, home-to-mobilization ratio. Republicans blocked the amendment from coming to a full Senate vote.

Hagel offered a second amendment to limit soldier deployments to Iraq to no more than 12 months and Marine deployments to no more than seven months.

With 60 votes needed, the measure was defeated 52 to 45. Forty four Republicans and Sen. [Joe Lieberman](#) (I-Conn.) voted against it.

To comment, e-mail milupdate@aol.com, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, 20120-1111 or visit: www.militaryupdate.com

We're All Gonna Die

By William Rivers Pitt

Friday 13 July 2007

We are all wired into a survival trip now.

- Hunter S. Thompson

Who can forget the incredible scandal that erupted back in May of 2002? Around about the middle of that month, details began to emerge about the August 6, 2001 Presidential Daily Briefing that specifically warned Bush about Osama bin Laden's determination to strike the United States.

Wait. Actually, everyone forgot, because two days later, the Bush administration unleashed a blizzard of dire warnings about impending terrorist attacks. FBI Director Robert Mueller intoned such attacks were "inevitable," and the Department of Homeland Security announced the imminent, explosive destruction of all American railroads, along with the Brooklyn Bridge and the Statue of Liberty.

Who can forget the incredible scandal that erupted back in June of 2003? Over the course of two days, reports emerged about serious doubts held by the CIA regarding the credibility of the administration's claim Iraq tried to buy uranium from Niger. On the heels of this, Congress unfurled its 9/11 report, which criticized all levels of the Bush administration for its performance before and during the attacks.

Wait. Actually, everyone forgot, because the Bush administration unleashed another blizzard of warnings about impending terrorist attacks. Specifically, the Department of Homeland Security warned terrorists were, once again, preparing to attack the United States with suicide missions using commercial airliners as bombs.

Who can forget the incredible scandal that erupted back in December of 2003? 9/11 Commission chairman Thomas Keane declared the attacks of 9/11 should have been prevented. The next day, a Federal appeals court ruled against the administration on the case of suspected terrorist Jose Padilla, stating Padilla could not be held indefinitely without being charged.

Wait. Actually, everyone forgot, because the Bush administration increased the terrorism threat level to Orange and claimed more suicide planes were about to come zooming out of the sky. Six international flights were diverted due to potential terrorist actions of some passengers who were later identified as an insurance salesman, an elderly Chinese woman and a five-year-old boy.

Who can forget the incredible scandal that erupted back in May of 2004? Secretary of State Colin Powell appeared on Meet the Press and stated the intelligence on Iraqi WMD he'd been given for his UN presentation had been "inaccurate and wrong and, in some cases, deliberately misleading." Horrifying new pictures of the torture, rape and murder of prisoners by Americans at Abu Ghraib prison became public. The American military accidentally bombed a wedding party in Iraq, killing 40 civilians.

Wait. Actually, everyone forgot, because FBI Director Mueller and Attorney General John Ashcroft announced they had reports from multiple sources of al Qaeda's "specific intention to hit the United States hard." The threat levels were not raised, but dire warnings of impending catastrophe were offered by the administration for the next several days.

The recipe is simple, like the directions on the back of a shampoo bottle. Damaging reports of Bush administration malfeasance emerge. Warnings of imminent terrorist-borne doom immediately follow, all spread far and wide by said Bush administration. Lather, rinse, repeat.

There are many more instances of this curious timing to be found, but apparently, no one in the administration is concerned this dubious pattern - spreading fear among the populace to change the subject, an act of terrorism itself - might start to wear thin.

Who is going to forget the incredible scandals of June and July of 2007? The Bush administration leaves Nixon in the dust by commuting the prison sentence of I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby. This action strongly suggests the existence of a quid pro quo between Libby and Bush's people to cover up the criminal activities of powerful officials like Vice President Dick Cheney, who had recently claimed his office wasn't part of the executive branch to avoid handing papers over to the National Archives.

The administration deploys spurious claims of Executive Privilege to avoid subpoenas regarding the patently illegal NSA wiretapping of American citizens.

That privilege is extended to deny Congressional access to Harriet Miers, former White House counsel, regarding the issue of fired US attorneys. Contempt charges are threatened against Miers, and the NSA subpoena stonewall comes closer to getting openly challenged in court. Alberto Gonzales is exposed as having lied to the Senate in his testimony about FBI abuses of the Patriot Act.

Few of the benchmarks for success in Iraq are met. Desperate to halt a tide of GOP defections from his Iraq policy, Bush again coughs up the totally discredited link between 9/11 and Iraq, saying, "The same people that attacked us on September the 11th is a crowd that is now bombing people, killing innocent men, women and children." The House again votes to withdraw American troops from Iraq. A new Harris poll on Bush's approval rating is published. The number reads 26 percent.

Wait.

Homeland Security chief Michael Chertoff all but guarantees devastating new terror attacks against the United States this summer. He bases this warning on a "gut feeling." White House spokesman Tony Snow threatens that withdrawal from Iraq would bring terrorism "to a shopping mall near you."

Meanwhile, al Qaeda is alleged to be as secure in Pakistan and Afghanistan as they were before 9/11, yet no one in the administration connects this new security to the drain of resources happening in Iraq. Additionally, no one in the administration points out the fact that, if Chertoff's gut is indeed correct, and we are indeed attacked again, responsibility for that attack will fall upon those who manufactured war in Iraq. Never mind the fact that if an attack is allowed to happen, even a minor one, more of our constitutional rights and protections will be eviscerated by the very same people who failed to stop it again.

Will everyone forget about the scandals of June and July 2007 amid these deadly warnings of coming death?

Lather, rinse, repeat.