

1: Operation Iraqi Freedom | The Invasion Of Iraq | FRONTLINE | PBS

The invasion of Iraq, led by U.S. Army General Tommy Franks, under the code-name "Operation Iraqi Freedom", the UK code-name Operation Telic, and the Australian code-name Operation Falconer. Coalition forces also cooperated with Kurdish Peshmerga forces in the north.

Moreover, to restrain future Iraqi aggression, the United Nations UN implemented economic sanctions against Iraq in order to, among other things, hinder the progress of its most lethal arms programs, including those for the development of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. See weapon of mass destruction. UN inspections during the mid-1990s uncovered a variety of proscribed weapons and prohibited technology throughout Iraq. Bill Clinton in 1998 ordered the bombing of several Iraqi military installations code-named Operation Desert Fox. After the bombing, however, Iraq refused to allow inspectors to reenter the country, and during the next several years the economic sanctions slowly began to erode as neighbouring countries sought to reopen trade with Iraq. In the new U. N. Security Council Resolution 1483, passed on November 8, 2003, demanded that Iraq readmit inspectors and that it comply with all previous resolutions. Iraq appeared to comply with the resolution, but in early 2003 President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair declared that Iraq was actually continuing to hinder UN inspections and that it still retained proscribed weapons. Other world leaders, such as French Pres. Jacques Chirac, the leaders of France, Germany, Russia, and other countries objected to this buildup toward war. This was followed by a series of air strikes directed against government and military installations, and within days U. S. Special Forces had previously been deployed to Kurdish-controlled areas in the north. In southern Iraq the greatest resistance to U. S. forces was provided by the Fedayeen, a heavily armed paramilitary group connected with the ruling party, which were deployed to defend the capital of Baghdad. Army and Marine forces advanced northwestward up the Tigris-Euphrates river valley, they bypassed many populated areas where Fedayeen resistance was strongest and were slowed only on March 25 when inclement weather and an extended supply line briefly forced them to halt their advance within 60 miles (95 km) of Baghdad. During the pause, U. S. Iraqi resistance, though at times vigorous, was highly disorganized, and over the next several days army and Marine Corps units staged raids into the heart of the city. On April 9 resistance in Baghdad collapsed, and U. S. forces entered the city. In the north, however, plans to open up another major front had been frustrated when the Turkish government refused to allow mechanized and armoured U. S. Army units to pass through Turkey to deploy in northern Iraq. Regardless, a regiment of American paratroopers did drop into the area, and U. S. Special Forces soldiers joined with Kurdish peshmerga fighters to seize the northern cities of Kirkuk on April 10 and Mosul on April 11. Isolated groups of regime loyalists continued to fight on subsequent days, but the U. S. Iraqi leaders fled into hiding and were the object of an intense search by U. S. forces. However, deaths of U. S. troops were low. The number of Iraqis who died during the conflict is uncertain. One estimate made in late 2003 put the total at more than 100,000, between the U. S. invasion and the fall of the regime. The continuing guerrilla assaults on occupying forces and leaders of the new Iraqi government in the years after the war only compounded the difficulty of rebuilding Iraq. Throughout the country Iraqis began the painful task of seeking loved ones who had fallen victim to the former regime; mass graves, the result of numerous government pogroms over the years, yielded thousands of victims. Many in the Middle East saw it as a new brand of anti-Arab and anti-Islamic imperialism, and most Arab leaders decried the occupation of a fellow Arab country by foreign troops. Reaction to the war was mixed in the United States. Though several antiwar protests occurred in American cities in the lead-up to the invasion, many opinion polls showed considerable support for military action against Iraq before and during the war.

2: Operation Iraqi Freedom

An extensive study of the war in Iraq undertaken shortly after official combat operations ceased. From the U.S. Army's Office of the Chief of Staff. Operation Iraqi Freedom: Casualties.

In Iraq, where danger is a constant, bases offer troops a taste of home. In Iraq, there is the "fob" — the forward operating base — and there is life outside the fob. The war beyond the wire is so draining that each of the more than fobs in Iraq is a hardened refuge for the nearly , U. Many soldiers spend a year in Iraq without ever leaving their fortified bases. Others may never meet an Iraqi, much less kill one. A soldier may patrol for months without ever seeing the enemy, yet risk death or disfigurement at any moment. Each day in Iraq will end, almost without exception, with an American on patrol losing an arm, a leg, an eye or a life to an earth-shattering detonation of high explosives. That these bombs are embedded in the most prosaic emblems of Iraqi life — a car, a donkey cart, a trash pile, a pothole — only intensifies the dread that attends every journey outside the wire. Inside each fob lies an ersatz America, a manifestation of the urge to create a lesser version of home in a hostile land. The three vast airport fobs, home to the 3rd Infantry Division and 18th Airborne Corps, have the ambience of a trailer park set inside a maximum-security prison. Soldiers live in white metal mobile homes piled high with sandbags. They have beds, televisions, air conditioning, charcoal grills and volleyball courts. At the flat, dusty airport fob called Liberty, there is a Burger King, a Subway sandwich shop and an Internet cafe. TV sets in mess halls and gyms blare basketball games or Fox News, the unofficial official news channel of the U. They are a chipper, efficient lot who, combined with soldiers from places like El Salvador and Estonia, give the fob the breezy, cosmopolitan feel of a misplaced Olympic Village. Tim Terese, left, discusses food options with Sgt. Fernando Rodriguez at a base near Baghdad. Army food is plentiful if not always healthy. Cheeseburgers and cheesesteaks hiss and pop on short-order grills. The aisles are clogged with M automatic rifles and flak vests set aside by soldiers. Fit young men and women in combat fatigues mingle with civilian contractors, some of them beer-bellied, bearded and well into middle age. Administrative specialists who never leave the fob are known, with some condescension, as fobbits. Like every soldier here, a fobbit is always at risk of sudden death from a random rocket or mortar round. From the relative safety of fobs, U. For staff officers billeted at fobs, the war sometimes has all the glamour and drama of a doctoral dissertation. Tom Perison, the future operations chief for the 42nd Infantry Division at FOB Danger in Tikrit, likes to joke that he is "at the pit of the spear" — a play on the "tip of the spear" analogy used by combat commanders. The measure of military success in Iraq lies not in cities taken or enemies killed. Doug Winton, a planner with the 3rd Infantry Division. This is a war in which soldiers must also be politicians, diplomats, engineers and city planners, as familiar with municipal budgets and sewage capacity as Ms and Abrams tanks. Their daily schedules are consumed by acronyms. The typical BUB — the daily battle update brief — lists attacks by roadside bombs and raids on insurgent hide-outs. But the briefings devote far more time to trash pickups, mosque sermons, road paving, school attendance and repairs to electrical substations. Many officers spend more time with Excel spreadsheets and PowerPoint presentations than in armored Humvees. Each meeting requires a perilous round-trip patrol. Not even an armored U. To leave the blast walls and sandbags is to virtually guarantee American casualties — without forcing the face-to-face firefights that U. If the defining mission of the Vietnam War was the jungle foot patrol, the defining mission of Iraq is the vehicle patrol. There are hundreds a day involving thousands of GIs. There is no such thing as a "routine patrol" in Iraq. Every patrol, whether to raid an insurgent hide-out or deliver the mail or attend a meeting, is a combat patrol. Jeffery Hammond, who finished an exhausting year in Iraq late last month. Each journey begins with a pre-combat review, a weapons check, a map session and a grave discussion of how casualties are to be handled. There are medics on every trip. Soldiers scrawl their blood types on their helmets and boots. Aspirin is banned — it promotes bleeding. In this war, face-to-face combat is rare. It is a war of stealth and cunning and brutally effective means of shredding human tissue. The signature weapon is the IED, the improvised explosive device, a lethal fusion of ordinary combat munitions and the electronic signal of the ubiquitous cell phone. It is the single biggest killer of U. Every trip outside the wire is also, by necessity, a

mission to search for IEDs. Soldiers on patrol are forever scanning the roadside. Their radio chatter focuses on the endless places to hide an IED, and on divining the intentions of approaching drivers, vegetable-cart owners and grinning little boys. Every car is a potential bomb, every pedestrian a possible suicide bomber. For soldiers on patrol, every Iraqi is the enemy until proven otherwise. All Iraqis are known as "hadjis," for the hajj, the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. Often the terms "hadji" and "the enemy" are used interchangeably. Some children smile and wave and try to cadge candy or coins from passing convoys. Most soldiers wave back but keep one hand on their weapons. Most Iraqi men, particularly young men, offer only baleful stares. Women are distant, spectral figures in black. There is a delicate ballet on roadways when convoys pass. Iraqi drivers have learned to pull off the road entirely and stop, flashing emergency blinkers to signal an absence of malice. Scores of Iraqi civilians have been shot dead by U. Raul Gamble, a civil affairs officer, made a point of stopping a patrol to pass out candy, pencils and paper Iraqi flags to a group of children and teenagers. Predictably, the handouts attracted a rowdy throng of grasping youths. Other soldiers on the patrol, fearing the crowd would draw an insurgent attack, were eager to leave. Other encounters are less congenial. A day after a soldier in their unit was killed by an IED outside Muqdadiyah, north of Baghdad, soldiers in an IED search team known as the Trailblazers discovered and detonated a roadside bomb nearby. On a concrete wall behind them was a drawing of an ass and the word "Bush. Surviving patrols is no guarantee of surviving the st; the first trip is as dangerous as the last. Daniel Torres, rode in a patrol with members of the unit they were replacing. It was a "right seat" ride, designed to familiarize new arrivals with conditions outside the fob. Both soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb. Soldiers on patrol say they find themselves bracing every few moments, anticipating an explosion. Some say they try to think of anything except the jury-rigged "hillbilly armor" some have added to their Humvees for protection, or the military-issue "up-armor" kits that can leave gaps in the armor plating. Soldiers say they try not to imagine shrapnel or super-heated shards of the vehicle blasting through the gaps. On his first convoy since he watched a good friend killed by a roadside bomb, Sgt. Travis Hall drove past the site of the explosion. He was one month into a one-year tour in which he expects to take several patrols a week. After hauling weapons and anti-American propaganda from an insurgent hide-out on the shore of Lake Hamrin near the Iranian border recently, a patrol from Task Force of the 3rd Infantry Division spent a listless afternoon on futile searches of surrounding hillsides. Then, in rapid succession, they watched another unit chase suspected insurgents through a village across the lake; listened to U. A soldier in Lt. Insurgents often leave markings to warn civilians about IEDs. A search of a culvert revealed a pair of 9-foot-long, millimeter rockets tucked under a riverside roadway. As the patrol radioed for an ordnance-disposal team, Deaton noticed several men standing on a far ridge. Fearing they were spotters preparing to detonate the rockets by remote control, he ordered a gunner in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle to fire a burst from his millimeter main gun. The rounds thudded against the ridge, scattering the men. Dustin Flowers and Pfc. Forrest Malone haul a rocket from an improvised explosive device. Later, they detonate the cache. Forrest Malone, sent out a tiny remote-controlled robot on wheels to investigate the rockets. Flowers, who had taken cover behind a boulder several hundred yards away, cursed at Malone over a two-way radio. He thought the private, who was just six months out of military explosives school, had botched the remote-control operation. Flowers is a veteran of 50 ordnance disposal missions in Iraq. Dustin Flowers is forced to don a bomb-protection suit and venture out to inspect ordnance because the batteries died on a remote-controlled robot. When the private explained that the battery had died, Flowers muttered, "That robot is gonna be the death of me," and began climbing into a pound bomb-protection suit. He would inspect the rockets himself. He asked Deaton to have a Bradley gunner fire machine-gun rounds into the rockets. The bullets would detonate the rockets if they had been wired to explode.

3: iCasualties Iraq: iCasualties Home Page

Read CNN's Fast Facts about the Iraq War, which was known as Operation Iraqi Freedom until September , when it was renamed Operation New Dawn.

Marines in northern Kuwait gear up after receiving orders to cross the Iraqi border on March 20, It has been more than 10 years since the American-led invasion of Iraq that toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein. Look back at moments from the war and the legacy it left behind. Hide Caption 1 of Photos: Hide Caption 2 of Photos: Hide Caption 3 of Photos: Richard Myers were present. Hide Caption 4 of Photos: Marine from Task Force Tarawa engages Iraqi forces from an armored assault vehicle on March 23, , in the southern city of Nasiriyah. Hide Caption 5 of Photos: As night falls on the city, the troops are on alert for a counterattack. Hide Caption 6 of Photos: Jessica Lynch off a helicopter on April 1, , at an undisclosed location in Iraq. She had been missing since March 23, when she and members of her unit were ambushed by Iraqi forces. Hide Caption 7 of Photos: Hide Caption 8 of Photos: Hide Caption 9 of Photos: Hide Caption 10 of Photos: Hide Caption 11 of Photos: The museum was severely looted. Hide Caption 12 of Photos: Hide Caption 13 of Photos: Hide Caption 14 of Photos: Standing beneath a banner that read "Mission Accomplished," the president declared major fighting over in Iraq and called it a victory in the ongoing war on terrorism. Hide Caption 15 of Photos: Hide Caption 16 of Photos: Hide Caption 17 of Photos: The house, in an affluent neighborhood, was the scene of a fierce gunbattle. Hide Caption 18 of Photos: The pipeline was blown apart by saboteurs two weeks earlier. Hide Caption 19 of Photos: Hide Caption 21 of Photos: Hide Caption 22 of Photos: Hide Caption 23 of Photos: Hide Caption 24 of Photos: Since , thousands of internally displaced Kurds have returned to Kirkuk. Hide Caption 26 of Photos: Hide Caption 27 of Photos:

4: Iraq War - Wikipedia

On this day in , President George W. Bush addresses the nation via live television and announces that Operation Iraqi Freedom has begun. Bush authorized the mission to rid Iraq of tyrannical.

Defense Manpower Data Center, b. Another substantial difference in how troops are being used to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan compared with past conflicts has been the growing reliance on the National Guard and reserves Table 2. Since the early s, with the end of the Cold War, there has been a steady reduction in the total number of troops in the US military. Furthermore, the Army National Guard has long had more personnel slots in its structure than it has been able to fill, and this has led to understaffed units. In addition, each generation of soldiers has faced challenges specific to its experiences in readjusting to civilian society. The features noted in the previous sectionâ€”the shift in demographics, the smaller active-duty all-volunteer force, the greater reliance on the reserve component, and the repeated and extended deploymentsâ€”have also led to issues that did not have to be addressed in previous conflicts. For example, greater reliance on older, married soldiers creates a new array of concerns related to family-life readjustment and the well-being of older children. Repeat deployments can also lead to additional financial and employment-related burdens, although for personnel with skills in great demand special pay and allowances may provide additional compensation beyond the combat- and deployment-related pay such as imminent-danger pay, hardship-duty pay, and family-separation allowances CBO, a. The direct effect of deployment on the service members and their families is not known, but this section briefly summarizes some of the challenges related to readjusting after deployment that have been reported in the popular press, government reports, and the peer-reviewed literature. The issues are discussed in greater detail in Chapter 4. Overview of Health Outcomes The proportion of service members who have been killed or wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan has been lower than that in past conflicts. Fatality-to-wounded ratios have been 1: The lower number of fatalities is attributable to the improved body armor provided to service members and improved emergency medical care in the war zone such as rapid evacuation to a trauma center. Consequently, more service members survive to return home with severe combat-related injuries that require additional care. For example, a large number of military personnel have survived blasts that resulted in such injuries as hearing loss and traumatic brain injury TBI Myles, According to a study by Hoge et al. Repeated deployments themselves have also contributed to mental health issues. Another troubling consequence of OEF and OIF deployment is the increase in the number of suicides reported in soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan since the start of the conflicts. Historically, the suicide rate has been lower in military members than in civilians matched by age and sex. In , the suicide rate in the US military was estimated at 10â€”13 per , troops, depending on the branch of the military Allen et al. However, recent data from the National Violent Death Reporting System indicate that male veterans 8 18â€”29 years old had a suicide rate of As of October , there were already reported suicides 90 confirmed and 43 pending , which is the record for a year; in the same period in , there were confirmed suicides of active-duty soldiers Department of the Army, ; hence, might well see a new record. A new National Institute of Mental Healthâ€”sponsored study of suicide in the US armed forces has been started to investigate the risk factors for soldier suicide. Problems with substance abuse, particularly alcohol, have also been reported in OEF and OIF military personnel and veterans in the peer-reviewed literature and in the popular press. It is unknown whether the alcohol problems differ between the military population and the civilian population. In the United States, about 1 in 12 adults abuses alcohol or is dependent on alcohol; alcohol problems are highest among people 18â€”29 years old NIAAH, On the basis of data from the â€” National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions, between â€” and â€”, alcohol abuse 9 increased in the US civilian population from 3. Moreover, on the basis of mass-media reports, diagnoses of alcoholism and alcohol abuse increased from 6. However, because of the long-standing policy whereby self-referral for substance abuse can be reported to the chain of command, the numbers being reported are probably underestimates of the true number. The readjustment needs associated with these health outcomes are discussed in greater detail in Chapter 4. Overview of Social Outcomes Employment, Financial Hardships, and Homelessness Several

non-health-related problems faced by service members have been documented. Gaps in pay and benefits that have resulted in debt and other hardships have been reported. For example, there is evidence that service members have been pursued for repayment of military debt, such as unpaid expenses for lost or damaged military equipment, medical services, household moves, insurance premiums, and travel advances. Often times, however, they were pursued for collection of military debts that were incurred through no fault of their own; those included overpayment of pay and allowances, pay calculation errors, and erroneous leave payments GAO, The service members have also been prevented from obtaining loans GAO, Moreover, there have been reports in the popular press that National Guard and reserve members have been unable to return to the civilian jobs that they left before their deployments 60 Minutes, November 2, despite protective provisions in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of , a federal law intended to ensure that persons who serve or have served are not disadvantaged in their civilian careers because of their service. The problem is especially common among those employed by small businesses: Veterans for America found that some small businesses avoid hiring citizen soldiers Veterans for America, According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans , veterans are more likely to become homeless because their work skills may not be readily transferable to the civilian sector. In addition, although there are no data on the number of homeless OEF and OIF veterans, because of the large number of troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with mental health problems or TBI, there is concern that they may be at higher risk for homelessness. A recent study by Vogt et al. The study also found that the longer a parent is absent, the greater the risk of family dysfunction after deployment, and the risk is greater when the deployed parent is the mother. Family Relationships Deployments and frequent relocation are inherent in military life. The physical separation, especially when the deployments are to combat zones, is difficult for families. Often, families have little warning of a deployment, and the deployments extend beyond the originally stated duration. Adjusting to the different roles that each partner plays before and after deployment for example, going from an interdependent state to an independent state and back to an interdependent state is one of the challenges that married couples face. Service members are expected to work long and unpredictable hours, especially in preparation for deployment, and this puts additional stresses on couples and families. Moreover, when service members return from deployment with physical injuries or cognitive deficits, these problems may contribute to marital conflict. Although those effects have not been studied extensively in the military population, data on marital satisfaction in civilian populations suggest that depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and TBI all adversely affect personal relationships and pose a higher risk of divorce Davila et al. Recent data from the Army show an overall increase in the number of divorces since the start of OEF and OIF, especially in female soldiers. Cotton reported that in , 8. Similarly, although the rate is lower, 2. The rate of domestic violence is higher in military couples than in civilian couples. Children The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have taken a toll on the children of US troops deployed there. Children of US troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan reportedly sought outpatient mental health services 2 million times in Andrews et al. Additionally, an increase in the rate of child maltreatment has been reported since the start of the conflicts. They reported a statistically significant two-fold increase in substantiated maltreatment in military families in the 1-year period after September 11, , compared with the period before then. A recent study of over 1, military families Gibbs et al. Because of the demographics of those who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan older service members who are married and have children , the number of children who have been affected by these conflicts is clearly larger than in past conflicts. Caregivers Many severely injured service members depend on family members for daily caregiving. Health care is delivered by DOD through the military health system MHS to active-component service members and their dependents, to reserve-component members and their dependents when they are on active duty, and to some military retirees and their dependents. Service members who separate from the military may be eligible for health care administered by VA, which is organized into 23 veterans-integrated service networks where veterans who qualify Table 2. All veterans with at least 24 months of continuous active-duty service and other than a dishonorable discharge are eligible to receive care from VA. Enrollment eligibility is determined through an eight-step process see Chapter 5 in which the veteran 12 completes and submits the Application for Health Benefits VA Form EZ. In 7â€”10 days, a decision letter is sent to the veteran stating

his or her enrollment eligibility Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes, Effective January 28, , OEF and OIF veterans who enroll within the first 5 years after separating from the military are eligible for enhanced enrollment placement into priority group 6 for 5 years after discharge. VA provides other benefits to veterans, including home loans, life insurance, vocational counseling, employment assistance, and education and training. Others, such as Grace After Fire, provide on-line recovery services to female veterans. Because of the great breadth and number of initiatives that are available at the grassroots level, it is beyond the scope of this report to provide a comprehensive review of them; however, Chapter 5 provides more detail on the available federal programs that have been developed in response to OEF and OIF. Even as they continue to address the readjustment needs of OEF and OIF service members, veterans, and their families, more work remains. The demands on the forces, the repeated deployments, the shorter dwell times, the activation of parents, and the separation of families have all resulted in unmet needs for many of those who serve. The following chapters provide more detailed information on what those needs are, what programs are available, and what the possible next steps to address the needs might be.

5: Bush announces the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom - HISTORY

In March , in the ever-so-euphemistically titled Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF), a war which was never a vital national security interest, the US government placed America's cherished servicemen squarely in the middle of two nefarious regional competitors.

March 20, We were always caught in the middle. As a young man, a new lieutenant, and a true believer, I once led a US Army scout platoon just south of Baghdad. It was autumn , and my platoon patrolled "mainly aimlessly" through the streets and surrounding fields of Salman Pak. To our north lay the vast Shia heartland of East Baghdad, to our south and east, the disgruntled and recently disempowered Sunnis of the rural hinterlands. Both sides executed teenagers caught on the wrong side of town, leaving the bodies for us to find. Each side sought to win American favor; both tried to kill us. It was a battle of attrition; a war for land, yes, but more importantly a war for the mind. Some years earlier, Salman Pak was known as Ctesiphon and was the populous capital of a powerful civilization. The Iraqi Shia were proud of this past; the local Sunnis were not. Sunni insurgents still called the Shia "Sassanids," or "Persians," and they meant it as a pejorative. History was present and alive in Iraq. Still, few of my young soldiers knew "or cared" about any of this. They merely sought survival. In nighttime raids and daytime searches, we found Saudi "Wahhabi" Islamist propaganda on the floor of car bomb factories. They utilized their demographic plurality and fought the Sunnis for power in the new, US-imposed Iraqi "democracy;" occasionally, they found time to shatter our HMMWVs and our bodies with Iranian supplied explosive penetrators. The US Army battled each side, and feared them both. Salman Pak, my own little war, was a microcosm of a failed policy. When the Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld cabal of neoconservatives along with a core of complicit "liberals" on Capitol Hill collaborated to topple Saddam, the US became the proud owner of a fractured, ethno-sectarian basket case. The invasion and occupation of Iraq inserted the US military square in the middle of the ongoing regional proxy war between Shia Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia. A civil war broke out. Tens of thousands of civilians and thousands of US troopers died. By the time I arrived, in October , the place was aflame. Fear not, we were told: Bush and his new, brainy general "some Petraeus guy" would "surge" troops and win the day after all. Violence did "briefly" decline; the Iraqi government, however, failed to garner legitimacy. The last American soldiers marched out in December . A day later, the Shia prime minister tried to arrest the Sunni vice president. Sectarian relations soured again until a new version of an old group "ISIS" preyed on Sunni resentment and conquered a third of Iraq in . Some American soldiers have already died, with upwards of 30, more wounded. And, like a bad sitcom, the US military still spends most of its time fighting spin-off wars Syria, Iraq 2. If bin Laden himself had authored it, he could hardly have written a more dreadful quagmire for the US military. This is the stuff which feeds conspiratorial thinking. It feeds itself; it morphs; it grows; it, in the prescient words of bin Laden, "restores" Islamist energies. America, the guileless behemoth, brimming with hubris, somehow cannot see it. The sheer irrationality of the whole endeavor borders "15 years later" on the absurd. Neither is a true friend to US interests or values. Neither cares whether US soldiers live or die. Each has its own agenda and plays US policymakers and generals like so many fiddles. The rational move for America is to opt out; do less; and walk away before sinking farther into the next quagmire. Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Shia militiamen aligned with Iran exploded a massive bomb which unleashed shrapnel that tore apart three other young men. Sergeant "Ducks" Duzinkas lost most of an arm. They never knew what hit them, just as our platoon never knew who, or what, exactly, we were fighting. My boys were sacrificed on the altar of American hubris. Perhaps the citizenry should ponder that "before the next escalation in Iraq. Major Danny Sjursen, an Antiwar. Army officer and former history instructor at West Point. He served tours with reconnaissance units in Iraq and Afghanistan. Soldiers, Civilians, and the Myth of the Surge. He lives with his wife and four sons in Lawrence, Kansas. The views expressed in this article are those of the author, expressed in an unofficial capacity, and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Department of the Army, Department of Defense, or the U.

6: Packing Heavy! The Combat Kit for U.S. Soldiers in Operation Iraqi Freedom

Syria War: Syrian Army Helmet Cam GoPro Combat - Heavy Clashes With ISIS During Combat In Abu Kamal - Duration: WarLeaks - Military Archive 1,, views.

After waging an ill-advised war of choice in Iraq, the U. We were always caught in the middle. It was autumn , and my platoon patrolled "mainly aimlessly" through the streets and surrounding fields of Salman Pak. To our north lay the vast Shia heartland of East Baghdad, to our south and east, the disgruntled and recently disempowered Sunnis of the rural hinterlands. Both sides executed teenagers caught on the wrong side of town, leaving the bodies for us to find. It was a battle of attrition; a war for land, yes, but more importantly a war for the mind. Some years earlier, Salman Pak was known as Ctesiphon and was the populous capital of a powerful civilization. The Iraqi Shia were proud of this past; the local Sunnis were not. Sunni insurgents still called the Shia "Sassanids," or "Persians," and they meant it as a pejorative. History was present and alive in Iraq. Still, few of my young soldiers knew "or cared" about any of this. They merely sought survival. In nighttime raids and daytime searches, we found Saudi "Wahhabi" Islamist propaganda on the floor of car bomb factories. They utilized their demographic plurality and fought the Sunnis for power in the new, US-imposed Iraqi "democracy;" occasionally, they found time to shatter our HMMWVs and our bodies with Iranian supplied explosive penetrators. The US Army battled each side, and feared them both. Salman Pak, my own little war, was a microcosm of a failed policy. When the Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld cabal of neoconservatives along with a core of complicit "liberals" on Capitol Hill collaborated to topple Saddam, the US became the proud owner of a fractured, ethno-sectarian basket case. The invasion and occupation of Iraq inserted the US military square in the middle of the ongoing regional proxy war between Shia Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia. A civil war broke out. By the time I arrived, in October , the place was aflame. Fear not, we were told: Bush and his new, brainy general "some Petraeus guy" would "surge" troops and win the day after all. The last American soldiers marched out in December Sectarian relations soured again until a new version of an old group "ISIS" preyed on Sunni resentment and conquered a third of Iraq in If bin Laden himself had authored it, he could hardly have written a more dreadful quagmire for the US military. This is the stuff which feeds conspiratorial thinking. It feeds itself; it morphs; it grows; it, in the prescient words of bin Laden, "restores" Islamist energies. The sheer irrationality of the whole endeavor borders "15 years later" on the absurd. Neither is a true friend to US interests or values. Neither cares whether US soldiers live or die. Each has its own agenda and plays US policymakers and generals like so many fiddles. The rational move for America is to opt out; do less; and walk away before sinking farther into the next quagmire. Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Shia militiamen aligned with Iran exploded a massive bomb which unleashed shrapnel that tore apart three other young men. Sergeant "Ducks" Duzinkas lost most of an arm. They never knew what hit them, just as our platoon never knew who, or what, exactly, we were fighting. My boys were sacrificed on the altar of American hubris. Perhaps the citizenry should ponder that

7: Unmitigated Failure: Operation Iraqi Freedom, 15 Years Later - www.enganchecubano.com Original

Did Operation Iraqi Freedom validate a new theory of warfare in which special forces, high technology, and creative war plans will replace America's traditional assets of firepower, maneuver.

Facebook Twitter The modern soldier now carries the heaviest combat load in the history of war. Weighing in at over 88 pounds in some cases, it is no wonder why so many combat veterans are coming home with back and knee problems. The pockets and patches are secured with a hook and pile material instead of buttons like their predecessors. The original camo pattern is called Universal Camo Pattern, which is digitized with shades of green, tan, and grey. The A2CU is very similar to the ACU uniform, but has a few changes in the pockets, including some with zippers, and a hook and pile strap around the waist that is adjustable. Because of strict uniform regulations on post, soldiers going out on missions would often have to carry these uniform variations to their motor pool and change in the vehicles. Some units were allowed to wear the boonie cap which is a wide-brimmed hat that provides a bit more protection from the sun. The standard patrol cap was worn on some posts, so soldiers would often carry both on them depending on where their mission took them. Boots were issued in two styles including a summer and winter variant. Summer boots include vents near the arch of the foot which allows ventilation. Winter boots are made of a waterproof material and have a thin layer of insulation inside. This bullet-resistant vest featured front and back protective plates originally. Later, side plates were added, along with neck, shoulder, and groin protective pads. With all of these attachments, the vest weighed in at 33 pounds. Jared Jenkins and 1st. Later, in , the Improved Outer Tactical Vest was introduced. This is similar to the IBA, but has a quick-pull cord to allow the vest to be removed quickly in an emergency situation. Also, the side plate carriers are built into the vest, unlike the IBA. One major complaint about this vest is that it hangs lower and the plates rub on the upper thighs when walking. Some high-speed soldiers would purchase custom load carriers that could also be worn over the IBA. Mannequin of a U. This kind of protection was used by turret gunners during the Iraq War, to protect them against small arms fire and fragmentation. The IFAK consists of a small medical kit containing a tourniquet, combat gauze, 14 gauge needle for chest decompression, tape, and gloves. Some team members would also carry their radios attached to the vests. The helmet was designed so that night vision optics could easily be attached to the front-mounted plate. Soldiers would often have their battle roster numbers sewn to this green band. Attachments such as flashlights and infrared beacons could be attached to the sides of the helmet. Weapons The most commonly carried weapon by combat troops is the M-4 carbine. The carbine is also outfitted with a picatinny rail on the handguards and in place of the carrying handle on its predecessor. The basic ammunition load on this weapon is rounds of 5. The M is a variant of the M-4 carbine which sports a 40 mm single shot grenade launcher under the barrel and handguard. One member of each squad or team often carried this weapon. M-9 pistols were often assigned to platoon leaders and sergeants. This Beretta pistol fires 9mm ammunition from a 10 round magazine. They are known for being rugged, reliable, and fairly lightweight. The SAW is capable of fully automatic fire and is fed with linked 5. SAW gunners carry a minimum of rounds of spare ammunition in plastic drums. Since these gunners carry a heavy load, this burden is often passed to the new or lower ranking individuals on the team. The M red dot Aimpoint sight was one of the more common attachments. Some soldiers were assigned Advanced Combat Optical Gunsights or Eotech sights which were highly sought after. Vehicle mounted weapons included the MB, M2 caliber machine gun, and Mk grenade launchers. The turrets that these weapons were mounted to were initially controlled by a crank that allowed the turret to rotate on target. Later, the turrets were controlled by an electronic joystick and motor which allowed the gunner to rotate the turret quickly. A MB in use by a U. Accessories Many accessories were worn by soldiers. Depending on unit regulations, some were mandatory, and often these regulations would change during the deployment. Ballistic eye protection was required to be worn at all times. Tinted glasses could be worn during the daytime, and clear lenses were required at night. Oakley brand eye protection was very popular and was issued by some units. Soldiers requiring corrective lenses for their vision were issued eye protection with corrective lenses. Wilkerson displays all the required head personal protective equipment here. Personal

protective equipment serves as a barrier between military personnel and many hazards that can be found in Iraq. Knee and elbow pads were required to be worn by some units. These bulky protective pads provided excellent protection when taking a knee or going prone in rocky environments. When seated, however, the straps of the knee pads would often cut off circulation to the legs. Night Optical Devices were required to be carried at all times, and were secured to the ACH helmet with a tie-down. During use, they attached to a plate mounted on the helmet and were able to be rotated into a up or down locked position. Gloves were also a requirement, and some civilian models were approved for wear. A much thicker cold-weather glove was issued also, but not used very often. Medics and forward observers also carried a heavy burden in combat zones. All supplies contained within were stocked and inventoried by the medic. These supplies often included items for trauma support such as gauze, tourniquets, compression wraps, and other items to open airways and assist with breathing. Morphine was required to be kept in a locked container and accounted for because of abuse in some units. Not only are all these items extremely heavy when added up, but they are also very expensive. Lost equipment happens, and the replacement cost falls on the soldier who signed for it. However, these items improve the safety of the soldier, so some sacrifices must be made.

8: Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn Fast Facts - CNN

The eight mission objectives for Operation Iraqi Freedom are: End the regime of Saddam Hussein. This objective was the most immediate and important purpose of the military operation.

9: DCAS - Operation Iraqi Freedom - Conflict Casualties

On this day in , President George W. Bush addresses the nation via live television and announces that Operation Iraqi Freedom has begun. Bush authorized the mission to rid Iraq of tyrannical dictator Saddam Hussein and eliminate Hussein's ability to develop weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

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