Andén-Papadopoulos, Kari. "US Soldier Imaging in the Iraq War on YouTube." *Popular Communication* 7 (2009): 17-27.

-Notes

Sites such as MySpace, YouTube, Google Video, LiveLeak and military.com abound with violent videos and stills from combat soldiers, some set to heavy metal or rap music and including troops

using obscene language.

-pp. 1

Also, the recurrent video tributes to fallen soldiers foreground a controversial and highly emotional subject: the premature and violent deaths of young US soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. My analysis suggests that these audiovisual productions by active duty soldiers can provide us with the kind of critical perspectives needed for a more open democratic questioning of US foreign policy and the conduct of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

-pp. 2

Iraqi insurgent imagery is also prevalent, showing the bloody work of sectarian death squads, and U.S. soldiers being shot and blown up (Johnson, 2007). The insurgent videos, set to inspiring

religious soundtracks or chanting, are not only aimed at drawing new recruits and donations,

but at terrorizing of the enemy with the violent spectacle. Increasingly, these spectacles of

terror are staged primarily to generate footage to be circulated in the media, and thereby

subject potential mass audiences to the shocking displays of destruction.

-pp. 3

-Is YouTube an answer to the Iraqi insurgent videos put on the internet?

-How do they **represent** Canadian?

-How do Canadians **relate** to homemade videos? How do they portray themselves and how is it seen by their colleagues?

Bronson, I looked into You Tube and found, as you say, that most videos are not so appealing; furthermore, the vast majority is done by TV chains, which probably means that it is highly regulated, especially in the US – more than in Canada, in seems. Also, the moral images (done by V stations) show, for the US military, mutilated children, and for the Canadians, a soldier shaking a kid’s hands. For both, it is about 20% of their clips. Or the rest, there is about 80% spent on ammo, same in US and Canada, and in Canada, there is 20% of clips that show dead/coffins, and as many who show Capt Goddart

The popularity of internet communications in war zones has led the Pentagon to begin closely monitoring what its troops post online, with special attention being paid to images that show the aftermath of combat (Greene, 2006). A policy instituted in the spring of 2005, however, requires all military bloggers inside Iraq to register with their units. It gives unit commanders the

authority to review blogs and other communications before they are sent, to make sure there

are no violations of operational security.

-pp. 3

-What is the role of these videos in the connection of an image of the soldier? What is the CF’s reaction to it?

The video clips uploaded by US soldiers on YouTube cover a range of settings, activities, and emotions: combat action, routine patrolling, colloquial interaction with Iraqi civilians, recreation in the barracks, and tributes to fallen comrades.

-pp. 5

The video clip caused the Marine Corps to expel David Motari and to take disciplinary measures against a second Marine involved.

-pp. 9

-**What are CF actions/regulations/disciplinary actions against propagation of CF-related images/texts; do they question and condemn only info that have operational implications, do they question and condemn other type of info that could set a bad image?**

The authenticity of the soldiers’ experience lends a heightened sense of veracity and immediacy to their representations of war. The “reality effect” is further underscored by the soldiers’ personal point of view, and the often raw emotionalism and poor technical quality of their amateur videos.

-pp. 12