

GI SPECIAL 2#B10

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME



Fellow soldiers pause as the flag draped casket is loaded into the hearse at the funeral for New Jersey National Guard Sgt. Homberto Timoteo of the 3rd Battalion of the 112th Field Artillery, in Newark, June 12. Timoteo was one of four soldiers from the same unit killed last week in Iraq (REUTERS/Chip East)

Thailand Withdrawing Troops From Iraq

30/06/2004 ABC Asia Pacific TV / Radio Australia

Thailand will begin withdrawing military forces from Iraq *Thursday*.

The decision comes amid concerns over worsening security following the official hand over of sovereignty.

South East Asia correspondent, Peter Lloyd, reports that Thailand was touted by the US as one of the 'coalition of the willing' when it agreed to send 450 engineer and medics on a one-year deployment last September.

Officials in Bangkok had been insisting the troops would see out their mission, despite calls for them to withdraw after two Thai soldiers were killed in a car bombing last December.

But now it has been announced that a phased withdrawal of military hardware and some troops will start from Thursday.

A Defence Ministry official said the decision did not reverse Thailand's one-year commitment, but he refused to specify how many troops would remain in Iraq until September.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra says Thai troops will be brought home sooner if attacks on foreigners worsen.

GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans' benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

SOLDIER KILLED, TWO WOUNDED IN MOSUL IED ATTACK

July 1, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release
Number: 04-07-01C & By Edward Wong New York Times

MOSUL, IRAQ - One Multi-National Force Soldier was killed and two were wounded after an improvised explosive device attack on a convoy south of Mosul July 1. The wounded were evacuated to a military medical facility.

1 July 2004 By Edward Wong New York Times

Television footage of the Mosul bombing showed American soldiers in battle gear and Iraqi police officers carrying AK-47 assault rifles standing around the wreckage site. Several people loaded a wounded Iraqi man into the back of a Red Crescent ambulance, which then raced off beneath rows of palm trees.

Marine Lance Cpl. Rafael Reynosa, 28, a mortarman assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Pendleton died Saturday. J of hostile fire in Al Anbar Province (AP Photo/Family Photo)



**SACRIFICED FOR CORPORATE GREED AND
EMPIRE:
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



Marine Lance Cpl. Patrick Adle, left, Cpl. Josh Tackett, center, and Tackett's brother Cpl. Bruce Tackett. **Adle and two other Marines were killed Tuesday, June 29 by a roadside bomb in Baghdad.** (AP Photo/Courtesy of Josh Tackett)

Marine Killed In Al Anbar Province

7.1.04 BAGHDAD (Reuters)

A U.S. Marine was killed in action on Thursday in western Iraq, scene of clashes between American troops and insurgents on the outskirts of Falluja.

Witnesses said several U.S. military vehicles were damaged in the clashes on the eastern edge of the city and at least four guerrillas were wounded.

11 Wounded In Mortar Attack On U.S. Baghdad Airport Base, Fuel Burning

June 30, 2004 BAGHDAD, Iraq AP & Albuquerque Journal July 1, 2004

Insurgents fired at least 10 mortar rounds at a U.S. base on the outskirts of Baghdad International Airport on Wednesday, wounding 11 soldiers, two of them seriously, and starting a fire that burned for well over an hour.

The attack was yet more evidence that insurgents have no plans of letting up their attacks even after the U.S. coalition authorities "handed over sovereignty" on Monday.

Guerrillas struck the logistics base on the edge of Baghdad's airport at about 8:15 a.m., said Lt. Col. Richard Rael, their commander. The base is operated by the New Mexico Army National Guard's 515 Corps Support Battalion.

"We're OK," Rael said. "We'll get back to business as usual."

A pall of black smoke hung over the airport for an hour after one of the 82 mm mortar rounds struck a petroleum products yard. There were no injuries from the fire.

The base has been subject to almost daily mortar attacks, but this was the first time the attacks caused significant casualties and damage.

Log Base Seitz, has seen a surge in violence since Monday's transfer of governing powers to local authorities. The 515th's base is near the town of Abu Ghraib— where the infamous prison is located— and gunfire there has increased, he said.

Mortar attacks come from the town.

The 11 injured were picking up supplies in an open area of the base, Rael said. A yard holding equipment also caught fire.

"You have a two-second or three-second time to seek cover," Rael described the almost routine attacks. "Our drill calls for them to hit the ground immediately, because when they hit the ground, they have a very good chance of surviving."

Roughly 700 maintenance, trucking and cargo soldiers provide supplies to thousands of nearby combat soldiers and assist with treating and evacuating the injured.

Daily life there means working 12 hours a day, occasionally dodging mortar rounds. Rifle fire and rocket-propelled grenades rattle the outside areas but pose little danger inside the base's walls.



A U.S. Army soldier surveys the damage after a mortar attack wounded 11 U.S. Army soldiers at Log Base Seitz, an Army logistics compound June 30. (AP Photo/Jim MacMillan)

Facts On The Ground

6.30.04 KNIGHT RIDDER News Service

The number of what the now-disbanded Coalition Provisional Authority called significant insurgent attacks skyrocketed from 411 in February to 1,169 in May.

REAL BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Task Force 1st Armored Division Soldier Dies, Four Injured in Wreck

June 30, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release Number: 04-06-28C

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A Task Force 1st Armored Division Soldier was killed and four other Soldiers were injured in a single-vehicle accident in the early evening of June 30. The injured Soldiers were evacuated to a military medical facility and are under observation at this time. The accident was non-combat related.

The accident occurred just north of the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Marine Shot In Head: Phone Call Home Interrupted By Insurgent Attack

June 30, 2004 By Rob Dennis, STAFF WRITER Oakland Tribune

Marine Cpl. Henry Willson already had whisked four wounded comrades to safety during a firefight in Iraq last week, but there were more who needed the Irvington High School graduate's help.

He raced to a fifth Marine's aid.
That's when he was shot in the head.

He survived. But the bullet, which struck his left eyebrow and ear, caused permanent hearing loss on that side.

"He was very lucky," said his mother, Isolde Sedano of Newark. "Very, very lucky. ... He said he has used nine lives already. He doesn't know if he has any left."

Willson, 21, called his parents Sunday morning, three days after he was shot in the battle near Fallujah, to let them know he'll remain in Iraq at least two weeks for observation. After he undergoes a second surgery, he'll be flown to Germany and then home.

He enlisted with Fremont high school buddy Brandon Benner, who recently returned to his base in North Carolina from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Based in Camp Pendleton, San Diego, Willson shipped out to Iraq at the beginning of the war last year and served for seven months. He returned to the fighting in March.

He's spent both of his wedding anniversaries in Iraq.

"The good thing is that at least they are not going to send him back (into combat) again," Sedano said. "I want him home."

An avid fisherman, camper and poker player -- and a recent convert to country-western music -- Willson has a wicked sense of humor, his mom said.

"He jokes a lot," she said. "If you're really in a bad mood, he'll (put) you in a good mood."

His letters from Iraq, for example, always contain a reminder for his grandmother about the \$150 she still owes him for a cribbage game. And after he was shot, he told Sedano, "Mom, I have good news -- I won't have any wrinkles in my left side." When she asked him why, he replied, "I can't move my left eyebrow."

Although Willson is conflicted about returning home while his comrades remain, Sedano just wants him back. Even now, he's not safe, she said. *He originally called home Saturday, but the line was disconnected when insurgents attacked the hospital.*

Havelock Native Wounded In Blast

06/30/2004 Tom Boné, Havelock News

Bonnie and Dwayne Whiting of Havelock are breathing collective sighs of relief after receiving word their son, Army National Guard Specialist Trelain Whiting, 19, was wounded in Iraq last week.

Whiting was injured in an attack June 24 in Baqubah, Iraq.

The attack left his company commanding officer and a fellow specialist dead in an attack on their Bradley fighting vehicle "by enemy forces using small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades."

"Both soldiers were assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry, Jacksonville, N.C.," according to the Department of Defense.

The Whitings have been cautious about watching media reports of the mounting casualties in Iraq since their son was deployed in January.

"I just don't like to listen to the media reports," said Bonnie Whiting. "In all this time never once did I ever believe he'd be hurt. I wouldn't let myself think that way."

She had to start thinking about it when her husband, better known by friends and family as "D," came to tell her he had spoken with their son, who was in a field hospital.

"He said the first thing my Trelain said was 'Well Dad, I got my Purple Heart,'" she recalls. "They got him on the phone within eight hours of the attack."

The Whitings, both former Marines, are very familiar with casualty notification procedures, and they agree a phone call from their son was comforting.

“I’d rather get the call from him than from someone else,” said “D” Whiting.

He got the first call, and by Saturday, Bonnie Whiting was able to speak with her son, who reported he was recuperating, and probably headed home by mid-July.

“I didn’t get much of the details, but he did say he had first and second degree burns on his face and upper body,” she said.

“He also has a ruptured eardrum and shrapnel wounds to the right eye, cheek and hand, and phosphate burns on his arms. The doctors say those are chemical burns from the explosion of the missile.”

Whiting says her son joined the Army National Guard between his junior and senior year at Havelock High School.

As they wait for their son to return to Havelock on convalescent leave she says “his wounds will heal — and I’m just glad he made it alive.”



Trelain Whiting

Worker From Panhandle Killed

Jun. 30, 2004 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A 44-year-old contractor was killed by small-arms fire in Iraq, his employer said Tuesday.

Joseph Arguelles of Springfield was riding in a coalition transport plane when it was hit by fire Sunday after taking off from Baghdad International Airport. He was the only person killed in the incident, his employer said.

Arguelles worked for Readiness Management Services, a subsidiary of Johnson Controls Inc., based in Milwaukee, Wis.

Arguelles was deployed to Iraq in October to work in the Baghdad area with a 10-man readiness management services crew. The group's job is maintaining electric power generators used to run water-pumping stations in Iraq's capital city. (As if there aren't any Iraqis who could do that. Johnson Controls must have friends in Washington.)

El Paso Marine Wounded, "Leg Nearly Severed"

June 30, 2004 Laura Cruz, El Paso Times

A 2003 Riverside High School graduate who fulfilled a lifelong dream by joining the U.S. Marines was seriously wounded June 18 when a grenade landed near him and several other Marines in Fallujah, Iraq.

Lance Cpl. Ben Gonzalez, 19, of 2/1 Marine Division, is being treated at the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland for shrapnel wounds he received to both legs and his lower back.

"We were on dismounted patrol one night and we stopped for security reasons on the side of the road," Gonzalez said Tuesday in a telephone interview with the El Paso Times from Bethesda.

"I had my back to the road, and all of a sudden I felt this huge pressure in my ears and they began to ring," recalled the former high-school football star, who was a linebacker for the Riverside Rangers in 2002. "Then I heard a boom. My legs were bleeding, one of my boots had flown off, and one of my legs was nearly severed."

Gonzalez said that no one was killed during the attack and that he received "the worst of the blow" when "an enemy threw a grenade at us from a moving vehicle."

"I felt pain. It was very unbearable," he said. "The other Marines saw me, set up a security, got on the radio and called for medevac. All I remember after that was getting on a truck and moving."

Later that day Gonzalez's family received a phone call from a Marine at Camp Pendleton, Calif., telling them the news.

"I was in disbelief," said Gonzalez's father, Benito Gonzalez. "It was like a dream. Like it wasn't happening. I'm still in disbelief, but reality is starting to set in."

The family and Gonzalez's fiancée, Mindy Samaniego, quickly reacted and flew to Maryland to see their loved one.

"When we first saw him, he was still out of it," Benito Gonzalez said. "He was moving, but not really conscious. It was very scary and I felt like breaking down -- he's my baby still -- but I didn't. I had to be brave for him."

Samaniego, who has been dating Gonzalez since they were in seventh grade, said that when she learned of the attack, she was panicked and worried.

"When I did see him, I was just happy to see him," she said. "I felt better to be by his side and know he was OK."

The couple became engaged last year at midnight Christmas Day and are still planning to get married.

"He had written the proposal on a piece of paper and gave me the ring in a box," she recalled.

Gonzalez is the third El Pasoan reported wounded in Iraq since April. Airman 1st Class Scott Palomino, 20, a 2002 Burges High School graduate, lost his lower left leg April 10 when a mortar round exploded in his tent in Iraq. Marine Pfc. Gonzalo Ruiz, 18, a 2003 Andress High School graduate, was wounded April 3 when the vehicle he was traveling in was damaged by a bomb.

"It's helped to have them here because I'm making a lot of progress. I'm not sure if I'm staying in. Right now I'm just trying to recover and get home," he said. "Joining the Marines was something I had always wanted to do. I love the Marines. I still do."

Lifetime Friends Wounded

June 30, 2004 by ANDREW SCHOTZ, The Herald-Mail Company

Two Hedgesville men serving with the West Virginia Air National Guard's 167th Airlift Wing were wounded in Iraq Monday when a homemade explosive device blew up near their convoy, the wing's chief of staff said Tuesday.

Of the two, Staff Sgt. Brad Runkles was more severely injured, but is expected to fully recover, said Lt. Col. Roger Sencindiver of the 167th Airlift Wing, which is based in Berkeley County.

Runkles was to be flown from Iraq to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, possibly Tuesday, for more medical care.

Runkles's father, Douglas, said Brad, 22, had second-degree burns on the right side of his face and his right arm, as well as a cut above his eye.

Staff Sgt. Derek Brown, 23, suffered burns on his arm, ears and lips, his mother, Melody Brown, said. He was treated and released back to duty, Sencindiver said.

Melody Brown said Derek and Brad - whom she described as inseparable childhood friends - were in a 5-ton dump truck when the bomb went off. The truck was part of an Army convoy, possibly near Tikrit, she said.

She said Derek told her that it was the fourth remote-activated bomb the convoy had faced in a few days.

"This one got us, Mom," she said Derek told her.

Melody Brown said Derek was in the back of the truck, Brad was in the passenger seat - closest to the bomb - and another man was driving.

Douglas Runkles said he was told a helicopter swept the road two or three times ahead of the convoy, but didn't find the explosive device.

Brad talked to his family at 10 p.m. Monday and said he was OK, his father said. "He's a good strong boy. He's upbeat," Douglas Runkles said. "He's talking kind of slow. He had some painkillers."

Melody Brown said Derek and Brad joined the Air National Guard together - which was no surprise, considering how tightly they've grown up.

"They played ball together when they were 5 years old," she said.

Both are athletes. Herald-Mail archives contain Derek's name in Hedgesville High School football and basketball stories.

They joined the 167th Airlift Wing in May 2000, Sencindiver said.

Derek and Brad went together to basic training, to Spain and to Missouri, Melody Brown said.

She said they left West Virginia for Fort Dix, N.J., on Feb. 18. According to Sencindiver, they were deployed overseas on Feb. 23.

After three or four weeks in Kuwait, they were sent to Iraq as vehicle operators. Sencindiver said five members of the 167th Airlift Wing were traveling with the Army supply convoy.

Melody Brown said Derek and Brad have told people serving with them, "We're not going out without each other."

Which leaves her wondering what would happen if Brad is sent home, leaving Derek behind.

"They've never been anywhere without each other," she said.

Arkansas Reporter Tells of Surviving Roadside Bombing in Iraq

June 29, 2004 Baghdad, Iraq (AP)

A reporter from Arkansas survived a roadside bomb Monday while riding in a humvee with members of Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reporter Amy Schlesing was riding in the back seat of Captain Mike Robbins' humvee with other leaders of the Third Battalion. Schlesing wrote on a web blog that the only injuries to those in the vehicle were ringing ear and bruises.

Robbins has a sore jaw because he was talking on a radio when the bomb exploded, forcing a fist into his jaw. The explosion filled the vehicle with dirt and shrapnel was embedded into the windshield.

Schlesing said she remembers a boom so loud it hurt. The windows of the humvee were closed except for a crack, but she said the explosion forced what seemed like a ton of dirt into the vehicle.

Sergeant First Class Greg Mayfield was sitting next to Schlesing and she said he grabbed her head when bomb exploded.

TROOP NEWS

Voters Say Iraq The Most Important Issue; 51% Say War Not Worth Cost

Wall St. Journal 7.1.04

On Iraq, the issue voters rate as most important, their poll results are especially worrisome for the president.

Though 56% of voters continue to approve of Bush's decision to remove Saddam Hussein from power, a 51% majority now says the war hasn't been worth its human and financial cost.

<p>Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in</p>
--

Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. **Send requests to address up top. For copies on web site see:**<http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/>

San Francisco To Vote On Immediate Withdrawal From Iraq

6.30.04 SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - San Francisco residents will vote in November on whether to demand the return of all U.S. troops from Iraq -- a largely symbolic gesture in a city viewed as one of the most liberal in the nation.

The ballot initiative, certified Tuesday by county election officials, calls for "**immediate steps to end the U.S. occupation of Iraq and bring our troops safely home now.**" The measure is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation.

Wounded In Iraq, Soldier Regrets He Ever Went

June 29 WASHINGTON (Reuters)

Brought up on a farm in Montana, Spc. Patrick Wickens regrets ever having gone to Iraq. Now back in the United States, the Army amputee is among thousands of soldiers recovering from battlefield injuries.

An Army mechanic, Wickens, 21, lost his right leg and badly hurt his left in a mortar attack on May 14 in Iraq. He is being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington along with about 30 other war wounded currently there.

Wickens, 21, joined the Army three years ago soon after he quit high school and could not decide what to do with his life. It's a decision he wishes he'd never made.

One of five children, Wickens said if his siblings asked him whether they should go to Iraq with the military, he would advise them against it. "I would say don't do it."

Snapshots of high-profile visitors such as Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and actor Tom Hanks line a wall of his room, where mother Judy tries to keep his spirits up.

He sighed and took a deep breath when asked what he planned to do in the future. Driving would be a challenge as would such everyday events as taking a shower and meeting girls.

"My future is not going to be easy. It's going to be hard," he said, while his mother choked back tears. "Hopefully, I will find someone who will look past the fact that I don't have a leg," he said.

People tell him he is a hero, but Wickens said he did not think losing a leg was heroic and he felt embarrassed by the amount of attention, cards and gifts sent to him.

"I don't feel like I deserve all that. I think about the Vietnam veterans and how they (were treated)," he said. His father was in the Vietnam War and Wickens' mother feels she is reliving the experiences of her husband through seeing her son in such pain.

While satisfied with her son's medical care, Judy Wickens was frustrated by Army bureaucracy. "My main goal was to be here for my son. I did not need all the extra stuff -- the paperwork and getting shifted from here to there."

Nursing staff praise the courage of their patients, some of whom are still reliving the trauma of the battlefield.

"If a storm comes along and there is lightening then a few patients have issues with that and certain other sounds." said Second Lt. Preata Jackson, who arrived at Walter Reed last June after finishing nursing college.

Nearly 1 In 5 Troops Back From Iraq Have Depression, Post-Traumatic Stress

Jun. 30, 2004 The Boston Globe & By Gene Emery, Reuters

Nearly one in five US combat troops returning from war-torn Iraq suffered from post-traumatic stress, major depression, or other serious mental afflictions, according to new data detailing the psychic costs of the bloodiest war in a generation.

A study conducted by the US Army shows that combat-related mental problems have been higher among those who have served in Iraq than in any military action since Vietnam.

For instance, one in four Marines surveyed reported killing Iraqi civilians. About one in five Army members surveyed reported engaging in hand-to-hand combat. More than 85 percent of those in Marine or Army combat units said they knew someone who had been injured or killed. More than half said they had handled

corpses or human remains. The figures were based on soldiers' responses; the military does not have statistics available to confirm them.

Up to 17 percent of these troops in Iraq suffered mental health problems, though less than half said they had sought professional help after ending their tours, according to the study, published Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Said Dr. Charles Hoge, psychiatry chief at the US Army Walter Reed Medical Center and lead author of the study. "This is real, sustained war."

Nearly half of Iraq veterans reporting mental symptoms said they had trouble scheduling a psychiatric appointment.

The mental trauma from the Iraq war appears to be approaching Vietnam-like levels for the 40,000-plus US soldiers in the thick of daily violence, according to the new study. Mental distress, particularly post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, can hurt troops' morale, as well as disrupt their lives back home, producing flashbacks, insomnia, and alienation.

The study found that 12 to 13 percent of troops returning from Iraq reported PTSD symptoms, and another 3 to 4 percent reported other mental distress. By contrast, PTSD estimates for veterans of the first Gulf War range between 2 and 10 percent. The rate is about 4 percent in the US adult population. The new Army study found about 11 percent of troops returning from Afghanistan reported symptoms of mental distress.

The Army researchers found a direct correlation between PTSD rates and exposure to combat. In Iraq, 86 percent of Marines and 71 percent of Army troops surveyed said they were involved in firefights; five firefights per soldier was the median. Among those never encountering a firefight, 4.5 percent reported suffering PTSD-like symptoms. Those who said they had been in five or more had nearly a 20 percent rate of such symptoms.

The study made clear that the frontline soldiers faced a horrific tableau of violence in Iraq. More than 90 percent said they had been shot at. Nearly 20 percent said they saved someone's life. More than 80 percent of Marines said they saw injured women and children who they had been unable to help.

Of those Iraq veterans surveyed who reported symptoms of mental distress, 40 percent of Army troops and 29 percent of Marines said they had sought professional help. **The top reasons given for avoiding such help, from a multiple-choice list provided by the researchers, were, in order: "I would be seen as weak;" "My unit leadership might treat me differently;" "Members of my unit might have less confidence in me;" "It would harm my career."**

The rate of post-traumatic stress disorder was 5 percent among the 2,530 Army infantry soldiers headed to Iraq, but it rose sharply following deployment, the researchers found.

The rate of the disorder was nearly 13 percent among 894 soldiers who returned from eight months of duty in Iraq. It was more than 12 percent for 815 Marines who served six months there, and about half that for 1,962 infantry soldiers who returned from Afghanistan. The surveys were done in 2003.

In contrast, the rate of long-term post-traumatic stress disorder among veterans of the Gulf War is between 2 percent to 10 percent. It averages around 3 percent to 4 percent in the general population.

The Pentagon Announces Plan To Build Anti-War Movement And Encourage Rebellion In The Army; Will Call Up Retired and Discharged Troops

29 June 2004 The Associated Press & By Will Dunham, Reuters June 30, 2004 & By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer

Washington - **Digging deeper for help in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army is recalling to active duty about 5,600 people who recently left the service** and still have a reserve obligation.

In a new sign of the strain the insurgency in Iraq has put on the U.S. military, Army officials said Tuesday the involuntary callups will begin in July and run through December. It is the first sizable activation of the Individual Ready Reserve since the 1991 Gulf War, though several hundred people have voluntarily returned to service since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Unlike members of the National Guard and Reserve, individual reservists do not perform regularly scheduled training and receive no pay unless they are called up.

"This was inevitable when it became clear that **we would have to maintain significant combat forces in Iraq for a period of years,**" said Dan Goure, a military analyst at the Lexington Institute, a think tank.

Those selected for recall will be given at least 30 days' notice to report for training, an Army statement said.

Vietnam veteran Chuck Luczynski said in an interview Tuesday that he fears his son, Matt, who is getting out of the Army after four years, will be called back to active duty as part of the individual reserves. The son returned home in March after a one-year tour in Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division, and he's planning to start a computer programming business.

"I think that's on everybody's mind right now, that they took their turn and they would hope everybody took a turn so that a few don't carry the many," said the elder Luczynski, of Omaha, Neb.

The Army is so stretched for manpower that in April it broke a promise to some active-duty units, including the 1st Armored Division, that they would not have to serve more than 12 months in Iraq.

It also has extended the tours of other units, including some in Afghanistan.

The men and women recalled from the Individual Ready Reserve will be assigned to Army Reserve and National Guard units that have been or soon will be mobilized for deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan, ***unless they successfully petition for exemption based on medical or other limitations.*** (For an introduction to exploring "other limitations" check out: gaycitynews.com/)

The Pentagon had hoped to reduce its troop levels in Iraq to about 105,000 this spring, but **because of increasingly** effective and **deadly resistance** the level has risen to about 140,000. **(Meaning more troops are needed to go die.)**

Military officials have said they may need to stay at that level for at least another year or two, a commitment of forces that could not be maintained by the active force alone.

The Army frequently must integrate reservists with its active-duty forces, but it rarely has to reach into the Individual Ready Reserve. The Army has about 117,000 people in this category of reservist; the Navy has 64,000, the Marine Corps 58,000 and the Air Force 37,000.

Reserve troops make up at least one-third of the U.S. force in Iraq, and this month they have accounted for nearly half of all troops killed in combat.

"It's a management tool which we've always had available to augment our forces when we need additional personnel in a time of war," **said Lieutenant Colonel Pamela Hart, an Army spokeswoman at the Pentagon.** **"This is nothing that's new or unusual."** **(Another really stupid liar, seems to be an occupational disease of Lt. Cols.)**

The Army has previously said it would prohibit tens of thousands of soldiers designated to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan from leaving the service when their volunteer commitment ends.

Col. Debra A. Cook, commander of the Army Human Resources Command, told reporters that although former soldiers in the reserve pool known as the Individual Ready Reserve are required to verify by mail every year that they are physically fit, **many will be surprised to get called for Iraq duty.**

"There's going to be soldiers who, yes, will be shocked," she said.

"Sometimes there's a misperception by some of the individuals ... that 'I've done my obligation, I've been in the Army, thank you very much, and I'm done'. But you're not done," the official said. **(When the Army in Vietnam rebelled against that Imperial war wholesale, they were indeed done, and fuck you.)**

The first notifications are to be received July 6.

They will be put on active duty for a minimum of 12 months and mostly likely for 18 months.

Robert Smiley, the Army secretary's principal aide on troop training and mobilization, told a Pentagon news conference that ***more former soldiers, in addition to the 5,674, are likely to get called up next year. He said he could not estimate the number but would not rule out that it would be thousands.***

The Army did not immediately offer a state-by-state breakdown, but Raymond Robinson Jr., a senior personnel official at Army headquarters in the Pentagon, **said many are from California and Texas.**

The Army is targeting its recall on those who recently left the service and thus have fresher skills than retirees. Any time the military calls on its reservists for wartime duty, political implications arise because of the disruption to civilian lives and businesses.

Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Wash., a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said Tuesday that dipping into the Individual Ready Reserve amounts to conscripting people to fight in Iraq.

"If there was any doubt that this administration was conducting a pseudo-draft, this call-up should dispel that doubt," Larsen said.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to the E-mail address up top. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

Selma Man Wounded In Combat

June 29 By Cynthia J. Wright, Recorder Staff

With 21 years of life on this earth and two years and 10 months as a United States Marine, Lance Cpl. Derek Riedel has already seen more than most might want to see in a lifetime. Riedel was home in Selma last week, as he is recovering from injuries suffered on April 4 in Iraq.

Born and raised in Selma, Riedel is the son of Rich and Linda Riedel. Rich Riedel owns and operates Appliance Experts in Selma, and Linda Riedel is the librarian for Indianola Elementary School. Riedel's only sibling, his older brother Ashley, lives and works in Selma as well.

Riedel was almost one and a half months into his second tour of duty in Iraq when the blast from an explosion directly in front of him sent him flying and caused two pieces of shrapnel to rip through his body. One piece went into his nose and created a hole,

shattering his septum. The second piece of shrapnel went through the tip of his groin and into his leg, creating a large hole about four inches across and two inches deep.

Assigned to the Third Battalion of the Seventh Marines, First Marine Division, Riedel is a mortar operator in the infantry. His unit is deployed to Quisaybah, patrolling Al Qu'im near the Syrian border.

Riedel explained how the explosion occurred. His unit was doing a security patrol next to the Syrian border. They had stopped to "pull security" for one of the patrols that was going out with them. His sergeant told his driver to move their Humvee onto the top of a nearby hill, so they could get a good view of everything. He and a fellow Marine were walking behind the vehicle.

"Luckily for the other Marine," said Riedel, "the sergeant called him down the hill to another truck."

Riedel watched his fellow Marine to make sure he made it down all right. Then, he said, he turned back toward his vehicle.

"All I saw was a flash of white light," said Riedel. "That was it."

The right rear wheel of the Humvee had run over an anti-tank mine that was buried in the sand. The blast, said Riedel, actually folded up the back end of the vehicle.

Next, he said, he remembered seeing tan. It was all the sand flying at him.

"I don't remember, but they said it picked me up and dragged my feet along the sand," said Riedel.

He was told the blast flipped him around and threw him to the ground.

"When I pushed myself up, all I remember seeing was red running out of my eyes and nose," said Riedel.

He tried to stand up but fell back down again. His unit's hospital corpsman was on him in five or 10 seconds, he said, stopping the bleeding and putting pressure on his wounds.

The corpsman scared him when, after assessing the situation for a moment, the first word out of his mouth was an expletive. Riedel immediately thought there was irreparable damage to his leg or that a major artery had been hit and he would bleed to death. But neither were true, and the corpsman tried to calm him and told him he would be okay.

Within about five minutes he was being loaded into a Blackhawk helicopter and flown to the main battalion at Al Qu'im, where a surgical team worked to stabilize him for a trip to Baghdad for treatment. Then it was on to Germany for more extensive treatment and surgeries. He was in Germany for about one week, and then he was flown back to the Naval Medical Center in San Diego.

Riedel is currently stationed at the San Diego Naval Hospital and is healing well. He probably has to undergo at least two more surgeries on his nose, and probably two more on his groin, before he will be declared fit for duty again. Aside from a nasty scar, his leg has healed up almost completely.

Then, he'll probably head back to Iraq at least one more time before his enlistment is up in October 2005.

The work yet to be done on his nose involves removing more bone fragments and rebreaking it so the doctors can "push it back together and make it thin again." Repairs to his groin are somewhat more complicated and delicate. Right now he has a catheter attached until damage to his urethra can be repaired.

One other Marine from Riedel's unit was injured in the blast that caused his injuries. The other Marine was in the turret on top of the vehicle when the explosion occurred. He was thrown about 35 feet and broke his back and fractured a wrist. Riedel said his prognosis was good, there was no nerve damage to his back and he is expected to be able to walk again.

Riedel is glad to be near home while he recuperates and has taken advantage of his proximity by making frequent trips to Selma when he can. He has been able to come home for both Mother's and Father's days. His parents also spent a week with him in San Diego when he first arrived at the Naval Hospital.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Today's Lesson: Don't Fuck With The Madhi Army

By TODD PITMAN, Associated Press Writer

Militiamen loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr kidnapped 25 policemen Tuesday in Najaf, 100 miles south of Baghdad, in response to the arrest of two of their colleagues but released 16 of them on Wednesday.

Ahmad al-Shibani, an al-Sadr spokesman, confirmed the kidnappings, but said all 25 had been freed. "We just wanted to teach them a lesson," he said.

Senior Collaborator Hit By Roadside Bomb Attack In Baghdad

01 Jul 2004 VOA News & The Associated Press & 01 July 2004 By Edward Wong New York Times

Insurgents in Iraq have carried out two deadly roadside bomb attacks in Baghdad, Thursday.

A bomb went off after 8 a.m. and killed Ihsan Karim, the head of the Finance Ministry's audit board, said Col. Abdul-Rahman. The colonel said the explosion did not come from a roadside bomb, but rather from a magnetic device put on the underside of a car in Mr. Karim's convoy. The attack took place in the Yarmouk neighborhood in central Baghdad. Mr. Karim was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died, the relative said.

Two of Mr. Karim's bodyguards were also killed, and two bystanders were wounded.

At 9:30 a.m., firefighters were at the scene of the explosion, along a wide roadway cutting through the neighborhood. They doused the area with a hose. Iraqi police officers and men in plainclothes carrying AK-47's, probably private bodyguards, stood around a silver sedan whose rear and side windows had been shattered and whose passenger-side door bore numerous small indentations. A small, nearby crater marked the spot of the explosion.

Mr. Karim, who had worked in the Finance Ministry under Saddam Hussein and stayed on during the American occupation, had remained in Baghdad to continue his work.

A second roadside blast occurred as a U.S. military convoy passed through another Baghdad district. Police say several bystanders were killed or wounded. But no confirmed figure was immediately available.

Car Bomb Blows Up Samawah Occucops

June 30, 2004 BAGHDAD, Iraq AP & AFP

A car bomb exploded outside a police headquarters in Samawah, 150 miles south of the capital, Baghdad,

"Three policemen were wounded and transported to hospital," said police captain Ali Hadj at the site of the blast. Two vehicles were ablaze, a hospital official said.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

This Won't Hurt (Much)

June 16, 2004 Terry Jones, The Guardian

For some time now, I've been trying to find out where my son goes after choir practice. He simply refuses to tell me. He says it's no business of mine where he goes after choir practice and it's a free country.

Now it may be a free country, but if people start going just anywhere they like after choir practice, goodness knows whether we'll have a country left to be free. I mean, he might be going to anarchist meetings or Islamic study groups. How do I know?

The thing is, if people don't say where they're going after choir practice, this country is at risk. **So I have been applying a certain amount of pressure on my son to tell me where he's going. To begin with I simply put a bag over his head and chained him to a radiator.** But did that persuade him? Does the Pope eat kosher?

My wife had the gall to suggest that I might be going a bit too far. So I put a bag over her head and chained her to the radiator. But I still couldn't persuade my son to tell me where he goes after choir practice.

I tried starving him, serving him only cold meals and shaving his facial hair off, keeping him in stress positions, not turning his light off, playing loud music outside his cell door - all the usual stuff that any concerned parent will do to find out where their child is going after choir practice. But it was all to no avail.

I hesitated to gravitate to harsher interrogation methods because, after all, he is my son. Then Donald Rumsfeld came to my rescue.

I read in the New York Times last week that a memo had been prepared for the defence secretary on March 6 2003. It laid down the strictest guidelines as to what is and what is not torture. Because, let's face it, none of us want to actually torture our children, in case the police get to hear about it.

The March 6 memo, prepared for Mr Rumsfeld explained that what may look like torture is not really torture at all. It states that: if someone "knows that severe pain will result from his actions, if causing such harm is not his objective, he lacks the requisite specific intent even though the defendant did not act in good faith".

What this means in understandable English is that if a parent, in his anxiety to know where his son goes after choir practice, does something that will cause severe pain to his son, it is only "torture" if the causing of that severe pain is his objective. If his objective is something else - such as finding out where his son goes after choir practice - then it is not torture.

Mr Rumsfeld's memo goes on: "a defendant" (by which he means a concerned parent) "is guilty of torture only if he acts with the express purpose of inflicting severe pain or suffering on a person within his control".

Couldn't be clearer. If your intention is to extract information, you cannot be accused of torture.

In fact, the report went further. It said, if a parent "has a good-faith belief [that] his actions will not result in prolonged mental harm, he lacks the mental state necessary for

his actions to constitute torture". So all you've got to do to avoid accusations of child abuse is to say that you didn't think it would cause any lasting harm to the child. Easy peasy!

I currently have a lot of my son's friends locked up in the garage, and I'm applying electrical charges to their genitals and sexually humiliating them in order to get them to tell me where my son goes after choir practice.

Dick Cheney's counsel, David S Addington, says that's just fine. William J Haynes, the US defence department's general counsel, agrees it's just fine. And so does the US air force general counsel, Mary Walker.

In fact, practically everybody in the US administration seems to think it's just fine, except for the state department lawyer, William H Taft IV, who perversely claims that I might be opening the door to people applying electrical charges to my genitals and sexually humiliating me.

So I'm going to round up all the children in the neighbourhood, chain them and set dogs on them. I might accidentally kill one or two - but I won't have intended to - and perhaps I'll take some photos of my wife standing on the dead bodies, and then I'll show the photos to the other kids, and finally, perhaps, I might get to find out where my son goes after choir practice. After all, I'll only be doing what the US administration has been condoning since 9/11.

OCCUPATION REPORT

<p>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></p>

IRAQ TRIES TO GIVE SOVEREIGNTY BACK

'No Way,' Says Cheney

June 29, 2004 The Borowitz Report

One day after the United States transferred sovereignty to Iraq, Iraq unsuccessfully attempted to give sovereignty back to the United States.

The decision to return sovereignty to the U.S. surprised many in diplomatic circles, since most had expected the Iraqis to keep sovereignty for at least two days and possibly even longer than that.

But in an official statement to reporters today in Baghdad, Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said that "one day of sovereignty was more than enough, thank you very much."

Mr. Allawi said that he had been "sold a bill of goods" by former Coalition Provisional Authority chief Paul Bremer III, who had led Mr. Allawi to believe that Iraq was in much better condition than it actually was.

The Iraqi said he had been persuaded by Mr. Bremer to attend a "travelogue-like" slide-show about Iraq with the promise that he would receive a new set of Samsonite luggage and a 13-inch color television in exchange for forty-five minutes of his time.

Once Mr. Allawi realized that Iraq was "nothing like" the country depicted in the slide-show, the Iraqi leader tried to return sovereignty to Mr. Bremer, but found that he had not left a forwarding address or phone number.

In Washington, Vice President Dick Cheney responded to Mr. Allawi's request to give sovereignty back with a curt, "No way," adding, "All I can say to Mr. Allawi is, be careful what you wish for, pal."

Elsewhere, attendees at the NATO summit in Turkey said they would reserve judgment on President Bush's speech there until they had time to read the English translation.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Bush Calls On Resistance To Go On Offensive

June 29, 2004 Susan Sachs NYT

Speaking at a news conference with Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, President George W. Bush said Monday **"Iraqis know what we know, that the best way to defend yourself is to go on the offensive."**

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.