

GI SPECIAL 2#B20

THE FUTURE HAS ARRIVED:



Contact IVAW: <http://www.ivaw.net/>

Primary Contact

Michael Hoffman

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Michael was a Lance Corporal in a Marine Corps artillery battery during the March 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Founding Members

Tim Goodrich

Tim served in the US Air Force and was in the Middle East during the invasion of Afghanistan. He has also visited Iraq as part of a Global Exchange trip in January of 2004. Tim is a resident of California.

Kelly Dougherty

Kelly is the daughter of a Vietnam veteran and served in Iraq as an MP with a National Guard Unit. Kelly is living in Colorado.

Diana Morrison

Diana has served in regular Army, Army Reserve and the California National Guard for over ten years. She was most recently deployed to Iraq where she served as a Military Police woman.

Alex Rybov

Alex was born in the Ukraine and his family emigrated to the United States while he was still a child. He was part of a Marine Corps artillery unit during the initial invasion of Iraq in March of 2003. Alex now lives in NYC.

Isaiah Pallos

Isaiah was a Sergeant in the United States

Marine Corps and served along side Michael Hoffman, and Alex Rybov in the invasion of Iraq. He lives in Ohio with his wife and child.

Ivan Medina

Shortly after Ivan's return to United States after serving as a chaplain's assistant in Iraq he received the devastating news that his identical twin brother had been killed in action. Since then he has dedicated himself to ending the occupation. Ivan now lives in White Plains, NY.

Jimmy Massey

Jimmy was a platoon sergeant in 7th Marines during the 2003 invasion of Iraq. After witnessing first hand the horror of war he refused to continue this pointless war. After a hard fight he was discharged and has since been telling people the truth about the war in Iraq. Jimmy lives with his wife in North Carolina.

The IVAW Mission

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) is a group of veterans from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. We are committed to saving lives and ending the violence in Iraq by an immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces. We also believe that the governments that sponsored these wars are indebted to the men and women that were forced to fight them and must give their Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen the benefits that are owed to them upon their return home.

We welcome all active duty, reservist, and recent veterans into our ranks.

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 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/qi-special/>

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

1st ID SOLDIER KILLED, 2 WOUNDED IN IED ATTACK

August 1, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release Number: 04-08-01C

TIKRIT, Iraq - One 1st Infantry Division Soldier was killed and two were injured when their patrol was struck by a remotely detonated improvised explosive device near Samarra around 12:30 p.m. Aug. 1.

The wounded were evacuated to a local military facility.

DoD Identifies Army Casualty Killed On Guard Duty In Hawijah

July 30, 2004 United States Department of Defense News Release No. 730-04

Spc. Joseph F. Herndon, II, 21, of Derby, Kan., died July 29, in Hawijah, Iraq, when he was shot while on guard duty. Herndon was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The incident is under investigation.

Soldier Killed In Hawija Convoy Attack

July 29, 2004 By IAN FISHER and SOMINI SENGUPTA, The New York Times

An American soldier was killed today in the hard-line northern Sunni town of Hawija after his convoy came under small arms fire around 1 p.m., the military reported.

DoD Identifies Marine Casualty

July 30, 2004 United States Department of Defense News Release No. 727-04

Gunnery Sgt. Shawn A. Lane, 33, of Corning, N.Y., died July 28 due to enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. e was assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

How Do You Know When A War Is Lost?

When The Brass Have To Eat MREs!

July 29, 2004 By IAN FISHER and SOMINI SENGUPTA, The New York Times

In the last week, kidnapping has escalated into a major tactic in the war here, with roughly 20 people taken hostage since the Philippine government withdrew its troops from Iraq last week to spare the life of an abducted Filipino truck driver.

The tactic seems to be reaping some success: Several companies have pledged to stop working in Iraq, **and a notice went out today in the Green Zone, the heavily fortified main headquarters for American officials in Iraq, saying that meal service was being cut back to military rations and cold cuts "due to unforeseen circumstances."**

An American official said that the reason was that Pakistani workers in the Green Zone had gone on strike today after the two Pakistani hostages were executed the day before.

Number Of Dead “Contractors” Unknown

Aug. 01, 2004 By Renae Merle, Washington Post

WASHINGTON – When he was deployed in Iraq, 31-year-old Vincent Foster assured his mother that despite the long hours and what he called “skirmishes” with insurgents, he was where he belonged. Foster was working for Cochise Consultancy Inc., securing stockpiles of old munitions, when he was killed by a roadside bomb outside Bayji, in the northern part of the country. He died on the way to the hospital.

Foster, a former Marine scout sniper, is one of at least 110 contractors working for U.S. firms who have died in Iraq, according to industry estimates. Experts say the number of casualties could be far higher, given the tens of thousands of private contractors who have taken over key duties for the military.

The Pentagon does not keep an official count, and many companies do not announce when their employees in Iraq are killed.

GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT 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/>

Marines Lose 20% Of Battalion In Ramadi So Far

"We'd be doing more good if we weren't here. We can send soccer balls from America," said Corporal Nat Canaga, 18, from Colorado, who was wounded by a grenade while on foot patrol.

August 1, 2004 By Anne Barnard, Boston Globe Staff

RAMADI, Iraq -- The Humvees were speeding through the dark city when a heart-stopping boom brought the convoy lurching to a halt. Red sparks cartwheeled into the sky. The Marines ran through a dust cloud and found four comrades bleeding from a roadside bomb.

The bomb, buried outside an Iraqi National Guard headquarters, marked the third time in 10 days that US troops in the capital of the country's most violent province had been attacked under the noses of Iraqi security forces, whose cooperation is crucial to their success.

Staying in Ramadi comes at a high price.

The Marines stationed in three small bases downtown have borne the highest concentration of US casualties since early April. The Second Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, has seen 31 Marines killed, and more than 200 wounded. That casualty rate amounts to more than 20 percent.

A month after Iraq regained formal sovereignty, the military is building facilities outside the city center where the battalion can move on short notice, when Iraqis are ready to take charge, senior Marine officers said.

The military has halted daytime supply convoys that blocked traffic and offended residents, and has cut back most patrols to let Iraqi forces take the lead. But four months after taking over from US Army troops, **Marines in central Ramadi look less like advisers about to hand off control to a nascent government than combatants in an urban battleground.**

After a burst of fighting in April that killed a dozen Marines and scores of insurgents, Marines no longer flood neighborhoods to hear concerns and hand out information about Iraq's new government. They protect the main road through town, a major US supply route, watching from observation posts to stop insurgents from planting roadside bombs.

It takes less than 10 minutes to drive from any base to the government center. But the Marines don't travel, even a few hundred yards to an observation post, with fewer than four heavily armed Humvees -- preferably encased in armor and blast-proof glass.

"Every guy you kill, there's always going to be someone else," said Corporal Glen Handy, 26, of Las Vegas.

Pulling back to observation posts can be "frustrating for the Marines" said Captain Christopher Bronzi, 31, of Poughquag, N.Y., commander of the Second Battalion's Golf Company. "You wonder what they are doing out there," he said, referring to insurgents.

"We'd be doing more good if we weren't here. We can send soccer balls from America," said Corporal Nat Canaga, 18, from Colorado, who was wounded by a grenade while on foot patrol.

He voiced hope that Ramadi's tough new National Guard chief, Qadhim Faris, would shape them up. Faris, a former officer in Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard, was detained last year for allegedly plotting to kill a US Army commander.

But at Combat Outpost, a base that is hit by mortars almost daily, Bronzi's Marines voiced skepticism. The whole neighborhood knew of the impending attack, they said; guerrillas had blocked side streets to keep civilians away. Iraqi forces were either complicit, afraid to tip off Marines, or clueless, said First Lieutenant Robert Scott, 27, the executive officer.

Hamid Abid, an Iraqi National Guard member training at another US base, said Iraqi troops want to protect Ramadi but are in "a very bad situation."

"When we go home, people say, 'You are an agent for the coalition forces,' " Abid said. "When they leave and we take care of everything, it will be good."

That night, after escorting fresh troops, the Marine convoy ran over the bomb.

"What have you got up there?" First Lieutenant Scott shouted. He ran off. "We have casualties," his driver said into the radio. "Number unknown at this time."

A Humvee had been hit at a deserted checkpoint outside the Iraqi National Guard headquarters, where concrete barriers force vehicles into a slow slalom. Marines later said they had seen people moving inside the building -- Guardsmen, they believed.

Back at the base, the wounded Marines screamed in pain. Their comrades wiped their blood from the garage floor, uttering expletives at Iraqis in general and at the National Guard in particular.

The attackers had tunneled under the pavement to place the bomb. The operation would have taken enough time for the National Guard to have noticed, the Marines said.

"Did they come outside after the explosion?" an officer asked over the radio. Bronzi shook his head. "They remained inside, sir," Scott said evenly. Later, he said, "I'm debating whether to arrest them all."

TROOP NEWS

Staff Sgt. Says "I Don't Trust Anything Rumsfeld Says...And Wolfowitz Is Even Dirtier"

July 21, 2004 by Tom Lasseter, Knight-Ridder

RAMADI, Iraq - Scaling back the military and political goals in Iraq's Anbar province has hurt the morale of many U.S. soldiers stationed there, and some have begun to question openly not only their mission, but also the leaders who sent them to Iraq in the first place.

It's not just buck privates. Several sergeants - the backbone of the enlisted military - said they felt the same way.

Instead of neighborhood patrols, most of the convoys that leave the bases in Ramadi these days are on their way to guard main roads and the government building downtown. There are also observations posts throughout the city, where soldiers sit and watch, waiting for something to happen.

To carry food from one base to the next in Ramadi, a matter of a few blocks, takes four vehicles - armored Humvees and trucks - all with .50-caliber machine guns mounted on top.

"I'm tired of every time we go out the gate, someone tries to kill me," said Staff Sgt. Sheldon Rivers.

Asked whether most Americans have an idea of how bad the security situation is in Ramadi, Sgt. Maj. John Jones said recently that he was annoyed every time he heard analysis about Iraq from politicians and journalists on TV.

"When people come over here, where do they stay? In the Green Zone. I call it the Safe Zone," he said, referring to the secure area in Baghdad where the government is housed. "They miss the full picture."

What is the full picture?

"It's just like the West," Jones said, "when we were trying to settle it with the Indians."

He wouldn't elaborate.

"It means that we have to kill all of them," said a captain standing nearby, half-joking.

Jones just shrugged.

Sgt. 1st Class James Tilley was on patrol on the road outside Ramadi later that afternoon, sitting in his Humvee for an hour or two in one spot - sweating profusely in the 105-degree heat - before moving a few hundred yards down the road to another place.

The patrol is designed to ward off insurgents from trying to put bombs in the road.

"A lot of times, I look at this place and wonder what have we really done. ... When we first got here, we all wanted to change it and make it better, but now I don't give a s---," he said. "What the hell am I here for?"

Staff Sgt. A.J. Dean was on the same stretch of road a couple of nights later, and his tone was similar to Tilley's.

"I don't have any idea of what we're trying to do out here. I don't know what the (goal) is, and I don't think our commanders do either," he said. "I feel deceived personally. I don't trust anything (Defense Secretary Donald) Rumsfeld says, and I think (Deputy Defense Secretary Paul) Wolfowitz is even dirtier."

Dean motioned down the road to a bridge.

About two weeks ago, he said, a buddy of his was on a patrol that stopped to look at a possible bomb. As he walked around the device, it detonated, sending shrapnel through one side of his face and out the other.

The soldier, whose arm also was mangled in the explosion, survived, but the word came down that the bridge had become off-limits for patrols.

"To me it's a month and a half of patrols wasted because we've given them back that bridge," Dean said. "It makes me question the whole mission."

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.

**Pain on Main Street;
"We Just Want Our Guys To Come Home"**

Aug. 9 issue Newsweek, By Pat Wingert and Richard Wolffe

To the rest of the world, Matthew Sandri's death in Fallujah looked like just another statistic from the war in Iraq.

A 24-year-old Army medic, Specialist Sandri was killed in a rocket attack on a staging area far from the front lines in March. But back home in rural Pennsylvania, Sandri was far more than a name and a rank. When it came time to hold a memorial service, there was only one place big enough in the small town of Shamokin: the high-school gym. So many arrived to pay their respects that officials asked police and firefighters from neighboring towns to help control the traffic and crowds.

Two months later Shamokin (population: 7,800) was grieving once more. Robert Scheetz, a 31-year-old Special Forces captain, died when a Humvee exploded at his campsite in Iraq. **"We watched these children grow up," said Mayor James Yurick Jr. "Sandri lived across the street from city hall. These deaths have been devastating to the community."**

The deaths have also raised sharp questions about the need for troops to stay in Iraq and the priorities of the leaders who keep them there.

"A lot of people from this community died in World War II, but people didn't think that was unjustified," says Shamokin School Superintendent Ned Sodrck. "But what's the reason this time? Just to make Iraq a democracy? If you look at the paper this week, you'll see they have a new poll that says that Kerry is gaining in the state—and I think this is the reason why."

Like other rural towns across the nation, Shamokin is home to many military families, bearing more than its fair share of the fallen. According to an analysis of Pentagon casualty figures collected this spring, almost 44 percent of the servicemen and -women killed in Iraq came from towns with populations under 20,000.

In West Virginia, a state of small towns that Al Gore lost in 2000, the families have suffered only a handful of fatalities in Iraq. Yet by word of mouth or by e-mail, the criticism and concerns of the grunts in Iraq are gaining widespread circulation.

Jack Yeager, a retired brigadier general who voted for Bush four years ago, is now working for the Kerry campaign from his farm close to Jessica Lynch's home in Wirt County.

"We have a big family-support system here," says Yeager, "and during Desert Storm, no one in these groups ever questioned what was going on. But now we're hearing ladies from those groups coming out and saying, 'We just want our guys to come home'."

Robert Rupp, a political-science professor at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, quotes an e-mail from a young Republican deployed in Iraq, who complains of mistreatment. "It's getting good conservative kids complaining to good conservative parents," he says.

News of Sandri's death came just after he wrote to his adopted school friends to say he was on his way home. For the families themselves, the raw feelings of grief and loss are bound together with a powerful sense of patriotism. Bob Scheetz, Robert's father, says he's a "staunch Republican" and plans to vote for Bush. **His wife, Joyce, says she remains undecided, but is just as blunt on the other side. "I just think everything I hear from the government is lies, lies, lies," she says.**

Whatever the outcome in November's election, the town's war dead will be remembered long after the 2004 campaign. In downtown Shamokin, there are three memorials: one to the fallen of the Spanish-American War, another to the Civil War dead and one that lists the name of every citizen who was killed in war since the 1860s.

At the end are two recent additions, Matthew Sandri and Robert Scheetz, and a blank space for more names that nobody wants to see filled.



William Thomas Cain / Getty Images

'Eyes Wide Open': A traveling exhibit of more than 900 empty boots symbolizes fallen soldiers

Join The Coalition Of The Leaving: Let's All Pull Out Now!

31 July 2004 By Christopher Marquis, New York Times

Washington - With the demands of the presidential campaign adding new urgency to the search for a strategy to exit Iraq, American officials are facing many complications in holding together the coalition of countries they persuaded to support the war.

The multinational force, which the administration stitched together as traditional NATO allies balked, is increasingly tattered.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell acknowledged his dismay this week over the erosion of support, signaled most recently by the Philippines' decision to withdraw its troops and moves by Ukraine, with its 1,600 soldiers, to follow suit.

Four other nations have withdrawn from the country - Spain, with 1,300 troops, and the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Honduras, with nominal representations.

"You cannot just say, 'Well, gosh, they are causing all of these troubles, so let's all pull out.'"

(Hey, check out the headline Colin, it's real easy to say. All it take is some political courage and minimal ability to understand reality, which obviously neither you nor any of the leading presidential candidates possess. They have other priorities.)

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Resistance Cutting Supply Lines

7/27/2004 By Todd Pitman, BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

On his first journey to Iraq in eight months, Jordanian truck driver Faisal Suleyman was followed, pulled over and robbed by four men in a sky-blue taxi brandishing automatic weapons.

The trip will be his last, he said Tuesday, placing him among a growing number of foreign drivers whose cargo is vital to Iraq's reconstruction refusing to brave the gantlet of kidnappings, robberies and other violence plaguing the country.

"Nobody wants to come here, it's not safe," Suleyman told The Associated Press in the cab of his 16-wheeler Mercedes at a wind-swept truck-stop on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Hitting home that point, black-masked, armed militants calling themselves "The Group of Death" threatened in a video Tuesday to sever the main highway linking Iraq to Jordan in 72 hours and target Jordanians to stop supplies from reaching U.S. troops.

"We consider all Jordanian interests, companies and businessmen and citizens as much a target as the Americans," one militant said in the video obtained by Associated Press Television News.

Since April, militants have abducted more than 70 foreigners mostly truckers traveling with little or no armed escort in an effort to hurt U.S. forces and hamper reconstruction efforts.

The campaign is clearly effective.

On Tuesday, a Jordanian firm working with the U.S. military announced it was withdrawing from Iraq to secure the release of two abducted Jordanian drivers, whose

families threatened to behead the company's director unless he yielded to the kidnappers' demands.

Suleyman said he used to make the run from Amman to Baghdad twice a week, bringing in rice, sugar and flour until insurgent activity made the road too insecure in November.

Last week, he decided to test the waters again with a load he considered safe in Muslim-dominated Iraq: 50,000 copies of the Quran donated from a Cairo mosque.

He was nervous. Colleagues advised him not to stop "even to drink water" and avoid driving late in the afternoon.

When he pulled over to fix a flat tire near Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, he was relieved to see a police patrol car a rare sight. An officer told him, "Don't stay here long, this place is dangerous," he said. **After a few minutes, the police left, but not before demanding 10,000 dinars, or \$7, for providing "protection."**

As Suleyman moved up the road, he noticed a blue taxi swerving behind him. Four men inside waved automatic weapons out the windows as the car followed him for nearly an hour. Just outside Fallujah, it forced him to pull over.

The gunmen took him from the truck and stole his cell phone.

"I was afraid they were going to kill me," he said. "When they saw I was carrying copies of the Quran, they waved me on."

He was lucky.

Last week, authorities found the corpse of a Jordanian driver dumped alongside the Amman-Baghdad highway with his eyes gouged.

Some 40 Jordanian trucks were either looted or burned and about 40 truck drivers were killed over the last year, according to Abdul-Majid al-Habashneh, head of the Jordanian Truckers Association.

Two Bulgarian truckers were abducted July 9; one was beheaded, the second is missing. A Turkish driver killed recently was buried in Turkey on Tuesday.

Last week, Filipino driver Angelo dela Cruz was freed after his government caved in to kidnappers' demands to withdraw its troops.

Iraq and many coalition members say the Philippines' decision emboldened the militants.

The day after the Filipino's release, militants seized three Kenyans, three Indians and one Egyptian all truck drivers and threatened to behead them if their Kuwaiti company continues doing business here.

The Iraqi government plans to send army patrols to escort truckers, who complain security forces do little to protect them,

"This has certainly affected trade, and they have all the right to be afraid," Sada said. "We are doing our best to deal with it," said George Sada, spokesman for interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

The violence has cut deeply into cross-border trade.

Al-Habashneh said just 5 percent of Jordan's 11,000-truck fleet was ferrying supplies to Iraq down from 85 percent before the U.S.-led 2003 invasion. Iraqi drivers, targeted less, have taken up some of the slack.

Most drivers can't differentiate between insurgents and highway robbers. "They all have guns," said Naeem Adwan, who hauls foodstuffs and electrical supplies into Iraq twice a week.

At least once every other trip, he is stopped by gunmen.

"They ask whether we are working with the Americans," he said, taking a drag off a cigarette. "We say no, they search us, and usually wave us on."

On Saturday, gunmen fired at Adwan's truck near the northern city of Mosul, forcing him off the road and taking all he had, about \$150.

For most of the few truckers still willing to travel to Iraq, caring for their families keeps them on the road, despite the risks. Adwan earns \$700 for every roundtrip from Jordan. Others earn much more.

"We need the money," said Mustapha Almari, a Syrian driver who hauls cement. "We can't quit so easily."

Other truckers will keep driving just not here.

"This is the end of it. I'm not coming back again," Suleyman said. "I'm just praying I get back to Jordan alive."

Ramadi And Samara: The Resistance Rules, The National Guard Is "Neutral"

30 July 2004 By Akeel Huseen and Nicolas Pelham, Financial Times

In the capital of the largest province of Iraq's so-called "Sunni triangle", rebels have taken to announcing their daily arrival by loud-speaker. "Close your shops before 1400. We don't want to hit anyone. The fighting will begin after 1400. Stay safe," trumpets the megaphone strung to a white Nissan pick-up that circulates around the main thoroughfare of Ramadi at 1pm.

By 13:45 the streets empty. The governorate buildings, the police station and shops close. **The police and the Iraqi National Guard, who had patrolled the town, disappear from the streets.**

Fifteen minutes later the resistance emerges from the side-streets into the main thoroughfare: five Daewoo saloon cars, and 15 Nissan pick-ups armed with rocket-propelled grenades and Kalashnikovs.

They remain until daybreak, when the local security forces arrive for their eight-hour shift and markets briefly spring to life.

The uneasy accommodation - whereby guerrillas and Iraqi security forces work in shifts - comes as several large Iraqi towns have recently fallen outside the control of US forces and its allies in the Iraqi interim government.

Control of the neighbouring town of Falluja, an hour's drive down banks of the Euphrates river, was handed over by US troops to generals from Saddam Hussein's dissolved Republican Guard last May, known as the Falluja Brigade.

US forces also appear to have lost control of nearby Samarra.

According to news reports, US forces have sharply reduced patrols in Ramadi recently. A report by Knight Ridder news agency quoted a US officer saying this was due to the transfer of sovereignty to the interim Iraqi government.

A US military spokesman insisted in an interview with the FT that they continue to maintain "a very visible presence" in Ramadi, including three bases "within the city limits", which used the city's thoroughfare for their supply routes.

"Insurgents absolutely do not control the streets," said Col TV Johnson of the 1st Marines Expeditionary Force speaking from Ramadi. "We want to reduce our presence, but like Falluja we will maintain entirely engaged."

He confirmed that Iraqi forces had taken over considerable responsibility for security in the town recently: "My presence as an American in American uniform is provocative. There's no way around it. If I can get an Iraqi to provide some of the detail, hell why not?" he said.

Inside the heavily guarded governorate building in Ramadi, **the governor's representatives called on Americans to spare Ramadi further confrontation by halting further patrols into the city of 450,000. Local government officials are feeling unprecedented pressure from the guerrillas: on Wednesday gunmen burst into the house of Ramadi governor Abdul Karim al-Rawi and kidnapped three of his sons before setting the building ablaze.**

Before the incident, Katim Bashar Ahmed, the deputy governor, told the FT that the US presence in the city had to be reduced in order to ward off further violence: "We told the Americans many times not to enter the city. Whenever they enter, the resistance shoots them."

He said they normally entered once a day at mid-morning, while the police and security still held the streets.

Colonel Khamis Jassim, who commands the city's 2,888-strong National Guard, professes no particular loyalty to either side: "I order my soldiers to protect the city against the looters and criminals. I am neither with the resistance nor with the Americans," he said.

Observers warn that the tightening rebel control over huge swathes of the Sunni triangle - so named because it is home to Iraq's Sunni Arab minority - threatens to puncture the credibility of Iraq's interim government, led by Iyad Allawi, prime minister.

The overwhelming majority of the residents who spoke to the FT professed to support the Islamist purge, echoing rebel slogans that Mr Allawi and his security forces were traitors and infidels. Across town, walls are daubed in graffiti hailing Saddam Hussein as Iraq's leader.

"All the government are agents for America, especially Iyad Allawi. He asked America to stay in Iraq, because he knows the Iraqis will kill him. The Mujahideen protect civilians," said Salah Abbas, a 29-year-old roadside peddler of CDs.

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

Resistance Hits Occucops

8.1.04 By OMAR SINAN, Associated Press Writer

A car bombing outside a police station in Mosul killed five people and injured 53. A drive-by shooting north of Baghdad late Sunday killed three police officers and wounded three others.

The latest suicide car bomb attack happened at 8 a.m. in Mosul when a white sport utility vehicle sped toward barriers at the Summar police station and a police guard opened fire, killing the driver, the police and U.S. military said.

The vehicle crashed into the concrete barriers around the station and exploded, killing five people, including three police officers, said Abdel Azil Hafoudi, an official at al-Salam hospital. He said 53 people were wounded, including eight officers.

Police are frequently targeted by militants who regarded them as collaborators with U.S. forces. **(Imagine that!)**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Common Sense

July 22 By Susan Page and William Risser, USA TODAY

Bush? "I just don't like the way he's sending our boys overseas to die," says Dorothy Woodby, 72, of London, Ky. "He had no business sticking his nose over there and starting a war. It seems to me since he's been president, poor people have had a harder time.

And Kerry? "I turn off Sen. Kerry whenever he's on television. For what I've heard from him, I don't like him any better than Bush. He tells it (one way) one day and different the next."

Get The Message? Loud And Clear!

August 1, 2004 **Iraq Occupation Focus**, www.iragoccupationfocus.org.uk, **Newsletter No. 4**

Democracy Now reports from the **Democratic convention in Boston**: As Teresa Heinz Kerry spoke from the rostrum, on the floor of the convention **Medea Benjamin from Global Exchange and CodePink unfurled a pink banner that read "End the Occupation of Iraq."**

Within moments, police were called in to remove her and she was dragged off the convention floor and thrown out of the Fleet Center.

Bush: 'I Want To Be The Peace President'

(THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: B WRITES: I also heard Rumsfeld wants to be the Secretary of Peace, Justice, and Humane Treatment of Prisoners.)

7.20.04 By Adam Entous, CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (Reuters)

After launching two wars, President Bush said on Tuesday he wanted to be a "peace president" and took swipes at his Democratic rivals for being lawyers and weak on defense.

Bush Says Critics Lie



Speaking in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, President George W. Bush refuted charges by his enemies that he has his head up his ass. "My head is right here, between my ears, where the Lord God put my head with his own hands, where it belongs" he told the crowd. (Larry Downing/Reuters)

Received:

From: Mike
To: GI Special

Sent: Sunday, August 01, 2004 1:33 AM
Subject: Re: GI Special 2#B19: "Stop This Madness"

It is good to have you back online. I missed reading my GI special every night.

Michael Hoffman
Co-Founder Iraq Veterans Against The War
Veteran OIF, USMC

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