

## GI SPECIAL 2#B58



By Jeff Paterson, [jeff@paterson.net](mailto:jeff@paterson.net) 212-760-1722, Not in Our Name, Aug. 30, 2004 at 12:29 PM

# A Truly Brave Lt. Speaks Out:

**Denied Body And Vehicle Armor  
By Murderous Assholes In  
Command Who Make Sure They  
Have The Best, She Is Told Saving  
Her Troops Lives Would Cost Too  
Much**

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
9.13.04

**I served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a transportation officer — I command convoys — and am scheduled to return to Iraq with my unit soon. The lieutenants in my company have inquired to our senior chain of command concerning up-armor kits for our soft vehicles--we have three platoon Humvees.**

**We have received little response. We are told the kits are too expensive.**

**My company logged close to a million miles in Iraq without armor, body or vehicle.**

**When we returned, we believed that everything would be done to fix this problem. Nothing has been done; nothing has been ordered. These kits save lives and limbs, yet no one can seem to give us an answer.** It seems as if every other unit is getting the kits; why not us?

The role of the support soldier has changed. We are no longer behind the lines. We encounter the enemy more often than the infantry soldier, yet **we are given Vietnam-era equipment.**

***It is the enlisted soldiers commanded by lieutenants and young captains on the road in Iraq, yet senior officers have armored vehicles and even air conditioning.***

***Is the life of a private, specialist, lieutenant or captain worth less than a colonel's? It seems as if it is.***

**When the rubber meets the asphalt in Iraq, it is the junior leaders who make it happen, yet when we ask for what we need, we are given the runaround.** This lieutenant wants to know what my unit is doing to provide us with the armor kits we need.

If it does not provide us with this life-saving equipment, the junior leaders will do our jobs; we will find creative solutions to the problem, **we will go into our own pockets to buy crude replacements for armor, and the soldiers will fashion this equipment as best they can.**

**I desperately desire to support my unit but can no longer accept its answer to this problem. I am responsible for the lives of my soldiers and cannot fathom losing one because my unit could not afford up-armor kits for three vehicles.**

**It is my responsibility to work for positive change within my unit, no matter the consequences.**

1st Lt. Shelly Goode  
Fort Riley, Kan.

**(If you ever wondered what on earth could bring the troops in Vietnam to kill their officers wholesale, this letter gives you a little clue. "An eye for an eye, a tooth for**

a tooth, a life for a life---that's a good religion. That's that old time religion.”  
Malcolm X.)

**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.**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

# **Bush Regime Splits On Iraq: “Fierce Debate” Breaks Out; Soldiers Must Die So Bush Can Win**

**“In Fallujah, when they pick up weapons they are defending not just Fallujah but all of Iraq. *And they will keep fighting, place by place, until they reach Baghdad.*”**

9.9.04 By Yochi J. Dreazen in Baghdad and Greg Joffe in Washington, Wall St. Journal

**The unrelenting violence against American military personnel in Iraq is highlighting how a pivotal U.S. strategy has failed to pacify the country, while narrowing the Options available to policy makers who hope to avoid a wide conflagration during a politically sensitive time.**

Officials hoped the political handover also would allow the U.S. to assign primary responsibility for fighting the insurgency to Iraq's fledgling security services—and that this would ease tensions and reduce the high rate of American casualties.

**Instead, the Iraqi forces' inexperience and reluctance to fight effectively granted the militants control of broad swaths of the country, offering them safe bases of operations to launch new attacks against coalition forces.**

**The raging violence is sparking a fierce debate among senior U.S. civilian and military officials. Many officials in Iraq favor a broad offensive against the militants now controlling Fallujah and other cities, and say that turning the cities over to unprepared Iraqi forces was a mistake.**

**But others—including the senior leadership of the Pentagon—are pushing for a slower approach that involves first striking smaller insurgent-controlled villages to bolster the confidence of the Iraqi security forces.**

The debate is playing out against the backdrop of the impending elections in both countries.

Both camps acknowledge that any offensive needs to start soon to ensure it can conclude well before the Iraqi national elections scheduled for January.

**U.S. officials also privately acknowledge that the White House is concerned about the political impact of televised images of heavy combat in Iraq in the run-up to the November presidential election in the U.S.**

For now, Pentagon officials and senior military officials in Baghdad appear to have settled on the slower approach, which calls for postponing any major assaults on large insurgent-controlled cities until the Iraqi security forces grow stronger. “The Iraqi security forces need to have some smaller successes, and then we can build on those,” said a senior Defense official familiar with the strategy.

**But the Pentagon’s apparent willingness to countenance continued militant control of several larger cities is deeply unpopular among many military commanders and State Department officials in Iraq.**

A senior official at the U.S. embassy in Baghdad said the situation would enable the insurgents to launch a new campaign of violence to intimidate Iraqis to forgo campaigning or voting in the elections, and noted that few Iraqis would accept the legitimacy of an election that didn’t include residents of Ramadi and other insurgent-controlled areas.

“Islam says you must fight if you are occupied,” said Sheikh Abdul Sattar Abdul Jabbar, a member of the leading Sunni religious association.

**“In Fallujah, when they pick tip weapons they are defending not just Fallujah but all of Iraq. And they will keep fighting, place by place, until they reach Baghdad.”**

## Two Ohio Soldiers Killed

September 10<sup>th</sup> MONROEVILLE (AP)

There's word today of another Ohio soldier killed in Iraq. The Pentagon says 36-year-old Staff Sergeant Elvis Bourdon of Youngstown died Monday when his vehicle was attacked in Baghdad. Bourdon was assigned to cavalry unit based at Fort Hood, Texas.

Meanwhile, relatives of 19-year-old Jason Sparks of Monroeville say they've been informed he also has been killed in Iraq. Sparks' aunt, Becky Sparks says the family was told of his death yesterday but they don't yet know how he died.

"Jason was one of those good kids who never got into trouble," Becky Sparks said early Friday. "He wanted to go into the military for quite a while." **Sparks worked at two fast-food restaurants in nearby Norwalk before enlisting in February, his aunt said.**

Steve Ringholz, Monroeville High School's football coach, said he found out about Sparks' death after practice Thursday evening. Ringholz said Sparks played the offensive line as a senior at Monroeville. "He was a great kid," Ringholz said. "He always had a smile on his face."

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## Messalonskee Grad Wounded

September 10, 2004 By COLIN HICKEY, Staff Writer, Blethen Maine Newspapers Inc.

OAKLAND -- A Messalonskee High School graduate who enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps last fall suffered serious injuries Monday

Pfc. Manuel A. Rodriguez III, 20, currently is recovering in a military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, and is headed for a long rehabilitation after the blast left shrapnel in his face and right leg, according to his mother, Lynn Burke.

Burke, a Benton resident, received word of her son's injury late Monday night after she returned home from the business, Burke's Country Store, that she and her husband, Charles Burke, recently bought and took over in Clinton.

The call came from her eldest son, Jamie, who lives in Texas. Lynn Burke said the Army was unable to contact her directly because she had recently moved to Benton and had not yet forwarded her new phone number and address to her son's military unit.

**"He said 'Hey, Mom. I've got good news and bad news about Manuel. The good news is he is alive but hurt,'" she said. "That is when I dropped the phone and started crying."**

**She worries that the injuries could force him to abandon the career he hoped to have in the Marines. Burke said her son, who called her from a hospital in Baghdad on Tuesday, said that he has no feeling in his right foot, apparently the result of nerve damage in that leg.**

She said military officials have told her that rehabilitation could take six months to a year.

Burke is going through her own recovery, trying to make sense of the dramatic changes in her youngest child's life since he graduated from Messalonskee a year ago last spring.

A gifted musician and honor roll student, Manuel had long hoped to make a career in the military, following the lead of his biological father, also named Manuel Rodriguez, who served in the Army for 20 years, retiring as a staff sergeant.

Both of Manuel's grandfathers were military veterans as well, Burke said.

**Burke said she thought her son, a trumpet player who garnered many honors in high school, would get a position with the Marine band. Instead, he signed up for the infantry.**

"He thought it would be better for his career to do a tour in the infantry," she said.

What followed amounted to a whirlwind transition from high school student to soldier, at least from Burke's perspective.

**Mother and son last saw each other on July 6 when Burke got to see Manuel for 45 minutes when his plane -- bound for Iraq -- touched down at Bangor International Airport to refuel.**

**Burke supplied her son and her fellow soldiers with an abundance of baked goods and other treats -- donated by Hannaford and Shaw's supermarkets in Waterville -- at that time.**

Since Dec. 1, when Manuel left for basic training, Burke said she has not watched TV, preferring to stay away from the daily reports from Iraq.

**But even with the TV off, she could not shut off the fears.**

**"It is like something you really can't explain," she said. "It is like every moment of the day you worry."**

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## **Rebels Control More Areas**

10 September 2004 Peyman Pejman, BAGHDAD, Sep 10 (IPS)

**Armed groups have established new camps in central Iraq as government forces attack rebels in the north and south, officials say.**

**The revelations could be damning for the government of U.S. appointed interim prime minister Iyad Allawi who has promised to uproot armed opposition to the nascent government.**

New camps have been reported in the 'Sunni triangle' zone that includes Falluja and Ramadi. Iraqi and western sources say the camps have been established recently and fortified in the past couple of months.

**Reports are coming in of new armed groups organising themselves in parts of the country earlier thought safe, as fighting escalates in other parts of Iraq.**

**The groups are said to have established some military camps in Mahmoudiye-Latifiye-Yousefiye along the Baghdad-Najaf highway. Convoys of Iraqi officials have been attacked.**

**"The government is in a tight position," the western diplomat said. "On one hand it knows that it needs to act on the situation even as it continues to develop intelligence about what exactly it is dealing with. On the other, it simply does not have the resources or the political will to go carpet-bombing the area, so to speak."**

The operations show "that this issue is not a small problem because security forces have had many casualties." Neither he nor government officials offer casualty figures.

### **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/>

## **13 Occupation Cops Dead In The Tel Afar Campaign**

9/10/2004 Arabic News.com & by Mujahid Mohammed, Agence France-Presse

**News reports said that fire exchange stopped in Tel Afer to the north west of Musil city.**

**The commander of the city police Ahmad Muhammad said that 13 policemen were killed or injured. Among the injured were the acting secretary of the city Muhammad Amin who was hit on his back during the bombardment and was admitted to Musil hospital and he is not in a critical health condition.**

US troops announced through loudspeakers that for five days, residents would not be allowed to enter the town.

The Iraqi Red Crescent was setting a camp just outside Tall Afar for local residents whose houses were destroyed

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## **Falujah Residents Defy Terror Bombings;**

# “If There Is Occupation, There Must Be Resistance”

Sep. 10, 2004 HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press

**FALLUJAH, Iraq** - Searching for victims or survivors, the young man in a black T-shirt swung a sledgehammer into a slab of concrete perched atop debris - all that was left of a house blasted by U.S. warplanes. Nine people, two of them children, died in the ruins.

About 100 people watched as the young man labored under a blazing sun Thursday to clear the damage from the U.S. airstrike, which the Americans said targeted a suspected terrorist safehouse.

**There was no evidence that the attack got its target. Instead, locals said, it only whipped up new anger in Fallujah.**

On Friday, U.S. jets again fired missiles into targets in the city for a fourth successive day. Doctors said one man was killed in Friday's strike.

**The reaction of Fallujah's residents to the strikes suggests that the city may well prove the toughest to take back.**

**"Our faith has been strengthened by the fight against the Americans," said Abu Mohammed, a 40-year-old cleric who refused to give his full name. "We feel in danger. This is an infidel occupation that wants to destroy Islam. We must fight."**

Recent U.S. airstrikes have heightened tension in the city, feeding fears that an all-out American attack may be imminent. That has prompted hundreds of families to flee their homes, transforming neighborhoods facing U.S. positions into ghost towns.

**The exodus has given the mujahedeen the freedom to move into those areas and take up well-concealed positions in dense urban districts. Iraqi police now operate under mujahedeen control.**

**"If there is occupation, there must be resistance,"** said Khaled Hamoud, a respected cleric who led a team of negotiators from Fallujah to meet Prime Minister Ayad Allawi last week to discuss conditions in the city. **"We want to live in peace, but it seems that Fallujah is punished for every attack on the Americans, no matter where it takes place."**

Consolidation of power around Islamic clerics and their gunmen followers has also sidelined most of Fallujah's tribal leaders, many of whom cooperated with the Americans. Some prominent tribal leaders have fled the country, and others rarely venture from their heavily guarded homes.

Mujahedeen fighters are hailed as heroes for fighting the Marines to a standstill.



The city's 300,000 people consider their "victory" over the Marines an example of "divine intervention." Residents insist that the city has become virtually crime free thanks to the leadership of God-fearing men.

Residents keenly swap tales of supernatural forces at work. Reports of visions of the Prophet Muhammad appearing in Fallujah and leading the warriors are taken seriously, even drawing mention in Friday sermons in the city's mosques.

Accounts of giant desert spiders attacking American troops, white pigeons protecting the mujahedeen in battle and "heavenly" scents emanating from the bodies of martyrs spread through the city.

**The fact that such stories are taken seriously in Fallujah reflects the strong and mystical Sufi traditions among the city's population, something that separates them from others within the so-called Sunni Triangle, a large swath of land to the north and west of Baghdad where resistance to the Americans is fiercest.**

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## **Occupation Troops Open Fire On Crowd Leaving Baghdad Mosque Service; Cowards Kill Unarmed Worshippers**

10 Sep 2004 BAGHDAD, Sept 10 (Reuters)

**Iraqi troops opened fire on hundreds of supporters of a radical Shi'ite cleric as they left a Baghdad mosque after Friday prayers, killing two men and wounding five people, doctors and witnesses said.**

**The marchers were chanting slogans in favour of anti-U.S. cleric Moqtada al-Sadr when they were fired at by Iraqi National Guards near the Kadhimya neighbourhood in northern Baghdad, witnesses said.**

A doctor at Naman hospital said two men were killed in the violence.

A source at Sadr's office said the marchers were unarmed.

**(This is the democracy the Bush Occupation has brought to Iraq: killing people for chanting slogans! The Occupation is hated, The Allawi stooges for Bush are hated, and the Iraqis are winning their war for national independence. They are 100% right to resist.)**

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**TROOP NEWS**

# U.S. Troops' Death Rate Rising

Sept. 9, 2004 By Thomas E. Ricks, The Washington Post Company

**With the latest spike in violence in Baghdad, more U.S. troops have died since the turnover of power to an interim Iraqi government at the end of June than were killed during the U.S.-led invasion of the country in the spring of 2003.**

A total of 148 U.S. military personnel have been killed since the partial transfer of sovereignty on June 28, compared with 138 who died in March and April of 2003, Pentagon figures show.

**While attention has been focused largely on standoffs in Najaf and other well-publicized hotspots, an analysis of the figures shows the U.S. military has taken more casualties elsewhere,** including the deaths of about 44 troops in the western province of Anbar and 10 others in the city of Samarra.

**That trend is a grim indication that, 18 months after the invasion, the fighting appears to be intensifying rather than waning.**

**The wide geographic dispersion of the violence reflects the strength of a resurgent opposition.**

"The 'peace' has been bloodier than the war," said Capt. Russell Burgos, an Army reservist who recently returned from a tour of duty with an aviation regiment in Balad, Iraq. **In his view, the U.S. experience in Iraq is coming to resemble Israel's painful 18-year occupation of parts of southern Lebanon.**

Before the war, predictions by even the most skeptical Bush administration critics did not include scenarios of escalating violence this long after the invasion, **or of the U.S. military issuing a news release such as the one it sent out Tuesday morning, headlined "Fighting Continues in Eastern Baghdad."**

"No one that I know of, to include the most pessimistic experts, predicted a full-scale insurgency would break out within a couple of months of the overthrow of the old regime," said Steven Metz, a guerrilla warfare expert at the Army War College.

Now, Metz said, "the current situation may be sustained for a very long time." **(Wrong again. The troops won't have it, and neither will people back home. It is unsustainable. The war is lost. Time to come home. )**

The recent surge in violence has been especially **surprising (To who? Who really believed the Iraqis would fall for the bullshit that any "power" had been "transferred?")** because in the weeks after the transfer of power there was a phase that, for Iraq, felt to some almost like a lull.

"July was significantly slower" than the violence of the spring, said Maj. Richard Gullick, an Army neurosurgeon in Baghdad. **Then August roared back with 65 deaths and more than 1,000 U.S. troops wounded. The pace has worsened this month, with 25 fatalities so far.**

**More than a third of U.S. casualties last month were in Anbar province, in Iraq's western desert, where the Marine Corps is posted.** Underscoring the intensity of the engagements there, **the Marines lost more people last month -- 32 -- than the Army did**, only the second time that has occurred since the spring 2003 invasion. The nature of the Marine deaths is harder to analyze because the Marines generally do not release information about the specific causes.

"Sadly, the 1,000th military death is but a bookmark on a longer and more painful road," said retired Army Lt. Col. Carlo D'Este, a historian specializing in World War II. **As in the Vietnam War, he said, "there is no visible light at the end of the tunnel, nor has the Bush administration articulated a viable exit strategy, without which the war will continue indefinitely -- that is, years." (These idiots just don't get it. To continue "for years" requires an army and a population willing to continue for years. Before that happens, U.S. politicians will hang from lamp-posts.)**

But retired Army Brig. Gen. David Grange drew a different conclusion. "We are fighting a counter-insurgency," he said, in which there is "no short-term fix." **So, he said, the key to victory will be "maintaining the will of the American people." (Got that right, and the will is gone.)**

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## **Reservist Retention Collapses: Army Tries To Keep News Secret; Troops Who've Been To Iraq Getting Out Wholesale**

September 13, 2004 By Vince Crawley, Army Times staff writer

**The overall percentage of reservists who say they intend to stay in the military has dropped from 73 percent to 66 percent over the past year. Figures are worse for those who have served in Iraq, where fewer than half of Army and Marine Corps reserve component members say they are "likely" or "very likely" to stay in uniform.**

**Even nondeployed units show fewer people interested in staying in. (Because they know they're next. Duh.) The Army National Guard and Army Reserve show the biggest drops, but all services show eroding morale compared to a year ago. In nearly all areas, this May's responses were also lower than a benchmark study in 2000, just before President Bush took office but during a time when the then-candidate described the military as "overdeployed and underpaid."**

**Also, compared to a year ago, significantly fewer Guard and reserve troops say their spouses and other family members have favorable opinions toward military service.**

The most recent survey was done from April 26 to June 3, as the insurgency in Iraq flared.

The last time Pentagon officials publicly discussed survey findings was the summer of 2002, in the lull between the Afghanistan and Iraq campaigns, when they said polls of active-duty personnel showed notable improvement since 2000.

**Since then, survey data for both reserve and active-duty troops have not been publicly released. *Pentagon officials discussed the most recent survey only after it was obtained by Army Times.***

**“What’s notable about these surveys is that for each time it’s been done, the stated retention is falling,”** John Winkler, the Pentagon’s chief of manpower and personnel for reserve affairs, said. **“It’s more acute among people who have served in Iraqi Freedom than those that have not.”** (No fucking kidding? Imagine that!)

(Well, so much for all that bullshit happy talk about how troops just can’t wait to get back to Iraq because they love the mission so much. What horseshit. They’ve had the Pentagon PR machine pumping out the smoke for almost a year now. No wonder they tried to hide what’s really going on. Run, do not walk, to the nearest exist.)

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## **Wounded Give General An “Angry Tirade” “I Just Want To Go Home”**

September 13, 2004 Army Times

**About a dozen Oregon National Guard soldiers say they languished for months at Fort Lewis, Wash., because the Army lacked a protocol to allow them to return to their home state.**

The soldiers spoke with Brig. Gen. Raymond Byrne, the Oregon National Guard’s acting adjutant general, Aug. 30.

**The soldiers loosed an angry tirade about Army red tape and, some said, inferior medical care.**

They said that, away from their families, they had little to do but languish in the barracks between doctors’ visits.

Sgt. Rick Hardy, who ruptured his spinal disc in a rollover accident in Iraq eight months ago, said he has medical appointments about twice a week at Fort Lewis, but no other duties.

He spends his days walking in a forest and photographing Mount Rainier, he said. **"I just want to go home," he said. "I want to be demobilized."**

Around the country, close to 5,000 reservists and guardsmen receive care at active-duty bases.

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## **GI Deaths In Iraq: Half Leaving Wives Behind**

[Chicago Tribune, September 9, 2004, Pg. 1]

U.S. troops killed in Iraq average 26, four years older than during the Vietnam War. Many are National Guard or reserve members, **with nearly half leaving behind wives.**

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## **Capitalism At Work: Loan Sharks Feed On Soldiers' Families**

Army Times 9.13.04

**Military families with breadwinners in combat face their own threat on the home front from loan sharks, officials said Sept. 1.**

**New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer announced his civil lawsuit that accuses N.Y. Catalog Sales and its owner, John Gill, of violating state loan-sharking laws in its three stores, two of which are outside Fort Drum, N.Y.**

Spitzer said Gill provided up to \$500 in high-interest loans masked as catalog sales. Borrowers get \$50 in loans for every \$15 they spend on overpriced merchandise, he said.

Borrowers pay with a postdated check that is cashed on the borrowers' next payday. But often families need to borrow again to cover the cost, Spitzer said.

**"The location is no accident," he said. "Payday lenders routinely prey upon military personnel and their families, who are often strapped for cash."**

Gill didn't immediately respond to a request for comment left with the company, which operates under the corporate name **JAG NY (!)**.

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# A Taste Of Najaf

## 2-7 Cav: 15 Days In The Fight;

### “Embedded” Reporters Caught Lying Again

**(Remember the reporters who wrote about how sorry American troops were that they didn't get to fight Sadr to the finish in Najaf? Lying scum lying again. Check what an honest soldier has to say below and, who would believe it, a Lt. Col. at that.)**

September 13, 2004 By Matthew Cox, Army Times staff writer

M1 Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles rumbled into the fight. Dismounted infantry picked their way along the narrow, dangerous streets of Najaf's Old City, backed up by Air Force and Navy fixed-wing aircraft and Army Apache and Marine Cobra helicopter gunships.

Mehdi militia, dressed in black with red scarves and carrying AK47s, soon countered with heavy mortar fire, rocket-propelled grenades and multiple improvised explosive devices.

**“Thank God we had tanks,” said Maj. Tim Karcher, operations officer for 2-7. “The enemy was firing down alleys less than 100 meters away.”**

Instead of clearing block by block, 2-7 units leapfrogged their way through the city, raiding large buildings and compounds on dominate terrain, Lt. Col. Jim Rainey said.

**The enemy, however, was not easily scared off** and continued to attack the oncoming Americans.

“It was a little surprising that they continued to attack as long as they did, with absolutely zero success. They continued to send guys out with [rocket-propelled grenades] and AK47s to attack.”

***After the militants had moved out, U.S. troops found prepared enemy fighting positions and greater evidence of more professional command and control in the defenses, Rainey said.***

**Once the cease-fire took hold, 2-7 had suffered 29 casualties and zero soldiers killed, said Rainey, who was thankful that Sadr agreed to leave without a final fight.**

**“Had this continued, I think there would have been a significant loss of life, mostly on the enemy side, but also some of our great soldiers as well,” Rainey said.**

Initial reports estimated that as many as 4,000 militants were located in and around the mosque, said Rainey, who figured a more conservative estimate would be about 500 hardcore fighters backed by up to 3,500 lesser-trained militants loyal to Sadr.

“There were enough arms and ammo in there for twice that many,” he said.

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## **Army Says CIA Hid More Iraqis Than It Claimed**

[New York Times, September 10, 2004, Pg. 1]

**U.S. Army jailers in Iraq kept dozens of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison and other detention centers off official rosters to hide them from Red Cross officials---they did so at the CIA's request.**

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## **Rumsfelds' Property Attacked By Defective 20 Ton Machine: (A Stryker JG?)**

Army Times 9.13.04

**Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's property in Taos, N.M., was assaulted in late August by an out-of-control, 20-ton piece of road machinery that suffered brake failure while a road crew worked nearby.** The Associated Press reported about 15 feet of fence and several trees were damaged in what public works officials said was a “freak accident.”

**While land owned by Rumsfeld has been the site of anti-war protests, officials said the incident was “not a political statement”** and damage was considered slight.

Rumsfeld's house was never in danger, and he is expected to be reimbursed for the damage after the steamroller is removed from the property.

**After running over the wire fence and wiping out the trees and several utility poles, the machine went over a 12-foot canyon wall and stopped only after landing in heavy brush, the report said. (Yup, sounds like a Stryker for sure.)**

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## **Base Closings And Underwear**

Army Times 9.13.04

**The former Soviet republic of Georgia has a diplomatic controversy on its hands over the practice of soldiers drying their underwear outside their barracks.**

The soldiers are stationed at a base on the Black Sea that belongs to Russia. Reuters reports that Georgian government officials want Moscow to close the base because the underwear flying in the breeze serves as a reminder of how low Russia has fallen as a world power.

There is more than just underwear involved. Georgia wants the Russian troops to go home because their presence in the former republic is an unwelcome reminder of decades of Soviet rule.

**“They are drying their underwear, and the remains of a once-great army are lying around on their armored vehicles. I do not think this is good for Russia,” said Saakashvili, who was elected in January. (Maybe not, but it’s very good for the troops because it beats being killed or maimed in a foreign war launched by some imbecile politician because he thought it would win him an election. Underwear trumps death every time.)**

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## **Marine Missing Part Of Jaw Shakes Off Wounds**

September 10, 2004 By Heidi Rowley, Staff writer, Visalia Times-Delta

**Although missing part of his jaw, Visalia Marine Lenard Watson is in good spirits as he prepares to leave a Maryland naval hospital and come to California after being wounded in Iraq.**

Watson, a 20-year-old lance corporal who was serving his second tour in Iraq, was injured Aug. 25 during a battle in Najaf as Marines prepared to storm the Imam Ali shrine, Najaf’s most sacred mosque.

**"This was supposed to be the big attack on the mosque," Watson said from his hospital room at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. "Iraqi and other Arab special forces were going to go and clear the mosque."**

Because his jaw is wired shut, he speaks through a trachea tube with a voice amplifier.

In a picture he drew for his mother, Linda Klein of Visalia, he demonstrated how he and his machine gun gunner were positioned at an alleyway, providing cover for a platoon to pass. **They ran out of ammunition, giving the Iraqi rebels a chance to fire at him.**

**Watson, his gunner and several others were injured, Watson most severely.**

"I could feel them falling out," he said of the six teeth he is now missing. "I tried to shout at people. ... I could hear them clacking together."



He also suffered a cracked skull, a fractured tibia and severe flesh wounds.

**Klein said she was worried when she first heard that her son was injured, but then felt more relaxed when she heard that he was writing sarcastic notes in the Baghdad hospital to "keep morale up."**

Keeping with his humble nature, Watson said, "Everybody was trying to cheer everybody up. It wasn't just me."

Both family and friends describe Watson as someone who truly cares for his loved ones.

His section leader, Sgt. Brian Jackson, who was also wounded, wrote Klein, saying, "I gave Lenny the order, and without hesitation he moved with speed and intensity. ... **Lenny is no longer my subordinate. Lenny is my brother. There are few Marines that shed blood with each other and both are able to live and tell about it.**"

**A fellow Marine, James Reed, who served with him during his first mission to Iraq, wrote to Klein, referring to a moment when he got hurt, permanently injuring his foot. He wrote, "It wasn't the pain that really sticks out in my mind that night, it was the fact that your son was there before I hit the ground and was carrying me and never left my side ... that night I realized how close your son and I were."**

Reed also called Watson his "brother."

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## **Robertson Awarded Two Medals For Wounds Suffered While In Battle In Iraq**

September 05, 2004 By BONNIE FITZPATRICK/Staff Writer, Leesville Leader

First Lt. Lyle D. Robertson, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry, received two Purple Hearts for two different wounds he received during battle in Iraq.

Lt. Robertson, 33, originally from Tulsa, Okla., was awarded his first medal for wounds received in action on Jan. 5, 2004, in the city of Baghdad while attached to the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) as the trail gunner on a convoy.

On the morning of Jan. 5, Lt. Robertson was on the gunner on trail vehicle doing a reconnaissance resupply patrol. **At an underpass two or more guys shot at the vehicle with one shot taking a glancing blow off his kevlar, which he held in his hands.**

**"I was knocked back into the vehicle and hit the gear shift and knocked it into neutral and it stuck causing the vehicle to not continue moving," Lt. Robertson said in an interview later. "It was a bit unnerving for a minute there."**

Another piece of material cut his hands.

The second incident took place just north of Baghdad. He was the company advisor, kind of like a company commander, with the 2nd Battalion of the Iraqi Army.

He was on a reconnaissance patrol when they took fire from one side, with one bullet hitting him in the head and knocking him to the ground. **A second round hit a glass bottle happened to be where it landed and the glass shattered in his face.**

He said it is hard to remember what is happening in the moments when rounds are being fired. He never saw anything either. The first thing he remembered was the bottle and then it exploding in his face.

"I didn't have much fear, I didn't know what was going on, but then all the training I've had over the last 13 1/2 years kind of instinctual took over," Lt. Robertson said of the emotions he felt during the incidents.

He spoke highly of his training being a great means for ingraining in his head what needed to be done each step of the way during combat.

"The adrenaline rush I got when I was in combat was comparable to the adrenaline rush I had in the box ... it's very similar," he said.

Aside from risking his life during combat for his country, Lt. Robertson gave more to his country than many.

At the time he left his wife, Lt. Carol Robertson, had already been deployed for six months. Robertson was taking care of their six-year-old son Connor. He remembered well the last dropped Connor off at school before leaving for Iraq. It was the first time he had been away from him since he was born.

"I'm getting ready to go to Iraq," he told Connor as he dropped him off at school. "I might not be back for a while."

"He looked at me and said 'will you bring me back something dad?'" Robertson said. "I was surprised at how well his son handled the situation."

**The biggest gift he could have brought back to his son was his life.**

"My taxes really weren't that great, I came back alive ... there were so many people like Sgt. Tainsh ... so it's a little hard for me to compare mine with what some other people have done," Robertson concluded.

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## **11 On Hill Write Bush Demanding Firing Of Lunatic General; Pentagon Fears It May Set A Precedent**

(Washington Post, September 3, 2004, Pg. 17)

A group of congressional Democrats is asking President Bush to dismiss a senior military intelligence officer who made church speeches that included inflammatory

religious remarks while discussing the war on terrorism, but the Pentagon is resisting the pressure. Rep. Barney Frank and 10 others said action in the matter of Army Lt. Gen. William G. Boykin is long overdue and he must be removed from his post as deputy undersecretary for defense. **A Pentagon investigation found that Boykin violated regulations by failing to make clear he was not speaking in an official capacity when he made the speeches.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **Leader Of Biggest Shia Party Condemns Occupation Attack On Tel Afar As A “Catastrophe”**

9.10.04 By BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A leading Shiite Muslim cleric Friday criticized the heavy use of force by the U.S. military against insurgents in a northern Iraqi city, **saying the Americans caused "catastrophes" that could have been avoided if Iraqis had been in charge of security.**

**Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, leader of the biggest Shiite political party in Iraq,** was referring to attacks by the U.S. forces in Tal Afar, one of several cities that American officials acknowledged this week had fallen under insurgent control and become "no-go" zones.

In an interview with The Associated Press, al-Hakim, who is close to Iraq's leading Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, said Iraqi security forces would be in a better position to deal with the local population.

"There are disagreements in points of view when it comes to security matters. **We have our point of view and the occupation forces that are now called Multinational Forces have their point of view,**" said al-Hakim, who lived in exile in Iran for 20 years before returning home after Saddam's fall.

"The new thing is that the military operations are huge."

**"We believe that Iraqis should be in charge of security, which should be in the hands of Iraqi forces and personalities that believe in change,"** al-Hakim said. **"They (Americans) believed in something else and that is why these catastrophes occurred."**

<b>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION</b>
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**BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

## **Militants Threaten To Kill Captured Police Unless Attacks On Sadr Stop**

Sep. 10, 2004 Associated Press

**BAGHDAD, Iraq - A militant group threatened in footage broadcast Friday to kill four policemen from the southern city of Najaf after accusing them of acting against radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.**

The group, calling itself "The Joint Forces to Get Rid of Spies," said it kidnapped the four policemen from Najaf and **warned that if authorities do not issue a statement ceasing activities against al-Sadr and his followers they would be killed within 72 hours.**

**On Thursday, Iraq troops entered al-Sadr's office in Najaf for the first time since the fighting ended in a raid seen as a show of force against the radical cleric. No weapons were found.**

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## **Three Military Convoy Drivers Killed, Official Attacked**

9/9/2004 Arabic News.com

**In north Baghdad, three truck drivers were killed in the last 24 hours. Security sources in Sameraa said that three truck drivers, one of them is Turkish, were killed in north Baghdad in different attacks at convoys protected by the American army.**

A security source in Karkouk city to the north of Iraq said yesterday that the director of the intelligence of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, Horman Ali Othman, was exposed to an assassination attempt while he was on his way to the headquarters of the party in Arafah area to the north of Karkouk.

**The security source added that one gunman "opened fire at Ali Othman and his personal guards and this resulted in clashes between the two sides that lasted for half an hour and resulted in wounding one of the Bashmarka members."**

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**FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# A Real General

"I believe that if we had and would keep our dirty, bloody, dollar-crooked fingers out of the business of these nations so full of depressed, exploited people, they will arrive at a solution of their own. That they design and want. That they fight and work for.

And if unfortunately their revolution must be of the violent type because the 'haves' refuse to share with the 'have-nots' by any peaceful method, at least what they get will be their own, and not the American style, which they don't want and above all don't want crammed down their throats by Americans."

(General David M. Shoup, Commandant of the US Marine Corps, 1966.)

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## The Face Of The Enemy

I know George Bush is lying about his military service, because I can see it in his face. He lacks integrity when talking about his accountability.

Once you possess honor, you can detect it missing in those who do not have it. Honor is always about sacrifice, the ultimate gift of service to others.

Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
Bronze Star  
I - R - A - Q  
(I Remember Another Quagmire )

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

### Bush Right, Iraq Not Becoming Quagmire

[Wall Street Journal, wsg.com, September 9, 2004]  
The Bush administration said Iraq is not becoming a quagmire. **(Right. It already is a quagmire.)**

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# THE KERRY CAMPAIGN; THE FISH ROTTS FROM THE HEAD

September 8, 2004 Doug Ireland, Common Dreams

**In an article headlined "Lobbyists Take Leave to Advise Kerry Campaign" -- discloses that the whole bunch [of top Kerry campaign advisors] are on the payroll of Corporate America for big bucks.**

Joel Johnson is the strategist for the asbestos lobby's attempt to screw its victims out of compensation, and a lobbyist for Big Pharma, and his firm partners with another lobby shop headed by Tom DeLay's ex-chief of staff, and shares offices with the GOP firm.

Michael Whouley has been the subject of a raft of puff pieces by the political press corps--but how many of them told you that Whouley is on the payroll of General Motors, the insurance industry, and Microsoft to seek special interest loopholes for their benefit?

Whouley also partners with a GOP lobby shop that raises a lot of money for the Bush campaign. Joe Lockhart and Howard Wolfson are partners in a lobbying operation that represents pharmaceutical behemoth Pfizer, Fannie Mae, and the regional telephone companies, and Lockhart has also been on the Microsoft payroll.

**With all these Kerry-hired hacks supping at the corporate trough, is it any wonder that the only slogan they've come up with so far is the oh-so-feeble "W stands for Wrong"?**

**The WashPost didn't mention it in today's story, but the lobbyist who has the most clout within the Kerry campaign is the candidate's own brother, Cameron.**

Cam Kerry's Boston law-lobbying shop -- Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo -- advertises communications law among its areas of expertise and lobbies on behalf of wireless-industry clients such as AT&T Wireless Service, XO Communications Inc. and the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association. **CTIA is the trade association of the wireless industry.**

The Center for Public Integrity found that CTIA-affiliated companies and their employees have contributed at least \$152,000 to Kerry's Senate campaigns, and that since 1999 Kerry has taken positions that closely reflect the legislative agenda of CTIA. He sponsored two bills that CTIA lobbied for and co-sponsored six more. Not only do Kerry's assiduous efforts on behalf of the telecommunications industry help his brother's clients, a big chunk of the combined fortune of Kerry and his wife -- perhaps as much as \$47.1 million -- is in telecommunications stock affected by the pro-CTIA legislation Kerry has carried.

(Cam Kerry, by the way, is an Orthodox Jew who has been responsible more than any other for his brother's slavishly pro-Sharon positions, and paid a visit to Israel in the middle of the campaign. When the World Court ruled that that the Israeli apartheid "Wall

of Shame" hemming in the Palestinians was illegal and should be dismantled, candidate Kerry attacked the Court for its ruling!)

**At all events, if all of you have been wondering why the Kerry campaign has lacked appeal to working people, and can't come up with a bold populist program to challenge Bush and his corporate thieves and win the election, just look at the lobbyists who surround the candidate, including his brother.**

**Old Uncle Karl wasn't wrong: people perform according to their class interests. And once the campaign is over, all those hacks will go back to their lobby shops and keep sucking up to Corporate America to swell their bank accounts.**

**Ultimately, though, the old Sicilian saying has never been truer than as a diagnosis of what's wrong with the Kerry campaign: the fish stinks from the head.**

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.**

## **CHENEY: NOSTRADAMUS WARNED OF KERRY VICTORY: Could Signal End of World, Says Veep**

September 8, 2004 The Borowitz Report

Vice President Dick Cheney made his most dire remarks to date about a November victory by Democratic nominee John Kerry, saying that the French seer Nostradamus warned that Mr. Kerry's election would signal the end of the world.

"Nostradamus made it quite clear that John Kerry's election would be followed shortly thereafter by the end of the universe," Mr. Cheney soberly informed his audience at an Akron, Ohio rally yesterday. "So if you want the world to end, John Kerry is your man."

**Mr. Cheney added that if Mr. Kerry were elected, "Rather than seeing the world come to an end I would put the world out of its misery by destroying it myself."**

While Mr. Cheney's warnings about a Kerry win have grown increasingly grim in recent days, his claim that Nostradamus (1503-1566) predicted a Kerry-driven apocalypse was extraordinary, even by the standards of today's heated political rhetoric.

But hours after the vice president issued his latest warning, the Nostradamus prediction was powerfully discredited by a newly-formed political action committee calling itself Renaissance French Seers for Truth.

In an ad broadcast in several battleground states by the well-financed seers' group, little-known French seer Henri de Montrachet (1497-1558) is quoted as saying, "I was a seer alongside Nostradamus, and I can tell you this, Nostradamus is lying about John Kerry."

**In other campaign news, the Kerry campaign suffered another setback today when the Federal Election Commission informed Mr. Kerry that he had exceeded the federal campaign limit on boat metaphors.**

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