

## GI SPECIAL 2#B8



# The Death Wagons Of Iraq; “What’s Going On Is Criminal”

June 16, 2004 Eilys England contributed to this column from Col. David Hackworth's web site. Home page [Hackworth.com](http://Hackworth.com)..

In Iraq, a Humvee - the modern military's jeep - is involved in an enemy action or a serious fender bender or rollover almost daily. **Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz's command**

**has experienced 13 Humvee rollovers, resulting in 17 of his soldiers dying. "Nine of the deaths occurred in the last 90 days," he says.**

Gen. Metz says that most rollovers occur when "the driver has lost control of the vehicle." In a letter to his unit, he summed up other causes, such as "aggressive driving, lack of situational awareness, rough terrain, poor/limited visibility, adverse traffic conditions, improvised configurations and failure to wear seat belts."

Amen on the aggressive driving. If bad guys are firing rockets and automatic weapons and blowing off mines left, right and center, **no one in his or her right mind would drive on the most dangerous roads in the world the way we oh-so-carefully drive by a parked police car on the freeway. As longtime guerrilla-war veteran Lt. Col. Ben Willis (retired) puts it, "The MO would be to put the pedal to the metal."**

The problem is that the soft-skinned Humvee was conceived as a light utility truck - not a close combat vehicle. **"The Humvee is horribly thin-skinned and underpowered," says Army veteran Scott Schreiber, who drove one for six years. "It should be used in roles that don't call for armor. If the role calls for armor, it's simple: use armor."**

But here we are in Iraq after 15 bloody months still welding steel plate onto Humvees. **Sure, our soldiers gain a tad more protection, but it also turns the vehicles into rollover queens because it shifts their center of gravity.**

**Meanwhile, we have the Pentagon spending billions of dollars on irrelevant gold-plated fighter aircraft and on the lightly armored Stryker** - a vehicle that is not battle-tried and that the Army has placed in relatively safe northern Iraq. Not to mention the thousands of potentially lifesaving armored personnel carriers left over from the Cold War gathering dust in depots.

What's further wrong with this picture is that Iraq has excellent steelworkers and first-class machine shops that could be put to good use upgrading captured Iraqi equipment into armored vehicles capable of protecting our warriors while also securing our long, exposed supply lines.

**Our modern generals might give a lot of lip service to protecting the force, but any way you cut it, what's going on in Iraq is criminal. Clearly there's a disconnect. The brass need to spend less time in their luxurious lakefront palaces and get down on the ground with the troops.**

Maybe then they'll develop a greater sense of urgency about what's really needed on those killer roads.

**And maybe our lawmakers should stop by Walter Reed hospital and get some firsthand skinny from the terribly wounded being treated there about what a death wagon the Humvee has become from the way it's presently being used.**

**"How many soldiers and Marines need to be maimed or killed by roadside bombs before Congress will get off their tails?" Mary Martino rightfully asks. "My son is**

...serving his country with honor and pride in Iraq ... and has the right to expect that his country will do whatever it takes to protect him in his duties."

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## IRAQ WAR REPORTS:



U.S. soldiers cross a highway in front of a burned truck **as they arrive on the scene** to check a roadside attack. **(From the look of the truck, the "arrival on the scene" is about 4 hours too late. Very smart move. Much, much safer that way.**  
(AP/Mohammed Uraibi)

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## MARINE KILLED IN ACTION

June 28, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release Number: 04-06-27C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq -- One Marine assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action June 26 in the Al Anbar Province while conducting security and stability operations.

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## British Soldier Killed In Basrah

6.28.04 Ministry Of Defense, London & LONDON (Reuters)

It is with very deep regret that the Ministry of Defence has to confirm that Fusilier Gordon Campbell Gentle was killed in an improvised explosive device attack on British military vehicles in Basrah on 28 June 2004. Aged nineteen, he served with the 1st Battalion Royal Highland Fusiliers, and was single.



One British soldier was killed and two others injured in a bomb attack against British vehicles around the southern Iraqi city of Basra, the Ministry of Defense said on Monday.

"I am afraid I can confirm one fatality and two others injured -- one seriously," a spokesman told Reuters. "It was an improvised explosive device. It happened early this morning."

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## High And Rising

June 28, 2004 By Gina Cavallaro, Army Times Staff Writer

By June 28, the number of improvised explosive devices found or detonated in the [Baqubah] area was up to 167, which surpassed the number of IEDs for the entire month of May by 17.

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## Untimely Death Rattles Fellow Soldiers

(Yeah, that's the headline. As if a death is ever "timely.")

21 June 2004 By Monte Morin, Los Angeles Times,

Iskandariyah, Iraq - Blackouts are ordered at night. Even flashlights are forbidden. Conspicuous landmarks are dismantled. **Officers tell their men not to salute them, for fear they will be targeted by lurking snipers.**

In the wake of a mortar barrage that killed California National Guard Spc. Daniel Paul Unger nearly four weeks ago, life has changed drastically at Forward Operating Base

Kalsu, a scar of bulldozed earth and rubble that is home to Corona's Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment.

**Life is also different at the unit's brigade headquarters in Balad, about 68 miles north of Baghdad. There, on Wednesday, a rocket streaked into the Anaconda logistical base and exploded in a crowd of off-duty soldiers, killing three and wounding 26 others.**

**The explosion, which hurled shrapnel through walls, plate glass windows and vehicles, prompted commanders to order their soldiers to wear flak vests and helmets at all times. That particularly uncomfortable precaution was instituted as temperatures climbed well above 100 degrees.**

There were no Californians among the casualties from Wednesday's attack, although a number are based in the camp, which is home to about 17,000 troops from several units.

Base Kalsu, roughly 20 miles south of Baghdad, is along the bottom of the volatile Sunni Triangle. The camp is just east of the Euphrates River in the heart of the Fertile Crescent, a vast swath of lush farmland and grape orchards nourished by a network of canals. Although the rural countryside the soldiers patrol is breathtaking, the base itself is bare of all vegetation and is home to only a cluster of tents.

The tents are riddled with shrapnel holes, but living quarters have been reinforced with a triple layer of sandbags. And **the death of the first California National Guardsman in a combat role since the Korean War has weighed heavily on the minds of some soldiers.**

Four other California National Guard troops, assigned to support units, also have died since the U.S. occupation of Iraq began.

"When you get attacked, that's a life-altering event," said Maj. John McBrearty, executive officer of the 1-185th, and a screenwriter in civilian life. "You realize quick that this isn't fun and games. This isn't summer camp anymore."

**"A lot of guys look up at the ceiling of their tent a lot," said Platoon Sgt. David Harpst, 38, a postal employee from Oceanside. "They're wondering what's going to come through it."**

**Still other guardsmen complain bitterly that the attack was made all the more deadly by bureaucratic inertia within the Coalition Provisional Authority, the U.S.-led entity that now governs Iraq. The coalition, soldiers and officers say, prevented the Army from removing a towering network of antennas that once populated the base. The structures, they say, were probably used as reference points in guiding the mortars onto Kalsu.**

**"You could see those things seven kilometers away," said one soldier. "To have them there was just asking to be hit."**

The towers were a remnant of the first Gulf War, when the base was an Iraqi air defense and radar station that was heavily bombed. About a dozen antennas survived.

Towering more than 300 feet over the base, they were connected by a Rube Goldberg network of wires and piping.

Before the National Guard's arrival in Kalsu roughly two months ago, the 82nd Airborne Division had occupied the base and requested permission to remove the towers on the grounds that they made the small base visible from a great distance. The request was denied by the coalition, according to 81st Brigade Combat Team officers, because the towers were part of Iraq's infrastructure.

After the May 25 mortar attack, another request to remove the structures was approved within days. Explosives were strapped to the base of each antenna and detonated, sending the structures crashing to the ground.

Soldiers in Unger's unit said they felt more at ease, but were still troubled that the towers had not been removed earlier.

**"I guess it took three deaths for them to change their minds," McBrearty said.**

As part of the 81st Brigade Combat Team, members of Unger's unit, Alpha Company, are among the more than 4,000 California and Washington National Guard troops charged with defending strategic points along the military's main supply route between Kuwait and Baghdad. The guard units include more than 1,000 soldiers from Southern California.

Alpha Company is stationed in one of Iraq's most rustic forward operating bases, a place that even commanders describe in stark, scatological language.

**At Kalsu, water shortages caused by insurgents are commonplace. One Iraqi contractor who delivered water to the base was ambushed and killed last week. Another had his hands chopped off as punishment for aiding Americans.**

Unger's unit had been stationed at Kalsu for almost two months before the May 25 attack, and up until then, soldiers said they had faced only haphazard launches of mortars and rockets, which caused few casualties.

"They were pretty much amateurs," said Sgt. Daniel McNasby, 30, of Norco. **"On the 25th, though, they were dead center. These guys were professionals."**

The attack began shortly after 3 p.m., when soldiers at Kalsu's front gate heard the hollow thump of mortars being launched. At first, they thought the mortars were being fired from the base by U.S. soldiers.

But within seconds, the shells began exploding inside the camp, landing on tents, slamming into vehicles and flinging deadly shrapnel through the air.

At the time of the initial blasts, Unger was supervising a group of Iraqis who were cleaning the camp's showers. As the first mortars exploded, the workers appeared stunned and did not move. Unger shouted at them to run and directed them to a nearby bunker.

Just as the Iraqis found cover, a chunk of shrapnel punched through Unger's chest, dropping him to the ground. As Unger lay mortally wounded, the barrage continued, keeping medics and fellow soldiers pinned inside their bunkers or sending them dashing for cover.

A medic, Sgt. Les Mershon, 43, of Blythe, said he was tortured by the sounds of men screaming for help.

"The worst feeling you can ever have is to be running for a bunker or sitting in a bunker when the mortars are dropping," said Mershon, who works in a prison psychiatric unit in civilian life. "There's nothing you can do, and guys are calling for a medic."

**In five to ten minutes, 20 mortar shells crashed into the base, killing two Vermont National Guardsmen from another unit and injuring a dozen others. The barrage also destroyed a makeshift mess hall and wrecked more than 20 vehicles.**

Once the mortars stopped falling, medics struggled to keep Unger alive, but his wounds were too serious. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Unger, who friends say was cheerful and deeply religious, has been greatly missed by his fellow soldiers, some of whom went to high school with him. A skilled center fielder, Unger had dreamed of playing college baseball, but passed on a scholarship so that he could serve in Iraq.

McNasby, who played college baseball, said Unger once challenged him to a throwing contest to see who had the better arm. The two hurled practice grenades as far as they could.

"He out-threw me by 2 or 3 feet," said McNasby, who works for Aon Corp. in Los Angeles. "It was like he won a million dollars. He was gloating and so happy that he out-threw someone who played college ball. He would have made a great baseball player."

### **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/>**

## **Captured Marine Threatened With Execution;**

# Really Stupid Tactic

6.28.04 Combined Joint Task Force 7, FALLUJAH, Iraq & By Alistair Lyon and Lin Noueihed, BAGHDAD (Reuters)

A Marine assigned to the I Marine Expeditionary Force has been reported captured by the international media, June 28.

Cpl. Wassef Hassoun did not report for duty June 20 and was last seen June 19. His current whereabouts are unknown.

On Sunday, the Arabic satellite channel Al Jazeera broadcast footage of a blindfolded U.S. Marine, whose captors said they would kill him unless Iraqi prisoners were released.

"A Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force has been absent from his unit since June 21," a U.S. statement said. "However, Naval Criminal Investigative Services cannot confirm that Corporal Wassef Ali Hassoun has been taken hostage."

**(In Vietnam, the resistance against the U.S. occupation cut deals with U.S. soldiers not to kill them if they agreed not to kill the resistance soldiers. The cartoon below is from a Vietnam war era U.S. armed forces anti-war underground paper. This helped encourage the rebellion in the U.S. armed forces against the war that finally made it impossible for the U.S. Empire to keep it going.**

**This "chop off their head" bullshit is about as stupid as you can get. Whoever dreamed it up is a friend of or an agent provocateur for the U.S. government. Chop off *his* head.)**

## How They Stayed Alive In Vietnam



(From <http://members.cox.net/gifightback/>)



**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/gi-special/>

## **A Visit To Buhritz: Resistance Stands Off Big Red One For Twelve Hours**

June 28, 2004 By Gina Cavallaro and M. Scott Mahaskey

Rolling in at dawn on June 17 with a dozen tactical vehicles, three Bradley fighting vehicles and three times their basic load of ammunition, Johnson and 45 of his soldiers commandeered a two-story house and settled in for a fight they anticipated would begin toward evening.

The troop taunted the bad guys by playing the division's Big Red One song and songs by Metallica and Toby Keith on a giant loudspeaker.

Just four hours later — just before 10 a.m. — they got their fight when incoming small-arms fire broke the morning calm and sent townspeople scattering for cover.

“Pop! Pop! Pop!”

Johnson high-tailed it to the rooftop where his scouts were lighting up the landscape from their fighting positions.

“What do we got, men?! What do we got?!” he shouted over the gunfire before he picked up his own weapon and began returning fire.

**Dozens of enemy fighters, some dressed in all black, darted through yards, alleyways and an adjacent cemetery firing grenades, rockets and mortars, while others drove by and attacked with AK47 assault rifles. The attack was launched from every direction.**

Within minutes, the floor on the rooftop looked like a brass carpet of spent shells, and the scouts dodged and ducked bullets and other deadly projectiles. Their war cries and adrenaline-laced laughter punctuated the confirmed killing of fighters who proved stealthy, and the destruction of hiding places on the ground brought victory shouts.

**About three hours into what became a 12-hour battle,** a combat resupply was staged in front of the house under heavy cover fire.

**The fighting raged on both sides, and the soldiers manned fighting positions in shifts.**

**An armor-piercing rocket-propelled grenade crippled one Bradley, and chunks of concrete sprayed the rooftop by incoming fire that narrowly missed several scouts.**

The town was rocked with the deafening sound of automatic weapons fire and the pounding of 25mm rounds from the Bradleys.

**The air was thick with smoke and, as temperatures soared to 120 degrees Fahrenheit, half the troop's soldiers were taken out of the fight and given an intravenous solution to avoid dehydration.**

The enemy stopped firing by 10 p.m.

By Johnson's estimate, there were close to 100 enemy fighters, 13 confirmed enemy killed and close to 100,000 rounds of spent U.S. ammunition from M16s, 240 Bs, Mark 19s, squad automatic weapons and .50-caliber machine guns. The BRT suffered no casualties.

The next morning at 6 a.m., when the BRT vacated the house after paying the occupants \$200 for their trouble, the streets were empty except for one truck that drove past and at least one bloodied fighter who staggered through looking for aid.

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## **Injured Canyonville Soldier Sent To U.S. Hospital**

June 28, 2004 John Sowell, The News-Review

The U.S. Army was planning this morning to fly injured Pvt. 2nd Class Max Corrigan to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

The Canyonville resident, who was serving in an Oregon National Guard unit in Iraq, was wounded Wednesday along with two other Douglas County guardsmen when an improvised explosive device upended their Humvee in Baghdad.

Corrigan, the squad's gunner, received injuries to his face, his back, an arm and a leg. Both he and Cpl. William Congleton, 25, of Sutherlin, who broke both of his legs and suffered other lower-body injuries, were described last week by National Guard officials as very seriously injured.

**The extent of Corrigan's injuries made it necessary for him to be flown back to the United States, said Capt. Mike Braibish, spokesman for the Oregon National Guard in Salem.**

Over the weekend, Braibish said he had been unable to obtain updated condition reports on the three men. He said he would try to get that information today.

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## **British Hired Killer Killed; Was Earning \$700 U.S. A Day But Can't Take It With Him**

Jun 28 2004 David Williamson, The Western Mail

**A WELSH SAS officer was killed when the convoy he was travelling in was attacked by a mob in Baghdad.**

**Sergeant Julian Davis, from Newport, was working with a private security agency training Iraqi police.** It is understood he was on an officially sanctioned leave of absence.

His unmarked vehicle was attacked.

Sgt Davis, who was unmarried, had been a member of the SAS reserve forces for 15 years and served in Afghanistan and Bosnia.

*It was reported that he had been working in the region for 12 months, earning £500 a day.* He was well-known as a mountaineer, and had climbed Everest. In civilian life he was a professional mountain guide and an outdoor sports instructor.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

## **Dead Soldiers' Mother Condemns Bush And War; Allows Photos Of Coffin To Protest Media Ban**

6.28.04 The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO -- The mother of a soldier killed in Iraq summoned news outlets to photograph her son's flag-draped casket arriving at Sacramento International Airport to protest a Pentagon policy banning media coverage of America's war dead.

Nearly a dozen reporters, photographers and television crews watched as the coffin of Army Spc. Patrick McCaffrey, 34, was transferred to a hearse outside an airport cargo terminal shortly before midnight Sunday, officials said.

**"I don't care what President Bush wants,"** his mother, Nadia McCaffrey, told the Los Angeles Times. Patrick "did not die for nothing ... The way he lived needs to be talked about. Patrick was not a fighter, he was a peacemaker."

Patrick McCaffrey was killed June 22 along with Lt. Andre Tyson, both members of the 579th Engineer Battalion, when the two were ambushed by insurgents near Balad, Iraq.

The airport and the California National Guard worked Sunday to arrange the event.

McCaffrey's casket arrived aboard a commercial flight from Atlanta and was placed in a hearse by fellow members of the 579th Engineer Battalion, Shiroma said. It was driven in a motorcade to a funeral home in his hometown of Tracy, where services were scheduled for Thursday.

McCaffrey was a manager with a collision repair company in the Silicon Valley when he enlisted in the National Guard in the days following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. But he had grown disillusioned with his mission in Iraq, his family said.

**For her part, Nadia McCaffrey said she planned to continue speaking out against the war.**

**"This is enough," she said. "We have to react."**

## **VA Warns Doctors About Lariam; Ft. Carson Soldiers Punished For Complaining About Deadly Medication**

June 25, 2004 United Press International

**WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs is warning doctors to watch for long-term mental problems and other health effects from an anti-malaria drug given to soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq.**

The drug is mefloquine, known by the brand name Lariam, which has been given to tens of thousands of soldiers since the war on terrorism began. **Some of those soldiers say it has provoked severe mental and physical problems including suicidal and violent behavior, psychosis, convulsions and balance disorders. Last year the Food and Drug Administration began warning that problems might last "long after" someone stops taking it.**

**The VA warned its own doctors Wednesday that the drug "may rarely be associated with certain long-term chronic health problems that persist for weeks, months, and even years after the drug is stopped,"** according to a summary of published studies by a VA panel of experts. The summary accompanies an "information letter" from the VA's acting undersecretary for health, Dr. Jonathan B. Perlin, to healthcare professionals who treat veterans.

**Veterans' advocates praised the VA but said the Pentagon seems to have lost track of who has taken the drug --** making the size of a potentially serious problem unclear.

**United Press International has reviewed many medical records and has interviewed dozens of soldiers at eight military bases in the United States and Europe who said they took the drug. *None of the soldiers who said they took mefloquine had it noted in their medical records.***

**The VA letter told doctors that a "number of anecdotal and media reports have suggested that mefloquine has caused more serious effects, including violent and suicidal behavior, and symptoms similar to Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. " The letter cited reports linking the drug to a wave of domestic murder-suicides at Fort Bragg, N.C., in the summer of 2002. The Army has dismissed Lariam as a factor in those murder-suicides.**

UPI has been investigating mefloquine side effects for two years and reported in May 2002 that mounting evidence suggests it has caused such serious mental problems that in a small percentage of cases it has led to suicide.

Most recently, UPI reported that a number of soldiers at Fort Carson, Colo., who returned from Iraq are showing possible signs of mefloquine problems. In one case, a Green Beret tried to kill his wife and then shot himself to death; she blames mefloquine for triggering the behavior. In another, a medic said she hallucinated an attacker and responded by biting and kicking her husband.

**The Army has said it doled out 45,000 mefloquine prescriptions in the year that ended last October.**

**The three-page VA letter is accompanied by a 19-page summary of scientific studies and case reports compiled by an expert group that included medical, surgical, public-health and pharmacy experts from the department. Some of the titles among the 61 publications cited are: "Paranoid psychosis related to mefloquine antimalarial prophylaxis (prevention)"; "Seizures after antimalarial medication in previously healthy persons"; "Prolonged visual illusions induced by mefloquine (Lariam); a case report."**

The letter states that "there are no practical tests for mefloquine, nor are there any specific tests that can be recommended specifically for veterans who took mefloquine on active duty."

However, a doctor at the Defense Department's Spatial Orientation Center in San Diego recently has begun diagnosing a number of service members with permanent brainstem and vestibular -- or balance system -- damage that he believes is due to the drug.

One such diagnosis was given to retired Navy Reserve Cmdr. William Manofsky, who served in the Iraq war and said he experienced seizures, balance problems and mental disorders as a result of taking the drug.

**Soldiers at Fort Carson say their complaints about problems they believe were caused by the drug are being ignored by their command and by medical officials. Several soldiers at the base have told UPI that they are being pushed out of the military for problems caused by the drug.**

## Soldier Dismissed After Revealing He's Gay

06/21/04 By BETH FOUHY, The Associated Press, SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

**Brian Muller, an Army bomb squad team leader who served on a security detail for President Bush, said he was dismissed from duty after deciding to tell his commander he's gay.**

**"I didn't do it to get out of a war - I already served in a war," Muller, 25, said in an interview. "After putting my life on the line in the war, the idea that I was fighting for the freedoms of so many other people that I couldn't myself enjoy was almost unbearable."**

The exodus of soldiers like Muller continues even as concerns grow about military troop strength, according to a new study. Some 770 people were discharged for homosexuality last year under the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The figure, however, is significantly lower than the record 1,227 discharges in 2001 - just before the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. **Since "don't ask, don't tell" was adopted in 1994, nearly 10,000 military personnel have been discharged - including linguists, nuclear warfare experts and other key specialists.**

The statistics, obtained from the Defense Manpower Data Center and analyzed by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California at Santa Barbara, offers a detailed profile of those discharged, including job specialty, rank and years spent in the service.

"The justification for the policy is that allowing gays and lesbians to serve would undermine military readiness," said Aaron Belkin, author of the study, which will be released Monday. "For the first time, we can see how it has impacted every corner of the military and goes to the heart of the military readiness argument."

“Don't ask, don't tell” allows gays to serve in the military as long as they keep their sexual orientation private and do not engage in homosexual acts.

**The study, which analyzed discharges between 1998 and 2003, found the majority of those let go under “don't ask, don't tell” were active duty enlisted personnel in the early stages of their careers.**

Of the nearly 6,300 people discharged during that six-year period, **only 75 were officers**. Seventy-one percent of those discharged were men.

The study found that the Army, the largest of the services, was responsible for about 41 percent of all discharges. About 27 percent of the discharges came from the Navy, 22 percent from the Air Force, and 9 percent from the Marines.

Hundreds of those discharged held high-level job specialties that required years of training and expertise, including 90 nuclear power engineers, 150 rocket and missile specialists and 49 nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare specialists.

Eighty-eight linguists were discharged, including at least seven Arab language specialists.



**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.**

# He Died In A War He Didn't Have To Fight And Thought Was Wrong

June 13, 2004 Jimmy Breslin Newsday, Inc.

'I told him, 'Frank, you're 51. You can't go there.'" Rick Rancitelli was saying. This was Friday afternoon and he was sitting in church at the wake of his friend, Staff Sgt. Frank Carvill, who was in his uniform in the casket in front of the altar. He was killed the other day in Iraq, where at his age, and with a dependent mother with failing eyesight, he didn't have to be. Now, his Irish-Americans grieved openly and were tremendously proud of him.

Frank Carvill knew there was doom and he walked straight into it with a great smile. He came to war as a soldier out of all the Irish literature, the great novels and poems, and songs. He wrote that he wanted "cool green hills and a beer."

Carvill was in the 112th Field Artillery of the New Jersey National Guard. He was one of four from the outfit killed in Iraq last week. His friend, Rancitelli, sat in St. Joseph's church in East Rutherford, N.J.

**There were no lights or cameras. They die in Iraq and the government that sent them to die acts as if this never happened, that there is no such thing as death leaving our hands with blackened blood. The country is asked to live in illusion while soldiers die in despair. Carvill didn't think we should be in Iraq, but if the other guys were going, then so, too, would he be in Iraq.**

Carvill was a National Guardsman who did not go to the dentist. He went to war and got killed.

"He said to us," Rancitelli said, "'How can I not go when married guys are going? I have to go.' If you knew him, that's what he was. He was a true patriot. **He didn't think we belonged in Iraq. But people in his outfit were going. That meant he had to go.**"

Stephanie Ledgin, who was sitting in the row with us, said, "That's Frank." He was a vigorous 51. But still a 51," Rancitelli said. "He used to say that the best he could do was walk from the PATH station to Union Square. But he would have to stop for coffee on the way. The one thing I told him was to keep a Nine on him. He had bad eyesight, but he shot a Nine at Fort Dix and he did well with it. Keep it with you, I told him."

Bob Snyder, a friend of Carvill's for 30 years, sitting with us, said, "When he went on the obstacle course at Dix, here were these regular army troops and they were thin and young and they went right through. They put the Guard in there. One guy hurt his knee. Somebody else had his big belly stuck with barbed wire. Frank made it. He was so proud of it. He said he was slow, but he finished and he was so proud."

He worked in a law office at the World Trade Center and he was on the 54th floor in 1993 in that bombing. He helped at least one woman down the many stairs. Others



said he was a hero. Carvill caught a lot of smoke and he carried it around with him for a long time, and said nothing, the reason for this being that he said nothing. He missed the 9/11 raid because he was at a court hearing in Brooklyn.

**He was supposed to be home yesterday on a two-week leave, but somebody was put ahead of him on the plane and he had to stay in Iraq.**

Therefore he was here in this tan church atop a hill. He lived a couple of blocks away with his mother, who was from County Cork and working as a live-in maid on Park Avenue when she went to a dance in the Bronx and met her late husband, over from County Armagh. He was a mason and built the house she lived in with her son.

Frank Carvill was completely Irish-American. He was vice president of the County Armagh society. And in his memory on Friday, people muttered about Margaret Thatcher, who openly detested Irish Catholics, talking on tape at the Reagan funeral services.

Through the years, this guy Carvill walked around after work with the big smile and made McSorley's, the White Horse, Chumley's and, for the music, Bunratty's on Kingsbridge Road. He showed up at all fund-raisers, dozens of them, with a \$25 check. He carried petitions and made phone calls. He ran an Irish New Yorkers fund-raiser for David Dinkins.

In church, Cody McCone took out the last letter from Carvill, handwritten on yellow lined paper. "It looks like Kerry for November. It is very important for the Irish-American community to get on board. I trust you and Brian are doing what you can. Unless there is a change, we'll miss the election, though I will vote absentee."

He wrote that he was planning his whole life while he was in Iraq. He graduated from Rutgers, and now he thought he'd finally go to law school. Bob Snyder was saying that Frank said he wanted to marry Monalisa Forde.

The Mass for Staff Sgt. Frank Carvill began at nine yesterday morning in a church of broken hearts. **All the words were lovely, except for those of his battery commander, who thought he was lauding Carvill when he mentioned that one Irish weekly paper had a big pictures of Carvill and Ronald Reagan on the same page. The battery commander thought Frank would be proud. "Frank wouldn't like it a bit," Brian O'Dwyer muttered. Many agreed. For this Mass yesterday was no ceremony for stage Irish.**

At the end, four soldiers brought him down the aisle and out into the bright sun while a young woman at a piano sang, "Celtic Song of Farewell." The cops and soldiers in the back of the church cried.

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## Fishing Trawler Captures Sub

Army Times 6.28.04

A German submarine taking part in the NATO exercise Blue Game 2004 ended up being captured — in the net of a Danish fishing trawler. The ship, operating between Norway and Denmark, had to get help from a German ship to remove the net, according to wire reports.

This isn't the first time a Danish ship has captured a German sub. In a 1984 incident, three crew members of a fishing ship were killed when the trawler was pulled under by the weight of a submarine tangled in its nets.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Iraqis Not Buying Bush Bullshit; “America Is Like Death. Nobody Can Escape From It”**

6.28.04 By Alistair Lyon and Lin Noueihed, BAGHDAD (Reuters) & By NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD, Associated Press Writer

**The United States handed sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government two days earlier than expected on Monday, aiming to forestall guerrilla attacks with a secretive ceremony formally ending 14 months of occupation.**

**President Bush and his closest Iraq war ally, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, exchanged knowing smiles and shook hands at a NATO summit in Istanbul after learning the handover ceremony was over as they sat listening to speeches. (At least they're both consistent in their idiocy.)**

There were no exuberant scenes of jubilation which greeted the fall of Saddam Hussein's statue on Firdous Square on April 9, 2003, when U.S. troops swept into the capital.

Nor were there volleys of celebratory gunfire which break out when Iraqi's national football team beats foreign clubs.

On Monday, streets were almost empty.

"Iraqis are happy inside, but their happiness is marred by fear and melancholy," said artist Qassim al-Sabti. **"Of course I feel I'm still occupied. You can't find anywhere in the world people who would accept occupation. America these days, is like death. Nobody can escape from it."**

Hussein Ali, a retired teacher said as he fingered blue prayer beads and played dominoes with his fellow retirees at a cafe in the Shiite neighborhood Tobchi "People are afraid to express their happiness," Ali added. "When security prevails, Iraqis will be very

happy. **They will celebrate when the American troops leave and when they are no longer taking orders from the Americans."**

A Sunni mother strolling down the street with her two daughters said she found no reason to celebrate.

**"There is no difference," the woman, who gave her name as Umm Laila, or Mother of Laila. "As long as I see American soldiers in front of me, there is no reason to celebrate."**

**On the wall of the mosque hung a banner proclaiming: "We will continue to fight with Fallujah until our last drop of blood drop."** The banner was signed in the name of a Sunni insurgent group which said it captured a U.S. Marine shown Sunday on a videotape broadcast by Al-Jazeera television.

### **DEAD MEN WALKING**



Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi (L) and President Ghazi al-Yawar congratulate each other during a swearing-in ceremony in Baghdad June 28. (Faleh Kheiber/Reuters)

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

## **Six Collaborator Guards Killed At Baquaba**

27 June, 2004 BBC News

**Six members of the Iraqi National Guard have been killed in an attack on a checkpoint north-east of Baghdad.**

Police said the base was attacked by gunmen using automatic weapons and anti-tank rockets.

One of the gunmen is said to have died in the incident near the town of Baquba. **Four guardsmen were also hurt.**

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## **Falluja Resistance Says al-Zarqawi Buzz Is Bullshit**

June 28, 2004 Associated Press

A group representing resistance fighters in the restive city of Fallujah threatened Monday to punish anyone working with U.S. forces who have clashed with Fallujah gunmen in recent days.

In a videotape obtained by APTN, the General Command of the Martyrs Groups of Fallujah repeated denials that they had any connection to al-Zarqawi.

The fighters, who appeared in the videotape wearing keffiyehs around their faces and carrying rocket-propelled grenades, said its fighters would “publicly punish everyone who deals and works with the Americans in hitting the resistance in Fallujah.”

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### **While Soldiers Die, Looters In Suits At Work: As Bremer Leaves Dodge, \$20 Billion Missing From Occupation Headquarters Accounts**

28 June, 2004 BBC World News

**Iraqi money cannot be accounted for by occupying forces responsible for the funds, according to two new reports.**

<b>Discrepancies are highlighted in the handling of \$20bn generated from Iraq's oil and other sources since war ended last year.</b>
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The Coalition Provisional Authority was given responsibility for the country's finances by the United Nations.

But both the charity Christian Aid and the Liberal Democrats are now criticising the CPA, saying no audit of how the money was used had been carried out until April of this year - two months before the handover of power.

*Iraq's oil resources generate billions of dollars each year and both studies insist it is not known how that money has been spent.*

Helen Collinson, from Christian Aid, said: "For the entire year that the CPA has been in power in Iraq it has been impossible to tell with any accuracy what the CPA has been doing with Iraq's money."

Both investigations call on the CPA to reveal full details of expenditure and urge the British Government to exert some influence over the issue.

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## Collaborator “Security” Forces: A Hopeless Farce

Iraqi Insecurity Forces In Action



“OK men, right up that way. Don't worry about a thing. Those cute leopard skin pants will definitely terrify the enemy.”

26 June 2004 al Jazeera & 6.24.04 Rory McCarthy and Jonathan Steele in Baghdad, The Guardian

Iraq's current armed forces are ill-equipped to repel attacks.

Compared with the 400,000-man army, equipped with fleets of Soviet tanks and other heavy weapons, the Iraqi interim government that takes power on Wednesday will wield a token force. The army is expected to field some 35,000 soldiers early next year, equipped with light infantry weapons and non-armoured vehicles, Smith said at a news briefing on Thursday.

Iraq's National Guard, a growing internal security force formerly known as the Iraq Civil Defense Corps, counts some 30,000 members. **It is expected to take a year or more before Iraq's army can hold its own against well-armed Iraqi rebels**

**Up to 30,000 Iraqi police officers are to be sacked for being incompetent and unreliable and given a \$60m payoff before the US hands over to an Iraqi government, senior British military sources said yesterday.**

Many officers either deserted to the insurgents or simply stayed at home during the recent uprisings in Falluja and across the south.

**Fourteen months after the war and just a week before the Iraqis take power on June 30, the sources revealed serious shortfalls of properly trained police and soldiers and vital equipment.**

The problems are particularly critical because 35 new police checkpoints are to be set up across Baghdad before the handover, when violence is expected to escalate.

The police forces, now the first line of defence, are being drastically overhauled.

**There are 120,000 officers on the payroll, although only 89,000 turn up for work - and more than half of these have still had no training.** Those who do not turn up are either ghost employees left over from the previous corrupt system or are permanently absent. Most will be encouraged to retire.

In addition, up to 30,000 regular police officers who are now deemed unsuitable will be sacked and replaced. Each will receive \$1,000 to \$2,000 in severance pay - a total package of up to \$60m.

**The security forces are also desperately short of equipment, having less than 5% of the radios, a quarter of the body armour, a third of the vehicles and slightly more than half the weapons they need.**

A total of 253,000 weapons have been ordered but only 141,000 have arrived so far. Of the 57,000 radios on order, there are only 2,500 in Iraq. And of the 25,000 vehicles needed, there are only 8,500.

**The high demand for body armour has been particularly difficult to meet. Of the 174,000 sets procured, only 40,000 have so far been received.**

Colonel James Mulvenna, an American officer who is chief of staff on the coalition's training team, said the programme for building barracks and bases for the Iraqi army was three months behind schedule. **Most work had been farmed out to private contractors, who were increasingly being targeted.**

**"The contractors are facing security issues," Col Mulvenna told the Guardian in a separate briefing. "It is hard to do construction in the middle of an insurgency. There are also funding delays."**

The army is also building an intervention force to conduct urban warfare, but here too the programme is slow. While the plan is to have some 7,500 men, only one battalion of around 700 will be ready to deploy in Baghdad by June 30. The problems are in part due to the colossal task facing the US and British military in rebuilding the Iraqi state, but the sources said they were also a result of logistical breakdowns, unclear policies and an apparent rush to recruit troops many of whom are now recognised as unsuitable.

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## Baghdad Commands' Campaign To Recruit More Fighters For The Resistance In High Gear



An Iraqi man waits while U.S. Army soldiers search his home during a raid in Abu Ghraib, on the outskirts of Baghdad June 26, 2004. (AP Photo/Jim MacMillan)



A U.S. Army soldier searches an Iraqi man during a raid in the Yarmouk section of Baghdad June 27, 2004. (AP Photo/Jim MacMillan)

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

BRINGING JOY WHEREVER HE GOES



Turkish riot police use a water canon to restrain thousands of Turks eager to welcome Bush to Istanbul June 28. In addition to flowers for the President, protesters brought paving stones and gasoline bombs which the White House Press Corps reported were symbolic offers of help in rebuilding Iraq and easing its gasoline shortage. (Reuters)

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## Iraq CIA Stooge Prime Minister And Nader Agree: Isolate The Resistance

#1

6.27.04 TAREK EL-TABLAUWY, BAGHDAD (AP)

**Iraq's interim prime minister, *Iyad Allawi*, said his government wanted *to try to split the insurgency by dividing less ideological members from the hardcore leaders.***

**"We are drawing up plans to provide amnesty to Iraqis who supported the so-called resistance without committing crimes, while isolating the hardcore elements of terrorists and criminals and undercutting their base of support," Allawi wrote in an opinion article published Sunday in Britain's The Independent newspaper.**



## #2

### **Waging Peace, Advancing Justice, Promoting Security: The Civic Displacement of Corporate Globalization**

**Speaker: *Ralph Nader*, independent candidate for president of the United States**

Council on Foreign Relations  
New York, N.Y.  
May 24, 2004

How to get out of Iraq? It seems there are two futures that can be presented to the mainstream Iraqi people. One is the future that they now see before them, which is an endless, even a permanent military and corporate occupation of their country with a puppet regime in place and with no light at the end of the tunnel.

***That kind of future is not going to separate mainstream Iraqis from the insurgents and the resistance. It's going to increase the sympathy of mainstream Iraqis, who are the overwhelming majority, with the insurgents and the resistance. An alternative future that will separate them, distance them from insurgencies and the resistance,*** would be to declare a set date for a corporate and military withdrawal by the United States from Iraq--let's say until the end of the year--with a phase-in of international peacekeepers from neutral countries who are experienced in that effort, as well as from Islamic nations, and that that be correlated with internationally supervised elections to avoid any impression that a puppet regime is going to be put in place, with continued humanitarian assistance until the country gets back on its feet.

**(In case you run into somebody still confused about Nader, quote this one. *He is for keeping U.S. troops fighting in Iraq until some vague day in the future, when they will be replaced by other troops.***

**His plan to “separate” and “distance” “mainstream” Iraqis from the resistance, so their movement can be destroyed, is the reason he is flatly opposed to Bringing The Troops Home Now.**

**If Nader has his way, the troops coming home now will be dead or maimed.)**

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