

## GI SPECIAL 2#18



**American Soldiers' Most Deadly Enemy**  
(Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

# **As Soldiers Die, Bush Regime Stalls On Protective Armor; Slow Production Sent By Ship; Stripped From Humvees (Story #2)**

January 28, 2004, By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer.

Army and Marine Corps officials said the so-called “up-armored” Humvees are still in short supply.

Protective measures remain a major concern for lawmakers, who said they continue to hear reports that some units — especially National Guard and reserve units — do not have equipment that might save lives.

Rep. Rob Simmons, R-Conn., said he is concerned that up-armored Humvees and the kits to retrofit existing Humvees to provide more protection are not being produced and delivered to Iraq as quickly as possible.

**Some vendors “are not operating at full capacity,” and the retrofit kits that are available are being sent to Iraq by ship rather than aircraft, he said.**

Simmons said this doesn't strike him as proof that force protection is the Army's top priority.

Gen. Peter Schoomaker, Army chief of staff said the Army is doing everything it can. “It is, in fact, our highest priority,” he said. “If you know something we don't know, we will take that and act on it.” (What an asshole. He just got told the stuff isn't being produced at full capacity and is slowly being sent by ship and he says “If you know something we don't...we'll act on it.” What does he mean “if?” He just got told something and he pretends like he doesn't even hear it. This rotten piece of shit deserves to get staked out all alone overnight in Tikrit with a big sign around his neck: “U.S. General, Come Get Him.”

Simmons wasn't convinced. “I think we can step the process up,” he said.

Rep. Gene Taylor, D-Miss., raised similar concerns about the radio jammer that could stop some explosive devices from being set off when military convoys pass. **Taylor said military officials have told him about half the casualties in Iraq are due to so-called improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, which makes him wonder why more of the jammers, which cost about \$10,000, are not available.**

Taylor complained the Defense Department would not tell him how many explosives jammers are deployed, saying that is classified. Schoomaker also refused to provide the data in the open hearing.

**“I really feel the reason the number is classified isn't because of fear that Iraqis will figure it out but because the American people can figure it out,” Taylor said.**

(He's got that right. The troops real enemies aren't the Iraqis; they're the politicians in Washington DC. Always have been, and until we bring them down, always will be.)

**MORE:**

## **Bush Regime Soldier-Killers Force Troops To Strip Armor Off Humvees**

*[USA Today, January 29, 2004, Pg. 5]*

Alabama National Guard troops, when told they were going to Iraq, put steel plates on dozens of Humvees that had not been beefed up to protect riders. The work was done outside military channels. *Shortly after the project was completed, Army officials had the steel plates removed.*

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.** Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. **Send requests to address up top. For copies on web site see:**<http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

# **Car Bomb Explodes Outside Central Baghdad Hotel**

Sonja Pace, Baghdad, 28 Jan 2004, VOA.com

A 500-pound bomb exploded outside a hotel in central Baghdad, killing at least four people and wounding several others.

**The al-Shaheen hotel stands on a street that runs along the Tigris River in the upscale Kharada neighborhood of the capital. It was considered a quiet area.**

But, early Wednesday a van painted to resemble an ambulance exploded outside the hotel, ripping off much of the front of the building. Windows were blown out and mattresses, bedding, and clothing hung out of the gaping holes that remained.

Outside, burned cars and twisted metal lay strewn about and shattered glass littered the street as far as a block away. At least two other buildings in the area were damaged.

The injured were taken to local hospitals, many with burns and shrapnel wounds.

**The hotel is frequented by Iraqi government officials and Westerners, including the interim labor minister, Sami Izara al-Majoun.**



**BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**

U.S. Army troops at scene of a bomb attack at Shaheen Hotel, Jan. 28, (Oleg Popov/Reuters)

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## **Iraqi Cop Killed, 13 Wounded**

January 29, 2004 BAQUBA, Iraq (Reuters)

**A series of roadside attacks in Iraq killed a local security officer and wounded at least 13 other people on Thursday as insurgents mounted fresh strikes against Iraqis seen as collaborating with U.S. forces.**

In northern Iraq, guerrillas fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a checkpoint manned by the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps south of the city of Kirkuk, killing one member of the force, police said.

**In central Iraq, explosives hidden in a cart carrying diesel fuel detonated as a Defense Corps patrol made its way through the town of Baquba, 40 miles north of Baghdad, wounding 10 people, two of them seriously, local police and doctors said.**

And in the southern city of Basra, where British troops are responsible for security, a roadside bomb exploded as a convoy carrying civilian officials was passing, wounding three Iraqi bystanders, a spokesman for British forces said.

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**TROOP NEWS**

# **THE ENEMY IS IN WASHINGTON, NOT IRAQ!**

## **Army Cheating Reservists & Guard Members In Combat Out Of Their Pay**

*Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, January 29, 2004*

Legislators say the Pentagon moves too slowly to fix pay problems for thousands of Army National Guardsmen and reservists called to active duty in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

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## **\$45,000 Per Soldier Per Month? Who's Getting The Money?**

**U.S.. Military Spending Faces New Questions Amid Inquiries**

By John D. McKinnon, Wall St. Journal 1.26.04

WASHINGTON. —The General Accounting Office and the House Budget Committee are examining the scale of Pentagon spending on U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, **and whether the Defense Department is even using all the money that U.S. Congress has allocated.**

In all, Congress has approved about \$4 billion a month for Iraq and \$1 billion a month for Afghanistan, officials say. **Based on those numbers, lawmakers have estimated the cost of operations at as much as \$45,000 per soldier each month in Iraq and \$100,000 in Afghanistan.**

**Others are questioning whether the Pentagon is even spending all the money that the administration sought from Congress.** "It's hard for me to believe we're spending that much money a week," **Comptroller General David Walker, the head of the GAO, said last week.** 'The fact of the matter is, it's tough to come up with \$1.1 billion a week of incremental costs I'm not sure it's [all] being spent."

**Some congressional aides even suggest privately that the administration asked for more than it needed to avoid having to make an unpopular election-year request.**

**Including the war costs, the defense budget already has exceeded the Cold War peak of \$428 billion (in inflation-adjusted dollars), the analysis states.**

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# Betrayal In The Ranks

**Women who were raped while serving in the military say they were isolated and blamed for the attacks, while the system they turned to for help has treated the men who assaulted them far more humanely.**

**"When I looked at the American flag, I used to see red, white and blue," said Marian Hood, a veteran who said she was gang-raped. "Now, all I see is blood."**

By Miles Moffeit and Amy Herdy, Denver Post Staff Writers, November 16, 2003

Marine Joseph Holguin sank to the floor, hugged his knees and told the polygraph examiner that fellow lance corporal Sally Fictum had said no.

Accused of raping Fictum, Holguin had maintained in previous interviews that the act was consensual. But he changed his story twice after the polygraph results showed deception.

"Holguin stated he continued through with the act ... although she had told him to stop, because he felt 'things had gone too far to stop,'" an investigator wrote in an Aug. 11, 1993, report. "Holguin stated he had made a mistake."

**Holguin was charged with rape. By October, however, his commander dropped the criminal case, using discretionary power granted under military law.**

**A retired Marine attorney who reviewed the examination results for The Denver Post said: "Based on the documents I've reviewed, they let a rapist walk."**

***The 19-year-old Fictum faced her own punishment. She said her commanders humiliated her and deprived her of sexual-trauma counseling. She also was investigated for lying, even after Holguin's admissions.***

**"How many young ladies' lives have to be ruined before the military listens?" asked Fictum, who left the Marines after attempting suicide later that year.**

Parallels to Fictum's case emerged last February when **dozens of U.S. Air Force Academy cadets stepped forward to report that they faced punishment, attacks on their character and intimidation after reporting sexual assault, while their attackers escaped criminal charges.** A nine-month investigation by The Post found that the academy scandal is part of a deeper problem.

**All the armed forces have mishandled sexual-assault cases by discouraging victims from pursuing complaints, conducting flawed investigations and depriving victims of support services, according to interviews with military women and an examination of records.**

**Military officers often have ignored or hidden problems and findings related to sexual assaults.**

The obstacles to pursuing justice are wrenching, more than 50 sexual-assault victims told The Post. **Many fear retaliation, damage to their careers and being portrayed as disloyal. And those who do report are often punished, intimidated, ostracized or told they are crazy by their superiors.**

**"These people were supposed to be my family," said Michelle Swanson, an Army intelligence specialist who said she was discouraged by a supervisor from reporting her sexual assault. "I was betrayed."**

The Post's interviews and an analysis of records found:

**Leniency toward sexual-assault crimes is routine.** Over the past 10 years, twice as many accused Army sex offenders were given administrative punishment as were court-martialed. In the civilian world, four of five people arrested for rape are prosecuted. Nearly 5,000 accused sex offenders in the military, including rapists, have avoided prosecution, and the possibility of prison time, since 1992, according to Army records. The Air Force released only limited data, and the Navy and Marines gave out none. But civilian victim advocates say the trends are similar.

**"The military system is like a get- out-of-jail-free card,"** said Jennifer Bier, a Colorado Springs therapist who has counseled military victims.

Rape is widespread in the armed forces, where more than 200,000 women serve. Sketchy military record-keeping makes it impossible to quantify. **The Pentagon puts the percentage of women raped in single digits, yet two Department of Veterans Affairs surveys in the past decade found 21 percent and 30 percent of women reported a rape or attempted rape.** The comparable civilian figure is nearly 18 percent, according to a federal survey in 2000. During congressional hearings in 1991, witnesses estimated that up to 200,000 women had been sexually assaulted by servicemen.

**Victims lack support services, and many are left vulnerable to pressure and intimidation from commanders and peers.** Despite a 1994 congressional mandate to establish victim advocacy programs, the Department of Defense has a shortage of advocates to help safeguard women and navigate the military's bureaucracy.

These problems take a human toll. Dozens of veterans told The Post that being assaulted ruined their careers and sent them down a destructive path, including addictions and suicide attempts. Many carry the scars for life.

**"When I looked at the American flag, I used to see red, white and blue," said Marian Hood, a veteran who said she was gang-raped. "Now, all I see is blood."**

**Department of Defense leaders, including Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, declined to be interviewed for this report.**

Overall the military has not solved its justice dilemma despite consistent evidence that one exists.

Even deeper problems emerge in the stories of women such as Sally Fictum, Michelle Swanson, Denise Arroyo and Jennifer Neal. Swanson was in the Army. Fictum, a Marine. Arroyo, Air Force. Neal, Navy.

All four not only survived the punishing rigors of boot camp, they loved it. Pursuing justice proved to be a crueler obstacle course.

**Although they have never met, all said they faced threats of punishment and attacks on their credibility after reporting their assaults. Their attackers faced little or no criminal punishment. The military did not provide them with a victim advocate, forcing them to reach outside the armed services for help and support.**

"Most of my clients' cases are strikingly similar," said Beth Hills, a civilian advocate who represented three of the women, as well as more than 100 others assaulted in the military during the past decade. "In terms of how harshly the military treats them, all you have to do is change the name on the case file."

**Like Joseph Holguin, thousands of accused sex offenders in the military have escaped imprisonment during the past decade, military records show.**

Many of them avoided criminal prosecution through administrative actions that offer no possibility of prison or a criminal record. They faced job-related discipline such as reprimands, rank reductions, counseling and fines. Some were allowed to resign.

Since 1992 in the U.S. Army alone, the cases of 4,801 servicemen accused of offenses ranging from rape to indecent acts upon a child were handled administratively, according to records.

That is more than twice the 2,033 suspects who were sent to court-martial, the military's version of a criminal trial, for the same offenses. In 1,283 other cases, commanders took no action, **and for 1,555 offenders, Army commanders never reported the outcome.**

**In the civilian world, prosecutors decide whether to investigate and try accused offenders. In the military, soldiers' bosses - commanders - make those decisions.**

In 2001, the Cox Commission, a panel formed on the 50th anniversary of the UCMJ, noted that ***"the far-reaching role of commanding officers in the court-martial process remains the greatest barrier to operating a fair system of criminal justice."***

The commission focused on the rights of accused soldiers but also said its review stemmed from "a near-constant parade of high-profile criminal investigations and courts-martial, many involving allegations of sexual misconduct, each a threat to morale and a public relations disaster."

**Even serial offenders are allowed to resign with administrative punishments. And, they can slip back into the civilian world with no criminal record.**

Another is former Airman Dane N. Bogle. Two Air Force women testified in a hearing that Bogle sexually assaulted them two days apart at Dover Air Force Base, Del., in spring 2001. One of the victims, 19-year-old Denise Arroyo, now a civilian, accused him



of entering her room and raping her after she had been drinking with friends. The other victim also said Bogle sexually assaulted her in her room.

Bogle was headed for a court-martial, but instead his commanders allowed him to resign. Maj. Gen. George N. Williams approved an "other-than-honorable discharge" at the request of Bogle and his wing commander, Scott Wuesthoff, military court records show.

Wuesthoff noted "inconsistencies" in Arroyo's story because she had been drinking, records show. The other victim, citing religious beliefs, asked only for an apology, records show. She could not be reached by The Post. Both women supported Bogle's resignation.

**Arroyo said she did so only after months of pressure from officers under her commander, Col. S. Taco Gilbert III. She said they threatened to charge her with alcohol violations, but didn't. While Arroyo was on leave recovering from her attack, she said, squadron leader Russell Cutting told her that he planned to put her to work in the same dining hall as her attacker.**

**"I didn't want to go back there. All I could think was that I would be raped again," Arroyo told The Post, adding that Cutting's remark persuaded her to quit the Air Force.**

**Gilbert, who later went on to become commandant of cadets at the Air Force Academy in 2001, was accused by several cadets of derailing their cases and pursuing punishments against them. Gilbert denied that.**

Dover officials and Arroyo's former supervisors, including Gilbert and Cutting, declined to be interviewed.

On June 14, 2001, Navy sailor Jennifer Neal, who ranked near the top of her engineering class, went to a cookout at the Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, Ill.

When Jessie R. Capers, a fellow petty officer, asked her to get him a beer from his room, Neal agreed. Capers followed her in.

He grabbed her by the throat, pinned her to the bed and raped her, Neal said. Neal then did everything a prosecutor would want her to do.

She immediately reported the rape.

She went to a hospital, where doctors collected DNA evidence and investigators took photos of her bloody and torn clothing and the bite marks that covered her chest and neck.

**But despite all those steps, Neal was threatened, intimidated and deprived of basic assistance from the military that a woman in civilian life could expect, said Beth Hills, the civilian advocate.**

**Neal's experience underscores another defect in the military justice system, according to the Miles Foundation, a Connecticut-based nonprofit victim**

**advocacy organization that has helped more than 5,800 victims of military-related sexual assault since its founding in 1987.**

**"These women, over and over again, go through psychological evaluations, punishments, and character assassinations," said Christine Hansen, the foundation's director. "Everything from, 'You sleep around' to 'You've got mental problems' to 'You're a lesbian.' And in the majority of our cases, there has been no justice for the victim."**

After the 1996 Aberdeen scandal in Maryland, in which Army drill instructors were accused of raping trainees, defense officials formed a committee to examine sexual misconduct.

The next year the committee, known as the Senior Review Panel, held confidential Pentagon briefings on the issue. **Joan Furey, director of the VA Center for Women's Affairs, was among the first to make a presentation.**

Furey told panel members that women veterans increasingly were seeking sexual-trauma counseling. VA counselors across the country were consistently reporting disturbing trends from their cases.

**Furey described more than a dozen ways women were discouraged from reporting crimes and derailed from pursuing justice, according to her report, obtained by The Post.**

**"Supervisory personnel stating no one will believe them," Furey wrote.**

**"Threatened with bodily harm."**

**"Referral for psychiatric evaluation."**

**"Refusal to pursue complaint."**

**"No forensic medical exam."**

**"Lack of support advocacy within the command."**

**Military women faced intimidation and punishment from commanders, Furey said, and were vulnerable, in part, because they had no victim advocates.**

**Furey said her research found that victims were isolated and blamed after their attacks. Victims also were given disciplinary or psychiatric discharges.**

Furey ended her report by urging the panel to recognize the need for victim advocates, ideally female service members. She said the approach should be modeled after civilian police programs in which advocates assist victims in obtaining legal help, counseling and preparing safety plans.

**During Furey's presentation, the chairman of the Army panel, Maj. Gen. Richard Siegfried, expressed concern, recalled Dr. Leora Rosen, then a scientific consultant to the members.**

Yet as soon as Furey left, Siegfried pulled some panel members into his office and moved to contain what he considered a public-relations bombshell, Rosen said.

**"He told us to make sure this doesn't come out," Rosen recalled, adding that Siegfried seemed "concerned that this would reflect negatively on the Army."**

Siegfried told The Post he did not recall Furey's report or the meeting afterward. He said he did not seek to hide information out of embarrassment, **and characterized Rosen as "mental."**

**"The Denver Post shouldn't be writing about this," Siegfried said. Other panel members said they couldn't recall the meeting or declined to comment, citing confidentiality agreements.**

Rosen, now a senior analyst for the U.S. Department of Justice, said: "I can fully appreciate that Gen. Siegfried might not remember every little sidebar that occurred seven years ago. People tend to remember events that they perceive as particularly salient. That meeting certainly got my attention, and I kept notes."

Most of the women who told The Post they were sexually assaulted in the military said they were discouraged from reporting or they were too scared to report their assaults.

**Commanding officers were often the culprits. Fifteen women said they were assaulted by a member of their command or a higher-ranking colleague, heightening their fears of retaliation. In the majority of the cases the Miles Foundation has handled, the assailant had a higher rank, executive director Hansen said.**

Even when their cases are prosecuted, military rape victims say, they face mistreatment from commanders and others.

The situation becomes "psychological warfare," said Hills, the civilian victim advocate. **"After their rapes, they are in no condition to deal with these pressures. The commands take advantage of them."**

Neal says that happened to her.

***After his arrest, her attacker, Capers, was released. Though Neal says she was told his movement would be restricted, he was able to roam the base freely, and she was afraid to leave her room to eat at the dining hall.***

***On July 12, Neal requested a meeting with her supervisors, one of whom threatened to have her committed to the psychiatric ward, she said.***

***"They kept telling me I was crazy," Neal said. Unable to find a victim advocate on her base, the 20-year-old Neal turned to Hills for help.***

A Navy medical board began the process of discharging her for being "unable to adjust to military service."

**"Clearly ... what (Neal) is unable to adjust to," Hills wrote in notes she kept on the case, "is being raped by a shipmate on base, and discovering that this criminal has more rights, freedoms and protections than she does as a victim."**

Neal said her commander informed her that charges against Capers could be dropped because she had "voluntarily entered his room." The Post was unable to locate the commander.

Hills intervened, complaining to superiors on Neal's behalf. Among her complaints, Hills said, was that investigators interviewed Neal without an advocate present and had not made plans to provide an escort to the trial.

On Dec. 18, 2001, Capers was convicted of rape at a court-martial. He was sentenced to a reduction in rank, a forfeiture of pay and three years in prison.

In 1999, a National Academy of Public Administration panel said problems abound in sex-crimes investigations. "Improvements ... are needed from the unit to the departmental level."

The NAPA panel, requested by Congress, called for better training, organization and recruitment of women as investigators, and the addition of sex- crime specialists.

**Panel members also raised concerns about commanders' influence, saying allegations of interference persist.** They called on the Defense Department to "vigorously enforce guidance" against improper influence.

**Four years later, the Pentagon has yet to act on the recommendations,** said William Gadsby, director of management studies for NAPA.

During the past decade, thousands of women have streamed through the doors of VA hospitals and veteran centers, seeking help in dealing with the trauma of their rapes. They bring stories of devastation and loneliness, of being unable to hold down jobs or maintain relationships. They are haunted by fear. Many sleep with weapons.

**In many cases, victims told The Post, no trauma counseling was made available. Some rejected counseling because it is not confidential.**

"A lot of them wait anywhere from 10 to 30 years" for therapy, when they are out of the military, said Claudia Chavez, a VA sexual-trauma counselor in St. Petersburg, Fla. **"There is a stigma of mental-health-care counseling in the military. You can be discharged based on your mental-health record."**

**Because of the stigma surrounding sexual trauma, said Carole Turner, director of the Women Veterans Health Program for the VA, "the information is a gross under-representation of the magnitude of the problem."**

Sexual trauma does not qualify as a disability that brings compensation. It is, however, recognized as a cause of post-traumatic stress disorder, which does qualify. The VA defines PTSD as "psychological symptoms that may occur after a person experiences a traumatic event" such as a physical assault, severe accident, natural disaster or combat.

A 1998 VA study says that sexual trauma may be harder to cope with than the effects of combat.

Yet because many sexual-trauma victims don't report their assaults, they struggle to live with the debilitating effects of PTSD on their own, experts say. Many abuse drugs or alcohol in an attempt to numb their pain. They isolate, unable to trust anyone. They have problems sleeping and eating, and may develop physical ailments including stomach, heart or gynecological disorders.

"They've often experienced years of trying to cope with it, years of anxiety they've not understood and cannot explain to themselves," said Carol O'Brien, director of sexual-trauma services at Bay Pines VA Medical Center in Florida.

**Thousands of female veterans are believed to have suffered in silence after being raped by fellow servicemen. Either they did not report, their story was never taken seriously or, like Hood, they were too broken to pursue it.**

**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.**

## **Marines Want to Know Why Base Did Not Close Wells When Poison Found**

*[Washington Post, January 28, 2004, Pg. 3]*

The Marine Corps estimates that 50,000 Marines and their families stationed at Camp Lejeune may have used water from wells known to contain dangerous levels of chlorinated hydrocarbons---solvents. **Marines and civilians who lived at the base before the wells were capped have formed a lobbying group to find out the extent of the damage done to those who used the contaminated water.**

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## **Brilliant Discovery!**

*[Atlanta Journal-Constitution, January 29, 2004]*

Lt. Gen. Joseph Inge, commander of the 1st Army at Fort Gillem, said **commanders could improve reservists' readiness for active duty by making sure they are trained in advance of being activated.**

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## **A 7th French Citizen Is Found At U.S. Camp**

*[International Herald Tribune, January 29, 2004]*

A seventh French citizen has been found to be in U.S. custody at Guantanamo Bay.  
**(“Found?” After only two years? Where the fuck was he hiding?)**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **Iraq's Shia See 1920 Revolt As Model For Today; “They Know This Is A Warning”**

January 27, 2003, Knight-Ridder by Hannah Allam and Tom Lasseter

**BAGHDAD, Iraq - Whispers of "revolution" are growing louder in Baghdad this month at teahouses, public protests and tribal meetings as Iraqis point to the past as an omen for the future.**

Iraqis remember 1920 as one of the most glorious moments in modern history, one followed by nearly eight decades of tumult. The bloody rebellion against British rule that year is memorialized in schoolbooks, monuments and mass-produced tapestries that hang in living rooms.

**Now, many say there's an uncanny similarity with today: unpopular foreign occupiers, unelected governing bodies and unhappy residents eager for self-determination. The result could be another bloody uprising.**

**"We are now under occupation, and the best treatment for a wound is sometimes fire," said Najah al Najafi, a Shiite cleric who joined thousands of marchers at a recent demonstration where construction workers, tribal leaders and religious scholars spoke of 1920.**

**The rebellion against the British marked the first time that Sunni and Shiite Muslims worked in solidarity, drawing power from tribesmen and city dwellers alike. Though Shiites, Sunnis and ethnic minorities are rivals in the new Iraq, many residents said the recent call for elections could draw disparate groups together. A smattering of Sunnis joined massive Shiite protests last week, demanding that U.S. administrators grant the wishes of the highest Shiite cleric for general elections.**

Grand Ayatollah Ali al Hussein al Sistani has been unbending in his demand for direct elections. Sistani's representatives expect widespread civil disobedience and violence if elections are deemed impossible.

"They know what will happen if they do not listen to us," said Sabah al Khazali, a religious scholar who joined last week's demonstrations. "They know this is a warning."

The historic rebellion has broad resonance. A band of anti-American insurgents has named itself the "1920 Revolution Brigades," and Sistani himself, in a newspaper advertisement this month, asked Iraq's influential tribes to remember that year.

**"We want you to be revolutionaries ... you should have a big role today, as you had in the revolution in 1920," the ad said.**

To many Iraqis, today's U.S. occupation reads like an old play with modern characters: America as the new Britain, grenade-lobbing insurgents as the new opposition, and Ahmad Chalabi and other former exiles on the Governing Council as the new kings.

"We've sacrificed many martyrs and we would do it again," said Sheik Khamis al Suhail, the secretary of the tribal council. "In 1920, we faced a struggle between Muslims and non-Muslims in Iraq. We are living under basically the same conditions now, and revolution is certainly possible."

**"If Sistani called for revolution, I would sacrifice my life for the good of my country,"** said Hamdiya al Niemi, a 27-year-old street vendor whose father raised her on stories of the 1920 uprising. **"My father was so proud talking about that time, how we kicked out the British and how we should never allow foreigners to rule our land."**

The al Hamdani tribe, with thousands of members across Iraq, provided key organizers of the 1920 revolt. These days, the family name is linked to the cream-filled confections sold at the popular al Hamdani pastry shops throughout Baghdad.

**Yaser al Hamdani, a 28-year-old tribe member whose great-uncle fought in the revolution, said he'd give up his job in the steaming bakery for a rebellion.**

**"Of course I would join," Hamdani said. "There would be bloodshed along the way, but sacrifice is important for success."**

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **“Baghdad Has Fallen; The People Of Baghdad Have Not”**

Socialist Worker Canada 1.7.04: Cairo Conference

“What is happening is not only Colonialism, it is a new way of reformulating the lives of humanity. The US went to Iraq to change the world. Opposing this attempt is a universal struggle. **We look upon resistance as a gate to our own change, to overcome *our* weaknesses and defeats...** The Iraqi resistance will go through several developments, it will give humanity and this region new forms of struggle. **Iraq is where the fate of humanity will be determined.** *Iraq delegate*

“The Iraqi resistance shows that the US can control space, the skies, the land, the seas, but it can’t control one Street in Fallujah.” *George Galloway, British MP*

“What I watch on television is that Baghdad has fallen, but the people of Baghdad have not. I don’t care who is leading the resistance, they are forcing reality on the US. *Chair of the Egyptian Pharmacists Syndicate*

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### **Saddam Bremer Looks Forward To Killing Kurds; As Usual, Helping Imperialists Is Rewarded With Death**

*[London Financial Times, January 29, 2004, Pg. 14]*

Paul Bremer said the Kurdish Workers party and its affiliates that use northern Iraq as a safe haven would be treated as terrorists by coalition troops. This declaration should please Turkey, which has asked the U.S. to take a tough stance against PKK guerrillas operating from Iraq.

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### **Baghdad Forum: Bush Regime Style Democracy Means No Elections.**

*[Washington Post, January 29, 2004, Pg. 16]*

A meeting sponsored by the Baghdad City Council was a carefully scripted, invitation-only affair that focused on the transition to democracy but did not address the feasibility of holding elections soon.

<p><b>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></b></p>
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# Communist Party Make A Comeback;

*[Washington Post, January 29, 2004, Pg. 16]*

The Iraq Communist Party, after decades of furtive, underground existence, have become an influential, moderating force in Iraqi national life. **(The “moderating” line refers to their refusal to support the resistance to the U.S. occupation while they play kissy-face with Bremer. That’s not a big surprise. Other than the name, they have nothing more in common with communism than Hitler’s National Socialist party did with socialism. Marx would puke.)**

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

# Rumsfeld Increases Army By 30,000 With No Authority To Do So; Imperial Democrat Demands Victory In Iraq

By Robert Burns, Associated Press, Dave Moniz, USA Today, & Baltimore Sun  
January 29, 2004

In an interview, Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher, D-Calif. said she was surprised Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff, told the House panel that **Rumsfeld had approved a plan for reorganizing the Army that includes a temporary increase of as many as 30,000 soldiers on active duty.**

In testimony yesterday before the House Armed Services Committee, Schoomaker said he needed the extra manpower for about four years in order to reorganize and increase the number of brigade fighting units from the current 33 to as many as 48.

The testimony appeared to surprise committee members.

"General Schoomaker, I want to make sure I understand some of your comments here today," said Rep. John McHugh, a New York Republican. "The secretary has given you the option of going to 30,000 additional troops, saying that he has waived under the emergency declaration provisions the statutory cap on end-strength. How long does the secretary intend to declare that emergency to waive that limit?"

"Well, sir, I'm not sure we can see into the future as far as we need to. But I've asked him to do that for the duration of the emergency, or up to four years. I think I need four years to do this.

Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo, the ranking Democrat on the committee, said in an interview that the panel had not been informed of Rumsfeld's decision. Tauscher said she would discuss it with Rumsfeld on Thursday.

***Rumsfeld was exercising an emergency wartime authority, Schoomaker said. Tauscher reminded him that it was Congress' prerogative to set limits on the size of the armed forces.***

In the interview, Tauscher said that the Rumsfeld approach amounted to "smoke and mirrors" and that he was attempting to "go around" Congress. "That is not acceptable," she said.

Schoomaker told the House panel that the Army has used emergency authority to go beyond the limit set by Congress on the number of soldiers in uniform.

Skelton said he was concerned that the requirement for large numbers of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan may break the Army.

**"This does not mean we should pull back from our commitments," Skelton said. "We can't unring the bell. We're there. We've got to win. We've got to stabilize that country. We cannot afford that to evolve into a civil war." (Typical Democrat politician. Ready and willing to send more soldiers to die for the Empire, same as Republican politicians.)**

Schoomaker said the Army has 500,000 soldiers in uniform, already nearly 20,000 more than Congress has authorized. The surplus is largely a result of a Pentagon policy known as "stop loss," which prevents troops from leaving the service during wartime.

#### **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/>

## **Neo-Con Richard Perle Spoke At Hussein Loyalist Die-Hard Remnants Fund Raiser**

[Washington Post, January 29, 2004, Pg. 8]

**Richard Perle got paid last weekend to speak at a fund raising event that U.S. officials say may have had ties to an alleged terrorist group intent on toppling the Iranian government and was backed by Saddam Hussein.**

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## **Useless**

The Washington Spectator, Jan. 15, 2004

**When 600 registered voters were asked in a recent survey what they thought was “the most important achievement of Congress this year,” 55 percent said they couldn’t think of any, and 6 percent simply refused to answer.**

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**Washington DC, Jan. 30, 2004: American Terrorist Chief George Bush today denied reports he receives messages from God. Bush said He Himself *is* God. In this photo, He is calling down His wrath on those who doubt His word. He further proclaimed that Vice-President Cheney is in fact the Holy Ghost. In a bid to gain support from nervous Republican Party operatives who see disaster ahead in the fall elections, He also announced that the choice of Virgin Mary and Jesus would be left to the Republican National Convention.**

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **SEVEN U.S. SOLDIERS KILLED IN EXPLOSION**

**(THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: B WRITES: Looks like the spring offensive has started a bit early.)**

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND  
January 29, 2004 Release Number: 04-01-25C

Kabul, Afghanistan--Seven U.S. Soldiers from Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan were killed, one is missing and three U.S. soldiers and one interpreter were injured after an explosion at approximately 3 p.m. today west of Ghazni.

The Soldiers were working around a weapons cache when the explosion occurred. The wounded Soldiers were evacuated to the 452nd Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base.

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# **British Soldier Killed in Kabul Resistance Attack; Second Successful Attack In Two Days**

By Sayed Salahuddin, January 28, 2004, KABUL (Reuters) & By Pauline Jelinek, Associated Press

**A British soldier was killed and three were wounded Wednesday when a bomber drove a taxi carrying explosives up to their vehicle in Kabul, the second attack on occupation troops in the Afghan capital in as many days.**

A member of the ousted Taliban militia claimed responsibility for the blast, saying the bomber was an Algerian-born British national. **The attack on the NATO-led force came a day after a Canadian soldier and an Afghan civilian were killed in a similar bombing in the city.** The bombing came during a memorial ceremony for a the Canadian soldier.

"We heard a powerful explosion. When we got out we saw a destroyed British vehicle ... along with a taxi," said police officer Mirza Mohammad.

**"We carried one dead British soldier along with three other wounded British soldiers and one of their translators."**

A taxi thought to have been carrying the bomb was completely destroyed and pieces of human flesh, believed to be that of the bomber driving the vehicle, could be seen, Mohammad said.

The explosion occurred at around 11 a.m. on the road leading east out of Kabul to Jalalabad, near where four German soldiers were killed and dozens injured in June by a bomber driving a taxi.

Abdul Latif Hakimi, an official of the deposed Taliban militia, claimed responsibility for the attack.

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. David W. Barno, said last month that hundreds of al-Qaida fighters still appear to be active in Khost and neighboring provinces on the long Afghanistan-Pakistan border.



**TOO LATE:** Occupation troops secure the site of a blast in Kabul Jan. 28, 2004. (Ahmad Masood/Reuters)

**"It's just the beginning. More such attacks will take place. Hundreds of our men are ready to carry out such attacks," he told Reuters from an undisclosed location.**

Hakimi identified the bomber as Saad, an Algerian-born British national in his twenties. He said Saad had recently been based in Uzbekistan.

"He had also taken part in the jihad (holy war) in Palestine," he added.

The Taliban also said it was behind Tuesday's attack when a bomber threw himself in front of a vehicle being driven by Canadian peacekeepers. One Canadian soldier and an Afghan civilian died, and three Canadian troops and eight Afghan civilians were wounded.

Last month it claimed responsibility for another attack in Kabul, **saying at the time it would shift the focus of its campaign to cities, where its militants were preparing missions.**

**Until then, security experts had tended to link bomb attacks in Afghanistan to al Qaeda, once sheltered by the Taliban.**

The Taliban, most active in the south and east, has traditionally been blamed for less sophisticated road block killings, executions or drive-by shootings and grenade attacks. Aid work has been suspended across much of Afghanistan and doubts are growing over the feasibility of holding elections planned for June.

**Around 500 people, including many militants, have been killed in Afghanistan in the last six months, the bloodiest period since the Taliban's ouster by U.S.-led forces in late 2001.**

**The U.S. military, which leads a 12,000-strong force in Afghanistan hunting Islamic guerrillas, *said in a statement on Wednesday that six members of the force had been wounded in two separate incidents since Monday.***

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## **CLASS WAR NEWS**

### **Capitalism At Work: Corporations Using Military Training To Cut Their Workers Pay**

*[Washington Post, January 29, 2004, Pg. E1]*

**Some companies plan to take advantage of changes in the nation's overtime pay rules by using their workers' military training as a way to exempt them from extra pay.** The revisions have become a hot political issue, costing millions of workers extra compensation.

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### **Pissed Off Workers Close Down Dominican Republic**

Jan. 29, 2004 Wall St. Journal

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—The start of a 48-hour strike to protest the Dominican Republic's economic policies left businesses closed, schools empty and streets barren.**

**Despite urging from President Hipolito Mejia to shun the strike, more than half the nation's major businesses closed and some government workers stayed home.** The work stoppage comes amid criticism over Mr. Mejia's re-election bid and his failure to improve the deteriorating economy.

**The strike was organized by citizens' groups and labor unions** and supported by leading opposition parties and a private-sector organization. A similar strike in November left six dead.

In the past year, inflation has topped 42%, the Dominican peso has lost more than half its value against the U.S. dollar and the unemployment rate has risen to more than 16%,

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## **Received:**

**(From a longer e-mail by IG, Vietnam Veteran)**

**Some 3 decades ago, John Kerry rhetorically asked the members of Congress something along the lines of 'How do you ask any man to be the last man to die for a mistake?'**

Many of us who served in that ill-conceived and misplaced crusade (particularly prior to 1969 or so) were at least blessed by the accidental fact that it took years for the whole shoddy context of our involvement to emerge - so that we could be spared fully knowing and confronting the full extent of the scam that had been perpetrated on us and our nation until some time after we'd come home.

**Even then, many of us could find some comfort in the somewhat soothing belief that the whole experience could be written off as being a well-intentioned but short-sighted and tragic "mistake" made by the "best and brightest" of the time.**

But now? Many of the troops have known from the git-go that the whole Iraqi confrontation & conflict was nothing more than the end result of a policy based on nothing more than the expedient use and abuse of insultingly transparent lies.

**So now, even worse than the prospect of possibly dying for a "mistake", the question to be asked today is "*How do you ask any man to be the last one to die for a lie?*"**

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