

GI SPECIAL 2#47

BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



Photo thanks to Ewa Jasiewicz

**“We Will Not Be
Obedient,
We Will Not Stand
Down”**

Address to the March 20th Fayetteville/Ft. Bragg rally:
Stan Goff, Master Sergeant, U.S. Army Special Forces (ret'd)

Welcome to all the partisans of peace. Welcome to Fayetteville. Welcome, people of conscience. Welcome, families, who's loved ones are under arms in the service of a system they don't yet understand.

Welcome, soldiers, because I am one of you, and welcome veterans who can say to soldiers, as if we were the dead, that as you are, we once were, and as we are, you shall

be. Welcome home to those who have been sent to inflict and to suffer pain and grief in the service of avarice and ambition.

My own son is among you. I was among you. Welcome back into our sight and our hearts. Welcome home. There have been too many of you who have not come back whole, and far too many who have come home not at all.

These are hard times and harsh times, and they call for harsh words, and they call for clarity that sometimes seems almost cruel, and they call for a sense of purpose that has passion.

The Bush administration is a gangster administration, and they have used gangster tactics at home and abroad, and they have signed our names to their crimes, and they have spent our treasure on their crimes, and they have spilled out children's blood and the blood of the children of others to commit their crimes, and we have had - by God - enough.

And we are not going to sit idly by and pretend about this. We are not going to pretend that we haven't heard that John Kerry's only criticism of this war is that it isn't being fought competently.

We are not going to pretend that this is not about oil. We are not going to pretend that this was an intelligence failure. We are not going to pretend that this is something we can change by being civil or by being obedient. We will not be civil with gangsters, and we'd better learn to quit obeying them. Because it is our obedience that co-signs their crimes, and it is our silence that will make us complicit.

So we will not be silent, and we will not be obedient, and we will not stand down - no matter how long it takes, no matter the cost, no matter the effort, because we are fighting for our children and our grandchildren who we will not surrender to gangsters.

We are not going away. This may be called the instant gratification society, but hear us right now, George Bush and Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld and John Kerry for that matter - we are not an instant gratification movement, and we are not here to make deals with the lives of our children or the children of others.

**NOT ONE MORE DAY.
NOT ONE MORE DIME.
NOT ONE MORE LIFE.
NOT ONE MORE LIE.
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**

MORE FROM FT. BRAGG:

To: GI Special 3.27.04

Just to let you know, two Ft. Bragg soldiers turned up at Fayetteville's' Quaker House this week to talk to staff. One was an Iraq vet who wants out in the worst way. The other is a student at the Special Warfare school.

The impact of last Saturday is still being felt.

Peace,
L.P. Fayetteville, NC

(You can view photo's of the Ft. Bragg/Fayetteville rally at:
http://www.bringthemhomenow.org/what/campaign_news/040320_NCfayetteville.htm! The link at end will give you this address and other archived articles. Also check out the pages with letters from troops and military families.)

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/>

Lied-To And Betrayed, Imperial Oil Army Falling Apart: 75% Of Iraq Soldiers Say Command Leadership "Poor," "Lacks Concern" For Troops; 52% Say Morale Low Or Worse

March 26, 2004, rediff.com 3.26.04 & March 26, 2004 By ERIC SCHMITT N.Y. Times

Nearly three quarters American soldiers polled in Iraq said their battalion level command leadership is 'poor' and shows 'a lack of concern' for their soldiers.

The survey was conducted by the US Army and was published on Friday.

The soldiers also said 'unit cohesion is low'. Fifty two per cent have 'low' or 'very low' morale and in one startling finding, in the survey of 756 soldiers late last summer, 72 percent said their whole unit's morale was that bad. Most of those surveyed had been in combat.

The study faults the army for how it handles mental health problems, saying that some counselors felt inadequately trained.

"Perhaps the most surprising findings were the grim conclusions about troop morale, which indicate that Iraq is taking a toll that goes beyond casualty figures," *The Washington Post* said.

Army insiders say it is likely that brigades from three divisions that served in Iraq over the past year--the 101st Airborne, the 3rd Infantry and the 4th Infantry -- are likely to be sent back in 2005," the survey said.

Colonel Virgil Patterson, who oversaw the army survey, said he was 'somewhat surprised' by the findings on troop morale. **(Maybe Col. V. Patterson should spend a little time in Falluja.)**

"I would be extremely worried by the numbers. Having more than half the soldiers surveyed say they are unhappy should set off alarm bells," a senior army commander who spoke to *The Washington Post* said.

Jonathan Shay, a war veterans' psychiatrist, called it a 'painful report to lead'. Shay, **who has written two books on cohesion and leadership problems in the US military during the Vietnam War, said the report shows that morale and cohesion are 'extremely low' among troops in Iraq.**

The study found that suicide-prevention teams were left behind when units left their home bases to go to war in Iraq, mental-health workers felt untrained to treat combat stress, **and many soldiers seeking help for depression and emotional problems faced significant hurdles getting care.**

One out of four soldiers surveyed reported problems with emotional or family issues or stress, but many of those said that when they sought help, they ran into barriers to treatment or follow-up visits, or into logistical runarounds. **Soldiers sometimes had to arrange for two armed convoys, one to go be evaluated and another to get medicines.**

Half of the Army mental-health specialists interviewed said they had not received adequate training in combat stress.

The report was completed last December, but there were months of internal briefings and deliberations before it was released on Thursday. The delay prompted some critics to suggest the Army was trying to cover up the problem

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.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Two U.S. Military Cops Among Wounded In Mosul Attacks;

By Maher al-Thanoon, 29 Mar 2004, MOSUL, Iraq (Reuters)

Elsewhere in the city, gunmen opened fire from a car at a U.S. patrol, wounding two American military police, soldiers at the scene said. U.S. troops returned fire, killing all four people in the car. Iraqi police found rocket-propelled grenade launchers and AK-47 assault rifles in the vehicle.

Earlier two employees of the U.S.-run Iraqi Media Network were wounded in a drive-by shooting, and a grenade attack wounded a policeman in the city center

Resistance Ambush Destroys Stryker

(Reuters)March 28 2004

MOSUL, Iraq (Reuters) - **Insurgents have fired two rocket-propelled grenades at a U.S. military vehicle in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, setting it on fire, witnesses have said.**

More blasts shook the wheeled Stryker armoured vehicle, apparently as its ammunition exploded. There was no immediate word on casualties in the attack in the west of the city.

A passer-by, Mahmoud Ibrahim, 40, said he had seen three attackers in a car fire an RPG at the Stryker as it went down a side street in a western district of Mosul on Sunday. Another RPG was fired at the U.S. vehicle moments later.

"I saw the Stryker burning," he said. "I saw nobody getting out of the vehicle."

More blasts shook the Stryker, as its fuel tanks and ammunition exploded, but a U.S. military spokesman said there were no casualties. Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Piek of Task Force Olympia said the commander and driver of the vehicle had jumped out. Other soldiers in the unit were patrolling on foot.

Two British Contractors Killed In Mosul

2004/03/28 IRIB News & By Maher al-Thanoon, 29 Mar 2004, MOSUL, Iraq (Reuters)

Mosul, Iraq, March 28 – A British and a Canadian civilian were killed in a drive-by shooting in Iraq's main northern city of Mosul Sunday, police said.

"The two were killed by armed, masked men who opened fire from an Opel car before fleeing the scene," Captain Jalal Mohammad Mahmud said. Witnesses said the British and Canadian civilians were ambushed on their way to work at the Mosul East power station.

"They were on their way to the power station in two cars when they came under fire from attackers with AK-47s. One vehicle was hit," said an Iraqi technician.

Officials in Britain and Canada confirmed the nationalities of the victims. **The bodies of the two men, wearing blue flak jackets, lay in the road beside their burned-out vehicle long after it was ambushed in an eastern part of the city.**

He said the attack occurred 150 metres (yards) from the power station serving the east of Mosul where the men worked. The victims were in a two-car convoy heading to the power station at the time of the attack.

Three British engineers in the first car managed to drive in to the compound as the shooting began and escaped unhurt but the second car got caught up in the automatic weapons fire, the officer said.

Mahmud said British engineers frequently came to the power station to check on reconstruction work there, although they did not visit according to any specific schedule.

The Battle Of Fallujah Ends: Marines Retreat “A Bull’s Last Lash As He Is Getting Slaughtered”

March 28, 2004 By Kim Murphy, Los Angeles Times

In Fallujah, where a day earlier between eight and 20 Iraqis and a U.S. Marine were killed in a daylong anti-guerrilla operation that involved 600 Marines, the streets were quiet **as the Marines maintained positions along the highway and the entrance to town,** and Iraqi families finished burying their dead. **(Meaning they got the hell out of Dodge and pulled back to the outskirts of town, where they started out before this disaster began. And they still haven't released the number of the U.S. wounded. The only wrong answer, obviously, is none.)**

"The city today is really sad. There are funerals here and there, and the road to the hospital is very crowded with people visiting their families," said Fadhil Badran, an academic in the embattled town west of the Iraqi capital.

Abdul-Kareem Mohammed, a school teacher who lost a relative in the fighting, said it is significant that the Marine crackdown on insurgents has come only three
--

months before the United States is set to hand over control of the nation to an interim Iraqi government.

"This is similar to a bull's last lash as he is getting slaughtered," he said.



Chimney Inspection: Marine Pfc. Phillip Marquez comes out from inspecting a chimney as he and fellow Marines of 2nd Platoon, Fox Company, search homes during a raid Friday in Fallujah, Iraq. AP Photo **(Only 5,482,229 Iraqi chimneys to go. Sorry, that's a cheap shot. Should have said only 58,355 chimneys left to go in Falluja, a city of 300,000 or so. Lots of luck.)**

Fallujah Roadside Bomb Gets Military Convoy "Vehicle"

IOL.CO.ZA, March 28 2004 Fallujah

A roadside bomb went off near the flashpoint Iraqi town of Fallujah on Sunday as a United States military convoy passed by, seriously damaging one vehicle, an eyewitness said.

"The device exploded at 3pm and a vehicle was seriously damaged," said Suhaib Jassem, **who was unable to say whether there were any casualties.**

Occupation Force Saves Resistance The Trouble; Kills Collaborator

March 28, 2004 By Kim Murphy, Los Angeles Times

An Iraqi subcontractor working for the U.S. Agency for International Development was shot and killed by U.S. forces who mistakenly opened fire on his car in the city of Kirkuk, Reuters news agency reported.

TROOP NEWS

GI SPECIAL REPORT:

U.S. Troops Still Forced To Buy Own Body Armor For Iraq; Military Has Lost Trust Of Soldiers' Families; Pentagon Gives One Corporation Run By Lawbreaker A Monopoly Contract

(When you read this one, notice the usual bullshit weasel words, like how “most” troops have armor or “soon will.” Last summer, Army Times reported a promise from chief soldier-killer Rumsfeld that all troops would have body armor by November 15. Four and a half months later, his lies are shit in his mouth. The soldiers’ deadly enemies aren’t in Iraq, they’re in Washington DC, calling themselves the government of the United States.)

Friday, March 26, 2004 Posted: 11:58 AM EST (1658 GMT)

(AP) -- Soldiers headed for Iraq are still buying their own body armor -- and in many cases, their families are buying it for them -- despite assurances from the military that the gear will be in hand before they're in harm's way. (What “assurances?” Check out what the brass say, not what this reporter fantasizes.)

Body armor distributors have received steady inquiries from soldiers and families about purchasing the gear, which can cost several thousand dollars. Though the military has advised them not to rely on third-party suppliers, many soldiers say they want it before they deploy.

Last October, it was reported that nearly one-quarter of American troops serving in Iraq did not have ceramic plated body armor, which can stop bullets fired from assault rifles and shrapnel.

The military says the shortfall is over and soldiers who don't yet have the armor soon will. But many want to avoid the risk.

"What we hear from soldiers is that they are told that they are going to get body armor just before they leave or just after they get there. But they don't want to take a chance," said Nick Taylor, owner of Bulletproofme.com, an online distributor of body armor in Austin, Texas.

Inquiries rise and fall with the rate of deployments, fueled by stories of units falling under attack as little as a day after being issued body armor. The stories are prompting families to think about buying the equipment, Taylor said.

Reliance Armor in Cincinnati, which makes armored vests for soldiers and police, has nearly doubled in size as a result of the shortage. "We're getting people locally who are deployed National Guard and parents, specifically, coming in and buying," said Don Budke, the company's vice president of sales. **"The military people don't want to advertise the fact that there are people doing this on their own."**

Dan Britt paid about \$1,400 for body armor for his son, a medic stationed in Kuwait who had orders to move into Baghdad. He recently heard his son received it.

"In war, as we've learned through all our history, who gets killed and who doesn't is just happenstance," said the father from Hamilton, Ohio. "But if I can raise the odds, then I'll feel better."

Those that need the armor most are already certain to have it, said Army spokesman Maj. Gary Tallman, **and families should not buy the equipment.**

The Defense Department says it has contracted with one manufacturer for its armor. Point Blank Body Armor, which produces the Interceptor brand, has all but stopped selling to the public.

(Tallman is saying better your soldier has NO body armor than some that didn't come from the ONE defense contractor picked by Pentagon procurement to supply the Army. The pervasive stench of classic corrupt military contracting is chokingly thick here, and one maggot Maj. Gary Tallman right in the middle up to his neck: see below for the disgusting details about Point Blank.)

Nancy Durst recently learned that her husband, a soldier with an Army reserve unit from Maine serving in Iraq, spent four months without body armor. She said she would have bought armor for her husband had vests not been cycled into his unit.

Even if her husband now has body armor, Durst said she was angry he was without it at any time. **Her husband also has told her that reservists have not been given the same equipment as active duty soldiers. "They're so sick of being treated as second-class soldiers," she said.**

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, who serves on the Armed Services subcommittee, said she knows soldiers who were told by the military to buy body armor before leaving, rather than risk arriving with nothing but their shirts.

"We lagged far behind in making sure that our soldiers who are performing very difficult and dangerous missions had protective equipment," she said.

Jonathan Turley, a George Washington University law professor who has talked with hundreds of families who bought body armor for soldiers in Iraq, said the military lost the trust of soldiers' families.

In that regard, it is not surprising that families bought body armor in spite of what military advised, he said.

"There still is a lingering level of mistrust with some families as to whether there are people thinking about the best equipment and needs of their loved ones," Turley said. "No one that I know of has been truly held accountable."

Comment: Lawbreaker Monopoly Body Armor Contract

Point Blank Body Armor is a wholly owned subsidiary of DHB Industries.

DHB Armor Group's customers include the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Secret Service, FBI, DEA, INS, ATF, NATO, U.S. Marshals, the NYC Police Department, the LA Police Department, and the California Highway Patrol.

So how does a union busting company with the sorry record you can read below get an exclusive contract to supply body armor to the Pentagon?

"DHB" stands for lawbreaker David H. Brooks. Who is David H. Brooks, and who does he know? Any investigative reporters out there? T

David H. Brooks, Aider And Abettor

NEW YORK -- NEW YORK, June 12, 2003 /PRNewswire/

A third complaint letter filed today against DHB Industries with the Securities Exchange Commission alleges DHB has continued to violate federal securities regulations requiring disclosure of material information to investors. The complaint, filed by the Union of Needletrades, Industrial & Textile Employees (UNITE), reveals that DHB executives failed to disclose to investors that they had established a private company operating inside the publicly traded DHB.

The shadow entity, "Tactical Armor Products" (TAP), is owned by Terry Brooks, the wife of DHB's CEO David Brooks, and operated out of a factory leased by DHB in Jacksboro, Tennessee. Although, TAP is constituted independently of DHB, it transacts with DHB

as a party to one of DHB's federal contracts and as a product supplier to other DHB subsidiaries. **DHB has not disclosed any of these transactions with TAP, or TAP's apparent status as a de facto DHB subsidiary, in potential violation of SEC Regulations S-K and S-X.**

In filing the complaint, UNITE's General Counsel, David Prouty, said, "The purpose of these disclosure requirements is to protect investors from conflicts of interest and self-dealing transactions that can destroy investments and ruin companies. We call on DHB to come clean about its related transactions and start respecting securities laws."

In 1992, David Brooks, DHB's CEO, Chairman and largest shareholder was implicated in an insider trading scheme resulting in a federal injunction that he commit no further aiding and abetting violations. Shortly afterwards, the SEC banned him from associating with any investment company for five years. DHB was denied listing on the NASDAQ SmallCap market in 1995, partly because of Brooks' history of securities violations.

UNITE has filed two previous letters of complaint with the SEC this year -- the first on February 6, the second on April 4 - alleging that DHB systematically failed to disclose key information to shareholders. All three letters are posted at <http://www.uniteunion.org/>.

MORE ON UNION-BUSTING LAWBREAKERS IN CHARGE AT DHB BODY ARMOR SUBSIDIARY

Bullet-proof vest maker continues to violate employees' rights, commit unfair labor practices.

Miami, FL – March 17, 2003:

<http://www.uniteunion.org/pressbox/release.cfm?ID=42>

On the eve of a possible war, an important defense contractor, Point Blank Body Armor, has allegedly committed more than a dozen violations of national labor law, according to charges filed by UNITE union with the National Labor Relations Board late last week.

The charges allege that Point Blank committed 15 violations of its employees' rights by illegally terminating an employee for union support, subjecting employees to surveillance because of union activity, and retaliating against union supporters by denying them overtime – all in defiance of a recently issued injunction.

The charges follow on the heels of a federal injunction imposed against Point Blank six weeks ago, ordering the company to cease violating labor laws. In the second such injunction in South Florida history, Judge Kenneth A. Marra of the US

District Court for the Southern District of Florida ordered Point Blank to halt its campaign of intimidation against employees, to rehire employees who were illegally fired in July and August of 2002, and to reinstate employees who had been on strike for six months.

“Point Blank’s continued defiance of the government and violation of the rights of its employees cannot be allowed to continue,” said UNITE organizer Scott Cooper. “Point Blank’s disregard for federal laws is self-destructive, destructive for employees, and, at the end of the day, destructive for the federal government, which is Point Blank’s biggest customer.”

According to the charges, Point Blank fired employee Ralph Frederic on March 4 because of his support for the Union. In addition, several employees signed statements alleging that since mid-February, Point Blank managers have restricted their access to restrooms, failed to pay them their earned vacation time, and favored anti-union employees with raises, all in violation of national labor law.

Frederic, an 11-month employee of Point Blank, said, “All we want is for Point Blank to respect our basic rights and not treat us like slaves. How much more does Point Blank think it can get away with breaking laws?” Before he was fired, Frederic handled the raw materials that end up in the Interceptor vest, which is the standard issue body armor worn by US soldiers in combat.

The unfair labor charges will be investigated by the National Labor Relations Board in Miami, whose lawsuit against Point Blank resulted in Judge Marra’s injunction.

Point Blank employees have been seeking union representation with UNITE (the Union of Needletrades, Industrial & Textile Employees) for better working conditions. UNITE is the largest union of apparel, textile, and laundry employees in North America, representing over 250,000 members in the US and Canada.

CONTACT: Luke Brindle of Union of Needletrades, Industrial & Textile Employees, +1-212-265-7000 x282

(Story found via: <http://www.business-humanrights.org/Search/SearchResults?SearchableText=DHB+Industries>

The Business and Human Rights Resource Centre is an independent, international, non-profit organisation, in a collaborative partnership with Amnesty International sections and leading academic institutions.)

Troops Organizing To Resist Dangerous, Pointless Anthrax Vaccines: Some Troops Refuse, Citing Lack of Iraq Anthrax WMD (Duh!)

By Marilyn W. Thompson, Washington Post Staff Writer, March 27, 2004;

With each report on the absence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, Airman Jessica Horjus asked a question: If inspectors could find no signs of anthrax, why should the Pentagon risk her health by requiring her to get the anthrax vaccine?

"I have a kid to take care of," said Horjus, 23, the mother of a 2-year-old, who lives with her daughter in military housing at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, N.C. "The Air Force can always fill my slot with someone else, but who's going to fill the mommy slot?"

When a January order came for Horjus to get the vaccine before deploying to a Kuwait air base about 30 miles from Iraq, the soldier with commendations and Good Conduct Medals declined. Her commander demoted her and cut her pay in half, to less than \$800 a month. In February, she declined a second and third order.

Horjus is one of a number of soldiers who cite the lack of anthrax in Iraq as a reason behind their stance against the mandatory anthrax vaccine. As the Pentagon moves thousands of troops into Iraq as part of a huge rotation of forces, soldiers, citizen groups and members of Congress are increasingly calling upon defense officials to stop the vaccinations.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) sent a letter last week to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld asking him to reevaluate the mandatory policy in light of events in Iraq. "The apparent absence of an Iraqi biological warfare capability raises serious questions about the threat of an anthrax attack against our troops," Bingaman wrote. "The use of a vaccination which appears to have the potential for serious health consequences for our troops in an effort to counter a threat that may not exist seems to unnecessarily expose our troops to risk."

The Pentagon now requires inoculation for any soldier about to deploy for more than 15 days to what it defines as a "high-risk" area for anthrax attack. **Concerned about reports of illnesses and a death last year that officials linked to the vaccine, soldiers headed to Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere are asking more questions about the program's rationale.**

"There is no evidence that stockpiles of anthrax exist in Iraq or with Al Qaeda in Afghanistan or elsewhere," Horjus wrote in a memo to the base's appellate authority. **"As a single mother, I cannot afford to unnecessarily risk my long-term health on a highly-reactive vaccine that supposedly protects against a threat that cannot be found."**

After four years of service, the young mother last week accepted the Air Force's offer of an other-than-honorable discharge and prepared to return home to Yorktown, Va.

Vaccine opponents say they are tracking dozens of cases of soldiers who are refusing the vaccine. **The demand for troops is so high that unvaccinated soldiers may find themselves deployed nonetheless.** Some are on duty in and near Iraq and are closely monitoring the frustrated hunt for banned weapons, **knowing they will face punishment for disobeying orders when they return.**

Vaccine opponents have become increasingly organized and vocal about the health risks of the AVA vaccine, a product that has accumulated thousands of reports of adverse reactions ranging from headaches and vomiting to severe autoimmune and neurological problems. Opponents are using the courts to press the health issues and lobbying Congress to give relief to soldiers whose careers ended abruptly over their refusals to line up for shots.

"When troops find out that any one portion of what they've been told is a lie, they question the rest of it," said Kathryn Hubbell, who helped set up a nonprofit group, the Military Vaccine Education Center, to work with soldiers. It is also organizing a political action committee to raise money for its lobbying efforts. **(Soldiers are highly intelligent people. The same goes for the lie about the reason to invade and occupy Iraq.)**

Among the hotly contested issues is the Pentagon's accounting of the number of soldiers who have been "separated" from the services for refusing to take the required six-shot regimen. Congress was so concerned about the issue in the program's early years, when hundreds of soldiers resigned the military rather than be vaccinated, that it began requiring the Defense Department to report annually the number of soldier separations.

The department's reports for 2001 and 2002 show only three separations, and numbers for 2003 are due this spring. Vaccine opposition leader John Richardson, a retired Air Force Reserve lieutenant colonel, calls the Pentagon numbers a "willful misrepresentation."

He says the Pentagon uses the strictest interpretation of the data, failing to count cases such as Horjus's that did not result in court-martial and forced removal from the military. Since the vaccine program began, about 100 active-duty soldiers have been court-martialed for refusing the vaccine, according to congressional testimony and documents.

Victims' advocates say they have become aware of 45 cases involving vaccine refusers since 2002. These soldiers find themselves subjected to a wide range of punishments.

"We've seen everything from quiet discharge to court-martial to imprisonment with 60 to 90 days in the brig," said Randi Airola, a victims' advocate who left the Michigan Air National Guard in 1999 because of her own vaccine refusal. **"We've seen soldiers threatened with two to three to 10 years in prison when, in the military, even rape or drug charges may not get you 10 years in prison.** The punishment is based solely on the discretion of the individual commander -- and some want to use a sledgehammer to get people to comply."

Airola recently gave a congressional committee 32 pages of e-mails sent to her by soldiers who believe they have been made sick by the shots or are refusing to be vaccinated.

"In light of these problems," she wrote, and the absence of weaponized anthrax spores in Iraq or Afghanistan, "it is unacceptable for Congress to continue to follow the line that

the vaccine is safe, effective and good enough for our troops and to jail those who refuse."

A key question in the vaccine debate is the safety of AVA, a product that has been used since the 1950s to inoculate textile workers and laboratory personnel at high risk of anthrax exposure. **The vaccine was licensed by federal regulators without being tested in large-scale human clinical trials.** But the Pentagon points to a 2002 report from the Institute of Medicine declaring the vaccine safe and effective.

The vaccine, made by BioPort Inc. of Lansing, Mich., is now under attack in three separate federal lawsuits brought by affected soldiers.

In U.S. District Court in Washington, Judge Emmet G. Sullivan issued a preliminary injunction late last year that caused the Pentagon to briefly halt vaccinations. The program resumed after the Food and Drug Administration offered assurances in February that the vaccine was safe. The case, brought on behalf of six anonymous servicemen who believe they were made ill by the vaccine and for all of those "similarly situated," is set for oral arguments in May.

Two federal judges have suggested that the military will be held accountable if it is using soldiers to test an investigational drug without their informed consent. Pentagon officials seemed poised to stop the program before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks gave it a reprieve. **In December, the Pentagon agreed to buy an additional 245 million doses of BioPort's vaccine.**

Horjus said her decision to refuse the BioPort vaccine was based largely on research and observation. Her estranged husband took the shots before deploying to Saudi Arabia and became ill with a fever and lung congestion. **She said she read everything she could about the vaccine, doing what the military expects a good soldier to do -- "use your head." (Misunderstanding here: They mean "use your head" to figure out the best way to do exactly what you're told to do, including taking Anthrax shots, not questioning your orders.)**

Horjus said she became convinced that the BioPort vaccine was unsafe and experimental, its effects on women of childbearing age unknown. She and others were upset by a case that drew wide attention in November, when a coroner ruled that "post-vaccine" problems may have contributed to the death of Army Spec. Rachel Lacy.

Army Lt. Gen. James B. Peake of the U.S. Army Medical Command sent a memo to commanders in February mentioning Lacy's death and telling them to be alert for adverse reactions. "The overwhelming majority of immunizations are followed by mild symptoms. . . . Unfortunately, the U.S. Army lost a valuable soldier in April, 2003, a month after receiving five vaccinations during mobilization," Peake wrote. "Although the evidence was inconclusive, medical experts determined that vaccination may have contributed to her death."

Adding to Horjus's concern were reports of two airmen at Seymour Johnson who became seriously ill after receiving the shots.

One soldier said in an interview she has suffered lightheadedness, night sweats and "grayouts" since receiving three of the six required shots. **She asked that her name not**

be used because of fears that it could hurt her effort to get specialized treatment at a Walter Reed Army Medical Center vaccine clinic.

"Before these shots, I was a normal, healthy 20-year-old," she said. "So far, I've dodged the fourth shot, but if they try to make me take it, I'll be traveling down Jessica Horjus's path."

Horjus and the two sick soldiers have become part of Airola's outreach network. She directs soldiers and their families to medical information and counsels soldiers preparing to refuse the vaccine. Many, she said, write letters to their commanders explaining that they are willing to deploy, even to indemnify the military against any possible anthrax exposure they might suffer on the battlefield, but "they just don't want to take these shots."

At Fort Campbell, Ky., Army Sgt. Richard Norris, 27, is awaiting punishment for refusing the shots. When his unit of the 101st Airborne Division left for Iraq in February 2003, Norris was sent anyway, with no vaccine -- and no questions asked.

He returned in December to find himself still flagged as "punishment pending," a status that has "put my whole career basically on pause."

"I've served my country for seven years," said Norris, a Seventh-Day Adventist who tried unsuccessfully to get a religious exemption from the vaccine program. "Refusing this vaccine is the first bad thing I've ever done. It wasn't even necessary to have this vaccine, and still I'm going to be punished."

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.

Army Faces Personnel Crisis; Military Family Morale Crashes Under Bush Iraq Disaster

Thomas E. Ricks 3/27/2004 Washington Post

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. -- Patty B. Morgan's husband was fighting in Iraq with the 101st Airborne and she was caring for two children by herself. Their lease was expiring and they had committed to buying a house across town, so she was going through with the move anyway.

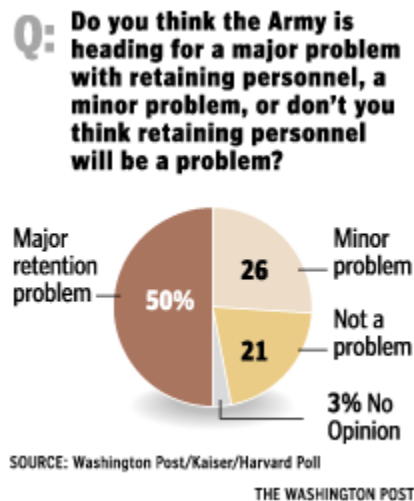
One hot morning last July, as she was about to drive boxes to the new place, she walked outside, infant car seat in hand, and opened the garage door -- to find that her green Jeep had been stolen.

A few days later, she was told that her husband wouldn't be home by Labor Day, as she had expected, but would serve in Iraq six months more, for a total of a year. "It was a hell of a week," Morgan said in her throaty voice.

Morgan's experience is part of a significant change in Army life brought about by the war on terrorism: The extended, or repeated, deployments that characterize the post-9/11 Army have intensified the burdens traditionally borne by military families. And most of the spouses who have remained behind are wondering how long the Army can keep it up.

This change is reflected in a recent poll conducted by The Washington Post, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University, and in dozens of supplemental interviews. The poll, the first nongovernmental survey of military spouses conducted after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, included more than 1,000 spouses living on or near the 10 heaviest-deploying Army bases.

While most of them said they have coped well, three-quarters said they believed that the Army may hit a personnel crisis as soldiers and their families tire of the pace and leave for civilian lives.



Lt. Gen. Franklin "Buster" Hagenbeck, the Army's personnel chief, said in an interview that overall, The Post/Kaiser/Harvard poll results seemed to reflect those of the service's internal surveys.

Tom Donnelly, a former staff member of the House Armed Services Committee. Donnelly said he expects that 2005 will be "the make-or-break year," **as some soldiers who have already served in Iraq for a year are sent back for a second tour.**

In the meantime, repeated and unpredictable deployments remain Army spouses' biggest issue. In The Post/Kaiser/Harvard poll, a slight majority -- 55 percent -- said their spouses' current deployment had been extended longer than they

expected. Of that group, more than a third said that had created "major problems" for them.

"It was a roller coaster," said Meg Davis, whose husband, a lieutenant in the 101st Airborne Division, spent the past year in Iraq. "Everybody said six months, so we were expecting August, worst-case scenario." Instead, her husband did not return home until February.

The poll did not examine the problems faced by the families of National Guard and Reserve troops because they are a far more difficult population to locate and survey.

Some worry about the toll on their marriages, and far more worry about the emotional strain they see in their children.

In interviews, mothers said the Iraq deployment has been harder on their children than it has been on them. In the poll, three-quarters said the deployment had created problems for their offspring, with more than a quarter characterizing the troubles as major. Two-thirds said their sons and daughters were "sad"; about three in 10 said their children were more aggressive or had trouble concentrating.

"When my husband deployed to Afghanistan, my fourth-grader, the light kind of went out of her face," said Amanda Hicks, whose husband is a pilot in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. Hicks and her fellow teachers at Ringgold Elementary School, the school closest to the gates of Fort Campbell, said their current students are notably fragile. **"I have got the teariest class this year," said Debbie Sanders, a kindergarten teacher. "They just cry all the time."**

While half of the spouses rated their own morale as high, less than a third rated the morale of the families around them similarly.

"The hardest part is going to bed and waking up alone, every night and day being alone," said Amy Greene, wife of a 3rd Armored Cavalry medic and mother of a baby born while her husband was in Iraq for the past year. **"It's very hard, especially when you see all the happy families together and you know that your family may never be together again."**

About half said the Army had done a "not so good" or "poor" job of keeping them informed about the timing and duration of deployments.

When deployments were extended, spouses said, there were direct and painful consequences: Those whose husbands were gone for longer than expected were nearly twice as likely as the others to report that a child was having trouble at school or acting more aggressively. Extensions also sharply increased the percentage of spouses who reported feeling depressed and anxious.

The spouses who were interviewed estimated that one or two in every 10 wives take deployment very hard. "Their husbands will probably get out," Kristin Jackson said.

That sentiment is widely shared: About 76 percent of those polled said they believe the Army is heading for personnel problems as soldiers and their families tire of the post-9/11 pace and leave the service.

A strong minority of military wives want no part of that frequent-flier life. About half of those polled said they expect their spouses to reenlist, and that they will support the decision. But **about three in 10 said that they are certain their spouses will get out - and that they want that to happen.**

The greater worry is that more seasoned soldiers -- especially the senior sergeants who are the backbone of today's Army -- will start leaving in unusually large numbers, as they did during the latter part of the Vietnam War. **It is too early to tell if Iraq will provoke such an exodus, but some Army experts are concerned by internal Army data indicating morale problems among troops serving there.**

The most vulnerable spouses are also those newest to the Army. Shyla McLaughlin said she and her husband will "definitely" leave the Army as soon as they can. "I knew there were chances of deployment, but I didn't know how hard it was going to be," she said.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Religious Leaders Reject Bremer "Constitution" & Condemn Visit By "Terrorist" Powell

Al-Jazeera TV, Doha, in Arabic 1608 gmt 26 Mar 04

BBC Monitoring, reports that Muqtada al-Sadr demanded in his sermon that if the Governing Council does not repeal the interim constitution or law of state administration, it should dissolve itself. He called the temporary constitution a "terrorist law." He also charged the Governing Council with treason because it allowed US Secretary of State Colin Powell to visit recently.

Muqtada al-Sadr said, "The Governing Council should dissolve itself or remain away from the tyrannical US demands. It should also renounce this unjust, terrorist document, or what they refer to as the constitution or the law. They should keep the Iraqi army in Iraqi hands. That would be a move in the interest of the Iraqi people, who suffered a great deal."

"The United States has called for closing the border. **Then, we wonder, from where did this person called Powell come in?** What approvals did he get to enter, and what passport did he use? So enough violations against the Iraqi people. O zealous Iraqi people: **How do you approve of the entry of such terrorist persons?** O council, if he

entered the country at your approval, then you have betrayed the Iraqi people. If you were not aware of that in advance of Powell's visit, then the disaster is bigger."

In Karbala, Shaikh Nur al-Din al-Safi said in his Friday sermon from the mosque attached to the shrine of Imam Husayn that the interim constitution is "invalid," according to AFP/ash-Sharq al-Awsat. **Al-Safi is Sistani's representative in that city. He said that Sistani has not just expressed reservations about the interim constitution, he "has rejected it."**

Resistance Takes Out Kirkuk Mossad Office

Pravda, March 21, 2004 Moscow

IRAQI Resistance fighters attacked a secret office for the Zionist Mossad in Kirkuk on Saturday, killing six employees. The office, operating under the name Ar-Rafidayn Export Company was a known Mossad front.

According to the Kuwaiti newspaper *al-Qabs*, Shi'ite and Kurdish sources confirmed that the Resistance attack had taken place.

The newspaper reported that US occupation forces slapped a high security ring around the scene, preventing anyone from approaching. **Witnesses told the Egyptian News Agency that Resistance fighters used long range automatic weapons in the attack on the secret office.**

Sources reported that the US invaders, assisted by the Kurdish chauvinist collaborationist Peshmergah militia, closed all entrances and exits from the city of Kirkuk and began an extensive campaign in an attempt to capture the Resistance fighters who carried out the attack.

The source speculates that the Mossad agents may have been killed by fighters of the underground group 'Ansar-Al-Islam'. The witnesses say that the assailants were speaking Kurdish.

The building of the company was riddled with the machine-gun fire. The people inside tried to fire back but were shot, reported RIA Novosti.

Israeli government wouldn't confirm this. The Mossad higher-ups stated many times that Iraq was outside the sphere of the main interests of their organization, as mentioned by MIGnews.com.

Collaborator Minister's Convoy Ambushed

By Maher al-Thanoon, 29 Mar 2004, MOSUL, Iraq (Reuters)

Guerrillas ambushed a convoy carrying Iraq's public works minister in a surge of attacks around the increasingly lawless Iraqi city of Mosul on Sunday.

Police and hospital officials said three Iraqi bodyguards were killed and a fourth wounded in the attack on Nesreen Barwari's convoy. She was returning to Mosul from Iraq's Kurdish northern areas when the convoy was attacked. Barwari was unhurt, police said.

Security has deteriorated sharply in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, in recent weeks, further complicating U.S. efforts for an orderly transfer of power to Iraqis in July.

Checkpoint Bombed

By Maher al-Thanoon, 29 Mar 2004, MOSUL, Iraq (Reuters)

In the northern city of Kirkuk, two people were wounded when a bomb exploded near a checkpoint on Sunday, police said.

A Joke They're Telling In Iraq

(One dimension of national resistance to a foreign occupation is verbal. This is not good news for the U.S. Occupation. Thanks to A, who translated from Arabic and sent in.)

An American, a Brit and an Iraqi are one night having a few beers.

The Yankee drinks his beer and suddenly throws his glass in the air, pulls out a gun and shoots the glass to pieces. He says "In the states our glasses are so cheap that we don't need to drink from the same one twice."

The Brit obviously impressed by this; drinks his beer, throws his glass into the air, pulls out his gun and shoots the glass to pieces. He says "In the British Isles we have so much sand to make the glasses that we don't need to drink out of the same glass twice either."

The Iraqi, cool as a cucumber, picks up his beer and drinks it, throws his glass into the air, pulls out his gun and shoots both the Yank and the Brit. He says "In Iraq we have so many Americans and Brits that we don't need to drink with the same ones twice."

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Fallujah Confounds Bush Planners

By Martin Sieff, UPI Senior News Analyst, WASHINGTON, March 26 (UPI)

It is now 11 months since Saddam Hussein was toppled in Iraq and more than three months since he was captured by U.S. forces, but the town of Fallujah in his Sunni heartland has still not been tamed.

Gunfire and explosions rocked Fallujah again Friday as U.S. troops and Iraqi guerrilla insurgents fought for several hours.

The latest violence in Fallujah comes less than 100 days before the United States has pledged to hand over sovereignty of Iraq back to an Iraqi authority. But Department of Defense civilian overlords have tasked Pentagon military planners to keep a massive U.S. force of at least 110,000 troops there at least through 2006.

Up to now, Fallujah, located in the Sunni Muslim heartland of Saddam loyalists in central Iraq, has been at the heart of the resistance.

Back on May 1, the very day Bush proclaimed hostilities ended in Iraq, we noted in a United Press International analysis the killing just a few days before of 15 anti-American demonstrators by U.S. troops in Fallujah. The Fallujah shootings, we predicted, would come to be seen as "the kind of event that Thomas Jefferson called 'a fire-bell in the night' -- the harbinger of infinitely worse conflict and travails to come."

Analysts attribute the leveling off of attacks inflicting large numbers of casualties at any single time on U.S. forces not so much on U.S. counter-insurgency successes, but on two other factors.

First, that U.S. combat forces have been ordered to "hunker down" in their bivouacs and avoid aggressive operations as long as possible to keep casualties down through the presidential election season.

Second, the Iraqi guerrillas are taking advantage of the lull to organize and establish political control over significant regions of the country outside Baghdad.

Therefore, as we have repeatedly monitored in UPI analyses, the worst expressions of violence against U.S. troops and other Western forces in Iraq continue to come not from old Saddam loyalists but from the rapidly mobilizing new extreme Sunni Muslim forces that have organized under the very eyes of the U.S. military administration in Baghdad.

The elite fighting core of the U.S. Army and Marines are now bogged down in Iraq for years to come. Only this week, reports emerged that American forces in Europe would have to be drawn to down to cope with the demands on manpower and resources.

The latest violence in Fallujah is likely to make things harder, not easier for the hard-pressed U.S. forces there.

Every Iraqi civilian killed and wounded, especially the children, will have relatives now far more likely to prove sympathetic and supportive to the guerrillas. Therefore, the scale of violent resistance to U.S. forces looks likely to only increase in the months ahead. And given the determination of the administration to "stay the course" as they like to put it, only a fraction of the price in dead and wounded Americans has so far been paid.

As we warned in a UPI analysis nearly a year ago, another vivid phrase of Thomas Jefferson sums up this unrelenting prospect. The United States has seized a wolf by the ears in Iraq. And now it dare not let it go.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Terrorist Stooge Bremer Raids And Shuts Down Shi'ite Newspaper He Doesn't Like

VOA News, 28 Mar 2004

On Sunday, the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq announced it has shut down a popular Shi'ite Muslim newspaper after accusing it of inciting violence against American troops.

The editor of the weekly *al-Hawza* newspaper said dozens of American troops entered the facility and ordered the staff to leave before placing locks on the building.

A letter signed by U.S. civil administrator Paul Bremer accused the paper of publishing false articles that pose "a real threat of violence" against U.S. forces and those Iraqis who help in reconstruction projects. **The closure sparked street protests in Baghdad, but no injuries were reported.**

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