

## **GI SPECIAL 2:5**



**“They’re Just Gonna Love That Stop Loss. Haw Haw Haw”**  
(George Bush remnants at the Pentagon announce troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan will not be allowed to leave the army on schedule, even if their terms of enlistment have expired. See story below.)

---

# **U.S. Base Smashed; 35 GIs Injured In Mortar Attack**

AP 1.7.03 & CENTCOM Release Number: 04-01-07C

**BAGHDAD, Iraq - Thirty-five 3rd Corps Support Command (COSCOM) soldiers were wounded Wednesday in a mortar attack on Logistical Base Seitz, which is west of Baghdad. the U.S. military said.**

Six mortar rounds exploded about 6:45 p.m. at Logistical Base Seitz, the military said in a statement.

"The wounded soldiers were given first-aid and have been evacuated from the site for further medical treatment," the statement said.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. James Cassella said some of the wounded soldiers returned to duty shortly after the attack, while others were

hospitalized. He said he did not have figures on how many troops were lightly injured and how many were seriously wounded.

---

## Resistance Wrecks Kirkuk Oil Pipeline For The 345,867<sup>th</sup> Time

Jan. 4, By Hassan Hafidh, Dow Jones Newswire & ABC News Online

BAGHDAD (Dow Jones)-Saboteurs hit a pipeline carrying crude oil from the northern city of Kirkuk to the Haditha refinery west of Baghdad over the New Year holidays, an oil industry source said Saturday.

The source said explosions hit the pipeline near the al-Thurthar lake. The pipeline carries crude oil to the 10,000 barrel-a-day refinery, which is 260 kilometers northwest of Baghdad.

Northern Oil Company director general Adel Kazzaz says an explosion tore up a line connecting oil fields to a pumping station in the area around Hassiba, 135 kilometres west of Kirkuk.

"The fuel line was used for domestic market needs **and filling up tankers that export crude,**" Mr Kazzaz said.

**The refinery resumed operations only few days ago following a suspension of more than a month after the same pipeline was set on fire at a different location in October, the source said.**

**He said repairs to the pipeline would take weeks and production would stop at the refinery,** which produces mainly gasoline and kerosene for nearly 1 million people in nearby towns and villages.

Since the U.S.-led war that ousted the government of Saddam Hussein, Iraq has suffered from shortages of gasoline and other oil products that are being met through imports from Kuwait, Turkey, Syria, Iran and Jordan.

**Current security measures, including the deployment of 1,000 security guards, have failed to stop attacks that have effectively prevented the oil-rich northern region from resuming exports since the US-led war on Iraq last March.**

The blast follows a spate of explosions over the last few months in Iraq's oil export pipeline to Turkey.

### **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/>

## British Soldier Killed

BBC News 1.7.04

A Scottish soldier has died after a "tragic incident" on a training range in Iraq, the Ministry of Defence said.

Most of the Scottish troops currently stationed in Basra are from the Royal Scots, but a spokesperson said the soldier did not come from the regiment.

The Ministry of Defence said it was unable to give further details on the incident until the soldier's family had been informed.

---

## TROOP NEWS

# Command Clueless And Shaken; Insurgency Going Strong After Capture Of Saddam

By Tom Lasseter, Knight Ridder Jan. 04, 2004

BAGHDAD, Iraq - **Saddam Hussein's capture three weeks ago has not slowed the anti-American insurgency in Iraq, which now seems more entrenched than ever,** according to a review of recent attacks and interviews with U.S. and Iraqi officials.

**U.S. and Iraqi officials say they now doubt that Saddam had a significant role in directing guerrilla attacks.**

***The pace of attacks on U.S. troops weeks after Saddam's capture has shaken U.S. officials' confidence that they know who the insurgents are and has made targeting the insurgents difficult at best. Some people working with U.S. forces say many detained in the crackdown against anti-U.S. forces know little about the organization or seem to be uninvolved in the insurgency.***

As for how the various cells might relate to one another, officials admit they are working on hunches as much as anything.

Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey, who commands the Army's 1st Armored Division in Baghdad, said he is convinced that there is a central planning, training and supply network behind the homemade roadside bombs that explode nearly daily around the country.

However, "I can't tell you that I have absolute confidence that I am correct," Dempsey said. **"They just seem to have a quality about them." (Now there's a piercing analysis.)**

The pace of killing and maiming of American troops has not slowed since Saddam's Dec. 13 arrest.

**In the 14 days before Saddam's capture, 11 American soldiers were killed. In the 14 days that followed, that figure was 14, not including four Bulgarian and two Thai soldiers who also died.**

---

## **Saddam's Capture A Liability For Bush; Offers No Reprieve From Insurgency**

Drafted by Erich Marquardt on January 07, 2004  
Power and Interest News Report (PINR)

The administration has tried a new hard-line approach in Iraq, launching Operation Iron Hammer. **While the new approach brought immediate results, the insurgency soon learned to adapt and slightly altered their tactics as coalition casualties continued unabated.**

**The danger for the Bush administration is the potential for the capture of Saddam Hussein to turn sour.** Immediately following the announcement of Saddam's capture, many felt that it was a turning point in the conflict and even in the "war on terrorism." **But as time goes by, and the longer that conditions in Iraq stay the same, the better the chances that Saddam's capture will become a liability for the U.S. leadership, demonstrating just how little impact Saddam was having on the happenings and mood in post-Ba'athist Iraq.**

<p><b>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.</b></p>
---

## **Army Stop-Loss Order Hits 7,000 More Soldiers**

By Laura Bailey, Army Times staff writer

**Another 7,000 soldiers scheduled to retire or leave the Army this spring will have to put their plans on hold.**

**The Army is expanding stop-loss/stop-movement policies to soldiers in all active-component units currently serving in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan, said Elton Manske, Army G1, chief of the Army's Enlisted Division, at a Pentagon press briefing late Monday.**

**The order will apply to all soldiers now deployed overseas for Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as to those serving in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.**

The order means that soldiers scheduled to leave the Army through retirement or voluntary separation and those scheduled to rotate to new units will now have to stay overseas with their units and remain with them until 90 days after the unit returns to its home base.

The order expands the Army's November decision to apply stop-loss to all active Army soldiers in units slated to replace troops in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan this spring. Reserve units mobilized for war on terrorism missions have been on stop-loss status since November 2002.

**MORE:**

**January 06, 2004 By Robert Burns Associated Press**

**On a related topic, Rumsfeld said the Pentagon is looking for ways to prevent an exodus of troops from the U.S. military before it begins. Some predict a drop-off in the number of people willing to remain in the military in the aftermath of back-to-back wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. (Looks like he found one way.)**

---

## **Combat Vets Being Sent Back To Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse**

*[Fayetteville Observer, January 7, 2004]*

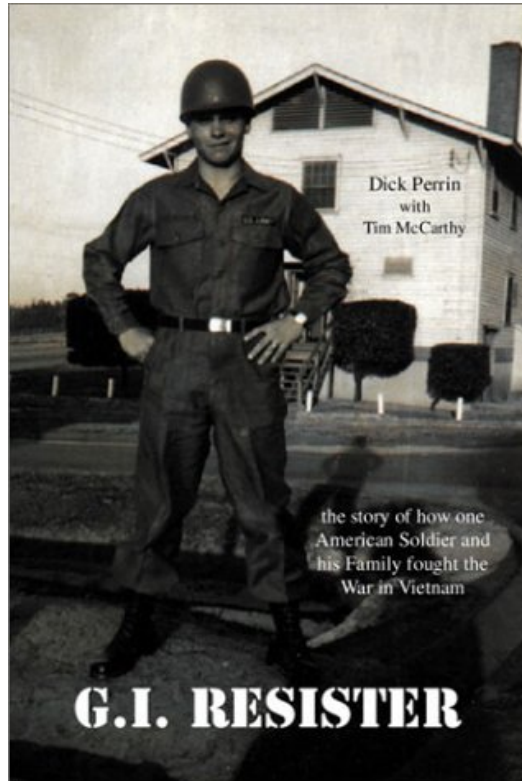
About 2,000 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade leave for the Middle East this month. About 75 percent of those troops are combat veterans.

---

(In case you missed it:)

# **A Soldier's Truth**

# **G.I. Resister: The Story of How One American Soldier And His Family Fought Against The War in Vietnam; By Dick Perrin, Tim McCarthy**



(Review: T., GI Special)

**“When a soldier, seeking anything/ anybody who understood, I would have loved coming across a book like mine and that is partially why I wrote it.” Dick Perrin**

With the news that 18 soldiers, including 14 officers, in Rochester, New York have refused to “voluntarily” deploy to Iraq, resistance in the army is real and alive.

Dick Perrin has written an account of his resistance to the Vietnam War that illuminates what that experience is like with rare and refreshing honesty.

**From first doubts, to turmoil, to increasing certainty that the Vietnam War was simply wrong, and he could not participate in it, the story of his personal, political and geographical journey is a rich illustration of a simple fact: soldiers think, and can act, to resist an imperial war.**

It's also a very moving personal account of how an extra-ordinary ordinary American struggled with issues of right and wrong. He describes his first horrified reactions to his brothers' radical views against the war in Vietnam, the journey that took him to a military base in Germany, his decision to desert and escape to France, the people who sheltered him from military authorities, his meeting in Paris with Stokely Carmichael, and, by another coincidence, his experiences during the great French general strike of 1968.

From there, his journey leads to Canada, a safe zone for soldiers who had decided to leave the War, where Perrin worked with others to help American war resisters escaping to Canada, where he lives to this day,

One thread running through his book are the sometimes very painful interactions with his mom and dad, who at first caught hell for what he did, and then, slowly, over time, came to believe he had been right and the war was wrong.

This is not the stuff of high drama and Hollywood movies. It's far better. This is a no-bullshit, ruthlessly honest look at how a boy quickly grew up in the pressure cooker of any Army engaged in one of the worst causes for which soldiers ever fought, and found in himself the courage to resist the war and come home, if not to the physical boundaries of the United States, at least to a life of care for himself and others.

Perrin does not spare himself for one second, either. With blunt honesty, he tells you what he believes are his own mistakes, as he found his way along a path that must have seemed so completely unlikely to any young man growing up in America in the 1960's.

**Anybody contemplating helping soldiers organize against this war had better get a copy of this book ASAP because Perrin also describes how the assorted radicals who came around the anti-war soldiers impressed them, or disgusted them, and why, from a soldiers point of view. Some were pompous blowhards, some were disdainful and dismissive, some were arrogant assholes who thought soldiers were stupid, and some extended their hands in solidarity and friendship.**

**If you want to get with the program, you better check it out. It will help you avoid ending up in the wrong above-listed category.**

**To order least expensively (no shipping charges), send a U.S. check for \$15.00 U.S. to**

Dick Perrin

Box 192

Lebret, Saskatchewan

S0G 2Y0 CANADA

**LETTER TO CANADA IS 60 CENTS POSTAGE**

**You can also order from Amazon or another book dealer by referencing:  
G.I. Resister OR Dick Perrin**

**(Trafford Publishing  
ISBN 1-55212-851-2)**

**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/>

## **Pentagon Says Purple Heart Due Man Claiming Injury By Russian Laser**

*[Seattle Post-Intelligencer, January 6, 2004]*

**Navy Lt. Jack Daly felt betrayed in 1997 when the U.S. government refused to acknowledge that a laser from a Russian freighter under surveillance damage his eyes with a laser beam.** The Pentagon's inspector general now believes Daly, who is retired and living in West Virginia, and has decided he should receive a Purple Heart because of the incident.

---

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **DEMONSTRATIONS TURN VIOLENT**

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty January 5, 2004

A demonstration in the southern Iraqi city of Samawah turned violent on 3 January, prompting coalition forces to move into the streets and restore calm, according to U.S. Army Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, AFP reported.

**As protesters gathered outside the local governor's house, an unidentified gunman fired into the crowd before fleeing into a nearby building,** Kimmitt said. Troops surrounded the building while Iraqi police arrested 20-30 suspects, he told a 4 January news conference. **Kimmitt added that another gunman assassinated a local councilman in a town near Al-Basrah on 3 January.**

**In the town of Hadithah, three and a half hours' drive north-west of Baghdad, angry residents protested yesterday following the death of four people during a US raid at the weekend.**

---

## **Occupation Sitting On IED**

Nicholas Blanford Middle East Report Online 7 Jan 2004

The average Iraqi Shiite has as little regard for his occupiers as his Sunni countrymen.



**It would be a serious mistake to assume that Shiite quiescence is a sign of approval for the occupation. "Patience has its limits and we are waiting because we are tired of seeing tanks and soldiers and listening to the sounds of explosions," Sheikh al-Awadi said. "The existence of the Islamic clerics exerts a spiritual control over the people. If these people were released, there is no one that could stop them. The wisdom of the hawza [the highest institute of Shia religious learning] is holding the people back."**

**If the Shiites fail to receive what they feel is their due and if the poor state of basic services is not drastically improved, there is a very real risk of a Shiite resistance emerging. That would effectively sound the death knell of the foreign military presence in Iraq. While the current insurgency may be fragmented and ad hoc, the well-organized Shiite groups -- some of which were trained by the Iranian military and have combat experience -- would make the occupation untenable.**

***The Americans are falling into the same vicious cycle that ensnared the Israeli army in south Lebanon in the early 1980s: cracking down on the guerrillas fuels support for the resistance, which leads to more repressive measures, and on and on.***

---

## **“USA Not Come Here For Freedom, But For Oil”**

January 5, 2004, By Robin Pomeroy

AWJA, Iraq (Reuters) - The U.S. army said on Monday it will remove a razor wire fence it put up around Saddam Hussein home village because it believes last month's capture of the former Iraqi leader has reduced the threat of insurgency.

**One resident, who declined to give his name but said he spoke for "all good people of Iraq," pointed to the fence and said "Gaza, Palestine." He was referring to the coastal Palestinian area completely fenced off by Israel.**

**In broken English he shouted at a group of western reporters what he said was the view of the people of Awja: "USA not come here for freedom, not for Saddam Hussein, but for oil."**

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

## **Resistance In Tikrit Going Strong**

January 07, 2004 By Paul Garwood Associated Press

**TIKRIT, Iraq — Sniper attacks and drive-by shootings are the new hit-and-run tactics confronting the U.S. occupiers of Saddam Hussein's birthplace, punctuating an eerie calm that has settled on this tense town since the dictator's capture.**

**In the past week, U.S. soldiers suspect the same gunman has scored two hits, wounding one trooper in the stomach and hitting the other with two bullets in the back. Luckily for the second soldier, his flak jacket stopped the bullets.**



#### **AMBUSH COUNTRY**

A U.S. Army soldier of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division, walks on a foggy morning, in Tikrit Jan. 7, 2004. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

**BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE!**

The Associated Press witnessed an example of the Army's blunt means of getting its message across Tuesday on foot patrol with soldiers from the 4th Infantry's Charlie Company,

***During the two-hour patrol, the squad forced their way into two houses, seizing a rifle in the home of one woman who shouted "I hate Americans, you killed my son!" Asmaa Ahmed Khattab showed the AP a picture of her 20-year-old son, who she said was killed along with several friends by U.S. forces in July.***

An hour later, the crack of a single bullet momentarily stopped the soldiers in their tracks before they set off in pursuit.

**The near miss reinforced the new threat facing soldiers in Tikrit, of sneak attacks by a gunman either hidden or in a car that flees from the scene.**

**"It feels calmer out here and the numbers of attacks are going down, but they are coming up with new tactics,"** said patrol leader Sgt. Matthew Lesau, 25, of Pagapago, American Samoa. "Even though it seems quiet, you know they are still out there."

Lt. Col. Steve Russell, commander of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division, said **“We have never taken the approach of handing out lollipops in the hope that they would like us,”** he said of residents of the town 100 miles north of Baghdad. **“That doesn’t work in this city. Different populations need different treatment.”** (The treatment needed for officers of an army that invades and occupies your country is obvious.)

**“Things are getting quieter, but we definitely can’t say the attacks have ended. There will be those that will never be convinced except by a bullet in the head.”** (Could that include Lt. Col. Steve Russell?)

---

## **Iraqis Revive Ancient Word `Ulooj' To Insult U.S. Troops**

By Hannah Allam, Knight Ridder Newspapers, Jan. 05, 2004

**BAGHDAD, Iraq - College students whisper the word when they spot U.S. troops in Baghdad streets. Vandals scrawl the word across military vehicles. Sneering taxi drivers mutter it when convoys block their cabs.**

"Ulooj," (pronounced oo-LOOZH) they say, and while some use it with disdain and others more lightheartedly, it's unmistakably not a nice reference - though **what precisely the ancient term from Arabic literature means depends on whom you ask. Among the translations offered: pigs of the desert, foreign infidels, little donkeys, medieval crusaders, bloodsuckers and horned creatures.**

While no one can quite pin down the original definition, **Iraqis agree on the modern definition: "It's the American military,"** said Maria Hassan, a 23-year-old history major at a university in Baghdad. "We use this word from the past for our occupiers of the present."

The revival of "ulooj" is the handiwork of Mohammed Saeed al Sahaf, the alternately comical and caustic information minister from the former Iraqi regime.

Today, **"ulooj" lingers as the unofficial national nickname for American soldiers, even among many who profess support for the U.S. presence.**

**"The Americans always use fancy words for their operations here - Desert Storm, Iron Grip - so we should also have special names for them,"** said Ahmed Kandeel, a 20-year-old Egyptian who attends university in Iraq. **"What does `ulooj' mean, anyway? Isn't it `pigs of the desert?'"**

Ali al Khateeb, who translated Sahaf's live remarks into English for foreign journalists during the war, said he was stumped the day his former boss mentioned "ulooj" at a news conference. Khateeb said he racked his brain for a suitable translation as Western reporters stared at him with impatience.

"I went to my old professors after that press conference to ask them for a more precise word," said Khateeb, who's now a producer for an Arabic-language satellite TV station. **"One told me it means `little donkeys' and the other said it's `big monsters with small minds.' No one can say for sure. It was an obsolete word before the war."**

**Few soldiers are aware of their new moniker. Iraqi children delight in shouting it as they smile and wave to passing U.S. troops, who happily return what they think is a genuine greeting.**

Alaa-Edin Elsadr, an Arab-American spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition, knows soldiers sometimes use derogatory terms for Iraqis, but he said that was no excuse for "ulooj."

"Our people tell us it means something like `animals,' " he said. "It's definitely not funny. If someone wants to create a nickname for us, there's not much we can do about it, but we feel it's culturally insensitive."

(Incredible. Bush sends an army to invade and occupy their country, throw them into prison if they verbally denounce the occupation, break down their doors in the middle of the night, steal their oil, kill their civilians, and this asshole whines about the occupied using a nasty word to describe their oppressors and executioners.

(Y, an Iraqi speaker, offered his own translation tonight: somewhere between loathsome filth and disgusting barbarian, but *enemy* any way you cut it.)

---

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### **U.S. To Release 506 Prisoners In Iraq**

(THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: B WRITES: Another example that shows protest works.)

By JIM KRANE, Associated Press Writer Jan. 7. 2003

BAGHDAD, Iraq - U.S. authorities in Iraq will release 506 low-level Iraqi prisoners.

***The release of Iraqis held indefinitely and without charge has been a top demand of community and tribal leaders, as well as human rights advocates.***

"All they do is put a bag on their heads, bind their hands behind them with plastic handcuffs and take them away. Families don't know where they go," Malek Dohan al-Hassan, head of the Lawyers Syndicate in Baghdad, said last month. "They violate human rights up to their ears."

**Bremer said U.S. authorities are working on ways to grant people access to family members who are being held prisoner. (Thereby admitting family members now have no access to prisoners. Despicable.)**

**The 506 prisoners to be freed represent about 4 percent of the 12,800 prisoners in U.S. custody.**

**It's not known how many detainees have been held in U.S. custody.**

---

## **Raids Infuriate Villagers: “We Will All Become Terrorists”**

January 2, 2004 By Suleiman al-Khalidi

BAQUBA, Iraq (Reuters) - Khadija's eldest son Ahmad was killed in battle during the war that toppled Saddam Hussein. Now U.S. troops have rounded up her husband and four other sons, leaving the impoverished Iraqi woman to fend for herself.

"What do I do now? They took my husband and my kids and it's only me now," said Khadija, who like all women in her small hamlet on the outskirts of the flashpoint town of Baquba wears a black veil.

"My son is a martyr. My husband was taken and they took the rest of my children," she said in her mud and stone-brick house, which has plastic in the windows because the glass was shattered during the U.S. raid which captured her husband and sons.

U.S. troops have rounded up dozens of Iraqis they say are linked to the insurgency.

U.S. troops arrested several men during a raid in Bab el-Darb this week, leaving distraught women to fend for themselves, a rare situation in a conservative Muslim community with strong family ties.

Khadija's story is echoed by many women in Bab el-Darb, a farming area of orchards and palms trees watered by tributaries of the Tigris river.

Talia, 53, recounted how American soldiers dynamited her front gate before taking away her husband Abed, 65, and three sons.

"The women were left. My sons and their father were tied up and taken away. For three hours they were tied holding their heads to the wall. Abed was barefoot and without his headdress," Talia said.

"The Americans entered when we were asleep. They encircled us and blew up our door. They took us out and the women were left in the cold, shivering." said Talia, who is now left with her daughters-in-law and their young children.

Locals say the raid left smashed windows, walls damaged by shrapnel and some children injured.

One woman, Fatima, said her son Ismail, 12, was wounded in the chest and that her 50-year-old husband, a retired army major, had nothing to hide even though he was detained.

**But the incensed and humiliated men left behind warn the raids could lead to more attacks. There is a growing nationalist spirit.**

**"When I see my wife pushed like a dog against the wall, as an Iraqi**

**Muslim, will I keep silent?" said Mohammad Obeid, a trader.**

**"In Saddam's era we never saw this," said retired civil servant Ahmad Jibouri. "We will not stay with our hands tied for ever."**

**Mansour Saleh, a shopkeeper, warned: "If these raids continue we will all become terrorists."**

---

## **Iraq Police Shoot Unemployed Ex-Soldiers**

By NABIL AL-JOURANI, Associated Press Writer 1.6.03

**BASRA, Iraq - Iraqi police opened fire Tuesday on hundreds of stone-throwing former Iraqi soldiers demanding monthly stipends promised by the U.S.-led coalition, and reporters saw at least four protesters shot in the southern town of Basra.**

The Basra protesters marched on the Central Bank and then tried to force their way in to get money, pelting the building with stones and then turning on police who first tried to stop them by wielding batons. Police then opened fire.

At the hospital, officials said one ex-soldier had been killed, and relatives said they had come to collect the body of 40-year-old Abbas Kadhim, a non-commissioned officer. Hospital officials said they were treating three wounded men.

**The soldiers said they had not been paid a monthly stipend equivalent to \$50 since September.**

---

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

## **As Soldiers Die, Bush Buddies At Bechtel Getting Fresh \$1.8 Billion**

*[Washington Post, January 7, 2004, Pg. E1]*

Bechtel National Inc. was awarded a \$1.8 billion contract for more reconstruction work in Iraq.

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **U.S. Troops Wounded In Raid**

Associated Press January 5, 2004

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - Insurgents attacked a U.S. military convoy in southern Afghanistan, injuring two soldiers, a provincial governor said Monday.**

The convoy came under fire Saturday near Deh Rawood in Uruzgan province, governor Jan Mohammed Khan said. He had no details of who carried out the attack or on the condition of the injured soldiers.

---

### **Christian Missionary Worker Abducted**

By NOOR KHAN, Associated Press Jan. 5, 2003

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - Resistance militants have kidnapped an Afghan aid worker, police said Monday, the latest in a string of attacks on the country's main highway.**

The man was driving a pickup truck belonging to a Christian emergency relief organization north of Qalat, the capital of Zabul province, when he was stopped by armed men, Zabul police chief Haji Mohammed Hayub said.

Later Monday, Mullah Abdul Hakim Latifi, a Taliban spokesman, called The Associated Press to claim responsibility.

"He is in our custody. He is safe," Latifi said. Conditions for his release would be announced later, he said by satellite telephone.

**The pickup was accompanying two trucks carrying computers to Kandahar for the Christian emergency relief group Shelter for Life.**

---

**If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited."**