

GI SPECIAL 2:6



U.S. Army soldier during a night raid in Tikrit Jan. 9, 2004. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)
BAD PLACE TO BE: NO MORE BULLSHIT: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!

GIs Scoff At Re- Enlistment Bonus

**“They Can’t Pay Me Enough To
Stay Here”**

**“There’s Not Enough Money In
The World To Make Me Stay A
Month Longer”**

Jan. 7, 2004 BAQOUBA, Iraq (AP)

Associated Press reporter Estes Thompson in Fort Bragg, N.C. contributed to this report.

At a checkpoint on the barren plain east of Baqouba, word of a new U.S. Army plan to pay soldiers up to \$10,000 to re-enlist evoked laughter from a few bored-looking troopers. “Man, they can’t pay me enough to stay here,” said a 23-year-old

specialist from the Army's 4th Infantry Division as he manned the checkpoint with Iraqi police outside this city 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

His comments reflect a sentiment not uncommon among the nearly two dozen soldiers in Iraq who have spoken with The Associated Press since the Army announced the increased re-enlistment bonuses for soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait on Monday

Some cited the monotonous routine of a lonely life spent thousands of miles from loved ones. Others offered simpler reasons - such as the fear of an early death.

Staff Sgt. Julian Guerrero, 38, who runs a re-enlistment program for a battalion in the 4th ID based in Tikrit, said only 10 of the battalion's 80 eligible soldiers have taken the deal so far.

Along the road leading north from Baghdad and into the "Sunni Triangle," the heartland of Saddam Hussein's support and the center of anti-American resistance, **a sergeant from the 1st Armored Division said he's not interested in the money because he has been shot at a "few times" and "I don't want to die here."**

"Every car, every person are potential weapons. We can't trust anything," said the sergeant, who has been in Iraq since May and is due to leave in two or three months. **He spoke on the condition of anonymity.**

The increased bonus program is part of an effort to avoid a manpower crunch. It's aimed at soldiers like Spc. Justin Brown of the 4th Infantry Division. **"I don't want to be in the Army forever and just keep fighting wars," said the 22-year-old from Atoka, Okla.**

At the checkpoint outside Baqouba, the 23-year-old specialist, who refused to give his name saying he feared retribution from military higher-ups, stubbed out a cigarette on the side of a Humvee. As he began to speak, he was interrupted by the blast of a Kalashnikov rifle a few yards up the road. An Iraqi policeman fired the rounds in a mound of dirt for no apparent reason. "You see what I have to put up with?" asked the soldier. With two months left in a 12-month tour, **"there's not enough money in the world to make me stay a month longer."**

"Maybe if I were single I'd think about it," said Sgt. Dante Legare, 32, of the 4th Infantry Division. "That's pretty good money ... enough to maybe put a down payment on a house," said Legare, a New York City native. "But is it worth it? I've already been away something like nine months. I want to see my wife."

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/>

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Resistance Missile Shoots Downs U.S. C130 Cargo Jet Over Baghdad; Air Force Mobility Command Cover-Up Fails

1/8/2004 By SAMEER N. YACOUB, Associated Press Writer & Reuters

A big U.S. military cargo jet was hit by a missile before it made an emergency safe return to Baghdad airport with 63 passengers and crew on Thursday, a U.S. military official said.

A senior official at the Pentagon said the plane was hit by hostile fire hours after the four-engine Air Force C-5 jet landed at Baghdad International Airport.

The U.S. Air Mobility command said earlier that the transport plane landed safely after declaring an in-flight emergency because of "excessive engine vibrations" in the No. 4 engine. It made no mention of hostile fire, but the defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because details were classified secret, said the engine was hit by hostile fire.

It was not immediately clear what type of weapon was used. The plane had just taken off from their airport when the incident happened. No injuries were reported.

There were 63 passengers and crew members on board the aircraft. No injuries were reported.

Resistance Shoots Down U.S. Copter: 9 GIs Killed; General Kimmitts' Cover-Up Fails

1/8/2004 By SAMEER N. YACOUB, Associated Press Writer

FALLUJAH, Iraq - A U.S. UH-60 Black Hawk medivac helicopter crashed Thursday at approximately 2:20 p.m. near this stronghold of the anti-American insurgency, killing all

nine soldiers aboard, the U.S. military said. A witness said the helicopter, which bore red crosses, was hit in the tail by a rocket.

There were no survivors among the nine American soldiers aboard the helicopter that crashed about four miles south of Fallujah, the 82nd Airborne Division said.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt initially said the aircraft crashed while making an "emergency landing" about 2:20 p.m., adding that the cause was unknown.

Mohammed Ahmed al-Jamali, a farmer who lives close to the crash site, said he heard the whoosh of a rocket, saw it hit the helicopter in the tail and watched the chopper crash in flames.

Al-Jamali, 27, said he rushed to the scene but found all aboard dead.

"I was in the farm, I heard the sound, looked up and I saw the rocket hit. It hit it in the tail," al-Jamali said.

He said there were two helicopters in the air, both with the distinctive red crosses of medical evacuation craft, and that the second one was hit.

The helicopter was a medical evacuation aircraft but it was unclear if it was carrying patients, a military official said on condition of anonymity.

Student Waleed Kurdi, 23, said he heard "a loud explosion and I saw the fire in the air." He said the aircraft exploded in two before it hit the ground.

American troops arrived about an hour later, while a helicopter patrolled above, al-Jamali said. **(Classics of complete stupidity in both cases. Who do they think they're keeping the information secret from? The resistance? They shot down both aircraft. Duh.)**

Also Thursday, an attack was foiled on Baghdad's police headquarters by chasing away men preparing to launch rockets near a soccer stadium, according to Maj. Roger Hedgepeth of the 18th Military Police Brigade. Authorities confiscated the rockets.

Update On Base Seitz Attack; Six Mortar Rounds, One Dead, 33 Wounded

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
January 8, 2004 Release Number: 04-01-08C

BALAD, Iraq – One 3rd Corps Support Command soldier was killed, thirty-three soldiers were wounded and one civilian was wounded as a result of the mortar attack at Logistical Base Seitz, west of Baghdad which occurred Jan. 7 at approximately 6:45 p.m.

An initial report states that six, 60mm mortar rounds impacted inside the camp resulting in the thirty-four soldiers being wounded; one of whom, despite the best efforts of the soldiers at the scene and medical personnel, died of his wounds.

After on-the-spot medical evaluation and treatment, seven soldiers were returned to duty while the others were transported by air and ground ambulances to the 28th Combat Support Hospital for treatment.

TROOP NEWS

Engineers Head For Iraq It Was “Like I Was Dead,” Spc. Says

Army Times 1.12.03

There were tears and hugs and so much sobbing among Spc. Marcus Welch’s family that he said it was “like I was dead.”

But this was **no funeral** — just the going-away ceremony for the National Guard’s 512th Engineer Battalion, among the units to leave in the next wave of troops heading for Iraq.

(“No funeral?” See the next story about how Guard and Reserve members are being killed in greater proportion than their numbers. For some strange reason, this happy talk bullshit story fails to say if these Guard members have their interceptor jackets. Huge numbers of Guard and Reserve members still don’t have them, despite Rumsfeld’s lying promises.)

From January to May, the roughly 123,000 U.S. troops in Iraq will be replaced with about 110,000, many from Guard units such as the 512th.

The 512th, based in Cincinnati, came together for a farewell ceremony. **(Indeed.)**

Guard And Reserve Deaths Mount In Iraq Activated Troops Account For 1 In 6 Casualties

January 12, 2004 By Chuck Vinch, Army Times staff writer

Once major combat ended and forces were reconfigured for stability and security, the death rate for Guard and reserve members climbed from about 10 percent before May 1 to about 20 percent of all casualties since.

Coincidentally, the 10 percent death rate for reservists and Guard members in the major-combat phase of the Iraq war was almost identical to that of Vietnam. (Note well: their death rate in Iraq is 100% greater than in Vietnam.)

As in all wars, lower-enlisted members have borne the brunt of casualties in Iraq. Of the 479 who gave their lives, 251 people — slightly more than half — were in the E-1 to E-4 enlisted grades. Another 159 — about one-third of the total — were in the E-5 to E-9 grades.

The death rate among officers was just under 15 percent, and officers accounted for 68 of the total deaths.

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/>

1,600 Marines Leaving Okinawa For Bush Imperial Slaughterhouse

[Daily Yomiuri, January 8, 2004]

The U.S. military will transfer two battalions of marines from Okinawa Prefecture to Iraq in an effort to improve the security situation there.

Guard Retraining Artillerymen To Be Temporary Cops: Lt. Says They Are Glad To Have A Chance To Get Killed

January 12, 2004, By Jane McHugh, Army Times staff writer

The National Guard is retraining more than 4,000 troops from other military occupational specialties as temporary military police.

2,000 National Guard soldiers from different career fields, including field artillery and air defense artillery, will be retrained as in-lieu-of MPs, destined for Iraq and armed with individual weapons to protect convoys and perform other security tasks, Grass said.

These Paladin soldiers have been told they'll serve at Tallil Air Base in Iraq and **are glad to get the opportunity to serve in the war, said Lt. Joseph Ruotolo**, spokesman for Battery A (Forward), 1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery Regiment.

Military Families Speak Out

See the article "Our Troops Aren't Fighting For Liberty" at www.isreview.org for interviews with military families against the war by Eric Ruder

Bush Administration Uses FDA To Clear Way For Resuming Troops' Anthrax Shots

January 07, 2004 By Deborah Funk, Army Times staff writer

The Pentagon can resume its mandatory anthrax vaccination program after a federal judge on Jan. 7 temporarily lifted his order that had barred the Pentagon from forcing all service members to take the shots even if they did not consent.

In doing so, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Emmet G. Sullivan cited a recent final rule by federal regulators that says the anthrax vaccine is licensed and approved to protect against inhalational anthrax. That rule was published Jan. 5 in the Federal Register.

"I can't overlook it," Sullivan said. "It's a final rule."

The Pentagon suspended its program Dec. 23, one day after Sullivan issued his preliminary injunction. At the time, he noted that the Food and Drug Administration had not taken a formal position on whether the vaccine was approved to protect against inhalational anthrax.

Absent FDA's formal opinion, it was left to Sullivan to determine whether the vaccine was being used as approved, and he found that it was not. The agency's formal position, however, has since been published

<p>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.</p>

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Nationalist Pressure Kills Oil Privatization; Big Oil Corporations Out Of Luck

By CHIP CUMMINS Wall St. Journal 1.7.03

BAGHDAD, Iraq—U.S. advisers and Iraqi oil officials, now studying how to organize Iraq's vast but dilapidated oil industry, are leaning heavily toward recommending the formation of a large state-run petroleum company. **If adopted, the move could sharply curtail the role of international oil corporations for years.**

Officials of the U.S.-led occupation have been pushing liberalization in most parts of the Iraqi economy. But in the politically sensitive oil sector, occupation advisers say they strongly support establishing a state-owned company similar to those in neighboring Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Our preference is definitely in that direction," said Robert McKee, senior oil adviser for the occupying Coalition Provisional Authority. ***"It's just pragmatism," he said, citing the country's passionate nationalistic attitudes about oil.***



British military police show their deep respect for unemployed former Iraqi soldiers waiting for back pay due them since September in Basra Jan. 8, 2004. (AP Photo/Nabil Aljurani)

OCCUPATION REPORT

Bremer Lied: No Prisoners Released

About 80 prisoners were released from Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison, but they were not the detainees that U.S. authorities had promised would be freed under a special amnesty.

Bremer had said 506 of some 12,800 detainees would be released and that the first 100 would be freed Thursday from Abu Ghraib.

At Abu Ghraib, hundreds of people waited in frustration for hours, hoping relatives would be among the first detainees that coalition officials said would be freed in what U.S. officials portrayed as a goodwill gesture.

U.S. guards said they had no orders to release anyone.



THE VICTIMS OF BREMERS' DISGUSTING LIE: Iraqi women react while they wait outside Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison for loved ones to be released. Hundreds of people waited in frustration for hours, hoping relatives would be among the first detainees that coalition officials said would be freed under a much-publicized amnesty. Jan. 8 2004 (AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen)

There was more confusion when three truckloads of prisoners were driven out of the prison and those waiting rushed out into the street after them, stopping traffic.

But an official said it was a routine release of about 80 prisoners that had nothing to do with the amnesty announced Wednesday by U.S. administrator L. Paul Bremer.

"This has nothing to do with Bremer's announcement. These are the ones who are routinely released every week," said Lt. Col. Roy Shere, a spokesman for the 800th Military Police Brigade that operates prisons in Iraq.

Relatives at the prison said people were being arrested unjustly and there were dozens of tales of men detained because they were near the scene of an attack.

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



Family members during night raids in Tikrit Jan. 9. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia
Isn't Liberation Wonderful?)

Iraqis Capitalists Poised To Make Money As Blood Flows

USA Today, January 8, 2004, Pg. 5B

Saddam Hussein's capture gave a boost to Iraq's gloomy business climate, with some business owners now predicting a boom in investment. **The businessmen aren't concerned about the occasional explosion that interrupts talk---they say it is time to make money.**

For Iraqis, U.S.-Backed TV Just Propaganda Bullshit; Station Staffers Acknowledge Their Reluctance to Criticize

[Washington Post, January 8, 2004, Pg. 15]

The Baghdad television station al-Iraqiya is sponsored by the Pentagon. Many Iraqis don't trust al-Iraqiya to broadcast the truth. They see the station as just another propaganda tool that seeks to cast the U.S. occupation in the best light.

Received:

THANKS TO Y WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: Y WRITES:

In my mind, "ulooj" invokes images of young cattle being sent to the slaughterhouse... but that's probably because it sounds like "ijel", which means young cow... it's funny how ones brain makes associations with sounds; in this case it's somewhat appropriate...

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