

## GI SPECIAL 2#61

### THE ENEMY IS IN WASHINGTON



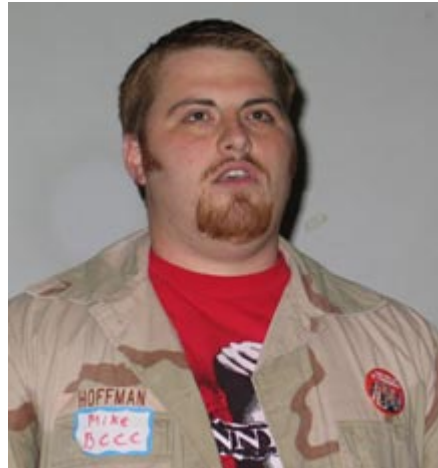
### PAYBACK IS OVERDUE

Keri Frank (C), wife of slain U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Phillip Frank, during a graveside ceremony for her husband at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, Illinois, April 17, 2004. Frank died from hostile fire in the Al Anbar region of Iraq April 8. REUTERS/Frank Polich

**Baghdad Veteran  
Condemns War;  
“The Military Occupation  
Is The Problem”**

April 14, 2004, By Associated Press & By Monte Reel, Washington Post Staff Writer & By MICHAEL RATCLIFFE, Staff Writer, The Times [Trenton, NJ] & By MURIEL DOBBIN, McClatchy Newspapers

After a news conference, families and veterans joined about 40 supporters in a march to the White House a few blocks away where they laid pink, white and yellow carnations in memory of the more than 670 American troops killed since the war began last year.



Michael Hoffman, Marine Vet

**Michael Hoffman, a Marine who spent two months in Iraq fighting a war he opposed, challenged the argument that chaos would follow if the U.S. forces left Iraq. "We are not making a better world for the Iraqis," he said. "There is chaos now." "The military occupation is the problem, not the solution." "Until we end the occupation, chaos is going to continue, killing is going to continue on both sides."**

**"We don't belong there. We're never going to win this war," said Sue Niederer. Her 24-year-old son, Seth, was killed two months ago while defusing a bomb south of Baghdad.**

**"It's time for us to get out," she said.**

She said her commitment to protest the war is "stronger than ever" after Bush's nationally televised address Tuesday night.

**"Mr. Bush made it very well known how he feels, that what the people feel does not mean a thing to him," Niederer said. He didn't answer any of the direct questions given to him. He was inarticulate, self-righteous and totally unapologetic to the American people and the families of the deceased."**

The march was organized by the group, Military Families Speak Out, and United for Peace and Justice, an anti-war coalition.

Jessica Salamon of Ohio, whose husband is in Iraq, wept as she spoke of her dread that he would never return, while **Annette Pritchard of Oregon, whose 19-year-old nephew died in Iraq two months ago, said, "They called him a hero but he was a**

victim." President Bush "still has no reason for why we're there and no way to get out."

**Most of the protesters said they wanted to attract more support for an immediate pullout**, saying that the continued U.S. military presence in Iraq is creating instability rather than peace and democracy.

Madalaine Miller Strauss, the aunt of an injured Marine still in Iraq, said her support for the war turned into opposition after U.S. intelligence concerning Iraq's weapons of mass destruction proved faulty.

**"We don't seek President Bush's consolation," said Strauss, of New York City. "End this war; bring our troops home now. We do not share [Bush's] 'historic mission.' "**

**"I invite President Bush to come to my house for one minute or two minutes to put on my shoes," said Rosa Gonzalez, whose son, Marine Cpl. Jorge Gonzalez, was killed in March 2003.**

**"He not only endangers our families, he endangers the whole world."**

**(For an in-depth interview with Michael Hoffman, see the article centerfold article at [www.socialistworker.org](http://www.socialistworker.org).)**

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

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

# **Coordinated Attack In Force Kills 6 Marines At Husaybah**

Apr. 17, 2004 BY RON HARRIS, St. Louis Post-Dispatch & (AP) April 18, 2004

HUSAYBAH, Iraq— Lance Corp. Dustin Myshrall knew things were going to be bad from the moment he responded to the call for help from his fellow Marines.

"There was nobody on Market Street (the city's busiest thoroughfare)," said Myshrall, 22, of Baton Rouge, La. "We were flying through the alleys and there weren't any of the little kids like you normally see. But we didn't know it was going to be this big."

In some of the fiercest fighting in recent weeks, five Marines were killed and dozens of Iraqi insurgents slain in a day-long battle Saturday in this city just 300 yards east of the Syrian border.

**According to Marine intelligence, nearly 300 Iraqi mujahadeen fighters from Fallujah and Ramadi launched an offensive early Saturday against Marines in an outpost right next to this city, first setting of a road-side bomb to lure Marines out of their base and then firing 24 mortars as the Marines responded to the first attack.**

**At least nine Marines were wounded** and more than 20 Iraqi fighters were captured in a 14-hour battle that began around 8 a.m. The Iraqi prisoners were taken to the Marines' main base, Camp Al Qaim, 22 miles east of here, for questioning.

Late Saturday night, Marine Cobra helicopter gunships were still strafing enemy positions around the soccer stadium near downtown Husaybah while medical evacuation helicopters carried wounded Marines back to Camp Al Qaim.

Marines at the base located next to Husaybah, one of the most treacherous areas in the region, awoke Saturday to the flurry of mortar rounds following the roadside bomb.

**According to the Marines, the insurgents apparently ignited the bomb as a decoy. A Marine unit responding to the bomb pulled in front of the former Bath Party headquarters here at around 8:30 a.m., where they were met by rocket propelled grenades and machine gun fire.**

**The unit radioed for help, and a second group of Marines trying to reach them were hit by heavy mortar fire as they traveled along their normal route into the city. Once the second group of Marines arrived in the city, they were strafed by small arms and machine gun fire from insurgents hiding homes along their route.**

As more Marines were sent from the nearby base, the day-long battle ensued.

**All of the slain Marines were killed in the first 90 minutes of the battle, when they went to clear a house and were ambushed by Iraqis hiding in the building.**

Marines cordoned off the city of about 100,000 residents, halting all traffic in and out except for women and children who were fleeing the fighting.

"We're trying to get the snipers in position for a shot," Major George Schreffler told the other commanders through tactical radio communications. "They're looking at guys in blue uniforms and others with black clothes and black masks."

By 2:30 p.m., Marines had begun sweeping through the city and closing down exits routes.

"Tell the Marines be careful, because there are a lot of IEDs (improvised explosive devices) on the East End Road," one commander told the other officers over the radio.

By 3 p.m., the entire battalion was either engaged in the fight or taking their positions to relieve those who were already fighting.

By 4:30 p.m. Marines had called in the first Cobra gunships, which strafed a number of enemy positions and backed ground units that were converging on enemy sites.

By 6 p.m., Marines had the insurgents on the run. Fire from 50-caliber machine guns, 40-millimeter grenades, M-16s and Marine mortars crackled and exploded through the city.

" Yeah, get some," said Pfc. Patrick Patenge, 19, of Mesa, Ariz.

The battalion commander, Col. Matthew Lopez, said he believed the Marines had crushed the insurgents' attack. (**"Believed"?**)

For many of the Marines, the fight was a chance to finally strike back at an illusive enemy that has been killing and maiming their friends through roadside bombs, landmines and ambush attacks.

Sitting in the back of a green ambulance at the soccer field, Lance Corp. Raul Gonzalez, 18, of Monroeville, Ala., said he was trying to help a fellow Marine who had been shot through the cheek when he was injured in the foot by a rocket propelled grenade that did not explode.

Lance Corp. Christopher Nimbus, 19, was wounded in the left shoulder by shrapnel when another rocket propelled grenade exploded as he and another Marine were making their way into the town from the south.

"The other guy, he was hurt really bad," said Nims, who sustained a minor injury. "He had leg wounds and his arms were hit pretty bad."

Lance Corp. Austin Herbel, 21, had a tire of his vehicle shot out and escaped injuries when he was missed by a bullet that came through the window of his Humvee and ricocheted around the interior of the vehicle.

"I'm one of the lucky ones," said Herbel, of Colby, Kan.

Myshrall, who was in one of the first groups to respond to the early assaults, knew all of the men who were killed. Four were his close friends.

**"It's tough," said Myshrall, who drove the bodies of his friends to Camp Al Qaim so they could be evacuated back to the United States. "It doesn't feel real. It doesn't look real."**

Lance Corp. Francisco Villegas, 28, also knew the men closely. He drove the truck that carried the captured Iraqis who may have killed his friends.

"It hurts," he said. "It hurts. You don't think it could happen to people you know, and especially these guys. They were exceptional. You just never thought it would happen to them. They were everybody's friend."

Some civilians were shot by Marine snipers as they stepped outside to use outdoor toilets behind their houses, said Hamid al-Alousi, a doctor at the hospital in the nearby city of al-Qaim.

Husaybah police director Imad al-Mahlawi was one of those killed by American snipers, according to a man who identified himself as al-Mahlawi's cousin, Adel Ezzeddin, Al-Arabiya reported.

---

## Marine Killed In Al Anbar Province

4.18.04 Combined Joint Task Force Seven Release #040418h

**CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq** -- A Soldier assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed yesterday as a result of enemy action in the Al Anbar Province while conducting security and stability operations.

**I MEF force protection measures preclude the release of any information that could aid enemy personnel in assessing the effectiveness or lack thereof with regard to their tactics, techniques and procedures. The release of more details about the incident could place our personnel at greater risk.**

*(Now, compare this bullshit with the story you just finished reading. How Marines die is only a big secret at Falluja. Why?)*

---

## Three U.S. Soldiers Killed In Al-Kamalia

BAGHDAD, Iraq, April 17 (UPI) -- Iraqi resistance soldiers reportedly fired rocket propelled grenades at a U.S. patrol in a Baghdad suburb Saturday, killing three soldiers and wounding three others.

Witnesses said a Humvee vehicle was set on fire in the attack, which occurred in the Shiite-inhabited suburb of al-Kamalia, east of Baghdad. They said they saw the bodies of three American soldiers lying on the road with their faces covered by a sheet.

---

## Resistance Cuts Two Major Highways Into Baghdad;

# West, North And South Access To Capital Under “Intensified” Attack

April 17, 2004 By JIM KRANE, Associated Press Writer & AP 4.18

**BAGHDAD, Iraq - The U.S. military announced two major highways into Baghdad were closed on Saturday in the latest disruption caused by intensified attacks by anti-U.S. insurgents.**

**Commanders suggested the routes remained vulnerable to attacks by insurgents who have been targeting U.S. military supply lines.**

"We've got to fix those roads, we've also got to protect those roads," Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt told reporters in Baghdad.

**The military warned that civilians found on the closed sections "may be considered to be anti-coalition forces" and come under U.S. fire.** Kimmitt said civilians would be redirected around the closed sections.

**Attacks by the resistance at the western, northern and southern entrances to the city have targeted key military supply lines, with tanker trucks and military equipment set on fire, forcing the repeated closure of the main Baghdad-Amman road through the violent western district of Abu Ghraib.**

The military announced Sunday it closed off the main highway from Baghdad to the Jordanian border, the scene of heavy fighting at the western entrance to Baghdad as well as near Fallujah and Ramadi further down the road.

The military also shut down a stretch of the main highway north to Turkey, starting at the entrance to Baghdad extending to the town of Balad 42 miles north. Also closed was a 90-mile section of the main southern highway connecting Baghdad with Basra and Kuwait.

---

## Desperation Time; Wounded Marines Sent Back Into Fight

**LATE REPORT:** April 14, 2004 By JASON KEYSER and LOURDES NAVARRO, Associated Press Writers

Marines fought fierce battles Monday and Tuesday with insurgents in Karma, a village outside Fallujah. **Some 100 gunmen were killed in battles in palm groves and over canals that were so intense that wounded Marines were sent to rejoin the fight.**

"They ran in there with bandages and all," said Col. B.P. McCoy, commander of the 3rd Battalion.

---

## **Task Force Baghdad Soldier Dies in IED Strike**

4.18.04 Combined Joint Task Force Seven Release #040418c

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** -- One Task Force Baghdad Soldier died when an improvised explosive device struck a convoy in eastern Baghdad at about 10 a.m. April 17. The soldier was medically evacuated, and later died of his wounds.

---

## **Rocket Attacks Nail Camp Victory; 2 Dead, 7 Wounded;**

4.18.04 Combined Joint Task Force Seven Release #040418b

**BAGHDAD, Iraq - Two U.S. civilian contractors (mercenaries), one Soldier**, two Iraqi civilians were killed and four Iraqi civilians were wounded during a 122-milimeter-rocket attack on a Coalition base camp here at approximately 10 a.m. April 16. The Iraqi civilian casualties occurred when some of the rockets fell shy of the camp. A 1st Cavalry Division spokesman condemned the attack.

**"This attack on innocent Iraqis and Coalition forces is yet another sign of the lawless tactics of the enemies of freedom,"** said Division Public Affairs Officer, Lt. Col. James Hutton.

**(Looks like a suitable replacement has been found for General Kimmitt, the official Occupation press flack, who passed out yesterday at a press conference in Baghdad. Anybody who can call resistance soldiers "lawless" as they fight to free their country from a foreign invasion and occupation deserves the 2004 Baghdad Bob Award and an immediate battlefield promotion for courageous use of his mouth under fire.)**

---

## **Three 1<sup>st</sup> AD Soldiers Killed in Convoy Attack Near Ad Diwaniyah**

4.18.04 Combined Joint Task Force Seven Release #040418i

**BAGHDAD, Iraq - Three Soldiers** traveling in a 1st Armored Division convoy were killed during a small arms ambush near Ad Diwaniyah around 7 p.m. April 17.



---

## US Soldier Dies, Two Injured By Tikrit Mine

April 18, 2004 AFP

**A US soldier has been killed and two wounded when their patrol hit an anti-tank mine near the city of Tikrit, north of Baghdad, the military says.**

"One 1st Infantry Division soldier was killed and two wounded when their patrol struck an anti-tank mine near Tikrit at around 10:45am [local time] [on] April 16," the military said in a statement.

---

## Spanish Soldier Killed Near Najaf

(04-17) LEE KEATH, Associated Press

Shia resistance partisans fired mortars at the Spanish army base in the city, but there were no casualties. **A coalition soldier -- apparently a member of the Spanish-led force in the city -- was killed the night before in fighting with the militia, the U.S. military said.**

---

## TWO BRITISH TROOPS SHOT NEAR BASRA

April 18, 2004 BSKyB

**Two British soldiers have been shot and injured in Iraq when their convoy came under fire.** The men had been travelling with the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps in the town of Al Amarah, northwest of Basra.

Their injuries were not said to be life threatening. The wounded men are reported to be from the Territorial Army, but the MoD was unable to confirm this.

---

**Sadr Tells Occupation No Surrender;  
"Moderate" Cleric Warns U.S. Not To  
Attack Najaf;  
Three U.S. Soldiers Wounded, Tank Set  
On Fire In Probing Action**

April 17, 2004 By JIM KRANE, Associated Press Writer & TIMES WIRE SERVICES

In the south, U.S. troops skirmished for a second day with militiamen loyal to Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. His aides said Iraqi-led mediation aimed at resolving a standoff with the Americans had broken down.

Militiamen attacked two U.S. Humvees outside Najaf, sparking a battle, witnesses said. **Al-Sadr loyalists also fired mortars at the Spanish army base in the city**, but there were no casualties.

**A coalition soldier — apparently a member of the Spanish-led force in the city — was killed the night before in fighting with the militia, the U.S. military said.**

Fighting on Friday also killed five militiamen, the military said. Soon after clashes Friday morning, a U.S. tank opened fire with a machine gun on a car passing its convoy, killing two civilians. An AP reporter witnessed the shooting.

**A senior Shiite cleric warned Saturday that the standoff could deteriorate "into a war that will have terrible effects."**

**Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Taqi al-Modaresi, a moderate cleric, said that if U.S. forces move to capture al-Sadr, it would "incite strong anger" among Iraq's majority Shiite majority.**

U.S. commanders have said they have no plans for the time being to go into Najaf, the holiest Shiite city, where al-Sadr is located in his office.

**A top al-Sadr aide, Jabir al-Khafaji, said mediations by Iraqi politicians had ended because of U.S. conditions that the cleric's al-Mahdi Army militia be disbanded.**

**Muqtada Sadr, the spiritual leader of the Mahdi Army, a Shiite insurrection group, said Friday at a mosque here that he was not willing to disband his army under any circumstances, further reinforcing the stalemate between him and the American forces.**

**"All I want is to end the occupation and to hand over sovereignty to the Iraqis," Sadr said. "There can be no sovereignty with the occupation forces."**

**Appearing for the first time in public in two weeks, the influential cleric, who is on the United States' wanted list, warned the Americans not to enter nearby Najaf, a holy city about 100 miles south of Baghdad.**

Some 2,500 U.S. troops have amassed in the desert outside of Najaf, lying in wait for Sadr and his insurgent Mahdi army.

**"We will not allow the forces of occupation to enter Najaf and the holy sites because they are forbidden places for them," Sadr said in a fiery sermon.**

"We have been trying to avoid bloodshed," he said, but he contended that "everyone, not only the occupiers," had presented him with only unpalatable choices.

**Later in the day, a five-hour firefight erupted in palm groves along the Euphrates River on Friday between U.S. troops and the militiamen loyal to Sadr, the first major combat engagement between the two sides since U.S. forces converged in the area on a mission to capture or kill Sadr.**

**Three U.S. soldiers were wounded, including one who was shot in the head and was not expected to survive.**

About 20 members of Sadr's forces were believed killed in the battle along a two-mile stretch of palm trees on the opposite side of the river from Kufa, U.S. authorities said.

Sadr's supporters seized Kufa and the neighboring holy city of Najaf this month after a series of skirmishes in Baghdad with U.S. troops.

Several Shiite religious leaders, along with a delegation of Iranians, have since sought with limited success to broker a resolution to the standoff.

**In recent days, several brief battles have broken out between U.S. troops and Sadr's militia on the outskirts of Kufa and Najaf.**

During the much more extensive battle Friday, U.S. troops dropped more than 150 mortars on Sadr's forces after surrounding them.

Up to 40 members of Sadr's forces engaged in the fierce fight with about 130 U.S. troops, according to Capt. Chris Budihas of the 25th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, the unit involved in the fighting.

When Sadr's forces began to weaken after several hours of bombardment, reinforcements arrived in boats and across the bridge from the town of Kufa. Other Sadr militiamen began spraying machine-gun fire across the river at U.S. soldiers.

**"He's got a sizable force and now we can see that they are willing to fight," Budihas said.**

**U.S. snipers killed at least three Sadr followers as they attempted to cross the river, but U.S. troops decided to pull back rather than risk having the fight spread into the city.**

U.S. officials have promised to attempt to keep any fighting outside of Kufa and Najaf -- which border one another -- because of the cities' religious and historical significance. **While attempting to stay out of the towns, U.S. forces have stepped up attempts to capture Sadr followers on the outskirts of the cities.**

As part of that effort, U.S. troops returned to that same traffic circle Friday, this time with tanks and armored vehicles. **Sadr forces fired at least six rocket-propelled grenades, setting a tank on fire.**

**During the fighting at the traffic circle, the U.S. soldier was shot in the head.**

The two other wounded American troops were hit with shrapnel from an RPG during the larger battle about an hour later and a mile away, deep inside the groves.



Issam al Mousawi, a supporter of Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, raises a machine gun during a rally in the Holy city of Najaf April 17, 2004. REUTERS/Ali Abu Shish

---

## **U.S. Soldier Dies After Najaf Attack**

17 April, 2004 BAGHDAD (Reuters) - **A U.S. soldier has died of his wounds after an attack on Shi'ite militiamen near the holy city of Najaf** on Friday, Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt has told a news conference.

He said two militiamen were also killed in the clash on Friday evening. A U.S. force has been sent to a camp near Najaf ready to confront cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and the Shia Madhi Army.

---

## **Occupation Thug Stops Humanitarian Convoy Sent To Faluja By Iraqi Ministry Of Commerce**

April 17, 2004 By JIM KRANE, Associated Press Writer

**At the southern entrance to Fallujah, U.S. troops turned back a convoy of trucks bearing humanitarian supplies sent by the Iraqi Commerce Ministry.**

(Hopefully, the officer who gave this order will be taken prisoner by the resistance, and given appropriate trial and punishment. Those who give no quarter receive none. Let the punishment fit the crime.)

---

## TROOP NEWS

# **Betrayed Again: No End In Sight: Army Promise To Soldiers Broken; Iraq Tours Extended For 21,000, : April Deadliest Month For U.S. Troops Since War Began**

WASHINGTON (April 15) By ROBERT BURNS, AP

**For about 21,000 American soldiers, the Army's promise to limit tours of duty in Iraq to no more than 12 months has fallen victim to the surge in anti-occupation resistance.**

Approximately 14,500 soldiers of the 1st Armored Division, which is based in Germany, plus about 3,200 support troops and about 2,800 soldiers of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment from Fort Polk, La., have been told that they will remain in Iraq.

**The decision breaks the Army's pledge to soldiers and their families that assignments in Iraq would not exceed one year.** The affected soldiers already have been in Iraq for a year. **In addition, about 3,000 soldiers in a number of transportation and other support units based in Kuwait will be extended beyond one year, an official said Thursday. Many of them are in the National Guard or Reserve.** They are deemed critical to resupplying the troops based in Iraq.

**Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it has yet to be determined how long the added combat power will be kept in Iraq.**

**April has become the deadliest month for U.S. forces in Iraq since they set foot in the country in March 2003. The number of wounded also has skyrocketed.**

The Army is so stretched by its commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans and elsewhere that it has few, if any, forces immediately available to substitute in Iraq for the 1st Armored or 2nd Armored Cavalry.

Gen. John Abizaid, the overall commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, had planned, as part of the current rotation of fresh forces into Iraq, to reduce the U.S. presence from about 135,000 troops to about 115,000. **He has indicated that he needed more forces than originally planned, but would not tell reporters exactly how many or where he would get them.**

Fort Polk, the Army base in Louisiana that is home to the 2nd Armored Cavalry, issued a news release last week quoting the regiment's commander, Col. Bradley W. May, as saying "elements" of his unit "will remain in theater longer than initially announced."

**He did not say how many soldiers were affected. He did not say how much longer his unit would be in Iraq.**

The 1st Armored and the 2nd Armored Cavalry are part of a contingent of about 135,000 U.S. soldiers who were being replaced this spring by a fresh group of soldiers and Marines. The 101st Airborne, the 4th Infantry Division and other units recently left Iraq, with the arrival of the 1st Infantry Division, a brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division, the 1st Cavalry Division and the 1st Marine Division. Two brigades of the Army National Guard also are newly arrived.

**"We are being called to end the fight against Muqtada Sadr's Mahdi Army and we will,"** May said, referring to the militia of the radical Shiite cleric who has incited violence against the U.S.-led occupation forces in southern cities including Najaf. **(Showboating bullshit.)**

Still, the change of plans is bound to take a psychological toll.

**In a letter to his troops in January, May assured them that their time in Iraq was "fast approaching its conclusion."**

**Lance Corporal Frank: His "time in Iraq" reached "its conclusion."**



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

Funeral for Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Phillip Frank, All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, Illinois, April 17, 2004. Frank died from hostile fire in Iraq April 8. REUTERS/Frank Polich

---

# Soldier Says Time To Bring Combat Troops Home

Apr 15, 2004 Dan Rodricks, The Baltimore Sun

**I stepped briefly into a discussion between a father in suburban Baltimore and his only son, stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.** The discussion took place by e-mail, cell phone and Nextel. The subject was war in Iraq. It was a surprising e-mail from the dad - "The proud parent of a member of the elite 82nd Airborne Division of the United States Army" -- that got things started.

"I hate to call the president of the United States a liar," the father said, but that's exactly what David Robinette thinks of George W. Bush. He thinks Bush deceived us on the reasons for war and that the mission there is terribly flawed. He's not voting for Bush again in November.

**The son, Spc. Daniel Robinette, doesn't go there; he won't state a political view or a judgment about his commander in chief. "I have opinions," he says, "and I'm sure a lot of people in the military had negative opinions about the war when we went over there.** But it's not my job [to question the reasons for the war]. When they say, 'Go up the hill,' it's, 'Roger,' and up the hill."

**But the son will give this much -- he thinks U.S. combat troops no longer belong in Iraq; what's needed is a peacekeeping force.**

"If we're trying to get everyone on board over there with peace, what we need is a **peacekeeper force, not a combat force,**" says 22-year-old Daniel from Fort Bragg, where he returned with the 82nd Airborne in January after taking part in the invasion and occupation of Iraq. "Most of the units over there, the Marines, are not trained to be police [for a peacekeeping mission]. They're combat units."

"I am no 'bleeding-heart liberal' by any stretch," Robinette Sr. added, referring to the cliché that's been used to describe Americans who, among other things, worked to end the country's last misguided war. "But I thought my generation had forever ended the ability of any American president to assume that he alone could wage war without the consent and support of a majority of American citizens. I thought Vietnam had ended that notion."

**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.**

# **Demonstrators Demand Removal Of U.S.-Led Forces From Iraq; Baghdad Vet Says They Are Right; “It’s All About Money”**

April 11, 2004 By Bill Broadway, Washington Post Staff Writer & Matthew B. Stannard and Cicero A. Estrella, San Francisco Chronicle Staff Writers

The demonstration and march were peaceful. But the rhetoric was strident, recalling the Vietnam War protests of the 1960s on a much smaller scale.

**"What they're saying is correct," said T.J. Myers, 28, a bystander who said he recently returned from a year's military service in Baghdad and left the Army after a seven-year enlistment.**

**"It's all about money," said Myers, who lives in Fort Benning, Ga., and was in Washington on vacation. "It's my first time in D.C., and I have never seen so many homeless people in my life and right near the White House. How can we send [billions] to another country when we have so many people in trouble here?"**

Brice Gamble, 36, of San Francisco, was holding aloft a picture of his brother, who has been in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul since November. Around the photo were the words: "This could be your brother -- bring the troops home."

**Gamble said his brother is a loyal soldier trying to do a good job, but said if he were home, he would be joining his brother marching against the war.**

---

## **Special Ops Soldier Wants Out; Refuses To Be Kid-Killer**

Army Times 3.8.04

**J.E. McNeil, executive director of the Center on Consciousness and War in Washington said she's heard from a special operations soldier who wants to leave the Army because he "had a kid in his sight" in Afghanistan. She recalls him saying "After that, I realized I couldn't do it any more."**

---

## **Why Are So Many Soldiers Leaving The Army?**



# “Broken Promises”

By Jeff Walsh, Army Times, 3.8.04

In the Jan. 5 issue, it was reported that nine out of 10 respondents to an Army Times poll rated the military quality of life as at least fair; one in three said it was excellent. About eight in 10 rated their pay and allowances and their military health care as excellent or fair. And of those living in military housing, nearly two out of three ranked it at least fair. **That sounds great, so why are so many soldiers leaving the Army?**

**Lack of compensation:** Any leader will say, without fail, the soldier is the most important thing in the Army. Soldiers who find themselves in potentially life-or-death situations should be paid handsomely — closer to what a fallen brother—in-arms gets. As a potential solution, lawmakers are weighing the merits of deployment pay — a special allowance for troops deployed more than six months. But that should commence the day the troops arrive overseas.

**Overstretched reserves:** An employer is supposed to take back a deployed National Guard or reserve soldier with open arms after a deployment; but in the case of the Chaplain Corps, civil affairs, interpreters, nurses and a host of other military occupational specialties, a deployment could last as long as a full active-duty enlistment.

Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve, suggests one deployment for each Guard or reserve soldier every four to five years. Hopefully it's not too late for that idea.

**Broken promises:** Today's Army uses fewer and fewer troops to go more and more places and perform more and more tasks in less and less time. Using troops solely for grass-cutting details is counterproductive. In the civilian world, if you are hired as a plumber, you work as a plumber. Having guardsmen who spend a weekend a month as artillerymen cross-train for a deployment as MPs or infantrymen doesn't pass the common-sense test.

**Quality of life: We understand as soldiers that when we took the oath of service, certain sacrifices were to be made by ourselves and our families. But good soldiers in field units get out when they miss four out of five wedding anniversaries because of “mission first.”**

The proposal by the Army's top NCOs should help — stabilizing soldiers so they are at “home bases” more. Guardsmen and reservists would like that, too. They went from a weekend a month to stop-loss and extension status.

**Housing choices: Some reservists are not only extended but also lead a nomadic existence on active-duty posts, moving many times to replace or become “backfill” soldiers. Many field soldiers might live two or three soldiers to a room.** Former Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley has it right when he says he would like to see commanders have the authority to let soldiers with 36 months of service live off post.

**The “point system:** ” Soldiers want to be promoted by humans — not by a point system in the back of a newspaper. In essence, E-4 promotable soldiers are job hunting

every month. Soldiers are at the mercy of the supply of and demand for slot openings, not ability levels. **The more “indoor” the job, the higher the point scale is for promotion; the more “hoo-ah” the job, the lower the point scale.**

**An operating room “technician of the year” who has to achieve 796 out of 800 points month after month realizes that he may not only never see E-6, but also may never see E-5.** Tilley is right to want competency testing — an initial test for all MOSs.

How can skill level be established without bringing back the Skills Qualification Test? The Army Physical Fitness Test and Weapons Qual add points — they don't determine job performance.

**Transition training:** Everyone has to leave the military eventually. The fine folks at Army career planning and placement perform an admirable job of preparing soldiers to make the transition. **“Troops to Teachers” is a great program.**

**But what about the combat-arms folks? To what civilian job does tanker or infantryman experience translate? An enlisted soldier in a combat arms MOS in the last six months of his final enlistment should have the option of learning a skilled trade that translates to a real job on the outside. j**

### **GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT THE APRIL 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/>

## **Military Officers Group Predicts “Negative Retention”**

Army Times 3.8.04

The Military Officers Association of America, is critical of how the Defense Department is meeting wartime manpower needs. **Using stop-loss orders to prevent people from leaving service is just a new kind of conscription, the group says in a Feb. 13 statement.**

**“It is hard to see that anything other than a reinstatement of the draft, imposed in the most ironic way possible,” the group said. “The only people being drafted are those who have already volunteered to serve in the first place.”**

MOAA believes there will be ramifications from using stop-loss, **predicting a “disproportional wave of negative retention” that could hit over the next two years.**

Having members of the all-volunteer military leave because they fear being force to say could damage both the quality and capabilities of the force, the group said.

---

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Sistani Warns U.S. Attack On Holy Cities Will Lead To “Radical Means” Of Protecting Them**

NAJAF, Iraq (AFP) 4.16.04 & Graham Usher reports from Baghdad, Published in Cairo by AL-AHRAM 15 - 21 April 2004

**A representative of Grand Ayotallah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most senior Shiite cleric, warned coalition troops against entering the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf calling them "red lines."**

**"If the marjaiya feels that the spilling of blood and carrying of arms prevails, then it will not hesitate to pursue more radical means to achieve its goals (protecting the holy cities)," Sheikh Abdul Mehdi al-Karbala said in his weekly sermon at the Imam Hussein shrine in Karbala.**

He was referring to the highest Shiite religious authority in Iraq.

**Cleric Moqtada Sadr, who commands the Shia Madhi resistance army, had harsh words for the Shiites on the US-appointed Governing Council, like Ibrahim Jaffari of the Dawa Party, who have been trying to mediate a peaceful solution to the crisis.**

**"I address the agents of the West ... They say that we are delaying the handover of power and the formation of government, but I tell them that we have delayed selling Iraq and creating a government of agents," he said.**

**Qais Al-Khazali, Al-Sadr's spokesman in Najaf, spelled out the consequence of an invasion. "At the moment they [the Americans] are facing an uprising, but if they harm Al-Sadr a massive revolution will take place all over Iraq."**

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

# Resistance Offers \$7000 Bounty For Dead Collaborator

April 14, 2004 By JASON KEYSER and LOURDES NAVARRO, Associated Press Writers

(Thanks to B, who sent this in. B writes: WONDER IF THEY'LL MAKE A NEW DECK OF CARDS)

Faluja insurgents Wednesday offered the Iraqi equivalent of \$7,000 for anyone who kills Mouwafak al-Rubaie, the Iraqi national security adviser, after he called for Fallujah residents to hand over militants to the United States.

---

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

### Fragging

[David Hackworth](#), author and frequent Pentagon gadfly, wrote: "Now, when Indians don't trust Chiefs, battles are lost. **This was clearly the case in Vietnam, where the term 'fragging' was coined by the troops to rid themselves of CO's they didn't trust because of incompetence or Custer glory complexes. But obviously, the brass didn't get the message there, and not only did they lose most of the battles, they lost the war.**"

#### Zinni On Iraq

"I spent two years in Vietnam, and I've seen this movie before." Retired Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni (Rick Rogers, UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER, April 16, 2004)

### “Too Late For Victories”

Graham Usher reports from Baghdad, Published in Cairo by AL-AHRAM 15 - 21 April 2004

Qais Al-Khazali, Al-Sadr's spokesman in Najaf, spelled out the consequence of an invasion [of the Shia holy cities controlled by Sadrs' Madhi Army]. "At the moment they [the Americans] are facing an uprising, but if they harm Al-Sadr a massive revolution will take place all over Iraq."

Therein lies Bush's dilemma. Should he resort to force as a demonstration of "American resolve", he will cause greater casualties, bring about a further collapse of the IGC and the Iraqi police forces and generate outrage throughout the Arab and Muslim worlds. Should he turn to political solutions, he will be granting legitimacy to those Iraqi forces most opposed to the occupation and fuel the nascent nationalism they are starting to embody.

Whichever road he takes will mean a kind of defeat. But it is now simply too late for victories and for one basic reason, says Iraqi political analyst, Wamid Nadhmi: "Whether through stupidity or ill thought-out design, the Americans have created a reality their entire project was designed to suppress -- a revolt that expresses Iraqis common Arab and Muslim identity."

---

## OCCUPATION REPORT

# **Fresh Disaster For Bush: Blowhard General Back To Iraq; Resistance Partisans Dancing In Streets At Good News**

April 15, 2004 Detroit Free Press [Detroit, MI]

The Pentagon is rushing one of the Army's most highly regarded generals, Maj. Gen. David Petraeus, back to Iraq this weekend to help step up the training and equipping of Iraqi security forces, military officials told the New York Times on Wednesday.

Many Iraqi security forces abandoned their posts or refused to fight in the recent resistance offensive there.

Petraeus, who spent most of the past year in Iraq commanding the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, is to leave Ft. Campbell, Ky., with a 14-member team and initially spend about three weeks helping U.S. trainers in Iraq. After he steps down as commander of the 101st next month, he will lead the training of all Iraqi security and military forces, Pentagon officials told the press.

**(This is the shit-brained loudmouth who boasted to the press about how brilliantly he had pacified Iraq before the resistance started coordinated attacks killing his troops.)**

---

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

# Kerry's Pro-War Iraq Policy Wins Endorsement From Neocon Leadership

By Terry M. Neal, The Washington Post, 4.15.04

On Tuesday, Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kerry and President Bush both made important foreign policy statements. It was striking how little the two men differ.

**"The most important thing about Sen. Kerry's op-ed, I thought is how similar it really is to Bush administration policy, and that I say in praise of him," William Kristol, editor of the conservative Weekly Standard magazine, said in an interview Tuesday for my Political Players series on Yahoo News. "He is not willing to cut and run from Iraq... He wants the U.N. to be more involved, but he doesn't say if we can't get the U.N. more involved, we should get out. President Bush is trying to get the U.N. involved, too."**

**Kristol's opinion is significant because he is the chairman of Project for the New American Century, the hawkish foreign policy think tank that has been advocating war in Iraq since the mid-1990s.**

"The judgment of President Bush's presidency will hinge on whether he made the right decision on Iraq, and whether he has managed Iraq well," Kristol continued. **"Senator Kerry I think is being wise both politically and I think actually statesman-like really in saying, 'But you know what, if I take over, I'm going to inherit this situation and I'm going to have to manage it,' and right now, I don't think Senator Kerry has radically different ideas on how to manage it than President Bush.**

Kerry has been calling for the administration to turn over civil reconstruction authority to the United Nations. He has even suggested that U.N. representative Lakhdar Brahimi might be a good person to lead the effort. Bush said on Tuesday: "We're working closely with the United Nations envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, and with Iraqis to determine the exact form of the government that will receive sovereignty on June 30th. The United Nations Election Assistance Team, headed by Karina Perelli, is in Iraq developing plans for next January's election."

Kerry also addressed the security of Iraq in his Tuesday op-ed: "We should urge NATO to create a new out-of-area operation for Iraq under the lead of a U.S. commander. This would help us obtain more troops from major powers... The primary responsibility for security must remain with the U.S. military, preferably helped by NATO until we have an Iraqi security force fully prepared to take responsibility."

Bush in his Tuesday speech: "NATO is providing support for the Polish-led, multinational division in Iraq. And 17 of NATO's 26 members are contributing forces to maintain security. Secretary of State Powell and Secretary of [Defense] Rumsfeld and a number of NATO defense and foreign ministers are exploring a more formal role for NATO, such as turning the Polish-led division into a NATO operation and giving NATO specific responsibilities for border control."

**Essentially Kerry's argument is not over whether the United States should have gone to war in Iraq -- since he continues to insist his vote was the right one -- or whether the United States should stay in Iraq and finish the job.**

---

**If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.**