

## **GI SPECIAL 2#64**

### **THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: KERRY WANTS MORE COFFINS TOO**



Friends and family attend the burial of U.S. Army Pfc. John Amos II, who died after an explosive device hit his vehicle (NEWSWEEK April 17, 2004 Tasos Katopodis / Getty Images)

# **Only 40,000 Infantry Left In Whole U.S. Army; Not Enough “To Defend The Empire,” Maj. General Says**

April 26, 2004 By David Wood, Newhouse News Service

Are there limits to American might? If so, are we reaching them?

The Army wore out some 9,000 heavy weapons and vehicles that need fixing and renovating — “a huge task” for which “we do not have the funds,” Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker told Congress.

If another conflict breaks out, the equipment simply won't be available.

**“We’re trying to defend the empire with a force about the size of the New York City police department,”** said retired Army Maj. Gen. Robert Scales Jr., former commandant of the Army War College. (The New York City Police Department has less than 44,000 members.)

Infantrymen make up only 4% of military personnel.



Wall St. Journal 4.21.04

**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:**

**Resistance Rockets Hits U.S. Base  
From 10 Miles Away;  
Three Wounded,  
“American Commanders Alarmed”**

Wall St. Journal 4.22.04

Violence also flared against coalition targets yesterday after several days of relative quiet.

**In Baghdad, a rocket attack at a fortified U.S. military compound raised new concerns about the growing sophistication of insurgents. The pair of rockets that slammed into the base did little damage and caused only three injuries, but the attack alarmed American commanders because the weapons were fired from nearly 10 miles away, a much greater distance than the enemy normally is able to accurately operate from.**

The rocket attack on Camp Falcon in southern Baghdad rattled buildings, triggered a loud explosion that echoed across the base, and sent soldiers racing around the facility with guns drawn. One rocket slammed into the base's motor pool, ripping a three-foot deep crater and sending shards of shrapnel flying into nearby vehicles and soldiers. The strike wounded three soldiers, one seriously enough to be flown by helicopter to a hospital at a larger base.

'They got lucky that they hit us from so far and we got lucky that no one got killed,' Sgt. David Sanchez said, kicking the blackened crater with his foot. "Everyone's essentially chancing it."

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## **Marines Rationing Food: Resistance Cuts Supply Lines; No Deliveries In A Week**

**SUPERLATIVELY BAD PLACE TO BE**



**BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**

A US Marine secures a temporary base in Fallujah. (AFP/Nicolas Asfour)

April 19 2004 lol.co.za, Sapa-AFP

**Ramadi - Insurgents' assaults on supply convoys west of Baghdad landed a blow to United States marines' stomachs on Monday as their bases in al-Anbar province began rationing food amid fears their stocks could run low.**

**Since Sunday, all 1st Marine Division camps have rationed food, said spokesperson 1st Lieutenant Eric Knapp.**

Some bases are down to one hot meal a day while others are still serving two, Knapp said.

On Monday, hundreds at the 1st Marine Division headquarters in Ramadi picked through the plastic-sealed field meals, known as Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) - choosing between Thai chicken, beef stew and bean and rice burrito.

The headquarters was down to a hot breakfast and dinner as **it looked to cut back on food supply convoys after insurgents ambushed US military and private trucks since the marines stormed into Fallujah two weeks ago.**

"We don't want to run out so we're conserving because chow is not more important than someone's life," said Staff Sergeant Denise Ruiz, the dining hall manager at the main base in Ramadi, home to about 1,200 marines.

"It's not that there is a shortage. We just want to make sure our contractors get here safely." **(Right. No shortage. Just rationing.)**

**The military's catering is contracted out to the American firm Kellogg, Brown and Root.**

**Ruiz said they had not received a food delivery in at least a week, but a shipment was expected very soon. (And the check is in the mail.)**

The MREs did not appear to be affecting morale Monday. **(Stay tuned.)**

## **Trench Warfare, Rationed Food: Real Bad Juju**



US Marines in Fallujah. (AFP/USMC/File)

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# Attack At Tal Afar Airfield Kills One U.S. Soldier; 7 Wounded, Three Humvees Destroyed

Apr 22, 2004 [www.starnewsonline.com](http://www.starnewsonline.com)

Two National Guard soldiers from North Carolina were injured in attacks by Iraqi insurgents - one burned and the other hit by small arms fire.

Lt. Matthew Delk, 33, of Roanoke Rapids was burned Tuesday during an ambush in Mosul. Delk, who has been the Halifax County manager since November 2001, is a member of South Carolina's 268th Engineer Firefighters Detachment.

Pfc. McKenzie Callihan, 22, a member of the N.C. National Guard's 30th Heavy Separate Brigade, was wounded by small arms fire at a traffic checkpoint in northeastern Iraq.

Delk sent an e-mail message Wednesday to his staff in Halifax County from Camp Diamondback in Mosul.

**"Yesterday, I was commander of a small convoy going to do a fire assessment recon of Tall Afar airfield," Delk wrote. "We had 4 humvees and 13 people. Today, one of us is dead, one is critical, and 6 or 7 more of us are wounded.**

"My vehicle bore the brunt of the IED," he wrote. "They opened up on us with AKs, and a firefight ensued. We know that we got at least four of them, they had others that were able to drag away the bodies during the fight."

**His vehicle was destroyed and out of four vehicles, only one could drive away, Delk wrote.** Eventually, the attackers were driven away and the area secured.

Delk said he had burns and blisters over his hands and face, and bruises everywhere. He expected to spend several weeks in Germany recuperating.

**In Bladen County, Terry Callihan said he was told that his son, McKenzie Callihan, a Bladenboro High School graduate, was "in a firefight, and he took three rounds in the legs and maybe the hip, and that they airlifted him out," Callihan said.**

The wounded soldier was in stable condition, said Capt. Robert Carver, the N.C. National Guard's spokesman. The wounded man was initially taken to a Baghdad hospital, and was being transferred to the Army's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

Initial reports indicated that the wounded soldier was working at a traffic checkpoint near the town of Tuz about 10 p.m. when a car tried to avoid the checkpoint, Carver said. Several anti-coalition fighters were killed in the incident. There were no reports of other U.S. injuries.

## **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/>

## **Accident Kills One, Injures Two 13<sup>th</sup> Support Corps Soldiers**

4.22.04 Combined Joint Task Force 7 Release #040421a

BALAD, Iraq - One 13th Corps Support Command Soldier was killed and two were injured in a vehicle accident east of al Qasim around 6 p.m. April 20.

One of the injured has been evacuated to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. The second was treated at a Coalition medical facility near Talil and released.

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## **South African Mercenary Killed In Baghdad**

4.22.04 AFP & (CNN)

BAGHDAD (AFP) - A foreigner shot and killed in the Sunni Muslim district of al-Adhamiyah was a South African security guard working for the US-led coalition

"He was protecting members of the coalition who worked at the Iraqi health ministry.

Two others were wounded in a Baghdad market, a city police official told CNN, an employee of the Health Ministry, and the market owner, and are at a hospital.

**Abdullah said Americans collected Biro's body and his vehicle, a 2003 Toyota, which contained some weapons, bulletproof vests, and bullets.**

A man in a red Daiwoo fired the shots, Abdullah said. That official said witnesses described him as being dressed in a traditional Arab long robe with a suit jacket and a traditional headcovering.

Abdullah said Americans told him Biro worked for the coalition and was a South African with French ethnicity.

Police Maj. Ahmad Abdullah said several shots were fired at a man identified as Franco Jacques Biro.

He was killed at the Souk Al-Shabi Market in the Suleikh neighborhood of the Adhamiye district.

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## **Basra Blasts Injure Five Welsh Soldiers**

Apr 22 2004 The Western Mail

Five soldiers from the 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers were injured - one seriously - in the bombings, the Ministry of Defence confirmed last night.

The 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, now the main infantry regiment serving in Basra, arrived in the city this month, relieving soldiers from the 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Wales.

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## **Ballad IED Injures Four**

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND  
April 22, 2004 Release Number: 04-04-34C

BALAD, Iraq - Four 13th Corps Support Command soldiers are injured as the result of an improvised explosive device attack on their convoy near Al-Musayyib at approximately 12:25 p.m. Thursday.

The injured were evacuated to the 31st Combat Support Hospital (Baghdad), all are expected to return to duty.

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## **Basra Police Station Attacks Kill 68; Coordinated Attacks Also Wound 5 British Soldiers At Zubair**

21 April 2004 BBC News & Press Association

A series of bomb attacks in the Basra area of southern Iraq has killed at least 68 people and injured many more.





A car burns at the entrance of one of the police stations hit by an explosion in Basra. (AFP/Hani Al-Obeidi)

The first blasts - apparently suicide bombings - occurred outside three police stations in Basra city centre during Wednesday's morning rush hour. **Nine policemen were among the dead.**

**A fourth attack south of Basra is said to have killed three Iraqis and wounded five UK soldiers.**

Meanwhile, the Danish foreign ministry says a Danish man kidnapped in Iraq last week has been found dead.

**Two police stations in the Ashar district and one in the Old City were hit in near-simultaneous attacks.**

A wounded Iraqi told Reuters news agency that he heard a huge explosion as he stood at the door of his house.

At least 100 people are thought to have been wounded in the attacks targeting the British-controlled city.

**UK soldiers who tried to assist casualties were stoned by protesters who blamed the British for failing to provide security.**

Briefing reporters in London, one official said: "The Shias have broadly accepted the British presence in Basra and I do not think this has changed." (Another idiot living in a fantasy world.)

**Shortly after the Basra bombings, two car bombs hit a police academy in the town of Zubair, about 25km (16 miles) to the south. 10 were killed in the police academy explosions, witnesses said.**

**That attack wounded five British soldiers - one of them seriously - a UK official said.**



The BBC's Dominic Hughes in Iraq says that although Iraqi police have been targeted by insurgents in the past, **Basra had so far escaped major unrest. (Obviously it's very quiet there.)**



An Iraqi policeman sits near a blood stained police badge in the rubble of one of the police stations hit by an explosion in the southern city of Basra.(AFP/Ahmad Al-Rubaye)

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## **Iraq Insurgents Hit Marines in Fallujah**

4/20/2004 620 KTAR News A.P.

About 35 Iraqi insurgents attacked U.S. Marines in northern Fallujah just after daybreak Wednesday, setting off a heavy gunbattle, the military said. There was no immediate word on casualties.

The attack began with a massive barrage of rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. Explosions were heard throughout the city. Marine forces here were put on high alert.

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## **SC National Guardsman Injured In Roadside Bombing**

(Halifax, North Carolina-AP) April 21, 2004 - Halifax County, North Carolina, Manager Matthew Delk left his job in February to serve in Iraq with the South Carolina National Guard.

His family says Delk has been injured when his convoy vehicle ran over a roadside bomb.

Delk's family has released a statement Tuesday saying he suffered severe burns on his face and hands. Others in the vehicle may have been injured. His family says Delk is a First Lieutenant with the 133rd Engineering Battalion.

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## ND Guard Soldier Injured In Iraq

04/21/2004 Associated Press

A twenty-six-year-old National Guard soldier who graduated from a South Dakota high school and now lives in North Dakota has been wounded in Iraq.

Sergeant Keith O'Donnell, a 1996 graduate of McIntosh High School, was wounded in the jaw Monday when a roadside bomb exploded nearby. He's listed in stable condition will be flown to a military hospital in Germany.

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## Spanish Base Mortared

Albawaba.com 21-04-2004

A Spanish base in south-central Iraq came under mortar fire twice overnight but suffered no casualties or damage, a multinational force spokesman said Wednesday.

Occupation troops were unable to find the attackers, who fired several mortar rounds at the Najaf base of the Spanish-led Plus Ultra brigade, which also includes troops from El Salvador, Dominican Republic and Honduras.

Madrid plans to bring home its 1,300 troops in six weeks.

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## Andress Grad Wounded At Fallujah; "He Didn't Like It Over There"

April 20, 2004 Laura Cruz and Gustavo Reveles Acosta, El Paso Times

A 2003 Andress High School graduate who joined the Marine Corps 10 months ago was wounded seriously earlier this month when a car bomb exploded in Fallujah, Iraq, the site of intense fighting between U.S. soldiers and Iraqis, family members and friends said Monday.

**Pfc. Gonzalo Ruiz, 18, is in critical condition at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., Clara Carlos, Ruiz's grandmother, said.**

"We got a call one early Saturday (April 3) morning from the military saying that he was injured. A car bomb had exploded and ... a bullet hit his jaw," Carlos said. **"He spoke to**

**me (Sunday) on the phone, but his jaw is wired shut. He spoke to me through a tube in his neck."**

Family members, former teachers and friends in El Paso say they have kept in touch with Ruiz's mother, Silvia Carlos, who is at her son's bedside in Maryland. They said several others were injured or killed in the explosion.

**"I'm so incredibly sad because I can't be there for him," said Clara Carlos, who raised the Juárez native in El Paso. "I can't go because the airplane ticket is too expensive and I still have to take care of his two younger brothers."**

In El Paso, those who know Ruiz are waiting for news of his recovery and praying for a successful jaw surgery, which he is expected to have Wednesday.

"I don't know if there's a way to get in touch with him, but I wish I could talk to him," said Richard Flores, Ruiz's wrestling coach at Andress. "I want to tell him that everyone here is praying for him and pulling for him to get better soon."

**Flores could barely hold back the tears as he talked about a letter he received last week.**

**"He had sent it to his ex-girlfriend's house so she could give it to me," he said. "I opened it and he told me he didn't like it over there and that his mother had been crying for him.**

"He wanted me to go check on her and make sure she was alright," Flores added. "By the time I got the letter, I already knew he was in critical condition and that his mother was in Maryland."

Mike Perales, an Andress senior and Ruiz's former baseball teammate, said the two of them talked about joining the military last year.

"Before he left for the war, he would come over and tell me about the Marines," said Perales, who will join the Navy after graduation in June. "The military is something we both had in common."

Coaches and teammates describe Ruiz as a naturally talented player who was willing to help anyone improve their skills.

He was on the wrestling team, and as a catcher made the baseball all-district second team last year.

"He just loves baseball, but he's also a big wrestler," Perales said. "After baseball practice he would wrestle some of us just for fun."

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## **Firefight At Jebel Himrin Wounds One U.S. Soldier**

April 22, 2004 AFP

Four insurgents have been killed and a United States soldier wounded in a battle in northern Iraq, according to an officer of the paramilitary Iraqi Civil Defence Corps (ICDC).

"Four men were killed in the hour-long clash in the mountainous area of Jebel Himrin, during which the US army used two Apache assault helicopters," Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa Said Daudi told AFP.

The officer of the US-backed ICDC said about 20 insurgents were involved in the firefight, and that four of them were killed.

He said a US soldier was wounded in the foot and was taken to a hospital at the military base in Kirkuk, 110 kilometres north of the area where the fighting occurred.

The ICDC officer said five vehicles used by the insurgents were seized, including two that were ready to be used as car bombs.

Two ICDC members were killed in clashes in the same area last week.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

### **Maimed By Anthrax Vaccine**

By Deborah Funk Army Times Staff writer, March 8, 2004

**Lesions scar the body of Navy Chief Petty Officer Luis Hernandez. He has spasms in his legs, arms, and sometimes, chest. He gets migraine headaches and is severely fatigued.**

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Andrew Luna is similarly tired. His joints hurt. He's gained weight, has difficulty forming thoughts into words, and his testosterone levels have plummeted. Both say they were completely healthy — until they took the mandatory anthrax vaccine.

"As many years as we've had in service, we've never had a health problem until after we got these shots," said Hernandez, who has nearly 20 years of active and reserve service.

Under congressional order, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is studying the safety of the vaccine, mining military records for any possible link with poor health.

"A number of people who have received the vaccine ... have complaints and want this looked at," said Dr. Michael McNeil, team leader of the CDC study.

**Hernandez, 48, of New York City, got his first three anthrax shots a year ago. The reservist since has had to use 400 hours of sick time from his job as a postmaster in New Jersey. His chest muscle spasms landed him in an emergency room on New Year's Eve. He has had 11 different skin lesions, from his midsection down, that last from four to six weeks.**

Department of Veterans Affairs and Navy doctors say the lesions are due to a staph infection. But the civilian doctor who initially treated Hernandez didn't know what they were, Hernandez said.

A summary from Walter Reed regional Vaccine Healthcare Center, where he was treated recently, doesn't conclude that the anthrax vaccine caused his ailments. **But it notes officials have seen some of his symptoms among other troops after vaccinations, including anthrax.**

**"The occurrence of headaches and myalgia following the receipt of vaccines has been well documented," states a copy of the summary given to Hernandez.** "The immunopathogenic mechanism of these symptoms has yet to be clearly defined."

Researchers look to see if the vaccine is connected to arthritis, lupus, vision impairment that may be related to multiple sclerosis and the skin condition erythema.

**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.**

## **West Seattle Grad Gets Purple Heart; Loses Hand And Arm**

April 19, 2004 KOMO 4 News By John Sharify

WEST SEATTLE - The numbers speak for themselves: 100 U.S. troops killed in Iraq this month -- 11 killed in battles in the past two days. And too many people to count on the homefront who are worried!

**Kay Wright nearly lost one of her grandchildren. She writes "Eddie" on her calendar on April 6th as a reminder.**

Eddie is U.S. Marine Cpl. James Edward Wright.

**The West Seattle High School graduate nearly lost his life in an ambush in Fallujah. That's after the Humvee he was in drove over a land mine.**

"I was concerned. It was like 'oh no' he won't have any hands. I was concerned about his injuries and my son said at least he's alive," says Kay Wright.

**Eddie Wright is recovering at the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. He's had surgeries every other day. He's also had two amputations: his right hand and left arm.**



**It breaks grandma's heart; a grandma who used to feed Eddie homemade blackberry pie when he was a kid.** She's comforted by his positive attitude even as he recovers.

"He's really upbeat about it now. He jokes. I don't know if he realizes what's happened to him really," says Kay Wright. Or whether the 27-year-old realizes he'll be honored with the Purple Heart next week.

**It's small comfort for Eddie's uncle, who wants no one else to go through what his nephew is going through.**

"And I'd also like to thank all the guys over there for the sacrifice they're making. That would be the first thing I'd say to Eddie. Thank you," says Jerry Wright. Thank you. And you just know his grandma can't wait to serve him that slice of blackberry pie.

Friends and family of Eddie Wright are asking for donations to help with his rehabilitation. If you'd like to help, you can make donations at any Washington Mutual Branch. The account number at Washington Mutual is 4901342636.

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## **Military Families Say Medical Updates On Injured Troops Don't Reach Them**

Army Times, Karen Jowers, Staff Writer 3.8.04

**One Army wife saw her injured husband on a stretcher on television — and didn't get official notification until "long after."**

**Another got a call from a doctor who said her husband had a brain injury — then heard nothing more for seven days.**

Getting regular medical updates on troops injured in Iraq has proved to be one of the biggest challenges for military families, spouses told lawmakers at a Feb. 25 hearing.

"Medical facilities from the different services did not communicate well with each other," said Susan Sinclair, wife of Army Brig. Con. E. J. Sinclair.

Sinclair and three other military spouses testified on quality-of-life issues before the House Appropriations military construction subcommittee.

The Fort Campbell, Ky., hospital commander, Col. Steve Jones, "made it his mission to find injured soldiers medevaced from the theater to various locations" and learn their conditions, Sinclair said. "He went above and beyond for the families of the 101st." But it was not always easy.

**She said Jones would consult the database for Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany and see a listing for a soldier due to go to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington in three days, for example. He would call to tell the wife that news, "she'd start making plans to go, and an hour later, her soldier would call and say, 'I'm at Walter Reed. Where are you?'" Sinclair said.**

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## **Injured Soldier Flown To U.S. In Coma; Family Visit Delayed**

April 18, 2004 By Katherine Rosenberg, newsroom@pantagraph.com

BLOOMINGTON -- A Bloomington soldier wounded in Iraq was flown back to the United States on Saturday after his condition improved enough to transport him safely.

Capt. Troy O'Donley, 33, had been treated at Landstuhl Army Hospital, Germany, for injuries suffered April 8 in a military vehicle collision in Iraq. He is being transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

O'Donley has been in a drug-induced coma for several days, and doctors were trying to bring him out of sedation.

When his mother, Carol O'Donley, called from her home in Yuma, Ariz., to check on him Saturday morning, she was told her son was already in flight. She remained unsure of his condition but acknowledged his transfer was dependent on his condition improving overnight.

"It's a good thing," Carol O'Donley said, "because they wouldn't have flown him otherwise." Troy O'Donley is expected to undergo surgery on his two broken legs upon his return.

**The Army was to arrange for Carol O'Donley and her husband, Jim, to fly to Washington as soon as they had confirmation that their son would be arriving. Since they had such short notice, however, the Army was unable to help them get on a plane Saturday.**

**"We were told they were all booked up until Sunday morning," Carol said. The O'Donleys will not get to see their son until this evening.**



**"We were so disappointed we couldn't get a flight right away," Carol O'Donley said Saturday. "Our luggage has been packed for days. We're ready to go."**

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## **Adrian Soldier Dies Of Iraq Wounds; "Trying To Write My Son's Obituary"**

Apr. 21, 2004 TAREK EL-TABLAWY, Associated Press

**ADRIAN, Mich. - In between sobs, Pat Dartt thought about what to write honoring her son who, when she last saw him, was able only to send "signals of responsiveness" from his hospital bed on a U.S. Army base in Germany.**

Sgt. 1st Class Bradley C. Fox, a veteran of Operation Desert Storm in 1991, died Tuesday from injuries sustained on March 13 in Iraq when the M-2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle in which he was the turret gunner was struck by a roadside bomb. Three of his fellow soldiers were killed in the blast, and shrapnel severely damaged Fox's brain stem.

**"I'm sitting here trying to write my son's obituary," Dartt said Wednesday. "Do you have any idea how hard that is?"**

"It's something that has to be done, but I certainly don't want to do it," she said. **"That's my only child, and he's gone. Do you have any idea how hard it is to lose your only child?"**

The 35-year-old Adrian native died around 7 p.m. local time at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, where he had been since March 25, spokeswoman Marie Shaw said Wednesday. His wife, with whom Fox had three children, was at his side.

Dartt said her son, who was awarded the Purple Heart for his injuries and the Bronze Star for valor in combat, "was just wonderful. The best son a mother could have. He always took care of me, always made sure that I had everything that I needed."

**Dartt and her sister visited Fox in Germany earlier this month after a friend raised \$300 to help pay for the trip.**

Fox's maternal uncle, Jim Aldrich described Fox as a "dedicated military professional who wanted to finish his career in the military and live a successful civilian life. ... He had a real good life planned for him and his family." "He was a tremendous dad, husband, family man, son and nephew," Aldrich said.

Dartt has said Fox was two months short of ending his tour in Iraq. He intended to re-enlist and was seeking a recruiting position in the Midwest from which he would retire from the Army with 20 years of service. He was working toward a master's degree with the intent of becoming a college instructor, either teaching military science or ROTC.

Fox lived with his wife, Sabine, and their three children in Germany, where the 1st Armored Division is based.

"Now I can't even have him to bury him. His wife wants to bury him in Germany," Dartt said.

"I have three grandkids, and they're going to be living there, and I'm trying to deal with that, too. I don't know when I can see them or how I can see them."

Aldrich said the family had mixed emotions about the burial in Germany.

"It's great that he's going to be with his family, and that his kids will be able to see him," he said. "But he's also an American citizen."

Details about a memorial service in Adrian had not been finalized, but Aldrich said it would be held on May 1.

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## **Woman & Husband Fired For Photo Of Flag-Draped Coffins; Assholes In Command Pushed For Dismissal**

April 22, 2004 The Associated Press & By Hal Bernton, Seattle Times staff reporter

**SEATTLE - A cargo worker whose photograph of flag-draped coffins bearing the remains of U.S. soldiers was published on a newspaper's front page was fired by the military contractor that employed her.**

The woman, Tami Silicio, 50, was fired Wednesday by Maytag Aircraft Corp. after military officials raised "very specific concerns" related to the photograph, said William L. Silva, Maytag's president. The photo was taken in Kuwait.

Silicio said she hoped the photo of the 20 flag-draped coffins awaiting transport from Kuwait to the United States would show the relatives of soldiers killed in Iraq that civilian and military crews returned the remains of their loved ones with care and devotion.

"It wasn't my intent to lose my job or become famous or anything." "I feel like I was hit in the chest with a steel bar and got my wind knocked out. I have to admit I liked my job, and I liked what I did," Silicio said.

**Silicio's husband and co-worker, David Landry, was also fired, but the company gave no reason for his dismissal.**



Silicio took the photo in a cargo plane about to depart from Kuwait International Airport this month. She sent it to a stateside friend, who provided it to The Seattle Times, which then obtained permission from Silicio to publish it without compensation.

**The Times reported Thursday that its decision to print the photograph was supported in most of the e-mail messages and telephone calls it had received.**

**Silicio, 50, is from Edmonds and previously worked as an events decorator in the Seattle area and as a truck driver in Kosovo.**

**In Kuwait, Silicio pulled 12-hour night shifts alongside military workers to help in the huge effort to resupply U.S. troops. These workers also helped transport the remains of soldiers back to the United States.**

**Her job put her in contact with soldiers who sometimes accompanied the coffins to the airport. Having lost one of her own sons to a brain tumor, Silicio said, she tried to offer support to those grieving over a lost comrade.**

**"It kind of helps me to know what these mothers are going through, and I try to watch over their children as they head home," she said in an earlier interview.**

Since Sunday, Silicio has hunkered down in Kuwait as her employer and the military decided her fate.

**Maytag's Silva said the decision to terminate Silicio's and Landry's employment was made by the company. *But he said the U.S. military had identified "very specific concerns" about their actions. Silva declined to detail those concerns.***

"They were good workers, and we were sorry to lose them," Silva said. "They did a good job out in Kuwait and it was an important job that they did."

**Landry, in an e-mail to The Times, said he was proud of his wife, and that they would soon return home to the States.**

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## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

### Iraqi Police Join Basra Shia Demonstration Against Occupation



**An Iraqi policeman guards a protest** against US and British forces in Iraq in the southern city of Basra. Hundreds of backers of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr took to the streets to vent their anger.(AFP/Hani Al-Obeidi)



**NOT 'GUARDING' ANY MORE:** An Iraqi policeman and civilians march together, holding posters of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr in a protest against US and British forces in Basra .(AFP/Ahmad Al-Rubaye)

## Get The Message?



Iraqis burn a US flag during march in Basra against US and British forces in Iraq.  
(AFP/Ahmad Al-Rubaye)

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## Al-Sadr Refuses Surrender Demand; “That Will Not Happen”

New York Times 4.17.04

With some 2,500 troops surrounding the cities of Najaf and Kufa, south of Baghdad, the Shiite cleric, Moktada al-Sadr, appeared for the first time in public in two weeks.

He preached a fiery sermon at a mosque in Kufa, the center of his strength, in which he refused to disband his militia, the Mahdi Army, as American officials have repeatedly demanded. “That will not happen,” said Mr. Sadr, who led a broad uprising against the American occupation here. “I have founded this army with the cooperation of the Iraqi people.”

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

**FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# LETTER TO DR. LAURA; “Couldn’t We Just Burn Them To Death?”

New York Daily News <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/gossip/story/185404p-160667c.html>

Dear Dr. Laura:

Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's Law. I have learned a great deal from your show, and try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind them that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. ... End of debate. I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some other elements of God's Law and how to follow them:

1. When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord - Lev.1:9. The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?
2. I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?
3. I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness - Lev.15: 19-24. The problem is how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offense.
4. Lev. 25:44 states that I may indeed possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighboring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can't I own Canadians?
5. I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2. The passage clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself?
6. A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination - Lev. 11:10, it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this? Are there 'degrees' of abomination?
7. Lev. 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle room here?
8. Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev.19:27. How should they die?

9. I know from Lev. 11:6-8 that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?

10. My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev. 19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/poly). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? - Lev.24:10-16. Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)

I know you have studied these things extensively and thus enjoy considerable expertise in such matters, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging.

Your adoring fan,  
James M. Kauffman, Ed.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Virginia

**(For more see the article "Why Gay Marriage Is A Civil Rights Issue," by Sherry Wolf at [www.socialistworker.org](http://www.socialistworker.org).)**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **Scum From El Salvador Order Occupation Of Najaf Hospital; Patients Thrown Out The Door**

**(As you read, remember that the soldiers don't usually decide to do this, that, or the other thing on their own. They do what their officers command. To a point. Perhaps, as U.S. troops in Vietnam did with officers like this hundreds of times, they will decide to kill him soon. Even better, turn him over to the resistance for appropriate punishment.)**

Apr 22, 2004 BAGHDAD (AFP)

A French non-governmental organization slammed the occupation of the biggest hospital in the Shiite holy city of Najaf in central Iraq by Salvadoran troops of the US-led coalition.

For the past 10 days, coalition troops have been occupying the hospital, located near the base of the Spanish contingent, according to an AFP correspondent in Najaf.



**"The patients and the personnel were forcibly evicted in a few hours," said Renouf, quoting an Iraqi engineer, who is a member of Najaf-based First Emergency, and doctors at the hospital.**

**As a result, patients must be redirected toward three other small hospitals in Najaf or in case of serious problems toward Baghdad.**

**"With 420 beds, the Sadr hospital represents 40 percent of the bed capacity in the province and is the only one able to provide some specialized care," Renouf said.**

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## **WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS**



**US military cop with German shepherd faces a crowd of displaced residents of Fallujah waiting for permission to return home. (AFP/Nicolas Asfour)**

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## **CLASS WAR NEWS**

**OUR CLASS KICKS SOME ASS**



A union worker fights with Peruvian police during a workers' protest against the government of Alejandro Toledo, in front of the Labor Ministry in Lima, Peru, on April 21, 2004. Latin American capitalist governments are in trouble and losing the support of their citizens because of inequality and extreme poverty, the United Nations said Wednesday in a sweeping report on the region's political health. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

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