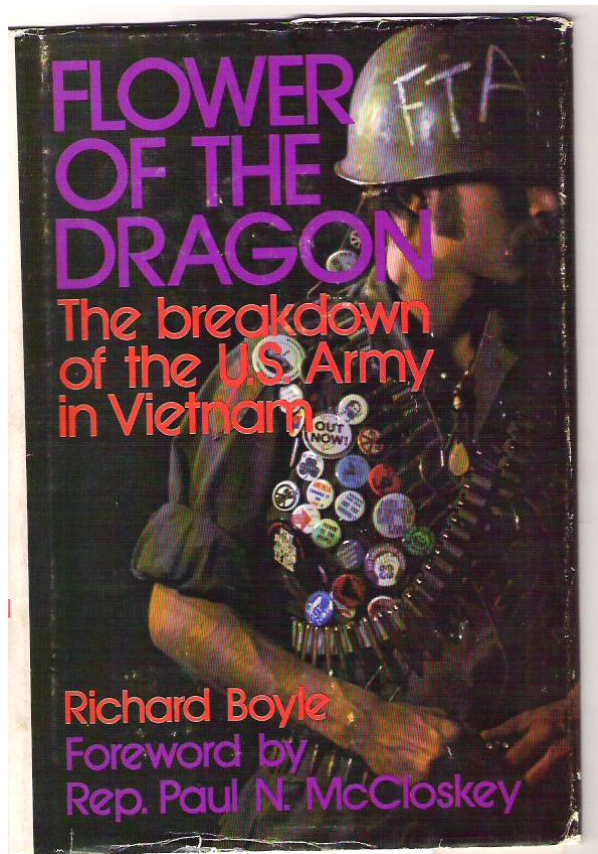


GI SPECIAL 2#65

# Clueless Bush Lights A Fuse; Time Until Detonation Undetermined; Lifers Take Cover



**(From the chapter: “The Revolt Of Alpha Company,” by Richard Boyle. Boyle went into combat with the soldiers in Vietnam, and wrote what he saw. The book is out of print, but copies are for sale from Amazon.)**

The men of Alpha and Bravo companies were no different from any other troops. As Robinson said, they were not fighting for a great cause, they were just trying to stay alive. **They felt their government was lying to them, that they were simply pawns in somebody else’s game. Some soldiers took their frustration out in violence, like Doc Hampton {who walked up to a brutal, stupid lifer sergeant and left small pieces of him scattered all over the walls and floor}. But most just tried to survive. If a lifer pushed too hard, he died. Otherwise there was a truce.**

**I was sure there would have been open revolt by the troops in Vietnam if not for one thing: each grunt knew he had only one year to do. He had to weigh a sure five years in prison against trying to get by for one year in Vietnam. For support troops, the decision was easier: Vietnam wasn’t such a bad place. But a grunt stood a good chance of getting killed or screwed up for life. A very good chance. The grunt counted off days on the calendar until he reached the magic 365.**

If a combat zone was quiet, the grunt could just wait it out and hope to do his time. Some began to go crazy toward the end.

**Queson was the last big World War II—type battle fought by entire American divisions. A short time after I left AK Valley the battle subsided. *If what I saw of Alpha and Bravo companies was any indication of how other units of the Americal Division felt, after a few more weeks at the same intensity, battalions or even whole regiments might have quit.***

I walked along the beach, watching the sun dip into the Pacific. **The Army in Vietnam, I said to myself, was one big corporation. The guys at the top had it great, but for the people at the bottom it was not so good. Most grunts in the Americal Division couldn’t even buy beer because they were under age.**

**(In those days, command was smart enough to pull you out after a year. A year meant a year. Not any more. The fuse has been lit. T)**

**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/>

## **Number Of Dead, Wounded U.S. Troops Sets New Record;**

# Panicked Pentagon Cancels Daily Updates

April 24, 2004 Associated Press, Military.com

WASHINGTON - **The number of American troops wounded in Iraq soared in the past two weeks** as the insurgency flared in south-central Iraq and in the Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad.

The Pentagon announced Friday in its weekly casualty report that 3,864 troops have been wounded in action since the war began in March 2003, **an increase of 595 from two weeks earlier.**

The U.S. military death toll as of Friday stood at 707, according to the Pentagon's count.

**At least 100 have been killed this month, the highest total for any month since the U.S.-led invasion began. Most deaths were in the early part of April; about 25 have died in the past two weeks.**

**As the toll on U.S. forces has mounted this month, most public attention has focused on the deaths. Less has been reported on the wounded, in part because the Pentagon has stopped providing daily updates and does not give details on the types or severity of wounds.**

The only distinction the Pentagon makes in its public reports is between the number of wounded who are returned to duty within three days and those who are not. In the past two weeks, the number of wounded who returned to duty rose by 257 and the number who did not rose by 338.

**The number wounded since April 1 is approaching 900, far beyond the 200-300 wounded in most other months of the conflict.** In March 291 were wounded in action. The highest monthly total before April was 413 in October 2003, according to the Pentagon's Directorate for Information Operations and Reports.

**The Pentagon's figures do not include troops who are injured in accidents or felled by illness.**

**Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said "It doesn't mean that you're going to be able to live through that in a perfect way without people being killed or without people being wounded, and the tragedy of the reality we live in is that that's happening." (Rumsfeld of course is likely to "live through the war in a perfect way," unfortunately.)**

In its most recent report, Walter Reed said it had received 33 new battle casualties from Iraq last week.

**By far most of the battle wounds have happened since President Bush declared an end to major combat operations on May 1. Since that date there have been**

**more than 2,700 wounded in action, of which 109 were females and more than half were lower-ranking enlisted soldiers.**

According to a Pentagon breakdown by age group, 579 troops aged 21 and below were wounded between May 1 and April 8, the latest date for which such figures are publicly available. A total of 669 troops were aged 22-24; 703 were aged 25-30; 353 were aged 31-35, and 327 were over 35. The Pentagon said ages were not yet available for 104 of the wounded.

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

# **Resistance Naval Attack Shuts Down Main Oil Terminal**

24 April, 2004 BASRA (Reuters)

Iraqi authorities shut down the Basra offshore oil terminal on Saturday after it was attacked, officials at the Southern Oil Company said.

At least one boat has attacked Iraq's main oil terminal offshore in the Gulf, a British military spokesman says.

Asked about an unconfirmed report that two boats exploded at the Basra terminal in suicide attacks, Major Ian Clooey told Reuters on Saturday: "We are just getting reports that there has been an incident at the Basra offshore terminal. There are no firm details yet but we know of at least one vessel involved."

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# **Five U.S. Soldiers Killed, 6 Wounded In Rocket Attack On Taji Base**

April 24, 2004 Associated Press

Outside Baghdad, insurgents rocketed a U.S. military base.

Five American soldiers were killed around dawn when two rockets fired from a truck hit the U.S. base at Taji, 12 miles north of Baghdad, Air Force Lt. Col. Sam Hudspeth said. U.S. helicopter gunships then destroyed the truck, the military said.

Six soldiers were wounded in the attack, **three of them critically**, the military said.

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# Convoy Ambush Near Kut: Two More U.S. Soldiers Killed

April 24, 2004 Associated Press

**Resistance fighters attacked a U.S. convoy near the city of Kut, and an armored vehicle was reported burned.**

## BAD TRIP



## BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW

A medivac helicopter of the US army flies into the so-called 'Greene Zone' where the Combat Support hospital is based in Baghdad April 24, 2004. **A U.S. military convoy heading to Nasiriya, southern Iraq, was attacked Saturday by insurgents in Kut, 190 km south of Baghdad. Two U.S. soldiers were killed and one was injured evacuated by a helicopter.** (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

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## Samarra IED Kills U.S. Soldier

KUFA, April 24 (Online) Pakistan Tribune

A US soldier was killed in a roadside bomb attack on his convoy near the Sunni Muslim city of Samarra, north of Baghdad, the US-led coalition said in a statement.

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## U.S. Casualties In Haswa IED Attack

April 24, 2004 Associated Press

In Haswa, 30 miles south of Baghdad, a roadside bomb struck a U.S. military convoy, setting off shooting that caused civilian casualties, witnesses said. **U.S. helicopters were seen taking American casualties away, the witnesses said.** There was no immediate comment from the military.



US army soldiers secure the area after a bus was hit by a roadside bomb in Haswa, 50 April 24, 2004. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

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## **Overworked, Broke-Down, Unfit For Combat; Bad Tank Kills Tanker**

April 23, 2004 RELEASE No. 365-04 United States Department of Defense

Staff Sgt. Edward W. Carmen, 27 of McKeesport, Pa., died April 17, in Baghdad, Iraq **when the track of the tank he was in broke, the driver lost control and the tank rolled off the bridge.** Staff Sgt. Carman was assigned to the Army's 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

*(This is only the beginning:)*

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.**

# **Shia Madhi Army Offensive Near Karbala; Attacks On Occupation Bases “More Frequent”**

April 23, 2004 KARBALA, Iraq (AP) & KUFA, April 24 (Online) Pakistan Tribune & AP 4.24

Shiite Muslim militiamen clashed with Polish-led coalition troops in the holy city of Karbala on Friday, the latest skirmish between followers of a radical cleric and coalition forces in the south. A Bulgarian soldier was killed and 10 other people wounded. An Iranian pilgrim, four civilians and five militiamen were injured in the fighting which lasted about 30 minutes, witnesses and hospital staff said.

**Shia Militiamen ambushed a military convoy made up of Polish, Bulgarian, Lithuanian and Latvian soldiers near city hall in the center of Karbala,** which is located close to the office of a religious foundation of Moqtada Sadr and the Al-Mokhayam mosque, controlled by Sadr loyalists, around the time of weekly Muslim prayers, said Lt. Col. Robert Strzelecki, spokesman for Camp Babylon, the main Polish base. **Shia soldiers and Occupation troops exchanged fire.**

After the attack, a combat force made up of Poles, Bulgarians, Lithuanians and Latvians were sent in to “secure the area and reinforce the city hall,” according to a statement e-mailed by another multinational force spokesman, Maj. Slawomir Walencykowski.

The militia of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr rose up across the south at the beginning of April, taking control of several cities and engaging in bloody battles with coalition forces in the region. Over the past week the militiamen have returned police stations in Karbala, Kufa and Najaf to Iraqi authorities, but they continue to move openly on the streets and have occasionally fired on coalition troops.

**Friday's broad daylight attack came just hours after city hall was slammed by mortar fire, injuring an Iraqi policeman, the division reported.**

**On Wednesday and again Thursday, the coalition base in Karbala, known as Camp Kilo, was pounded with rebel mortar rounds. No one was injured, the division reported.**

**Mortar attacks on coalition bases throughout south-central Iraq - including those in Karbala, Najaf and Hillah - have grown more frequent in recent weeks.**

Polish troops clashed overnight with Shiite militiamen in the city of Karbala, killing five, a spokesman for the multinational peacekeeping force in south-central Iraq said.

**MORE:**

# 26-Year-Old BG Sergeant Dimitar Dimitrov Died From Wounds In Karbala Attack

23 April 2004 Focus 1 English News

Senior Sergeant Dimitar Ivanov Dimitrov, who was killed today at a shooting in Karbala, is from the town of Gorna Oryahovitsa (northern Bulgaria). He was born on April 25th, 1978. He graduated the Personnel Sergeants Training Centre in the town of Veliko Tarnovo (central north Bulgaria) with major Signals.

He was appointed sergeant in the Bulgarian army on August 12th, 1999, and on October 1st, 2000 he was promoted to Senior Sergeant. Dimitar Dimitrov is not married. His parents also live in Gorna Oryahovitsa.

Senior Sergeant Dimitar Ivanov Dimitrov died from his wounds, reported Focus correspondent in Iraq Dragomir Petkov.

**As Focus has reported earlier today, the incident occurred at 11:50 a.m. when a group of Bulgarian soldiers was returning from a mission for guarding the city hall in Karbala and came across an ambush. The Bulgarian soldiers were fired at with mortars and submachine guns. Their transport car was damaged. The Bulgarian soldiers fired back.**

As a result of the shooting Senior Sergeant Dimitar Ivanov Dimitrov was wounded in the head. Immediate medical aid was offered to him on the spot, after which he was transported to the 'Juliet' base. At 12:55 p.m. Senior Sergeant Dimitrov was evacuated in a helicopter to a field hospital. He was on artificial breathing systems, but later he died from his wounds.



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## Killing Hearts And Minds: U.S. Attack On Baghdad Neighborhood Successfully Slaughters Civilians

April 24, 2004 Associated Press



**Pre-dawn fighting in Sadr City, in eastern Baghdad, came when U.S. troops sought to capture suspected Shiite militiamen, sparking a battle that the military said killed one or two Iraqis. During the fighting, three Iraqi girls were badly burned when a shell exploded in their bedroom where they slept.**

**Hours later, a volley of three rockets was fired into Sadr City, a slum of more than 1 million people. One hit the neighborhood's crowded souk, known as Chicken Market, where hundreds had gathered for morning shopping. Human flesh could be seen among scattered merchandise and burned cars.**

At least six Iraqis were killed and 38 wounded, said Yassin Abdel-Qader, a doctor with the area's Health Directorate.

A few hours later, a rocket struck a two-story house in Sadr City, smashing through the roof and down to the ground floor, killing a woman as she took an afternoon nap and wounding her daughter. At least two more rockets exploded later on a main street on the edge of Sadr City, breaking windows but causing no casualties.

**People in the neighborhood blamed the Americans for Saturday's rocket barrages, which came after the overnight clash.**

**After the rocket strike, residents chanted: "Long live al-Sadr! America and the Governing Council are infidels!"**

**Y'all Come Back And See Us Again Real Soon---**



**An Iraqi man shows explosive devices following an overnight shooting incident between al-Mahdi army, supporters of the Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and U.S. troops in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr City 24 April 2004. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)**

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## **Faced With Thousands Of Resistance Troops In Faluja, Command Focus Is On Silly Fantasy**



Marines from the 1st Battalion 5th Marines study flyers of Jordanian-born militant Abu Mus'Ab Al-Zarqawi in Fallujah, April 24, 2004. Al-Zarqawi is suspected by the U.S. Coalition Authority of orchestrating a string of attacks against Coalition targets across Iraq. A \$10 million is being offered for his arrest. (AP Photo/John Moore)

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### **TROOP NEWS**

## **More Cannon Fodder Please; Troops To Be “Extended” Again; Silly Liar Abizaid Says War Going “Reasonably Well”**

(THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: B WRITES: “MORE CANNON FODDER PLEASE, IM TRYING TO GET TO SHINSEKIS MAGIC NUMBER”)

April 24, 2004 By JIM KRANE, Associated Press Writer

Also Friday, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said the war in Iraq is going "reasonably well" but acknowledged the United States faces long

**involvement there.** Gen. Richard Myers said fighting terrorism is a long-term commitment and said, "**Decades is probably not unreasonable.**"

The top U.S. commander in the Middle East, Army Gen. John **Abizaid**, suggested in an interview with **The New York Times** in Qatar on Friday that *he was likely to ask for another extension in the current troop levels in Iraq, now at 135,000, and might even ask for more troops beyond that.*

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## **Chaos At Najaf; No Support In Place For Troops**



**A U.S. soldier, who did not give his name, lies down on the back of a truck he has lived on since he reached camp Duke, a U.S. military base situated outside Najaf, April 23, 2004.**

**Soldiers may have to be based here for long periods and at the moment there is no adequate facilities for the roughly 2000 troops that wait for showers, hot meals, mail and maybe better roofs over their heads as sandstorms lash out almost every other day. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)**

## **Sharp Backlash Among Latinos Over Iraq War**

**(THANKS TO SF WHO E-MAILED THIS IN)**

News Analysis, Elena Shore, Pacific News Service, Apr 22, 2004

Editor's Note: **Polls of Latinos in the United States and editorials in the Spanish-language U.S. press reveal rising disapproval of the war in Iraq.** Tough times for Latino workers, combined with the long history of U.S. military intervention in Latin America, may inform Latino skepticism about the war.

**A cascade of doubts over the Iraq war has been resurfacing in U.S. Latino media, coinciding with the recent announcement that Honduras will join Spain in withdrawing troops from Iraq amid escalating violence.**

On March 19, Spanish-language daily La Opinión ran an editorial criticizing the U.S. presence in Iraq, reminding readers that President Bush started the war by calling Iraq an "imminent threat" due to its weapons of mass destruction and ties to Islamic terrorism. "Twelve months later none of these charges has been proven and, on the contrary, our country has been bogged down in the reconstruction of a society where it is not even welcome."

Recent surveys indicate that a majority of U.S. Latinos would agree with this evaluation. **A poll released April 4 by the Miami Herald found that more than half of Latino voters oppose the Iraq war, according to an article in New York City Spanish-language daily Hoy.**

**In fact, the disapproval of the war in Iraq has consistently been higher among Latinos compared to the general U.S. population, as indicated by a series of polls conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center.** In its survey released this week, 59 percent of native-born and 44 percent of foreign-born Latinos said they thought the Bush administration deliberately misled the public about the threat in Iraq before the war.

**An editorial in the April 16 issue of the bilingual weekly La Prensa San Diego responds to the President's reaffirmation that he intended to keep U.S. troops in Iraq: "Señor Presidente, perhaps you would have been more correct to have said: 'The war in Iraq will continue no matter how many poor and middle class servicemen are killed.'"**

"The war that was intended to secure Americans has done the opposite, and has instead caused more violence and attacks against Americans in Iraq," writes Eva Munoz in the L.A.-area bilingual weekly chain Eastern Group Publications (EGP). In interviews with Latinos ranging from age 18 to 55, she finds that they have "more questions than answers" about the war.

**Latinos in the United States may be more critical of the U.S. war in Iraq because they face a more precarious economic situation in the United States. Salaries are down for Latino workers, reports La Opinión, and unemployment is higher than in the general population, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.**

**With economic uncertainty at home, many Latinos are likely skeptical of funds and resources expended in a foreign war.**

The history of U.S. interventions in Latin America also informs the skepticism. "[Latinos] have the image of the United States as the super-powerful country that is always abusing its power to dominate other nations," said Miguel Angel Báez, editor of Noticiero Semanal. "Many Latin American nations are victims of the U.S. interventionist policy that has provoked economic, social and political crises in those nations, forcing immigrants to come to this country. I believe that this in part is a reason why we tend to identify more with (the) less powerful nations."

**Connections between the United States' mission in Iraq and its role in Latin America may not be so far off. President Bush's recent appointment as U.S. ambassador to Iraq happens to be John Negroponte, former U.S. ambassador to Honduras in the 1980s. Negroponte has been criticized for assisting the Contras, U.S.-funded insurgents fighting to oust the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, according to an Associated Press report published in the April 19 edition of Fresno, Calif., bilingual weekly Vida en el Valle.**

**The article reports: "When questioned by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on whether he had acquiesced to human rights abuses by a Honduran death squad funded and partly trained by the CIA, [Negroponte] said: 'To this day, I do not believe that death squads were operating in Honduras.'"**

**Negroponte's denial that the death squads ever existed has led him to be described by Stephen Kinzer, The New York Times Nicaraguan bureau chief from 1983 to 1989, as "a great fabulist" who "professed to see a Honduras almost Scandinavian in its tranquility, a place where there were no murderous generals, no death squads, no political prisoners, no clandestine jails or cemeteries."**

**Meanwhile, young, low-income Latinos and other minorities are disproportionately targeted by military recruiting propaganda, according to data collected by Rick Jahnkow and University of California at San Diego Professor Jorge Mariscal, members of Project YANO (Youth and Non-Military Opportunities), reports Raymond R. Beltrán in bilingual weekly La Prensa San Diego.**

PNS contributor Elena Shore ([eshore@pacificnews.org](mailto:eshore@pacificnews.org)) works for NCM, an association of over 600 print, broadcast and online ethnic media organizations founded in 1996 by PNS and members of ethnic media.

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## **Pentagon Chief Weapons Tester Warned Stryker Was Death Trap: Report Ignored; How Many More GIs Will Die For Corporate Greed?**

By David Wood, Army Times, 3.8.04

The Air Force has spent \$32 billion on its new F-22 stealth fighter. Twenty aircraft have come off the production line and hundreds more are planned.

But rigorous, independent field tests—to find out if the F-22 actually works—haven't begun.

Thomas Christie, the Pentagon's chief weapons tester, wrote in a January report:

**-That the Army's Stryker wheeled vehicle was sent into combat in Iraq before its testing was completed, amid criticisms that its armored skin was too flimsy to protect soldiers against enemy fire.**

-The V-22 tilt-rotor Osprey has cost some \$11 billion, and operational testing wont start for at least a year.

-Contractors are turning out missiles and radars for the trouble-plagued missile defense system, which the Pentagon exempted from operational testing, amid serious concerns among watchdog government agencies about scheduled delays and cost overruns. Spent so far: \$100 billion. Projected spending over each of the next five years: \$8 billion to \$10 billion.

**Critics say [Christie's] independent office has been overwhelmed and outmaneuvered by political interests, Pentagon bureaucrats and defense contractors, all with a stake in moving costly weapons systems into the field with as little disruption as possible.**

In a telling exchange with Navy Secretary Gordon England 18 months ago, Christie complained the Navy was rushing into service weapons "that have not demonstrated acceptable performance."

England's curt reply reverberated around official Washington: "The risks were evaluated and considered acceptable."

**(Any volunteers for England's firing squad?)**

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## **Military Rape? Business As Usual!**

Traci Hukill, AlterNet April 22, 2004

News this winter that 112 women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan reported having been sexually assaulted by fellow U.S. soldiers in the last 18 months shocked the public and shamed Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld into appointing a task force to investigate the matter. The task force, headed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Ellen Embrey, is due to present its findings to Rumsfeld on April 30.

**As recently as this week, when asked to provide updated figures on attacks, spokespersons for the Army, the Marines and the Air Force were unable to do so. Nor were they able to give the status of investigations into sexual assault charges. The issue is probably not that the public affairs people aren't doing their jobs but rather that no one is tracking the numbers. No one is paying attention still.**

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# Which Side Are You On: Families Or Pentagon?

April 22 Randall Chase, The Associated Press

**"We need to stop hiding the deaths of our young; we need to be open about their deaths," said Jane Bright of West Hills, Calif., whose 24-year-old son, Evan Ashcraft, was killed in combat in July.**

**"Quite frankly, we don't want the remains of our service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice to be the subject of any kind of attention that is unwarranted or undignified," said John Molino, a deputy undersecretary of defense.**

At a rally in Dover last month, war protesters, including many who lost loved ones in Iraq, criticized President Bush for continuing the practice of previous administrations of not allowing the public or media to witness the arrival of remains at the base.

**MORE:**

## A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

Veterans For Peace PRESS RELEASE, April 23, 2004

**We read, with dismay and anger, in the April 22 Seattle Times, of the firing of Tami Silicio and David Landry from Maytag Aircraft for taking a picture of flag-draped coffins in a military transport aircraft and allowing its publication.** Tami is said to have hoped "the publication of the photo would help families of fallen soldiers understand the care and devotion that civilians and military crews dedicate to the task of returning the soldiers home."

**Veterans For Peace does not believe Tami and David deserve firing for performing an act of pure compassion from which no profit was derived – in contrast, we may say, to organizations like Halliburton, Kellogg, Brown & Root, Dyne Corp, and their former employer, Maytag Aircraft who are doing very well as the result of the conduct of this war.**

On the contrary, Tami Silicio and David Landry have earned our gratitude for calling attention to the artificial barrier, erected by the Pentagon, against images that poignantly and properly impress us with the deaths of our nation's children and the sacrifices of their families.

**We believe that no policy should stand between our citizens and access to the price they are paying for this war. We believe the Iraqi dead should be seen, counted and acknowledged. We believe our wounded should be allowed to engage the services of organizations designed to help them, like the Disabled American Veterans, who have had such difficulty gaining access. We believe**

**people should be constantly reminded of the lost lives of combatants and non-combatants, of money spent, of international goodwill wasted.**

Veterans For Peace, consistent with our statement of purpose which says "We, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace..", believe that an informed public, having knowledge of the true cost of war, is less apt to allow government to use war as an instrument of foreign policy.

Wilson (Woody) Powell, Executive Director, Veterans For Peace  
438 NO Skinker, St. Louis, MO 63130, (314) 725-6005  
[veteransfp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:veteransfp@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org)

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to the E-mail address up top. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.**

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **Madhi Army Leader Warns Occupation Not To Attack Free Najaf; Delusional Kimmitt Babbles Again**

**(Every day Najaf and other cities are held against the occupation by force of arms is another day free Iraq gathers strength.)**

KUFA, April 24 (Online) Pakistan Tribune

**Iraqi Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr said on Friday that he could unleash suicide bombers if US forces attacked Najaf, and called on the whole nation to unite to expel Iraq's occupiers.** US forces are poised just outside Najaf and have vowed to kill or capture Sadr and destroy his Mahdi Army militia, which has clashed with foreign forces across south and central Iraq.

**Speaking at Friday prayers in Kufa, next to Najaf, Sadr told thousands of worshippers that Najaf would never fall to the occupiers.** "We will shed blood to keep our holy city," he said. "Lots of believers, men and women, came to me and asked permission to become martyrs and to execute martyrdom operations."

"Some of the Mujahideen brothers have told me they want to carry out martyrdom attacks but I am postponing this," al-Sadr said. **"When we are forced to do so and**



when our city and holy sites are attacked, we will all be time bombs in the face of the enemy," he said.

"We should be united for one ultimate goal, to liberate our country and remove the filth from Iraq," he said. "Through history Najaf has suffered from wars but it was never shaken and it always came out victorious," Sadr said. "The British never managed to subjugate Najaf, nor the Turks and now the American occupation will never manage to destroy Najaf."

Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, the coalition's deputy director of military operations, said that the US-led coalition would "respect all religious structures" in their attempt to bring Sadr before a judge. "We have all the time in the world if he wants to hole up inside that city," he told CNN.

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## Occupation Withdraws Troops From Najaf, Kufa; Shia Madhi Army Holds Cities

By Ian Fisher, The New York Times, 21 April 2004, BAGHDAD, Iraq

Large numbers of American troops have also been occupied in Najaf, **where a rebel Shiite Muslim cleric, Moqtada al-Sadr, has defied American demands that he surrender and disband his militia after leading a broad uprising this month.** On another front, troops are battling to contain violence on the main supply roads from the countries neighboring Iraq.

**Earlier this week, some 2,500 American troops around the adjacent cities of Najaf and Kufa began drawing down to only 500, after an American decision not to risk further angering Shiites by chasing Mr. Sadr down in his hiding place in Najaf, a city held holy by Shiites.**

Rather than a risky military operation, American officials have been hoping to isolate Mr. Sadr among his fellow Shiites.

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## Sunnis And Shias United Say "Don't Fuck With Faluja;" Threaten "National Uprising"

KUFA, April 24 (Online) Pakistan Tribune

A prominent Sunni leader in Baghdad, Sheikh Ahmad Abdel Ghafur Samarraï, warned the occupation could spark a national uprising if US forces resume their offensive on Fallujah.

"Iraqi Muslims, Sunnis or Shias, will not remain passive and silent in the face of a new massacre. Sunnis and Shias are united in Fallujah and in Najaf," he added. He blamed the occupation forces for seeking an escalation.

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

## **Tikrit Car Bomb Gets 20 Occupation Cops Near U.S. Base**

24 April 2004 CBBC Newsround

Four Iraqi policemen were also killed and 16 wounded in a car bomb in the northern town of Tikrit.

The Tikrit explosion happened near the main US base.

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## **Collaborators Killed**

April 24, 2004 Associated Press

An Iraqi woman working as a translator for the U.S. military and her husband were fatally shot as they drove to a U.S. base, a hospital official said.

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## **Baquba Attacks Nails More Occupation Cops**

KUFA, April 24 (Online) Pakistan Tribune

Three Iraqi police officers and a civilian were wounded in a drive-by rocket attack on a patrol in Baquba, police said. The attackers fired an anti-tank rocket at the patrol, Lieutenant Khaled Chaker told AFP, adding that the police returned fire. Besides the officers, a civilian bystander was wounded, he said.

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**FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# Reporters: Take Note; No More “Gunmen” In Iraq

While most reporters now describe Iraqis fighting for their independence and against the occupation of their nation as “insurgents,” “militia,” or “guerrillas,” and more are using the word “resistance,” some stooges for Bush insist on using the term “gunmen.”

First, the term is without foundation in fact. Some resistance fighters are women, so the idiot reporter would have to write “gunmen and gunwomen,” or perhaps “gunpersons” to be accurate. Fat chance. Just as in the American revolution, some are teens and even younger. But “gunkids” just wouldn’t work, would it?

Second, the term is pejorative. The Occupation forces are never referred to as “gunmen,” even though most are men and all carry guns. By using the term, the reporter has taken Bush’s side in the war. So much for objectivity.

So, from now on, every news story in GI Special that uses this term will be edited. The word “gunmen” will be replaced with “soldier,” “partisan,” etc. etc. If the writer doesn’t like it, he or she can kiss my ass or, at the minimum, stop taking Bush’s side and join all the other reporters who recognize that in a war there are two sides.

If simple ignorance is the problem, go to the morgue and check out coverage of the Vietnam War by the great reporters of the day. See how many “gunmen” you find there.

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

### The Face Of The Enemy



**This thing is what soldiers are dying for.**

Ahmed Chalabi, convicted bank embezzler and acting president of the Iraqi Governing Council. (AFP/File/Nicholas Roberts)

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## AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

### Former NFL Player Pat Tillman Killed in Afghanistan

April 23 (Bloomberg) By Dan Hart

Pat Tillman, a former player with the National Football League's Arizona Cardinals, was killed in action in Afghanistan, Cable News Network reported.

Pat and his brother Kevin joined the U.S. military after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Kevin Tillman left a minor league baseball career to join the military, CNN's Barbara Starr said.

Pat Tillman was accepted into the U.S. Army's elite Rangers unit in December 2002 after joining the Army earlier that year.

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### The U.S. Oil Man Who Runs Afghanistan Spends A Morning With His Hand-Puppet

By Amy Waldman, New York Times, 4.17.04

KABUL, Afghanistan — “So what are we doing today?” Afghanistan’s president, Hamid Karzai, asked the United States ambassador, Zalmay M. Khalilzad, as they sat in Mr. Karzai’s office.

Mr. Khalilzad patiently explained that they would attend a ceremony to kick off the “greening” of Kabul — the planting and seeding of 850,000 trees — in honor of the Afghan New Year.

Mr. Karzai said he would speak off-the-cuff. **Mr. Khalilzad, sounding more mentor than diplomat, approved: “It’s good you don’t have a text,” he told Mr. Karzai. “You tend to do better.”**

**The genial Mr. Karzai may be Afghanistan’s president, but the affable, ambitious Mr. Khalilzad often seems more like its chief executive.** With his command of both

details and American largesse, the Afghan-born envoy has created an alternate seat of power since his arrival on Thanksgiving.

As he shuttles between the American Embassy and the presidential palace, where Americans guard Mr. Karzai, one place seems an extension of the other.

**Mr. Khalilzad himself knows how compasses change. In the mid-1990's, he briefly defended the Taliban while working as a consultant for Unocal, the oil company that was then trying to build a pipeline through Afghanistan. He later became one of the Taliban's fiercest critics.**

"Tell the story of America, especially its early days," he encouraged Americans gathered at a town hall meeting in the capital of the country that was once his.

Mr. Khalilzad celebrated the Afghan New Year in March with 12 hours of meetings. The first was with bearded, turbaned tribal leaders from Helmand Province, whom he met at the presidential palace, a location that signaled their prestige, and his access.

**The tribal leaders complained about the conduct of coalition troops and their Afghan allies. The way house searches are being conducted "will compel people to revolt," one elder warned.**

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## OCCUPATION PALESTINE

### **Dead because she wanted a cookie**



A Palestinian boy gives a farewell kiss the body of a nine year-old Mona Abu Tabaq, during her funeral at Jabalya camp northern Gaza Strip April 23,2004. A craving for cookies led Tabaq to dash outside home to a nearby grocery store as gunfire echoed in the streets. On her way back, Tabaq was fatally wounded by Israeli fire. Hundreds of mourners, some chanting vows of revenge, attended her funeral on Friday. Photo by Mohammed Salem/Reuters

(To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by a foreign power, go to: [www.rafah.vze.com](http://www.rafah.vze.com). The foreign army is Israeli; the occupied nation is Palestine.)

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## **Received:**

From: "P

To: GI Special

Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2004

Subject: Strafing and Cluster Bombing a civilian refugee column in Falluja?

Thank you for posting the GI SPECIAL SERIES. It is important, and I do use it to cross check the info that I get from the list- serves that I am on. On one of these lists [actiongreens@yahoo.com](mailto:actiongreens@yahoo.com) a woman's email was forwarded in which she claimed that she was in Occupation Watch, in Falluja, and she said a civilian refugee column fleeing Falluja was strafed and cluster-bombed by US forces.

Have you seen any stories that confirm this?

I am against the war, and as a member of SOA Watch, I don't put any atrocity past the US military. Still, if true, this should be a major story. Marine snipers shooting old women carrying white flags is also a big story, as well as the other stuff.

Just striving for the truth, which in war time must be tough.

Thanks,  
Revolution Peace Love Light

## **REPLY:**

No independent confirmation so far. That doesn't mean it ain't so.

On the other hand, fake stuff is coming out written by deluded people who think that lies and invented atrocity stories about what's going on in Iraq somehow help the anti-war movement. In Vietnam War days, military intel did some of that shit to discredit the growing movement against the war among the soldiers.

In the last 6 months, there have been a series of faked interviews with supposed soldiers back in the USA from Iraq using military terms that have been out of use since Vietnam and a bunch of stuff from a supposedly anti-war reporter who claims to be in Iraq, reporting battles won by the resistance that never happened.

People like this should be treated as infiltrators and provocateurs. They're poison. The bitter truth is sufficient. T

## **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/>

## **The Coffin Photos**

**From:** David Cline, Veterans For Peace

**Sent:** April 23, 2004

**Subject:** Dover pix

Looking for the 300+ Dover AFB photos of returning coffins? [www.thememoryhole.org](http://www.thememoryhole.org)  
or visit this mirror site:

[http://warblogging.com/mirrors/www.thememoryhole.org/war/coffin\\_photos/dover/gallery.htm](http://warblogging.com/mirrors/www.thememoryhole.org/war/coffin_photos/dover/gallery.htm)

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