

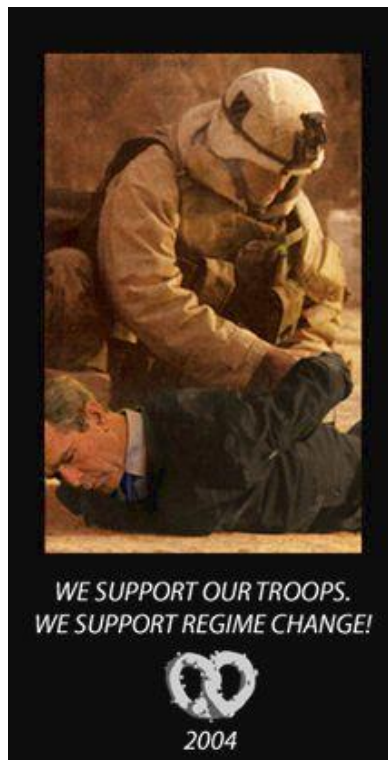
## GI SPECIAL 2#68

### PRACTICE.....



Marines train in the scrub pine of Camp LeJeune's (N.C.) (AP Photo/Karen Tam)

### .....MAKES PERFECT!



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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

### **U.S. Soldier Killed At Baghdad Bus Station**

**27/04/2004 BAGHDAD, April 27 (SPA) - A U.S. soldier was shot on Tuesday as troops patrolled a bus and taxi station on the eastern outskirts of Baghdad, witnesses said.**

**A soldier from the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps and a translator who were in the patrol said the soldier suffered fatal wounds. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. military in Baghdad.**

**The witnesses said gunmen on rooftops also fired assault rifles at the patrol, triggering a gun battle. There were no other known casualties.**

U.S. forces sent reinforcements and conducted house searches in the area, the witnesses said.

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### **Fighting In Jolan Neighborhood Of Fallujah**

4.27.04 By JAYSON KEYSER, Associated Press Writer

FALLUJAH, Iraq - U.S. warplanes and artillery attacked Sunni insurgents holed up in a slum in a thunderous show of force that rocked Fallujah Tuesday, sending huge plumes of black smoke into the night sky.

**Tuesday's battle appeared far heavier than the previous night's clashes suggesting U.S. forces were trying to wear down resistance soldiers in the Jolan neighborhood, a district of narrow alleyways and ramshackle houses.**

An AC-130, a powerful gunship that can unleash a deluge of ordnance, joined 105mm howitzers in opening up on insurgent targets in the neighborhood. Gunfire and explosions reverberated for nearly two hours, and an eerie orange glow shone over the area while showers of sparks descended like fireworks.

Fires were visible in the Jolan neighborhood, and mosque loudspeakers elsewhere in the city called for firefighters.

U.S. aircraft dropped white leaflets over Fallujah before nightfall, calling on insurgents to give up.

Two nights of battles in Fallujah have strained U.S. attempts to find a political way out of the siege of the city, avoiding a resumption of the full-fledged fighting that killed hundreds of Iraqis in early April. **At least eight Marines have died in the fighting.**

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## **U.S. Forces Moving On Najaf Challenged**

4.27.04 By JAYSON KEYSER, Associated Press Writer

Fighting broke out in Baghdad and in the south, where U.S. forces are in a standoff with militiamen loyal to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

**The fighting came as a force of 200 U.S. troops moved into a base in Najaf to replace Spanish troops. The Americans have said they will avoid the Shiite holy shrines about three miles away in the heart of Najaf.**

**The first fight came in the afternoon, when Shiite militiamen fired on a U.S. patrol. In the ensuing firefight, seven insurgents were killed. Hours later, an M1 tank was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades. A heavy battle erupted, during which warplanes destroyed an anti-aircraft gun belonging to the militia.**

Najaf hospitals listed 37 dead, all young men of fighting age, suggesting they may have been militiamen. Al-Sadr aides said civilians also died, but could not say how many.

**South of Baghdad, U.S. troops battled militiamen loyal al-Sadr on the east side of the Euphrates River, outside the cities of Najaf and Kufa.**

**Al-Sadr fighters have been digging in over the past week against a possible American attack.**

Some 2,000 U.S. troops are deployed outside Najaf, the holiest Shiite city in Iraq. **Any action that brings the possibility of harm to the Imam Ali Shrine in Najaf could turn the limited al-Sadr revolt into a widespread uprising by Iraq's Shiite majority. (No shit?)**

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## **Attack On Patrol Kills One, Wounds One**

4.27.04-AP, BAGHDAD, Iraq

A U.S. soldier was killed Tuesday by insurgents in Baghdad,

**Tuesday's death occurred when Shiite gunmen attacked a patrol near the Baghdad Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said. A U.S. soldier also was wounded, he said.**

The district is a stronghold of radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's Al-Mahdi Army militia.

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## Patrol Hits Mine At Ramadi

Itar-Tass April 26, 2004

Al-Jazeera has just reported that another U.S. military patrol struck a mine in the city of Ramadi, west of Baghdad, on Monday. No details of the incident were given.

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## Oregon Mercenary Killed

April 27, 2004 DANA TIMS, The Oregonian

Thomas Carter got the word just last week that his orders had finally come through.

He'd been accepted into the National Guard, where two years' service was all that stood between him and the total of 20 years of military duty he needed to retire with full retirement benefits.

He never got the chance to act on the news.

Carter, a former member of the U.S. Army's elite Delta Force, died over the weekend in Iraq, family members said Monday. He was 50.

Circumstances surrounding his death remained unclear, said Carter's father-in-law, Bruce Hoyt.

"We honestly don't know a lot of details," Hoyt said. "They haven't been released to the family yet."

Carter's wife, Michelle, was notified of his death Sunday by a chaplain from the state's Military Department. **She was told only that Carter had been killed while serving as a civilian contractor providing security to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**

**Before his work in Iraq, Carter had served in the U.S. Army for nearly 18 years. In that capacity, he received extensive training in security, particularly as part of Delta Force. The unit is part of the Army's Special Forces, and its mission includes counterterrorism and hostage rescue.**

**After retiring from the military, Carter, working for private companies, provided security for U.S. diplomats all over the world, including Lebanon.**

"He never talked about his work," Hoyt said. "But he was very good at what he did."

Carter was born in France to parents who both served in the Army. He moved from place to place in classic "military brat" style before finally ending up in Oregon 10 years ago, Hoyt said.

Carter never voiced his personal views about U.S. involvement in Iraq or virtually any other topic, Hoyt said.

"It wasn't his position to question the politicians," he said. "His only job was to get the mission done."

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## **Ship Attack Kills Local Sailor: Michael Pernaselli, 27, Was A McQuaid Grad**

By Heather Hare, Staff writer. Democrat And Chronicle (N.Y.), April 27, 2004

John Pernaselli felt a stab in his stomach when he checked the news online Saturday evening.

A boat attack killed two Navy sailors in the area where his son Michael Pernaselli, 27, was patrolling with his unit. (A third Coast Guard member died later.)

John Pernaselli decided not to tell his wife, Cathy, before she left for a dance she was chaperoning at Brighton High School. She doesn't like hearing bad news out of Iraq. He put Michael's daughters, Nicole, 3, and Dominique, 4, to bed and went upstairs.

Hours later, as his wife was returning home, a reserve representative confirmed the news: Michael Pernaselli was killed Saturday in Basra, Iraq, near an Iraqi oil terminal in an attack linked to al-Qaeda.

"You're always thinking it's not going to happen. It's not going to happen," John Pernaselli said. "I guess I was wrong this time."

Michael Pernaselli, who graduated from McQuaid Jesuit High School in 1995, enlisted in the Navy after high school.

Pernaselli's older brother, John, entered the Army after graduating from the Citadel in Charleston, S.C. John, a captain in the Army's chemical corps, returned three weeks ago to Fort Hood in Texas from a year-long stint in Iraq.

"The two hadn't seen each other in almost three years," the senior Pernaselli said.

Michael, a 1st class petty officer, had previously served in the Middle East and Kosovo. He left for Iraq in February for a patrol assignment and was scheduled to return in July.

Sunday morning, Cathy Pernaselli told her granddaughters about their father. She cried as she told them he'd had an accident on the boat and that he was looking down on them from heaven.

"Don't cry, Nanna," John Pernaselli recalled Nicole saying. "Daddy's looking down for you, too."

John Pernaselli said having Michael's daughters with them has helped his wife and him deal with the loss, but the shock still hasn't worn off.

The news of Michael's death reached Michael Pernaselli's alma mater Monday morning. The flag in front of McQuaid in Brighton flew at half-staff.

Vito Marcello, a French and Spanish teacher at the school, knew Michael Pernaselli from when he attended grammar school at Our Lady of Lourdes with Marcello's daughter, Audrey.

Marcello remembers Michael Pernaselli as a young man who always tried to cheer up people who were down.

"For me, Mike was an impressive young man."

The victims' remains arrived at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware for autopsies, the Navy said.

Michael Pernaselli's body is expected to be returned to his family within 10 days.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **The Lasting Wounds of War: Roadside Bombs Have Devastated Troops and Doctors Who Treat Them**

By Karl Vick, Washington Post Foreign Service, April 27, 2004

BAGHDAD -- The soldiers were lifted into the helicopters under a moonless sky, their bandaged heads grossly swollen by trauma, their forms silhouetted by the glow from the row of medical monitors laid out across their bodies, from ankle to neck.

An orange screen atop the feet registered blood pressure and heart rate. The blue screen at the knees announced the level of postoperative pressure on the brain. On the stomach, a small gray readout recorded the level of medicine pumping into the body. And the slender plastic box atop the chest signaled that a respirator still breathed for the lungs under it.

At the door to the busiest hospital in Iraq, a wiry doctor bent over the worst-looking case, an Army gunner with coarse stitches holding his scalp together and a bolt protruding from the top of his head. Lt. Col. Jeff Poffenbarger checked a number on the blue screen, announced it dangerously high and quickly pushed a clear liquid through a syringe into the gunner's bloodstream. The number fell like a rock.

"We're just preparing for something a brain-injured person should not do two days out, which is travel to Germany," the neurologist said. He smiled grimly and started toward the UH-60 Black Hawk thwump-thwumping out on the helipad, waiting to spirit out of Iraq one more of the hundreds of Americans wounded here this month.

**While attention remains riveted on the rising count of Americans killed in action -- more than 100 so far in April -- doctors at the main combat support hospital in Iraq are reeling from a stream of young soldiers with wounds so devastating that they probably would have been fatal in any previous war.**

**More and more in Iraq, combat surgeons say, the wounds involve severe damage to the head and eyes -- injuries that leave soldiers brain damaged or blind, or both, and the doctors who see them first struggling against despair.**

For months the gravest wounds have been caused by roadside bombs -- improvised explosives that negate the protection of Kevlar helmets by blowing shrapnel and dirt upward into the face. **In addition, firefights with guerrillas have surged recently, causing a sharp rise in gunshot wounds to the only vital area not protected by body armor.**

**The neurosurgeons at the 31st Combat Support Hospital measure the damage in the number of skulls they remove to get to the injured brain inside, a procedure known as a craniotomy. "We've done more in eight weeks than the previous neurosurgery team did in eight months," Poffenbarger said. "So there's been a change in the intensity level of the war."**

**Numbers tell part of the story. So far in April, more than 900 soldiers and Marines have been wounded in Iraq, more than twice the number wounded in October, the previous high. With the tally still climbing, this month's injuries account for about a quarter of the 3,864 U.S. servicemen and women listed as wounded in action since the March 2003 invasion.**

About half the wounded troops have suffered injuries light enough that they were able to return to duty after treatment, according to the Pentagon.

The others arrive on stretchers at the hospitals operated by the 31st CSH. **"These injuries," said Lt. Col. Stephen M. Smith, executive officer of the Baghdad facility, "are horrific."**

By design, the Baghdad hospital sees the worst. Unlike its sister hospital on a sprawling air base located in Balad, north of the capital, the staff of 300 in Baghdad includes the only ophthalmology and neurology surgical teams in Iraq, so if a victim has damage to the head, the medevac sets out for the facility here, located in the heavily fortified coalition headquarters known as the Green Zone.

Once there, doctors scramble. A patient might remain in the combat hospital for only six hours. The goal is lightning-swift, expert treatment, followed as quickly as possible by transfer to the military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

While waiting for what one senior officer wearily calls "the flippin' helicopters," the Baghdad medical staff studies photos of wounds they used to see once or twice in a military campaign but now treat every day. And they struggle with the implications of a system that can move a wounded soldier from a booby-trapped roadside to an operating room in less than an hour.

"We're saving more people than should be saved, probably," Lt. Col. Robert Carroll said. "We're saving severely injured people. Legs. Eyes. Part of the brain."

Carroll, an eye surgeon from Waynesville, Mo., sat at his desk during a rare slow night last Wednesday and called up a digital photo on his laptop computer. The image was of a brain opened for surgery earlier that day, the skull neatly lifted away, most of the organ healthy and pink. But a thumb-sized section behind the ear was gray.

**"See all that dark stuff? That's dead brain," he said. "That ain't gonna regenerate. And that's not uncommon. That's really not uncommon. We do craniotomies on average, lately, of one a day."**

**"We can save you," the surgeon said. "You might not be what you were."**

Accurate statistics are not yet available on recovery from this new round of battlefield brain injuries, an obstacle that frustrates combat surgeons. But judging by medical literature and surgeons' experience with their own patients, **"three or four months from now 50 to 60 percent will be functional and doing things," said Maj. Richard Gullick.**

**"Functional," he said, means "up and around, but with pretty significant disabilities," including paralysis.**

The remaining 40 percent to 50 percent of patients include those whom the surgeons send to Europe, and on to the United States, with no prospect of regaining consciousness. The practice, subject to review after gathering feedback from families, assumes that loved ones will find value in holding the soldier's hand before confronting the decision to remove life support.

**"I'm actually glad I'm here and not at home, tending to all the social issues with all these broken soldiers," Carroll said.**

But the toll on the combat medical staff is itself acute, and unrelenting.

**In a comprehensive Army survey of troop morale across Iraq, taken in September, the unit with the lowest spirits was the one that ran the combat hospitals until the 31st arrived in late January. The three months since then have been substantially more intense.**



"We've all reached our saturation for drama trauma," said Maj. Greg Kidwell, head nurse in the emergency room.

**On April 4, the hospital received 36 wounded in four hours. A U.S. patrol in Baghdad's Sadr City slum was ambushed at dusk, and the battle for the Shiite Muslim neighborhood lasted most of the night. The event qualified as a "mass casualty," defined as more casualties than can be accommodated by the 10 trauma beds in the emergency room.**

"I'd never really seen a 'mass cal' before April 4," said Lt. Col. John Xenos, an orthopedic surgeon from Fairfax. "And it just kept coming and coming. I think that week we had three or four mass cal's."

**The ambush heralded a wave of attacks by a Shiite militia across southern Iraq. The next morning, another front erupted when Marines cordoned off Fallujah, a restive, largely Sunni city west of Baghdad. The engagements there led to record casualties.**

"Intellectually, you tell yourself you're prepared," said Gullick, from San Antonio. "You do the reading. You study the slides. But being here . . ." His voice trailed off.

"It's just the sheer volume."

In part, the surge in casualties reflects more frequent firefights after a year in which roadside bombings made up the bulk of attacks on U.S. forces. **At the same time, insurgents began planting improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in what one officer called "ridiculous numbers."**

The improvised bombs are extraordinarily destructive. Typically fashioned from artillery shells, they may be packed with such debris as broken glass, nails, sometimes even gravel. They're detonated by remote control as a Humvee or truck passes by, and they explode upward.

To protect against the blasts, the U.S. military has wrapped many of its vehicles in armor. When Xenos, the orthopedist, treats limbs shredded by an IED blast, it is usually "an elbow stuck out of a window, or an arm."

Troops wear armor as well, providing protection that Gullick called "orders of magnitude from what we've had before. But it just shifts the injury pattern from a lot of abdominal injuries to extremity and head and face wounds."

**The Army gunner whom Poffenbarger was preparing for the flight to Germany had his skull pierced by four 155mm shells, rigged to detonate one after another in what soldiers call a "daisy chain."** The shrapnel took a fortunate route through his brain, however, and "when all is said and done, he should be independent. . . . He'll have speech, cognition, vision."

On a nearby stretcher, Staff Sgt. Rene Fernandez struggled to see from eyes bruised nearly shut.

"We were clearing the area and an IED went off," he said, describing an incident outside the western city of Ramadi where his unit was patrolling on foot.

The Houston native counted himself lucky, escaping with a concussion and the temporary damage to his open, friendly face. Waiting for his own hop to the hospital plane headed north, he said what most soldiers tell surgeons: What he most wanted was to return to his unit.

### **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/>

## **Wounded Oklahoma Marine Home; "Not Yet Ready To Talk About What Happened"**

April 26, 2004 KOTV The News on 6

An Oklahoma US Marine is recovering at home with his family. Lance Corporal Brent Montgomery was shot in the leg by a sniper last week in Iraq.

**During that battle, insurgents killed five of his fellow Marines.**

"My heart is beating so hard." Johnita Smith can hardly focus on our interview, knowing in just a few minutes her boyfriend Lance Corporal Brent Montgomery will be coming down the airport concourse. Friends and family including grandma, grandpa and lots of little nieces and nephews made the hour long trip from Salina to welcome their hero home from war.

"There he is. There he is, he's coming he's coming!" Reporter: "How does he look?" Johnita: "He looks good!"

Brent is in a wheelchair now after he was shot in the leg during a battle on Iraq's border with Syria, where five fellow Marines were killed.

**Brent's mother Carol Montgomery: "He says they was actually, they got hemmed up in an alley over there and then insurgents attacked him and when they called for backup that's when they fired 26 mortar rounds on the other ones- He got hit by a sniper."**

**Reporter: "Brent how are you feeling?" Brent: "Feeling pretty good!" Feeling good, but not yet ready to talk about what happened.** Brent Montgomery will be home for thirty days. His mom says he'll visit an orthopedic surgeon while he's here, so doctors can keep an eye on his injuries.



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## Clarkton Son Wounded

4.27.04 By JEFFERSON WEAVER Staff Writer, [www.bladenjournal.com](http://www.bladenjournal.com)

A Clarkton resident and member of the Elizabethtown N.C. National Guard unit was wounded April 19 in Iraq.

Mack Callihan and several other soldiers from Troop E 196th Cavalry were manning a vehicle stop when Callihan was wounded. Further information was not immediately available.

According to his aunt, Betty Davis, Callihan was shot three times. **He was airlifted from Iraq to Germany, where he underwent seven hours of surgery. He is 22 years old.**

He was transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. later in the week. Davis said he was in "good spirits" Sunday, despite additional surgery.

**"He's going to have a long time recovering," Davis said, "but he should be all right.** He might be transferred to Womack (Army Medical Center in Fayetteville) in a few weeks."

Callihan's parents, Terry "Pebo" and Theresa, are in Washington with their son. Donation jars have been set up in the area to help the Callihans with travel expenses.

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## Pocatello Soldier Recovering in Germany

By Dan Boyd, The Pocatello Idaho State Journal, (No Date)

POCATELLO - A Pocatello man injured last Thursday in a mortar explosion in northeastern Iraq is in stable condition in a German hospital.

Colton Aikin was in the shower when the first shell exploded into an adjacent barracks. Aikin, a 2002 Pocatello High School graduate and a medic with the U.S. Army's 201st Support Battalion, knew immediately that exploding shells in the area meant possible injuries.

After quickly dressing in preparation to hasten to an aid station, Aikin bent down to tie his shoe. Another shell exploded.

**The force of the blast ripped through the neighboring barracks and into Aikin's quarters. Aikin was hit by shrapnel in his leg, arm and hand.**

**The extent of Aikin's injuries is still not clear. He might need skin grafts and possibly suffered a compound fracture to his leg.**

His parents, though shaken by the injury, say it could have been worse.

"I thank the Lord he's alive," said Chuck Aikin, Colton's father. **"He told me, 'If I would have been standing up it would have killed me.'"**

Two months ago, Aikin's unit was assigned to Baqubah, Iraq, about 40 miles northeast of Baghdad. Baqubah is a regional trade center that has experienced intense fighting in the last several weeks.

The Aikin home has lived under a cloud of stress since learning about Colton's deployment to Iraq.

**"I haven't slept in two months," Chuck Aikin said.**

The elder Aikin, who owns Lee Aikin's Sports Shop in downtown Pocatello, spoke with his son Monday and said he appears to be on the mend.

Among Colton Aikin's most pressing worries was concern over the status of his friends and comrades still in Baqubah.

Aikin will be flown Thursday to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington where his mother, Ivy, will meet him. Doctors there will further assess his wounds.

After treatment and a recovery period, Aikin could return to Iraq.

"He could get deployed again," said Chuck Aikin, "but only if he's 100 percent mentally and physically healthy."

Colton Aikin, a motorcycle and hunting enthusiast who wrestled during junior high, surprised his parents last year when he enlisted in the Army.

"He had enrolled (at ISU) and we had paid tuition and everything," Chuck Aikin remembers. "Then he came in one day with his buddy and they said they had signed up for the Army."

He was sent to Vilseck, Germany, headquarters of the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division. Then, two months ago, Aikin was deployed to Iraq.

**The Aikins also have another son, Wyatt, 18, enlisted in the Army. He is currently stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.**

**Chuck Aikin said despite some misgivings about the handling of the war in Iraq, he is proud of his son and others who are serving their country.**

"I'm proud of all them boys over there," he said. "They're really doing something."

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Ordered To Remove "Illegal Posters," Patrol Finds Shit Hits The Fan; Chased Out Of The Neighborhood**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (Army News Service, April 21, 2004)

Engineers from Fort Hood avert a possible riot after taking down posters of anti-coalition cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

**While on patrol in the Washash district of Baghdad, 1st Lt. Brian Schonfeld, a platoon leader with 1st Platoon, Company C, 91st Engineer Battalion, and his troopers found something a little surprising: posters and photographs promoting al-Sadr.**

**Schonfeld found these posters in apartments and some shop windows. He said he hadn't noticed anything to suggest al-Sadr's influence in the neighborhood prior to this patrol.**

After the initial dismounted patrol discovered the propaganda, **Schonfeld received orders to re-enter Washash and remove the posters.** These posters are considered illegal because of al-Sadr's extremist anti-coalition stance.

**The first few posters were confiscated with great ease. On public display, they did not appear to belong to any one in particular and no resistance was given.**

**However, a few yards down the crowded market road, Schonfeld and his platoon came upon a shop selling framed prints. The lieutenant tried to explain to the owner of the shop that anti-coalition propaganda is illegal, and that the prints could not be displayed.**

**The man refused to remove them.**

"We explained the best we could without an interpreter," said Cpl. Mark Steir, a team leader in 1st Platoon. **"They started to get angry once they realized why we were taking them down. The further along we got, the community became more upset."**

**To make the situation more tension-filled, the loudspeakers of a local mosque addressed the neighborhood, drawing ecstatic shouts from the growing crowd of onlookers.**

**"There was a lot more finger-jabbing going on than usual," said Schonfeld. "A couple [people] even tried to grab our hands away from taking the pictures down."**

After several minutes of negotiation, Schonfeld was able to persuade the owner of the shop to remove the pictures, thanks to the help of a few English-speaking locals.

**Moving along, 1st Platoon removed one more poster before a sizeable crowd formed and started throwing rocks.**

**"We've got a riot down here, sir," one Soldier yelled to Schonfeld, who promptly moved his platoon from the area to avoid an escalation of force.**

**The discovery of anti-coalition propaganda is a negative development for coalition efforts in this neighborhood.** The coalition has several, such as a playing field, a refuse disposal plan, and a communal textile shop in the works, hoping to make Washash a better place to live. **(And buy off the natives with pretty little trinkets. Imperial idiocy is eternal.)**

**"It was a significant event for us because there is not a very heavy presence of supporters of Moqtada al-Sadr in Washash.** The people that we know in Washash have been supporters of [Grand Ayatollah al-Husseini al-Sistani]," said Capt. Ronald Hayward, commander of Company C, who gave the order to remove the posters. **(Guess that indicates how far up his ass Capt. Hayward has his head.)**

**"I think it was important [to remove the posters] because al-Sadr currently stands for all things that are anti-coalition," he said.** "It's important to show [the people of Washash] that we can deal with the propaganda in a non-threatening way, rather than coming in hard and forcefully." **(They showed the Captain if you fuck with them, pay the price. Obviously the mission got cancelled in a hurry.)**

(Editor's note: Spc. Jan Critchfield is a staff writer for the 122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)

**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.**

## Celebration Time!



Iraqi Shiite Muslims stone a US Humvee in Baghdad April 26.(AFP/Marwan Naamani)

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## Protestors Put Iraq Privatisation on Trial

For Immediate Release Monday 26th April

On the first day of the Iraq Procurement Conference 2004 – an international business expo dedicated to the privatisation of Iraq – two female human rights activists, Ewa Jasiewicz (25) recently returned from 8 months solidarity work in Iraq, and community film-maker Pennie Quinton (33), walked into the host venue unhindered twice.

Security was surprisingly slack given the UK's "High Alert" terror status and that representatives from the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), the Iraqi Governing Council, plus arms dealers Raytheon and private security firm Erinys - already attacked by the Iraqi resistance in Baghdad - were in attendance.

**On re-entry through a wide-open un-guarded back door, they unfurled a banner in the main lobby written in Arabic and Polish stating "UK, US AND POLAND - PARTNERS IN CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY". Referring to the delegates as collaborators, they declared the conference an affront to those struggling under continual attack - both social and physical from the Occupation, entrenched poverty, exploitation and Occupation sanctioned neo-Ba'thism in Iraq.**

Their protest also aimed to honour the estimated 1500 (local figure) dead in the enduring Fallujah massacre.

The two were forcibly ejected and charged with Aggravated Trespass for disrupting a "lawful event".

**The accused will be challenging their charge, represented by maverick civil liberties lawyer Jim Nichol (Taylor Nichol) on the grounds that the conference itself is unlawful as it is based on Occupation Orders which have forced a free market economy on the people of Iraq in violation of international law on the prohibition of destruction of state or social property under the Geneva Conventions 1949, and Pillage and Usufruct under the Hague Regulations of 1907 - to which both the UK and US Are signatories.**

In a leaked memo dated March 26th 2003, UK Attorney General Lord Peter Goldsmith advised Prime Minister Blair that in his view, "the imposition of major structural economic reforms would not be authorized under international law".

Jasiewicz and Quinton will be appearing in Highbury Corner Magistrates Court, Holloway Road, N7, 10am on May 19th

Iraq Procurement 2004 runs from Monday 26th - Wednesday 28th April

Contact Their PayDay - [info@theirpayday.org](mailto:info@theirpayday.org)

<http://www.theirpayday.org/> - protest site for opposition to the Conference

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1079562,00.html> IraqPrivatisation legal briefing

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

## OCCUPATION REPORT

# A Message From Occupied Haiti

From: "by way of Tom Condit <[tomcondit@iqc.org](mailto:tomcondit@iqc.org)>" <[lifewish@lmi.net](mailto:lifewish@lmi.net)>  
April 26, 2004

Hi All,



I sincerely hope this gets to everybody. I've been trying for a week to put this together, but there hasn't been time, electricity has gone out, computers haven't worked, etc. etc.

My "site" is the Aristide foundation, a really nice large compound on the outskirts of the city, that so far has escaped destruction. It's pretty well fortified, which I'm sure helps, and has people sleeping there around the clock. I've been out there every day for a few hours. I'll be there quite a while tomorrow, since there will be quite a few people. Before the coup it was really a hub, including up to 65 classes a week and big meetings of different groups (like market women)

I've heard a number of testimonies from people whose lives are in danger, who are in hiding, and are without means to support themselves. Many are fleeing to the Dominican Republic (which shares a border with Haiti on the island of Hispanola). They need money there, but at least they are safe from gangs and death squads. The opposition is absolutely vicious. They have burned many homes. Lyn went to the morgue in the city of Gonaives and counted 21 burned corpses and another 13 who had been shot. No one would claim the bodies, out of fear of being identified with the dead.

In the northern city of Cap Haitien, 24 corpses were found in a container truck. The men had been left in the locked container for 3 days to cook to death, then the truck was shoved into the sea. Last week a pro-Aristide student organizer who had been in hiding since the coup attempted to return to Law School, since it's his last year and he wanted to graduate. He was viciously beaten, and barely escaped alive. It's not uncommon to hear machine gun fire at night (there's a 10:00 curfew) and bodies often turn up in the morning. Several houses were burned just last night in the Cite Soleil slum. This is the level of brutality with which we are dealing.

But as a "blanc" I will more than likely be safe. There is an incredible hatred of the Bush family among Lavalas supporters, even more passionate and vitriolic than in many parts of SF. Pro Aristide graffiti abounds. The poverty is almost overwhelming. Hundreds of thousands of people work as street vendors, selling out of little baskets of goods, and earning only pennies a day. These people are the Lavalas (Aristide's party) base, and since their numbers are only increasing as a result of the coup, Lavalas support is not going away.

But that's clearly the goal of the US occupation, with all their camouflaged and trigger happy troops. Pro-Aristide supporters are being fired from jobs and driven out of every institution. Three men in hiding from Gonaives said that between 10-20% of the ENTIRE population of the city have fled. Normal life has been completely disrupted for virtually an entire country. You wonder how much more it can take. Life is so incredibly hard. There's almost no electricity. Public transportation is slow and expensive (gas costs more than \$3.00 a gallon.)

**There's very little work, and wages have been cut dramatically since the coup, as prices for basic goods has soared. The wealthy who supported the coup are rewarding themselves handsomely, just like the Bush Republicans in the United States. It's shameless and immoral, but as the Haitian proverb goes, "The constitution is paper. Guns are steel."**

**So now the phone company and the electric company that are publicly owned and which Aristide refused to privatize (angering the international banking set) are on the action block, prepped by US consultants earning \$200,000 a year of our hard earned tax dollars, as the Haitian poor are systematically starved to death. Soon the puppet president will meet the IMF and money that has been held back for the past 3 years will start to flow again - one more effort to convince the people of Aristide's failures and the largesse of the new government.**

The big debate here among Lavalas supporters is whether or not to participate in new elections. Wealthier supporters seem open to it, under certain conditions, primarily the guarantee of safety for participants (which seems like a pipe dream given the conditions reported above.) The base is saying a resounding NO - Aristide is the only legitimate president and they won't vote for anyone else. Also some folks in hiding told Lyn they had voted twice and look what happened. Why should they risk themselves again.

Charlie

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**“Patriotism Is The Last Refuge Of A Scoundrel”—Samuel Johnson**



(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

# CLASS WAR NEWS

## SCORE ONE FOR OUR SIDE



Protesters gather to demonstrate against Mayor Cirilo Fernando Robles in the municipal center of Ilave, Peru, on April 26, 2004. **Angry highland Indians beat their town's mayor to death after he refused to resign in the face of protests.** (AP Photo)

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