

## GI SPECIAL 2#85

WELCOME TO IRAQ--



HAVE A NICE DAY

# “Many Soldiers Are Just Worn Out”

May 22, 2004 MICHAEL GILBERT, The News Tribune - Tacoma, WA

### Madigan Hospital, Ft. Lewis, By The Numbers:

**1,155:** Approximate number of soldiers treated at Madigan for combat and noncombat injuries since the Iraq war began

**700:** Approximate number of soldiers injured or wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan now under treatment at the hospital

**192:** Approximate number of Army reservists and National Guardsmen held as patients for injuries they got while deployed

**8:** Average number of new patients arriving each week from the combat theater

Sgt. 1st Class Eric Ford's injury - shrapnel wounds to his left forearm - doesn't sound so bad in the context of all the traumatic things that are happening to U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

Not bad, that is, until one gets a close look at the two wicked scars that run from his elbow to his wrist. Or until one sees the powerfully built platoon sergeant struggle in therapy to pinch open a clothespin with his left hand.

The soldier from the 864th Engineer Battalion from Fort Lewis nearly lost his arm when a bulldozer set off a land mine about 10 feet from him on Oct. 25 at Al Taji Airfield in Iraq.

Ford is like a lot of the war wounded and injured who come through Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis. The worst cases generally go elsewhere - amputees to Walter Reed in Washington, D.C., burn patients to the Army Burn Center in San Antonio, Texas.

But Madigan is still a busy Army hospital in wartime.

Since March 2003 nearly 1,200 soldiers have arrived via the military's medical evacuation system for treatment of wounds and injuries they received in Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said. They've joined Madigan's regular caseload of retired military and family members of locally stationed soldiers.

The hospital has hired an additional 100 staff members to help treat the wartime patients.

Most of the soldiers wind up in the rehabilitation units for physical and occupational therapy. The most common cases they're seeing are low back pain, knees and shoulders, pinched nerves and neck and arm injuries, said Lt. Col. Andrea Crunkhorn, chief of physical therapy.

**Many soldiers are just worn out after long months of wearing heavy helmets and flak jackets, of sleeping on cots or thin foam mattresses, of enduring all the hardships of a wartime deployment.**

Then there are those like Ford, doing the hard work of recovery after devastating encounters with enemy fire.

**The extensive network of medics, clinics and hospitals set up throughout Iraq and Afghanistan are saving more soldiers' lives compared to previous wars.**

"I can do nothing but applaud the guys at the front lines. They're doing an excellent job," said Lt. Col. Edward Arrington, Madigan's chief of orthopedics. He spent nine months in Afghanistan with the 250th Forward Surgical Team from Fort Lewis.

**The trade-off is that service members who might never have survived a World War II battlefield injury are coming home with amputated limbs and life-changing wounds, often to the extremities.**

That was the case with Ford, whose flak vest stopped a chunk of shrapnel that hit him "right over my heart," he said. **His buddies kept the vest as an object lesson to**

**others - believe it or not, some soldiers still need to be reminded to wear their body armor, Ford said.**

The day he was wounded about 15 miles north of Baghdad, Ford went through nine hours of surgery at an Army field hospital in Balad, where surgeons grafted a section of artery into his arm from his leg. He was flown to the Army's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

He nearly lost his arm after complications that developed on the long flight stateside to Walter Reed. **Ford said he learned later that he might have had to have had it amputated if not for the persistence of the on-duty emergency room doctor when he arrived at 2:30 a.m. He's had a dozen operations in all.**

Now he's going on his sixth month of occupational therapy to prevent his arm from withering and his left hand and fingers from curling up like a claw.

But he's making progress. He's lifting weights again. At first he struggled to curl 2 pounds, but he's well past that now.

Spc. Trevor Goldsberry and Spc. Emily Deavers have been at Madigan for several months after suffering severe injuries in Iraq. They were wounded last July in separate incidents.

Deavers, 23, was in north-central Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division when she was wounded July 30. She was walking on patrol when the shooting started - she said she's still not sure exactly what happened - but the next thing she knew she was hit in the leg by a ricochet.

The bullet severed the femoral artery. She lost muscle tissue and still has numbness that runs from her shin up through her knee, to go with the calf-to-midhigh scars.

After being evacuated to the 4th Infantry Division's home at Fort Hood, Texas, she transferred to Fort Lewis to be closer to her hometown of Portland. She does her Army job as a medic in a clinic on post and then does her own physical therapy nearly every day to mend her leg.

Goldsberry, 22, was with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Carson, Colo., when he was hurt July 3 near Ramadi.

The combat engineer was riding in the back of a cargo Humvee on the way to pick up some explosives when a roadside bomb detonated just 3 feet from the vehicle.

When he returned to consciousness in the back of the cargo bed, he couldn't see. The tibia and fibula in his right leg were smashed. They put him in an armored personnel carrier, then in a helicopter to a field hospital at Iskandiriyah. He was taken to Landstuhl that night.

The McMinnville, Ore., native regained sight in his left eye, but not the right, and he's kind of sensitive about the scarring around the right side of face. But he says dealing with his injury has been more about coping with the loss of depth perception than emotional issues.

He hasn't made up his mind about leaving the Army. He's got one more year left in his enlistment - most of which he'll probably spend at Madigan, getting treatment for his leg.

**Deavers is on the next exercise bike over, listening in as Goldsberry tells his story. Almost at the same time, they both say, "Up until that last day it wasn't so bad."**

**It's kind of a recurring joke for the combat wounded.**

"It really is less stressful over there. There's only one thing to worry about - getting home," Goldsberry said. "Here, you've got family, all this, and everything else."

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

### **IED Kills One, Wounds Three South Of Baghdad**

May 22, 2004 By HAMZA HENDAWI, The Associated Press

Saturday the military said a U.S. soldier was killed and three others were wounded in an attack on their vehicle south of Baghdad. It said the soldiers' vehicle was "ambushed by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device" in al Mahmoudiyah, 20 miles south of Baghdad. The statement did not say when the attack occurred.

Two of the injured soldiers were evacuated to a combat hospital. The third wounded soldier returned to duty after treatment. All the casualties were from the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division.

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### **Marines Still Covering Up Reasons For Casualties**

May 22, 2004 By HAMZA HENDAWI, The Associated Press

The military said a Marine, assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, died Friday near Camp Fallujah, west of Baghdad, while "conducting security and stability operations." The statement gave no further details.

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### **Youngest Soldier From Va. Dies in Iraq;**

# High School Principal Says Others Should Do Likewise

May 22, 2004 By Eric M. Weiss and Martin Weil, Washington Post Staff Writers

The Pentagon also announced yesterday the death in Baghdad of another soldier from the Washington region: Army Pfc. Leslie D. Jackson of Richmond.

**At 18, Jackson is believed to be the youngest soldier from this region to die in Iraq.** A truck driver for the 1st Cavalry Division, she was killed Thursday when her vehicle hit a roadside bomb, the Pentagon said.

Jackson's high school principal said she told him in an e-mail that she had left home as "mommy's little girl, and now had grown up to be a full-fledged soldier."

Jackson described how she learned to accept the responsibility of looking out for her own life and the lives of her fellow soldiers, said Earl M. Pappy, principal of George Wythe High School of the Arts.

**Jackson, who graduated last year, was "a born leader" and an outstanding person, someone "for all the students" to emulate, Pappy said.** She had been brigade commander in the JROTC program.

She joined the Army in August and was sent to Fort Hood in December. The 1st Cavalry arrived in the middle east in March, proceeding first to Kuwait, then to Iraq.

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## Casualty Reports

For daily updates on **Military Fatalities: By Month** and **Military Fatalities: By Time Period** check out: <http://lunaville.org/warcasualties/Summary.aspx>

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## TROOP NEWS

# Soldier Abandoned By Government After Losing Arm; Survived On Charity

May 22, 2004 Lawrence, Kansas LJ World.co., The Associated Press

Great Bend — Kris Atherton says he knows from experience that the U.S. government wasn't ready to deal with military veterans wounded in Iraq.

Atherton, 24, of Great Bend, retired from the Army after losing his left arm last July while driving a Humvee in Baghdad. An artillery explosion shattered the bones in his arms and shook his confidence that his government was prepared to deal with the wounded.

"I guess the bones were fractured so severely that it couldn't be saved," Atherton said. "But no one told me that. I was in a Black Hawk helicopter on the way to my first hospital when I looked down and my left arm was gone. That's how I found out about it."

Atherton was treated in hospitals in Kuwait and at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

**While he was learning to live with one arm, he also was trying to figure out how to get by on less money, the difference between the Army payroll and the Veterans Affairs disability payroll. He also found out that because he retired after losing his arm, he also lost his right to stay in government housing.**

He and his wife, Heather, and their daughter, Mikia, are moving next week to Atherton's hometown of South Prairie, Wash.

"President Bush bit off a little more than he could chew," said Heather Atherton. "They expected a quick war, and they planned well for it. But they didn't plan it all. And now he's left to do the best he can with what he's got."

The Athertons said Great Bend residents, particularly a group of military mothers dubbed the M&Ms, helped pull them through a time of great uncertainty. The group gave the family \$500 to help offset their loss of government housing at Fort Riley.

"Kris is a perfect example of someone who's given so much to his country," said Leslie Barrett, who heads the Great Bend American Legion's fund-raising effort. "His wife was part of our support group while she was pregnant, and we were happy to be able to help them."

**Atherton feels like he was abandoned by the government for several months as he tried to adjust to life with a prosthesis.**

**"I've been able to manage because the community's gotten behind me," he said, "but they clearly got a late start on figuring out what the wounded veterans are going to need."**

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## **What To Do If You're Issued An Unlawful Order Clear As Mud**

May 24, 2004 By William H. McMichael, Army Times staff writer

How should soldiers react to orders that are obviously illegal — or at least seem questionable?

In a series of methodical steps, said Bill Eckhardt, a professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Eckhardt, a retired Army colonel and attorney, was the lead prosecutor on nearly all the Vietnam-era My Lai court-martial cases.

“The first step is, any soldier who serves ... who proudly puts on the uniform, doesn’t leave [his] conscience behind,” he said. “Secondly, they should trust their training and their standard operating procedures. Those are designed to help them when the bullets fly and when the adrenaline’s flowing.”

All officers and enlisted soldiers are trained to respond to orders they believe to be unlawful by seeking clarification to ensure understanding; advising their superior that the order is unlawful; refusing to obey the order; and reporting the incident up the chain of command.

**Eckhardt and others say that if an officer is pressed to follow an unlawful order after following the above steps and doing so would irrevocably compromise his integrity, he could resign.**

**“That’s not very practical for a specialist or a private,” Eckhardt said. (Oh. That’s really a fucking brilliant deduction.)**

“They should seek assistance from someone up in the chain. The top enlisted person. The chaplains. Staff judge advocates.”

**A lack of approachability “doesn’t help in setting a climate of respect for the law, and so on, if an officer just says, ‘do this,’ or they have a tendency to shoot the messenger,” he said.**

**Failure to obey a lawful order is a crime under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. But the UCMJ and military case law also make clear that military personnel have an obligation to obey only lawful orders, implying a clear obligation to disobey unlawful ones, Eckhardt said. (Got that?)**

The Army points this out in a training package for its Law of Land Warfare, taught in basic training.

“The lack of courage to disregard a criminal order, **or a mistaken fear** that you could be court-martialed for disobedience of orders, is not a defense to a charge of murder, pillage or any other war crime,” it states.

**Shooting someone who has surrendered is another clearly illegal order. But in a combat zone, Martin said, “If I told an 18-, 19-year-old kid, ‘Shoot him. It’s him or us,’ I don’t know if he would know that that’s an unlawful order.”**

***Pentagon lawyers themselves do not agree upon some of these gray areas, so it's not unusual for young service members to be unclear on what is and isn't allowed in certain situations.***

**One Army officer ran hard up against that dilemma on Sept. 30, 1994, after 20,000 U.S. troops had spent a month in Haiti to restore Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. Capt. Lawrence Rockwood, a counterintelligence officer, was supposed to develop informants, but his contacts kept disappearing. He asked for permission to inspect Haitian jails, full of political prisoners. He was ordered not to do so. Rockwood, following his heart, left camp that evening and walked alone to the prison, where he found prisoners in disgusting conditions.**

**His superiors were furious. Rockwood was convicted at court-martial and kicked out of the Army.**

**MORE:**

## **By The Book? Lots Of Luck.**

Army Times 5.24.04 By Matthew Cox

**Guidance laid out in the Army's Law of Land Warfare directs that when a soldier is faced with a perceived unlawful order, the soldier must:**

- **Seek clarification to ensure he understands the order.**
- **Advise the superior that the order is unlawful or criminal.**
- **Refuse to obey the order.**
- **Report the incident to the chain of command.**

For example, some of the defendants {facing charges in Iraq} say they were instructed to "soften up" prisoners before interrogations.

Seeking clarification of such orders should have been the first step in response to any such order, said H. Wayne Elliott, a retired lieutenant colonel who taught classes on the Law of Land Warfare at the Army's Judge Advocate General School in Charlottesville, Va., for nine years of his 22-year Army career.

"What they should have done is ask 'Well, what do you mean by soften up?' ... If you are given an order that is questionable or unclear, you ask for clarification," he said. "The whole thrust of the Law of Land Warfare, in ... all of the services, is you have a duty to question questionable orders."

If the order still sounds unlawful or criminal, the soldier must not carry out the order, the training guide states.

"Suppose you are given a criminal order: 'Shoot every man, woman and child in sight.' Obviously that is a criminal order. What do you do? Firstly, and most importantly, you should try to get the order rescinded by informing the person who gave it that the order violates the Law of Land Warfare. If he persists, you must disregard such a criminal order," the training package states. "This takes courage, but if you fail to do so, you can



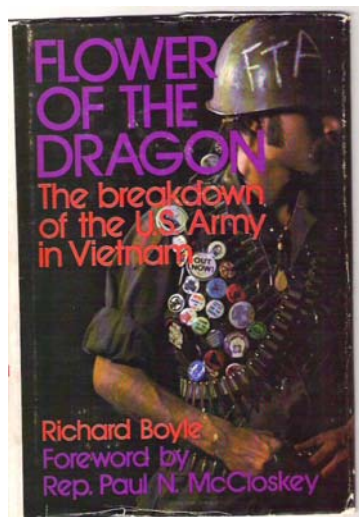
be tried and punished for committing a criminal act in violation of the Law of Land Warfare. No one can force you to commit a crime, and you cannot be court-martialed or given any other form of punishment for your refusal to obey.”

Soldiers also are taught to report criminal or unlawful orders to their chain of command. If the chain of command is somehow involved in the situation, the soldier can report it to unit’s JAG office, the provost marshal’s office or the unit’s chaplain, the training guide states.

“What [the accused soldiers] should have done is refuse to carry out the order and it should have been reported,” Elliott said.

**MORE:**

## **Disobeying Orders Vietnam Style:**



**(As the book excerpt below discusses, Vietnam troops in field combat situations found less complicated procedures that avoided legal entanglements: they frequently killed psycho officers. Nearly all such actions were unobserved, occurring in the heat of battle.**

**(The most famous exception was the copter pilot at My Lai who openly told Lt. Caley to stop the massacre of Vietnamese villagers or die where he stood. He got a medal.**

**(On some occasions, an officer, when properly told his unlawful order was going to be refused and reported up the chain of command, tried to use his sidearm or other weapon against the soldier to save himself. Regretfully, the enlisted man had no choice but to open fire in self defense to preserve his own life from a homicidal lunatic. Since the officer was dead meat, the soldiers’ account was uncontradicted.)**

***The following account illustrates the way soldiers handled officers in Vietnam:***

**(From the book Flower Of The Dragon, by Richard Boyle, Ramparts Press. Boyle was the reporter who literally uncovered the My Lai massacre story by going there and finding the bodies. Because he was not an establishment reporter, he was cheated out of credit for being the first to break the story by a man named Hirsch. One chapter in his book is about finding My Lai.)**

Flower Of The Dragon pages 75-76:

**After the disastrous battle of Hamburger Hill, GIs in the 101st Airborne put out an underground newspaper offering a \$10,000 reward for the assassination of the officer who gave the order to attack.**

**It was not unusual for bounties to be raised by troops in a unit to pay the soldier who actually did the fragging. Each soldier would chip in and bounties could come to hundreds, even thousands, of dollars.**

**Hamburger Hill was a big story in the press, but the reward wasn't, nor were the fraggings that began to occur in increasing numbers in '69. Later the Army was to admit that there had been more than two hundred known fraggings in 1969. In 1970 there were 363 reported cases. *Who knows how many more officers were shot by their own men in combat?***

Although many of us in the Saigon press corps had heard rumors of fraggings—attacks by enlisted men on officers with a fragmentation grenade, usually slipped under the floor of the officer's hootch—it wasn't being reported to the people back home.

Then-President Lyndon Johnson, in response to the growing antiwar movement, once said, "You don't hear the boys in Vietnam protesting." **Hawks consistently called for escalation "to support our boys."** To be against the war, they claimed, is to stab GIs in the back. **The Army brass was particularly worried about stories of GI unrest leaking out.**

They did everything they could to cover up, and until 1969 they were successful.

They covered up the story of the revolt in 1968 of black GIs at Long Binh Jail, the notorious Army prison outside Saigon. **Fed up with abuse and beatings at the hands of the guards, black troops seized the prison, repelling successive attempts by hundreds of MPs backed up by armored cars to retake the prison. In the end, of course, the troops lost out.**

The easiest way for the Army to cover up news of GI unrest was simply not to report it at the five o'clock follies. **The Army's massive PR machine daily cranked out press releases about how the GIs supported the war, how high their morale was and how we were gloriously winning the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese people.**

**So the press simply never heard of the fraggings, of officers shot in the back by their own men, of near-revolts of whole units.** Most of the newsmen, when they did go out in the field, spent their time in the officers' mess and in officers' clubs drinking

with the brass. **It seemed most newsmen didn't really like or understand the grunts; they felt more comfortable with the lifers.**

**Besides, most of the grunts didn't trust the Saigon press corps. They knew the Army's Central Intelligence Division (CID) often sent agents onto bases disguised as newsmen to get information and evidence about fraggings or possible mutinies. El Cid, as the grunts called the spies, was everywhere.**

Page 85:

**All over Vietnam, GIs were fragging their officers and their lifer noncoms. On some patrols, if a lifer was too "gung ho," he was shot in the back by his men, who would report he was killed in combat.**

More often, a Unit ordered to go on patrol would simply go a few hundred yards beyond the wire and then sit down and smoke dope. I had been on one such patrol but for obvious reasons hadn't reported it.

**In many units, the men had virtual control, either by intimidation or by having non-lifers in command. In some places it was more like open warfare...."**

**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/>

## **Army Spec. Stewart Injured By Mortar Shell; One Hour From Home When Stop-Loss Hit Him**

May 19, 2004 By Peggy Kelly, Santa Paula (Calif.) News

The battles in Iraq hit home for a Santa Paula family who learned that their son was injured on Friday.

**Army Specialist Ryan Stewart, the son of Dr. Chuck Stewart DDS, was injured on the third day that troops were attacking a mosque holding Iraqi insurgents,** said Brenda Stewart, Ryan's step-mother.

**The 26-year-old Ryan, now in his third year of Army duty, was on foot patrol with his unit stationed in Karbala, covering two of his patrol members who were crossing the street. Without warning, a mortar round exploded behind Ryan, sending shrapnel into his lower back. (Giving a "warning" is not customary in war.)**

“He had his vest on, that saved his life,” said Brenda.

Ryan was medi-vaced to Ramstien Air Force Base in Germany and taken to the Landstuhl Hospital on the base.

**Although the family was poised to be flown by the Army to the base in Germany be with Ryan during surgery and his recovery, doctors discovered that the shrapnel was too close to Ryan’s intestines to operate.** But, “We might make the trip anyway. . .he’s doing very well,” Brenda noted

**The family was notified that Ryan had been injured when a “very nice Lieutenant called and said he felt uneasy but that he had to read the report of how our son was injured. . .that just brought it all home. We’ve been told that once they’re medi-vaced out of Iraq they never go back so the war is over for Ryan,”** noted Brenda. **(Don’t bet on it. There are too many reports of fucked up troops being shipped right back to combat before they’ve healed up. Bush has run out of fresh soldiers to maim and kill.)**

**Like other American troops, Ryan was to have seen the end of his Iraqi service, but just an hour short of his initial departure from the war zone he learned his tour of war duty had been extended.**

**“We’re very relieved that it’s not worse and very relieved that it looks like it’s going to be a good injury,”** that will release Ryan from the fighting in Iraq.

A graduate of Rancho Bernardo High School where he lived with his mother, Gay Eichhoff, **Ryan entered the service “mainly to take advantage,” of the educational benefits accorded veterans, said Chuck.**

The last time the family spoke to Ryan before he was injured was on Mother’s Day evening.

“He was basically telling us that he was involved in these kinds of missions everyday: bullets were flying and he was firing back, but everything was okay at that point,” Chuck noted. “We didn’t know where he was the two weeks before he was injured. . .”

It is unknown at this time how long Ryan will be hospitalized or where he will be sent after his release.

“I talked to him Sunday night and he thought they would put him in a non-deployable job in the states for the rest of his enlistment and we’re waiting to hear how long he will be hospitalized,” said Chuck. “He’s out of there now and that’s our blessing.”

“Ryan’s going to be home soon, so there you go,” said Brenda.

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## **Peoria Soldier Injured By Bomb; Father Has Questions**

May 22, 2004 By Michael Smothers, Peoria Journal Star

**PEORIA - Bill Sharpe received good news of a sort from his son with the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq but still has some questions he'd like answered, he said Friday.**

Sgt. Joe Sharpe, 21, of Peoria sustained only a temporary loss of hearing - and two fellow Marines received slight shrapnel wounds - when their Humvee was damaged by a roadside bomb about a week ago, said Bill Sharpe, owner of Sharpe Income Tax Service in Peoria.

Several days ago, "His wife got a call from him at 3 a.m. and he said, 'Don't get excited, that he's OK," Bill Sharpe said. "He's back on duty," along with the other Marines who were in the vehicle.

**The young Marine attracted nationwide attention last month when newspapers across the country, including the Journal Star, ran an Associated Press photograph of an Iraqi citizen kissing his hand after he and other Marines gave him food and water.**

**Bill Sharpe said until he learns more about the attack on his son's Humvee, he won't know whether special armor plating made by a local company may have saved his son's life.**

**Last month, Precision Laser Manufacturing Co. of East Peoria was commissioned by Federal Prison Industries to cut and weld additional bulletproof plating for 50 Humvees, to be immediately shipped to Iraq.**

Of the possibility that his son was riding in one of the Humvees protected by the plating, "We think so, but we don't know for sure," Sharpe said.

**Bill Sharpe said he understood from the "half-minute" of his time on the phone with his son that the Humvee was on a road between Baghdad and Fallujah when it was damaged.**

Sharpe said his son, a 2001 graduate of Peoria Notre Dame High School, is expected home in July. **(Don't hold your breath.)**

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## **The Universal Code Of Military (In)Justice Means: "Different Spanks For Different Ranks"**

May 24, 2004 By Jane McHuge, Army Times staff writer

**“Different spansks for different ranks” is how Pfc. Lynndie England’s lawyer characterizes the prosecution of his client and several other low-ranking soldiers suspected of abusing Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad.**

**“The people who are leaders are taking a walk” — while the junior enlisted under them are getting raked over the coals, said former judge advocate general Giorgio Ra’shadd, England’s lead attorney.**

**Ra’shadd’s comments encapsulate a wide opinion that the soldiers are scapegoats for others up the chain of command who directed them on how to treat the prisoners.**

**“The enlisted, they pay worse than anybody. When it comes to being punished, the enlisted get it the worst,” said Staff Sgt. John Tice, a track vehicle mechanic who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.**

England and the six other enlisted Army reservists facing charges handled prisoners according to orders from military intelligence troops who sought information on operations by insurgents, Ra’shadd contends.

***Meanwhile, 10 higher-ranking reservists in the accused soldiers’ direct chain of command privately have been recommended for sanctions that include letters of reprimand or admonishment, as well as removal from command for some. Their ranks are lieutenant colonel, major, captain, sergeant major, first sergeant and sergeant first class, said Col. Jill Morgenthaler, coalition spokeswoman in Baghdad.***

The recommended sanctions against the more-senior soldiers were contained in Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba’s report on the prison scandal. Army officials, citing the soldiers’ privacy rights, would not say whether the recommended sanctions have been adopted.

### **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/>**

# **Panic At The Pentagon; Army Runs Out Of Soldiers For The Imperial Slaughterhouse;**

# Getting IRR Ready To Deploy

May 24, 2004 By Jane McHuge, Army Times staff writer

**The Army is screening 118,000 former soldiers who completed their enlistments and turned civilian for possible orders to return to duty.**

The soldiers compose the Army's current Individual Ready Reserve force, former active-duty or reserve soldiers who have time left on their eight-year total obligation to serve. A soldier who enlisted for three years, then was discharged, for example, has a legal obligation to military duty for another five years.

Members of the IRR are not formally attached to any specific Reserve unit but could be assigned to an active or Reserve unit if needed.

**None of the more than 118,000 IRR soldiers has been called up involuntarily, so far,** said Lt. Col. Burt Masters, a spokesman for the Army Reserve Human Resources Command in St. Louis. **(I have a weapon at your head, but have definitely not pulled the trigger—"so far.")**

**Whether they could be at some future date has not been determined, he said. (If you believe that, give my regards to the tooth fairy.)**

**The screening is being done so the Army will have up-to-date records in the event IRR call-ups are necessary,** Masters said.

*Some retention NCOs mistakenly have sent out messages telling IRR soldiers that they were going to be put into a unit, Masters said.*

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## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**Mehdi Resistance Army Leader Address  
Rally Of 15,000;  
Occupation Body Count Claims 18 Mehdi  
Soldiers & Wounds One Of His Aides;  
You Do The Math**

May 22, 2004 Associated Press

**Muqtada al-Sadr delivered a defiant sermon to 15,000 worshippers in which he urged his supporters to resist the coalition.**

In Karbala, the U.S. military said it killed 18 fighters loyal to cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

At a checkpoint in Kufa, American forces shot at a car carrying a close aide of al-Sadr, Mohammed al-Tabtabaei, injuring him and killing his driver, al-Sadr's office in Najaf said. Al-Tabtabaei was taken into custody.

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## **Mehdi Army Counterattacks Along Najaf/Kufa Lines As U.S. Forces “Step Back”**

May 21, 2004 CNN Report

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- U.S. troops battled members of a convoy Friday traveling between the south-central Iraqi cities of Najaf and Kufa.

**The U.S. military in Najaf has stepped back from its offensive operations against al-Sadr's Mehdi Army militia in an effort to work out a political process. But U.S. forces continued to come under attack Friday** by militia fighters in the holy Shiite Muslim city.

**In Najaf, insurgents attacked the main police station, slightly wounding three U.S. soldiers, according to military officials.**

The soldiers received shrapnel wounds and were evacuated, officials said.

**One of four routine U.S. patrols was fired on at a checkpoint near their military base in Najaf by gunmen in a speeding black sedan.** U.S. forces returned fire, disabling the vehicle. The three occupants were wounded, and two of them taken in for questioning. The three appeared to be members of al-Sadr's Mehdi Army.

**Three other American patrols came under fire from mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms.**

**Also Friday, U.S. forces, responding to an attack on their patrol east of the Euphrates River near Kufa, fired mortars** at suspected militia members near a former palace of Saddam Hussein's.

**In addition, Mehdi Army fighters ambushed a U.S. Army patrol less than a mile west of the military base.** The patrol responded with tank fire.

<p><b>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></b></p>
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# **Collaborating Deputy Minister Injured By Car Bomb**

May 22, 2004 By HAMZA HENDAWI, The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A car bomb exploded outside the home of a deputy interior minister Saturday, wounding him and killing at least five people, including four police.

Later, several explosions were heard Saturday in central Baghdad. The cause was not clear. The press office of the U.S.-led coalition said it had no information.

The earlier blast hurled two cars onto the front lawn of the official's house, and police fired shots to disperse distraught bystanders who scuffled with them.

Abdul-Jabbar Youssef al-Sheikhli, the deputy minister in charge of security, was slightly injured in the forehead and right arm, said Hassan Hadi, a Health Ministry official. "I expect he will leave the hospital in a short time," Hadi said.

Al-Sheikhli is a member of the Shiite Muslim Dawa party.

Interior Minister Samir Shaker Mahmoud al-Sumeidi visited the site and was mobbed by distraught neighbors who screamed at him to "come and see what happened to our homes."

Police and U.S. military officers at the scene said the dead included four Iraqi policemen and a female neighbor who died in her home.

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## **4000 March In Bahrain Against U.S. Attack On Shia Shrines: 13 Injured As Iraq Protest Attacked By Police**

22 May 2004 By MOHAMMED AL A'ALI, Gulf Daily News

**manama: Thirteen people were reported injured yesterday as more than 4,000 demonstrators marched in Bahrain calling for the withdrawal of US forces from the holy Iraqi sites of Karbala and Najaf.**

**A Reuters report said the violence broke out when police fired tear gas near the Dana Mall to disperse the demonstrators, some of whom overturned a Public Security vehicle and set it ablaze.**

**Among the injured were Northern Municipal Council vice-chairman Jawad Fairouz who suffered a hard blow on the neck** during the disturbances and was transferred to the International Hospital of Bahrain for treatment.

An Al Wefaq official last night visited Mr Fairouz, who is also Al Wefaq elected bodies department head, and said he was in stable condition.

He added that one of the march leaders Shaikh Isa Qassim suffered the effects of tear gas inhalation and had to be taken home immediately.

Islamic Enlightenment Society information committee chairman Jaffar Al Qaddami told the GDN that among the others injured was a child who needed stitches in Salmaniya Medical Complex for a head wound.

The rally held between the Seef and Pearl roundabouts was led by Shaikh Isa Qassim and two other top clergymen Sayed Abdulla Al Guraifi and Sayed Jawad Al Wedaie. It was organised by the Islamic Enlightenment Society and Al Wefaq National Islamic Society.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **What About Prisoner Torture In Their Own Back Yard?**

From Stanley Howard, Joliet State Prison, Joliet Illinois:

**“Everybody, esp. the media, seems so appalled and disgusted by the abuse that it is literally pissing me off, esp. at the local Chicago media because they don’t have to go all the way to Iraq to report on prisoner abuse/torture---when they can--but refuse--to report on the torture on prisoners for 20 years in their own back yard.”**

**(Along with many others, Stanley Howard was tortured by Chicago Police into confessing to a murder he did not commit, and sentenced to death. When the ugly truth came out, the Governor of Illinois, having found the proof of the torture by the Chicago Police department irrefutable, spared the lives of every prisoner in Illinois on death row.)**

<p><b>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.</b></p>
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## OCCUPATION REPORT

# Women Prisoners Forced To Visit Naked Men

May 22, 2004 Associated Press

Another freed prisoner from Abu Ghraib, Maher Saeed, said he was tied to a car and dragged through the sand for several hundred yards.

A man who identified himself as Ghazwan said he was held with his brother and father for nine months. He spent six months in isolation.

**"They were psychologically torturing us especially in the heavy quarantines, they were abusing us inside these quarantines by beating us and forcing us to take off all our clothes," he said. "They were forcing detained women to distribute food to us while we were naked."**

Abdul Salam Hussain Jassim, 18, said he was held for three months after an explosion.

**He said a family of five brothers and sisters was detained in the same block and that one of the men was beaten so badly he died two days later.**

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

# Kerry & Bush: Zugzwang! The Evil Of Two Lessers

May 19, 2004 By Boris Kagarlitsky, ZNet Commentary

Dissolution of the former army and reorganization of the police created a power vacuum on the ground that was crucial to the formation of armed units by the Iraqi people themselves. **As the people became increasingly certain that the Hussein regime was gone for good, they turned their attention to fighting against U.S. troops. The only thing U.S. commanders have done right in this war was allowing Hussein to flee Baghdad last spring.**

With the Baath Party regime disposed of, the people turned against the U.S. occupying force.

The White House faces an insoluble dilemma: It cannot leave Iraq and it cannot stay.

In chess this quandary is called "zugzwang," when it is your turn to move, but all possible moves will weaken your position. U.S. interests would be best served by admitting defeat and getting out now. For Bush and his clan this would be political suicide, however, and they don't seem like the kind of people who are willing to sacrifice their own ambitions for the common good.

John Kerry's victory over Howard Dean in the primaries was a triumph for the conservative party machine, which managed to stamp out a revolt by the party grass-roots activists.

The "rebels" tried to base their campaign on antiwar and anti-authoritarian slogans, which for the party mainstream was too risky. Kerry won out as a moderate candidate, who, according to the received wisdom, should be able to consolidate a broad section of the population around himself.

Party strategists have worked on the assumption that as fall approaches the Iraq question will fade into the background and problems in the U.S. economy will become the main issue on which the campaign is fought.

Alas, the economy has not recovered greatly, but it isn't so bad as to relegate all other issues to the back burner. On the contrary, the war in Iraq is the hot topic in America at the moment, and it is on this issue that Kerry's position is weakest.

<p>He is not opposed to the war, is not in favor of withdrawing U.S. forces and his position does not differ significantly from Bush's.</p>
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As a result he cannot mount a powerful attack on the president. His speeches on this issue only disappoint his potential voters from the ranks of the left, liberals and pacifists.

In any country, the opposition depends on the enthusiasm of its supporters to carry it to victory. But Kerry's indistinct political stance will hardly galvanize opponents of the war; rather, it will help to consolidate supporters of the war and waverers around Bush. **After all, if there is no alternative to a military resolution, then why change the country's leadership?**

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**Or Three: Kerry And Nader Agree;  
Let's Not Talk About The War!  
And No To Immediate Withdrawal Of U.S.  
Troops**

5.22.04 From D, [Interpax@yahoo.com](mailto:Interpax@yahoo.com)

On May 19, Nader and Kerry got together for an hour-long talk in which the most important item on the minds of Americans was hardly mentioned or discussed -- the War in Iraq.

When Judy Woodruff of CNN asked Nader if Iraq came up, Nader said: "I said you have no exit strategy. He said he had one."

(Recently, a reporter claimed Nader wanted US troops out of Iraq in six months. Sorry, wrong number. Contact with the Nader campaign said no, no such thing.

Caller was referred to Naders' official position on the web, which makes crystal clear he is opposed to the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and is NOT for getting out "in six months."

He wants U.S. soldiers to keep on dying in Iraq, and killing Iraqis, until some mythical UN army takes over the job: a silly racist fantasy. Oh yeah, Kerry's publicly announced "exit strategy" is "victory on the battlefield," a direct quote from Kerry.)

**"Hey, What Are A Few Hundred More Dead Soldiers Between Friends?"**



Kerry headquarters in Washington (AFP/Getty Images/Paula Bronstein 5.19.04)

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**AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# US Chopper Kills 3 Afghans, Angry Locals Say

2004-05-21 Chinadaily.com.cn

Three Afghan civilians were killed and two wounded in a pre-dawn swoop by U.S. helicopter gunships in Afghanistan's southeastern province of Khost on Friday, angry villagers said.

Khost's Mayor, Jalil Ahmad Hasani, told Reuters "The report we have indicates that three civilians, including two women, have been killed in the aerial bombardment and several others wounded," he said.

Villagers at the scene said no U.S. patrol had been fired on, adding that Afghans had wrongly identified the house to the Americans as a hideout for al Qaeda or Taliban.

**"The Americans acted on wrong information and bombed our village," said Ayoub, whose father was in hospital for wounds inflicted during the air strike.**

**"We had a family feud and I think the Americans have taken the other side's word for it that Taliban and al Qaeda people were hiding here."**

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## Two Afghan Cops Killed

5/21/2004 Afghan News Network

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) –Resistance fighters ambushed a police car in western Afghanistan and killed two officers returning home from escorting U.N. staff members, an Afghan official said Friday.**

The sport utility vehicle carrying four police officers was driving between Shindand and Farah city, some 340 miles west of the capital, Kabul, when it came under fire at about noon Wednesday, said Farah Gov. Abdul Hay Nayiamati.

"They were ambushed by gunmen with Kalashnikovs," Nayiamati said. "One officer, Abdul Wahed, and another policeman were killed. The other two abandoned the car and escaped on foot."

**He blamed the assault on anti-government militants who already have carried out several attacks on U.N. and Afghan government staff trying to register some 10 million eligible Afghans across the country.**

**So-called "night letters" -- unsigned leaflets distributed clandestinely -- were scattered in Farah earlier this week warning people not to register to vote "or they will be punished," he said.**

**On Thursday, a remote-controlled bomb wrecked a vehicle carrying census workers in southeastern Khost province, wounding at least four people, officials said.**

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## **Tanker Supplying Oil To US Forces Captured**

The Frontier Post (Pakistan) May 21, 2004 The Frontier Post (Pakistan)

QUETTA - Some armed men hijacked an oil-tanker of Al-Hajj Enterprises that supplies fuel to US forces in Afghanistan and kidnapped driver and cleaner a couple of days back, said an official of the company.

Basit Khan, General Manager of Al-Hajj Enterprises a Karachi-based oil supply company, told this news agency here on Friday that **one of the company's long oil container No. (PLA 400) was heading toward US base in Kandahar and when the vehicle reached Kuchlak, 15km from here, some 15 persons all armed with sophisticated weapons forced the driver to stop the vehicle.**

Later, they kidnapped the both driver and cleaner and took them towards border area Khanozai, he said and added that he also reported the matter to administrative officials in Karachi.

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## **Coincidence?: Norwegian Killed In Kabul**

KABUL (AFP) - The second foreigner whose body was found in a Kabul garden earlier this month and appeared to be either stoned or stabbed to death was a Norwegian citizen, the embassy confirmed Tuesday. "It has been confirmed that one of the two was Norwegian and the other was Swiss," the head of the embassy, Bjorn Johannessen, told AFP.

**The bodies of the two young men, who were wearing traditional Afghan clothes,** were found dead in a west Kabul garden on May 9.

**By coincidence, about 10 Norwegian police are stationed in Kabul to assist in international efforts to train Afghan police** and they were taking a keen interest in the case involving their compatriot, Johannessen said.

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## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

We have been invaded  
Massacred  
Ravaged  
Bloodied!

Our homes  
Demolished  
Our possessions  
Ground to dust

Meanwhile

The world watched  
In silence

And the president of the US  
Was “troubled”

We are still here  
Bloodied  
BUT NOT  
Defeated

Long Live Palestine!



**A Palestinian girl waves a HOME MADE FLAG  
In Gaza!**

Mike Odetalla

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

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