

## GI SPECIAL 2#86



A mural by an Iraqi artist in Sadr City, Baghdad's largest Shiite neighborhood. Statue of Liberty flips the switch on wires attached to an Abu Ghraib detainee. May 23, 2004. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

# An Appeal To Ralph Nader: Say You Want The Troops Home Now

GI Special readers: Please send this appeal & Distribute Widely)

(To send go to: <http://www.votenader.org/contact/index.php> and enter into the box for sending emails to Nader)

Dear Mr. Nader,

As millions of Americans agree that all U.S. troops must be withdrawn from Iraq, immediately and unconditionally, you have refused to take up a very simple demand: **Bring All The Troops Home Now.**

We desperately need someone in this election who stands on principle.

You can provide that lead.

What we do not need is one more candidate who wants to see more U.S. soldiers and more Iraqis die in this war for oil and empire. Every day U.S. troops stay in Iraq, that is exactly what is happening.

You have said U.S. troops must stay until UN troops take over.

Why?

Are you afraid that too many people will abandon Kerry and vote for you?

Are you afraid your immigrant-hating allies in the Reform Party will kick you off their ballot lines? People are already wondering how you can ally yourself with this pack of disgusting ultra-conservative racist scum.

Do you agree with the equally racist empire builders in Washington who run this government that Iraqis are too primitive and bloodthirsty to manage their own lives and their own country? Who on earth could be more bloodthirsty and primitive than the managers of the U.S. Empire? Any why do you so love the UN, that killed Iraqis by the hundreds of thousands for over a decade with their "sanctions."

The notion that chaos will break out in Iraq if the U.S. troops pack up and go home right now is silly nonsense. There is chaos in Iraq now, and it is the U.S. invasion that has brought it and keeps feeding it.

No one can with certainty what kind of government the Iraqis will choose.

What can be said with certainty is that without U.S. troops in Iraq, no more U.S. soldiers will be killed by Iraqis, and no more Iraqis will be killed by U.S. troops.

Enough is enough.

Please join the millions who want no more of this war.

Not another day, not another dime, not another life.

**Take up the banner for common decency and announce now that you are for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq!**

**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 WAR REPORTS:**

# Two US Soldiers Killed, Five Wounded In Falluja Ambush

23 May 2004 al Jazeera

**Iraqi resistance fighters have killed two US soldiers and wounded five others near the flashpoint city of Falluja in an ambush that involved a bomb and rocket-propelled grenades, witnesses have said.**

**Soldiers at the scene said a vehicle apparently loaded with explosives blew up on Sunday as a convoy of US Marines and Army personnel passed by, and that assailants then opened fire with rocket-propelled grenades from a grove of palm trees.**

The attack was the first major loss inflicted on US troops in the area since the end of an offensive they launched last month in Falluja

**Meanwhile, a US Marine officer provided Iraqi authorities with the names of 25 people sought in the killing of the four American civilian contractors.**

He expressed confidence that the police chief would follow up on the request **but acknowledged it would be difficult in a city where anti-Americanism is as high as anywhere in Iraq.**

**"We'll see how it turns out," he said. "It's going to be a tough job to make the arrests."**

---

## **Sadr Demands U.S. Leave Karbala; Gen. Kimmitt Echoes Falluja Bullshit; “We Are Not Withdrawing, Just Repositioning”**

May 22 NAJAF, Iraq (Reuters)

The militia of rebel cleric Moqtada al-Sadr will end their armed presence in Najaf and Karbala as soon as it is clear that U.S. troops have withdrawn from the holy Iraqi cities, a top aide to Sadr said on Saturday.

**"We are prepared to end our armed presence the moment the occupation forces leave the holy cities and give guarantees of that," Qais al-Khazali told reporters. "There are no guarantees up to now that the occupying forces will not go back to the holy shrines."**

***U.S. troops pulled back from the center of Kerbala after days of heavy fighting with militiamen. U.S. Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt said on Saturday the troops were repositioning and not withdrawing. (Just like Rommel repositioned from Africa back to Germany.)***

### **As U.S. Troops “Reposition” In Reverse Direction**



**Iraqi Shi'ite militiamen take cover during clashes between Shi'ite militia and U.S. army in the holy city of Kerbala, in this picture taken May 18, 2004. (Ali Jasim/Reuters)**

---

**REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



**Lance Corporal Stephen Ulsh from Katy, Texas on the outskirts of Falluja, May 20, 2004. U.S. action in Iraq could prove a foreign policy debacle if the Bush administration ignores Washington's painful failure at nation-building in South Vietnam a generation ago, a new Army report warns. (Adrees Latif/Reuters)**

---

# Karbala Quiet; U.S. Forces Enter Kufa & Trash Mosque

May 23, 2004 The Associated Press, KARBALA, Iraq

U.S. forces battled fighters loyal to resistance cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in his stronghold of Kufa overnight Sunday, and at least 18 people died.

The clashes broke out when American tanks and troops moved into the city for the first time as part of an effort to weaken the resistance militia. He routinely delivers a sermon at Friday prayers in Kufa

**U.S. troops broke into Kufa's Sahla mosque in pursuit of the militias, smashing the door with an armored vehicle and killing people inside, said Radhi Mohammed, a mosque employee.**

**An Associated Press photographer saw bloodstains on the floor that indicated someone had been dragged for at least 10 yards. There was also blood in the bathrooms.**

***Karbala was quiet Sunday. Fighters said they had heard there was a truce with American forces, who were also not seen in the streets.***

The U.S. military, however, denied claims that all combatants had agreed to withdraw from the city. "There was no cease fire, no deal made in Karbala," said Maj. David Gercken, spokesman for the 1st Armored Division. "We do not and will not make deals with militias or criminals." **(Except when "we" get "our" ass whipped, like in Falluja.)**

Gercken said an Iraqi police force was expected to begin patrolling Karbala later Sunday.

"There is no presence of armed militias in the city," said Adham Mahmoud, a hotel worker in Karbala. "People have started leaving their homes and going into the streets. Some have embarked on reconstructing their damaged houses."

There was no sign Sunday of al-Sadr's al-Mahdi Army around Karbala's Imam Hussein shrine, one of Shia Islam's holiest sites. The shrine was guarded by a special security force in civilian clothing that was appointed by top Shiite clerics.

**"We are fed up with the situation," said Mutaz Hussein, whose business running a market stall has dried up because of the fighting. "We neither want the Americans nor the militias to stay in the city. Fighting is preventing us from earning a living." (And there you have the difference between Falluja and the Shia "Holy Cities." The religious and business leadership in the Holy Cities, like Bush, put their pocketbooks first.)**

---

# **An Exercise In Complete Futility 1st Cav Raids Sabi Abor Police Station; Wins Two Hour Victory & Leaves Town**

May 22, 2004 By Terry Boyd, Stars and Stripes

**SABI ABOR, Iraq — In the future, there may come a day of reckoning in Sabi Abor. Just not today.**

On Friday morning, a heavily armed, company-sized force from the 1st Cavalry Division, which included attached National Guardsmen and U.S. and Iraqi Special Forces, cordoned off the center of Sabi Abor, northwest of Baghdad.

**Supported by Kiowa helicopters and Bradley fighting vehicles, soldiers came expecting a fight but only encountered limited small-arms fire before withdrawing after about two hours.** A scout sniper with 2nd Platoon, Troop D, part of the 1st Cav's 9th Cavalry Regiment, had a confirmed kill, shooting an Iraqi man who fired on the force.

**The force left with the first close look at a city — the largest between Baghdad and Fallujah to the west — suspected of playing a big role in supporting the ongoing insurgency.**

The visit included a disturbing, confounding look at Iraqi justice.

The main target of the incursion was the Iraqi police station, and MPs came to make a full assessment, said 2nd Lt. Michael Thurman, platoon leader with the Fort Hood, Texas-based 1st Cav's 545th Military Police Company.

One scenario anticipated local police refusing to let soldiers enter the gated police compound, Thurman said.

That would have led to a firefight, "and we would have taken it from there," Thurman said. "We were expecting the worst."

Instead, the early-morning incursion on the Muslim Sabbath caught police off guard, and soldiers entered without resistance. In fact, he was surprised by how talkative the police and prisoners were, Thurman said.

Once in the compound, he said, the MPs tried to assess the situation:

- Are the police still on the side of the coalition?
- Do they have the proper equipment?
- Do they have information on anti-coalition activity?

After MPs collected information on the police, they moved to the prisoners — where they discovered signs that most of the 11 prisoners had been beaten.

**“These guys have massive whip marks and bruises on them,” Thurman said to his translator. “Ask him why there are whip marks on their backs. Big whip marks.”**

**One policeman claimed the marks are from when the prisoners tried to escape three days earlier, pulled back after almost making it out a hole in the wall. Thurman snorted in disbelief.**

**The jail seemed to be operating by some incomprehensible code of justice punishing accused and accusers.**

Some prisoners admitted being charged with crimes ranging from murder to robbery. But most claimed innocence.

**One well-groomed man claimed to be a railroad employee who reported a car-jacking. He was arrested, along with the suspected hijackers, for losing a government vehicle.**

He’s been in the jail, which is essentially bare rooms with no beds or toilets, for two months. Beatings are common, he told soldiers, showing a scar behind his ear. Beneath his ear, his shirt collar and shoulder were stained with blood.

**Another prisoner said he was fired on — and his cousin killed — by attackers. He and his attackers were arrested, the man said.**

**“Police said, ‘How come he got killed but you didn’t?’” the man said through an interpreter.**

**MP interrogator Sgt. Michael Ada was incredulous.**

**Through a translator, Ada asked, “So what you’re saying is, you’re incarcerated because someone shot at you and your cousin, and killed your cousin?”**

Yes, the man said nonchalantly.

Little of what the MPs see and hear adds up, Ada said. But it’s early.

Sabi Abor is at what soldiers call, “Four Corners,” where overlapping brigade sectors included pieces of the town, but no unit had complete responsibility for it, Ada said.

**“A lack of coordination” meant no one knows exactly what is going on here, he said.**

After about an hour, Thurman’s assessment is, “maybe it’s not as bad as we thought it is. The unknown may be what makes it so bad.”

**But there are few doubts there are anti-coalition forces in the town, and in some strength. There is a history of firefights around the town, “and someone has to be the source of it,” he said.**

Sabi Abor is an ugly town, a ragged skyline of low, bleak dust-colored rooftops unrelieved by trees or any sort of greenery.

The first place MPs got hit with an IED was just south of town, Thurman said. Delta 9 scouts had a number of firefights in the area, seizing weapons and insurgents. On Friday, though, overwhelming force carried the day.

**“We gained and maintained the initiative,” said 1st Lt. Blayne Smith, 2nd Platoon leader for Troop D scouts. “They knew it wasn’t a good day to fight.” (For two whole hours!)**

---

## **U.S. General Not Fooled By Foreign Terrorist Evildoing Freedom-Hating Bloodthirsty Fiends Pretending To Be Dead And Wounded Children**



A video image shows a terrorist foreign guerrilla leader cleverly disguised as a wounded child lying in a hospital in Ramadi, May 20 after having his leg amputated. The lying evildoer and enemy of freedom and free people everywhere tried to claim he was a girl and the sister of the bridegroom at a no-wedding in Western Iraq which was attacked by U.S. forces, killing over 40.

He was unable to fool our brilliant American command. Although lying evil terrorist scum pretending to be grieving Iraqis made up a silly story about how U.S. forces killed dozens of guests at the desert wedding, a brilliant American freedom, liberation, loves-democracy general insisted Thursday that the air strike had killed foreign guerrilla fighters **and said at a Baghdad press conference that “bad people have parties too.” (Actually, bad people have the best parties, but that’s hardly a good reason to order up an air strike unless you’re some kind of twisted-up psycho Puritan**



piece of shit from hell like Bush or his ass-kissing generals.) (Reuters TV May 22, 2004)

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

## **TROOP NEWS**

# **Reservists Say They Were Sent Into Battle With No Ammunition, No Protection, And No Training; Locked Up At Ft. Dix While Regular Army Got Leave**

May 24, 2004 By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

**Some National Guard and Reserve units were mobilized for combat duty in Iraq despite serious shortfalls in training and equipment, several reservists told House lawmakers.**

Army Reserve 1st Sgt. Gerald Neill Jr., one of several reservists who testified May 11 before the House Government Reform subcommittee on national security, said his unit suffered a number of slights that won't soon be forgotten.

"Reliable radio communication was a major problem for us in Iraq," Neill said. **"While active-duty units came into theater with satellite phones and could use them for communications, we had none."**

**The unit also deployed without enough weapons, body armor, vehicles, power generators and tents, placing a burden on resources in the theater. Also lacking were netting, pesticides and other protection against insects, which proved to be a major problem when the unit was assigned to a trash dump at one point in its deployment.**

**"The site was infested by insects," he said. "Everything bit us."**

**Soldiers ended up buying their own equipment, he said — everything from cell phones to bug spray to office supplies to refrigerators. In theater, getting supplies, including spare parts, was difficult.**

**“We could not get supplies, we could not get radios repaired, and if vehicles broke down, we stopped using them or traded them off to local police chiefs,” Neill said.**

**The unit’s dismay actually began with its pre-deployment training.**

**“We were the prisoners of Fort Dix,” Neill said.**

**Mobilized with just four days’ notice, the reservists were restricted to base while active-duty soldiers could come and go.**

**“This was a bitter pill to swallow, and many soldiers still speak of it,” Neill said. “They point to this experience and say this is one of the reasons they will not be activated again.”**

Connecticut National Guard Spc. Michael Tanguay, a member of the 143rd Military Police Company that reported to Fort Drum, N.Y., for mobilization in February 2003, also complained about training.

In a two-month pre-deployment period, poor time management, logistical problems and improper equipment “prevented us from training the way we ended up fighting,” he said.

**Preparing for a desert climate by training in three layers of winter clothing in upstate New York made no sense, he said.**

**The unit also began its combat tour with unarmored Humvees, Vietnam-era flak vests and new MK-19 weapons — with no ammunition.**

**“We adapted and overcame the best we could,” Tanguay said. (Or died.)**

Marine Reserve Staff Sgt. Juan SanchezLopez, a motor transport chief with the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, in Encino, Calif., who served 24 months on active duty, including a deployment to Iraq that ended last year, said the unit did not have many equipment problems, but there were holes in training.

**Many unit members were unqualified on their weapons because ammunition shortages had forced a postponement in firing-range training.**

**“In the context of war, this is unacceptable,” SanchezLopez said.**

Last-minute weapons training was devised, but it was minimal, **with no opportunity for cross-training because Fort Dix also had ammo shortages, he said.**

Military officials said they are trying to make improvements. Brig Gen. Louis Weber, the Army’s director of training, said a “rapid fielding initiative” has been created to get selected equipment to deploying soldiers.

“Every soldier deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom receives this equipment either before leaving the continental United States **or before employment while in theater,**” he said. **(These generals talk like lawyers. What exactly does “or before employment while in theatre” mean? Once you get into Iraq, definitely in theater, is he saying if you got no body armor, you will not be “employed”? What does that mean? You can die riding across Baghdad, whether “employed” or not, without body armor. So, is this idiot saying troops can be ordered out on patrol and can reply, “No Sir, No Way, I am not employable. I’m going to stay right here inside the green zone until I get some body armor?” Fat chance.)**

Like the Army, Marine Lt. Gen. Edward Hanlon Jr., deputy commandant for combat development said the Marine Corps ensures all its people deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq are “fully equipped **with the most modern individual combat equipment available.**” **(More slimy weasel words: the most modern equipment “available.” So some worthless Vietnam era flack jackets might be “the most modern equipment available” if there’s nothing better to hand out.)**

The Corps also ensures every reserve aircraft, both rotary and fixed-wing, has “the latest survivability equipment installed either prior to departure, en route — while embarked aboard amphibious shipping — **or shortly after arrival in theater,**” Hanlon said. **(Here they go again: “or shortly after.” How “shortly” after? How long does it take to die?)**

**Tales of problems continue to surface. Retired Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Richard Alexander, president of the National Guard Association, said he hears some of the same complaints expressed by the enlisted witnesses.**

Guardsmen talk not only of inadequate training, but also of receiving redundant training once mobilized, Alexander said.

Equipment shortages can be serious, he said. Guard truck companies currently are not authorized to have one radio per vehicle, although that has proven to be a necessity in Iraq, and the M16A2 rifle isn’t the best weapon for transportation units, Alexander said.

**Not supplying protective gear to troops until they enter Iraq is also an issue.** It is important that soldiers going into combat with body armor have a chance to train with it, he said.

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., chairman of the national security subcommittee, said the military’s heavy reliance on reservists for missions in Iraq and Afghanistan makes fixing the problems an imperative.

**“It’s no longer enough to say ‘everyone is a foot soldier’ when we’re sending people trained as cooks and file clerks into a hostile place knowing they’re going to be put on dangerous urban convoy duty,” Shays said.**

**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/>

# **Dying For Dollars: Soldiers Guarding Convoys Of Empty Trucks So Bush Buddy Halliburton Corp. Can Make Profits; Government Billed For Fake Deliveries**

May. 23, 2004 SETH BORENSTEIN Knight Ridder

**WASHINGTON - Empty flatbed trucks crisscrossed Iraq more than 100 times as their drivers and the soldiers who guarded them dodged bullets, bricks and homemade bombs.**

**Twelve current and former truckers** who regularly made the 300-mile resupply run from Camp Cedar in southern Iraq to Camp Anaconda near Baghdad ***told Knight Ridder they risked their lives driving empty trucks while their employer, a subsidiary of Halliburton Inc., billed the government.***

**They derisively called their invisible cargo "sailboat fuel."**

**Defense Department records show that KBR has been paid \$327 million for transportation of war materiel and supplies for U.S. forces in Iraq, and it is scheduled to be paid \$230 million more.**

KBR's contract allows the company to pass on the cost of the transportation and add 1 percent to 3 percent for profit, but neither KBR nor the U.S. Army Field Support Command in Rock Island, Ill., which oversees the contract, was able to provide cost estimates for the empty trucks. **Trucking experts say each round trip would cost taxpayers thousands of dollars.**

Besides interviewing the drivers, Knight Ridder reviewed KBR records of the empty trips, dozens of photographs of empty flatbeds and a videotape that showed 15 empty trucks in one convoy.

The 12 drivers, all interviewed separately during the course of more than a month, told similar stories about their trips through hostile territory.

Shane "Nitro" Ratliff of Ruby, S.C., who quit working for KBR in February, recalled a harrowing trip in December.

As he was hauling an empty truck to Baghdad International Airport, Iraqis threw spikes under his tires and a brick, a cement-like clot of sand and gasoline through his windshield, scattering shards of glass all over him and into his eyes.

"We didn't have no weapons; I had two rocks and a can of ravioli to fight with," Ratliff said.

Ratliff caught up with his fleeing convoy in his damaged truck and made it to the airport safely. He figured he'd pick up a load there, but he was told to return with another empty trailer.

"Thor," a driver who quit KBR and got his nickname for using a hammer to fight off a knife-wielding Iraqi who tried to climb into the cab of his truck, said his doctor recently told him he might lose the use of his right eye after a December attack. Iraqis shattered his windshield with machine gunfire and bullets whizzed by his ear. Glass got in his eye, and he broke two bones in his shoulder.

His was driving an empty truck at the time. "I thought, 'What good is this?'" he recalled.

Iraqi insurgents have killed two civilian drivers.

Some of the truckers say Kellogg Brown and Root, the Halliburton subsidiary, is billing the Pentagon for unnecessary work.

The Army's contract with KBR calls for daily truck runs, but doesn't dictate how many trucks must be in a convoy *or whether they must be full*, said Linda Theis, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Army Field Support Command in Rock Island.

The drivers said the empty-trailer runs in Iraq peaked in January, February and March and have dwindled as violence has escalated and forced contractors to reduce the number of trucks in each convoy and how far they travel -- *contradicting the claim that more trucks make for safer convoys.*

Earlier this year, as many as a third of all the flatbed trucks in a 30-truck convoy were empty, they said. Much of the time, drivers would drop off one empty trailer and pick up another empty one for the return trip.

"There was one time we ran 28 trucks, one trailer had one pallet (a trailer can hold as many as 26 4-foot-square pallets) and the rest of them were empty," said David Wilson, who was the convoy commander on more than 100 runs. Four other drivers who were with Wilson confirmed his account.

James Warren of Rutherfordton, about 70 miles west of Charlotte, one of the fired KBR drivers, said he drove empty trucks through Iraq more than a dozen times. *Besides the*

*risks to the truckers, the six National Guard or Army escorts who provided security were also in danger, he said.*

The KBR driver who shot the videotape of the 15 empty trailers on the road in January described it this way: "This is just a sample of the empty trailers we're hauling called `sustainer.' And there's more behind me. There's another one right there. ... This is fraud and abuse right here."

KBR documents viewed by Knight Ridder showed that one February run included 11 "MT" (trucker lingo for empty) trailers, 11 containers (which could be full or empty) and six with pallets on them. On another February day, three of 15 trucks were empty.

**KBR officials said empty runs resulted from the lack of cargo at one depot. The company ran all the trucks so they'd be available to pick up cargo for the return trip.**

The drivers disagreed.

"Sometimes, we would go with empty trailers, we would go both ways," said one driver who goes by the nickname Swerve and declined to be named for fear of retribution. "We'd turn around and go back with empty trailers."

**An independent expert on trucking economics put the cost of a 300-mile one-way run at a minimum of \$1,050. Researcher Mark Berwick at the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute at North Dakota State University used a computer model, the fuel costs that Halliburton charged the Army and the truckers' salaries to come up with that figure.**

Wilson and Michael Stroud, of the Seattle area, another former KBR trucking convoy commander, said the actual costs were probably higher.

"It was supposed to be critical supplies that the troops had to have to operate," said Wilson, who returned to his home in southwest Florida after being fired by KBR. **"It was one thing to risk your life to haul things the military needed. It's another to haul empty trailers."**

Peter Singer, a scholar at the Brookings Institution and the author of "Corporate Warrior," a book on privatization of the military, said the use of empty trucks illustrates how the government's contracting system is flawed.

**The government gives out large cost-plus contracts in which "essentially it rewards firms when they add to costs rather than rewarding them for cost savings," Singer said.**

### **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/>

# Pentagon Scum Go After Sergeant For Telling About Prison Abuses

May 22 By Mike Dorning Washington Bureau

**The Army on Friday disciplined a military intelligence analyst who told The Tribune about the mistreatment of a 16-year-old boy and other abuses by interrogators at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq**

Sgt. Samuel Provance, 30, said his battalion commander instructed him to turn in his top-secret clearance and was informed he would be reassigned.

**Provance said he also was told his record is "flagged," meaning he cannot receive promotions, awards or honors. He added that he was warned he might be subject to further disciplinary action for discussing abuses at the prison with the news media.**

"It's in reference to what's happened--for going public," the sergeant said. "It's not unexpected."

**A lawyer familiar with the case said Provance also was ordered Friday not to discuss abuses at the prison with other government agencies, which the lawyer said appeared intended to bar him from giving information to congressional investigators.**

This week Provance described how interrogators abused the 16-year-old to end his father's resistance to questioning. The teen was stripped naked, thrown in the open back of a truck, driven around on a cold night, splattered with mud and then presented to his father, he said.

The father then broke down and cried after the incident, and told interrogators he would tell them what they wanted, Provance said.

**(Obviously the Sergeant should be running the Pentagon, and the assholes who run the Pentagon, from Rumsfeld down, should get life in Abu Gharib. That would be justice.)**

**MORE:**

## Why Did The Sgt. Get The Shaft?

# He Ruined The Cover Up That Protected Military "Intelligence" Rats

05/20/04 By Mike Dorning Washington Bureau, Chicago Tribune

**A military intelligence analyst who recently completed duty at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq said Wednesday that the 16-year-old son of a detainee there was abused by U.S. soldiers to break his father's resistance to interrogators.**

**The analyst said the teenager was stripped naked, thrown in the back of an open truck, driven around in the cold night air, splattered with mud and then presented to his father at Abu Ghraib, the prison at the center of the scandal over abuse of Iraqi detainees.**

**Upon seeing his frail and frightened son, the prisoner broke down and cried and told interrogators he would tell them whatever they wanted, the analyst said.**

Sgt. Samuel Provance, who maintained the 302nd Military Intelligence Battalion's top-secret computer system at Abu Ghraib prison, gave the account of abuse of the teenager in a telephone interview from Germany, where he is now stationed. He said he also has described the incident to Army investigators.

**Provance already has been deemed a credible witness by Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba**, who included the Army sergeant in a list of witnesses whose statements he relied on to make his findings of prisoner mistreatment at Abu Ghraib.

**Although Pentagon officials have portrayed the abuses at the prison as the isolated conduct of a few out-of-control guards, Provance's account offers fresh evidence of broader participation. He said members of Abu Ghraib's military intelligence unit were well aware that prisoners were subjected to sexual humiliation and other abuse.**

He said he overheard colleagues in the military intelligence battalion laughing as a soldier in the unit described watching MPs use two detainees as "practice dummies," first knocking one prisoner unconscious with a blow and then doing the same to the other.

Provance said he escorted the boy from the interrogation cellblock to the prison's general population immediately after the encounter between the teenager and his father.

"This kid was so frail. He was shaking like a leaf," he said.

**Provance said he urged the interrogators not to put the teenager in the prison's unruly, poorly supervised general population, but was rebuffed.**

**"I even went inside and said, 'This kid is scared for his life. He's probably going to be raped. He can't be put in general population,'" Provance said.**



He said he did not know the identity of either the father or son but said the father was described to him as a "high-level individual" who had not provided useful intelligence in previous questioning.

Provance said he described the incidents to investigators, most recently in an interview this month with Maj. Gen. George Fay, who is overseeing the Army's investigation of military intelligence officials' involvement in prisoner abuse.

**Provance said he became concerned about a possible cover-up of the role of military intelligence officials after receiving written instructions shortly after the interview telling him not to discuss Abu Ghraib.**

In addition, Provance said, Fay warned that he likely would recommend administrative action against Provance for not reporting abuses before his first sworn statement, made in January. The administrative action would effectively bar promotions for Provance.

**"I felt like I was being punished for being honest," Provance said.**

**Provance said he questioned treatment of prisoners several times last fall without effect. "I would voice my opinion . . . and they would say, 'What do you know? You're a system administrator,'" he said. Among the interrogators "there's a certain cockiness," he added.**

Provance said his duties recently were switched from a computer systems administrator to a military intelligence analyst but he remains on duty with his unit, which returned from Iraq in February. He is now stationed in Heidelberg, Germany, he said.

---

## **Outrage Over Abu Ghraib; Sgts. Demand Punishment Of Those On Top**

May 24, 2004 Army Times Letters To The Editor

#1

**It's a shame that every time something happens in the military, enlisted soldiers pay the heaviest price. With the Iraqi prisoner-abuse situation, the officers in charge got a letter of reprimand and aren't being court-martialed. The enlisted soldiers are being court-martialed.**

**Their military and civilian careers are possibly through; the officers still get their retirement and have a great job in the civilian world.**

**The military system needs fixing, and fast, to avoid this every time something happens in which the enlisted soldier is the scapegoat and the officers get a slap on the hand.**

Staff Sgt. John Tice

#2

A small group of leaderless men and women is proving to the Muslim world that Americans are, in fact, the infidels they say we are.

I ask for severe punishment of all military personnel who have engaged in or had knowledge of and did nothing to stop the brutality directed toward the Iraqi detainees. Civilian contractors who engaged in or encouraged these atrocities should not be allowed to hide behind their civilian status.

**I ask that Mr. Rumsfeld submit his resignation and prepare to defend himself in court. He has admitted that he knew of these horrific activities and did nothing to stop them. He is as guilty as those whose pictures we have recently seen in the world press.**

Staff Sgt. Douglas Halbert (ret.)  
Wailuki, Hawaii

**MORE:**

## **Prison Torture Horrors Begin At Home: Thirty-Two Years In Solitary Confinement**

Prison Legal News, April 2004, By Shana Griffin and Brice White

**Thirty two years in solitary confinement would be enough to drive many of us to despair. Yet as of April 17,2004, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox of the Angola 3 have each spent the last thirty-two years inside a six by nine foot cell, for nearly 24 hours a day, in various segregation units of the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola.**

**Thirty-two years with only three to seven hours a week outside their cells to shower or exercise in enclosed pens. Thirty- two years with rare contact visits and limited access to medical care. Thirty-two years denied due process in disciplinary and classification hearings that would have allowed them to join general population.**

**Wallace and Woodfox are innocent men—political prisoners convicted of the murder of prison guard Brent Miller in 1972 in retaliation for their organizing on behalf of all prisoners and for founding the only officially recognized chapter of the Black Panther Party in a prison.**

According to Wilbert Rideau and Ron Wikberg, the editors of *Life Sentences—a* compilation of essays from Angola's award winning magazine *The Angolite—Angola* was the most deadly prison in the country for the ten years between 1966 and 1976.

“The fabric of life in Angola was woven by the thread of violence. The only law was that of the knife, and the only protection available to you was what you could acquire through sheer force of character and the ability to impose your will upon others. **Slavery was widespread and human life was the cheapest commodity on the market.**” (*Life Sentences: Rage and Survival Behind Bars*, 1992,85)

**Rape and murder were ways of life. Sex slavery kept prisoners under control with weak and young prisoners being bought and sold by those older and stronger.** Armed prisoner guards ran the facility as the budget did not allow for enough “free men” to control the thousands of men incarcerated at Angola.

**Disputes were settled by violence, often ending in death. Prison officials knew that keeping the men fighting among each other makes their job of control possible.**

Joined in this struggle for change is Robert King Wilkerson. In 1972, shortly after the Miller murder, Wilkerson was shipped to Angola from Orleans Parish Prison. He was placed immediately into solitary confinement, officially called Closed Cell Restriction (CCR).

**According to prison records Wilkerson was kept in isolation for 29 years, “under investigation” for the Brent Miller murder—a murder that occurred before he arrived at the prison.** Wilkerson had the same commitment to change as his comrades in CCR, and his arrival at Angola in the spring of 1972 and subsequent work for justice quickly coalesced with Wallace and Woodfox into the unbreakable bond known as the Angola Three.

In December of 2000, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that Wilkerson had been denied the constitutional right to a fair trial. **On February 8, 2001, two months after this ruling, Wilkerson was released from custody, having served nearly 29 years in Solitary Confinement**

Since his liberation, Wilkerson has dedicated his life to winning justice for his comrades who remain in solitary confinement.

At Camp 1. Herman lost even the few privileges he is afforded in CCR.

The several hundred prisoners in Camp 7 are forced to wear shackles during his three hours per week of solitary exercise in the fenced-in cage that serves as a “yard.” Phone calls are limited to one per month and all visits are behind a thick metal screen that is almost impossible to see through.

**The lack of air conditioning, heating and minimal ventilation turns Camp J cells into virtual sweat-boxes during the summer and ice boxes in the winter. The vindictive tactics used to control prisoner’s behavior include sensory deprivation, body cavity and cell searches, tear-gassing, four-point restraints, and fabricated disciplinary write-ups.**

At Camp I there is no fixed sentence. It is used as an extended lockdown unit for prisoners with alleged “disciplinary problems.” **The camp has become a dumping**

**ground for prisoners targeted by prison officials and guards. Prisoners who dare speak out against the dehumanizing conditions of confinement find themselves targets of retribution.**

---

## **Criminals In Expensive Suits**

05.20.04 Molly Ivins, Creators Syndicate

There is more than sufficient evidence pointing to the culpability of those at the top. But at the same time, the Pentagon is putting out the word that it was "only a few bad apples," six low-level soldiers who have already been charged, with no one else involved. This just stinks of cover-up.

**Damned if I think these six low-level soldiers should be hung out there to take the blame for a set of explicitly written and signed policies made by people wearing expensive suits, getting paid big bucks and bearing some of the highest titles in the land.**

**(For more see the article "The Racism That Props Up The Empire," by Lance Selfa, at [www.socialistworker.org](http://www.socialistworker.org).)**

---

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Basra Bomb Kills Cops**

May 23, 2004 The Associated Press

A policeman was killed and two others were seriously injured when a bomb exploded as they patrolled between Basra and Zubeir in southern Iraq on Sunday, police said.

---

### **Resistance Kills Police Captain North Of Baghdad**

5/23/2004 By Associated Press

BAQOUBA, Iraq (AP) Gunmen killed a police captain and a university student who were headed by car to Baghdad from Baqouba on Sunday, a hospital official said. Capt. Haidar Hadi, who was based in the capital, was giving the student a lift when the gunmen opened fire. The attack occurred in the Hadida area of Baqouba, north of Baghdad. A police sergeant in the car was injured, said Nassir Jawad of Baqouba General Hospital.

---

## Whose Streets?



**A Iraqi Shi'ite militiaman allied with resistance cleric Moqtada al-Sadr patrols a street in Najaf, May 21, 2004** as clashes continued with U.S. forces in the area. (Ali Abu Shish/Reuters)

## Our Streets!



UPI & AP: Iraqi Medhi Army soldiers run to take positions along the streets of Sadr City, Baghdad's largest Shiite neighborhood May 23, 2004, after a fight between militiamen and U.S troops in the city. **There were no immediate reports of casualties during the Baghdad battles in which the militias used automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.** (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

---

# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

## The Most Important Thing I Learned in School This Year: You Can't Mock the President or Say "Balls"

May 20, 2004 By BILLY WILSON

(The following is an essay written by a High School sophomore in Freyburg, Maine, as the essay part of the final exam in his English class. His teacher sent it to CounterPunch as an example of the uprightness of modern youth.)

**The most important lesson I learned this year in school is to pay attention in class and not to doodle while the teacher is talking. The worst thing you can do is draw a picture that shows President Bush's head on a pole with blood gushing out of his bulging eyeballs.** If you do something like this, it means you're probably going to blow up the Oklahoma Book Depository, or fly remote control planes into the White House, like the CIA did on 9/11. Even if you're only 15 like me, you can hijack a bus (like Sandra Bullock did in that cool movie, Speed), and drive it into the Bush ranch at Waco, and burn all the children to death.

**I learned that drawing pictures of the President with his arms growing out of his head is no laughing matter. It's bad to make the President look stupider than he already is.** You can't draw him writing memos on wide-ruled paper with a crayon, or dressed up like a cowboy and playing with toy pistols in the Awwful Office. That type of humor isn't funny. You can't make him look like Alfred E. Newman from Mad Magazine, with blood gushing out of his ears.

It is OK to draw a picture of Saddam Hussein on all fours, with Condolisa Rice in a furry African bikini and rings around her neck, holding the evildoer on a leash, and Donald Rumsfeld whacking him on the behind and making him bark like a dog, because that's just a frat prank (like the sexy girl soldier Lindy English did at that prison in Israel I mean Iraq). But the President is God, which is why his picture is on the dollar bill, and why you can't make him look like an elephant like those soldiers did. You know. Kneeling with his feet up in the air and one finger in his nose and the other in his anus. That's really bad.

You can't draw the president's face on a stick, even if you make it look like a lollipop or a Bubblehead doll. You are a bad person if you do that and if you do that, the Secret Police will come to your house at midnight and make you stand on a box with a shopping bag over your head and electrodes attached to your generals. Then they'll bulldoze your house into dust! (Which is way cool to see them do that on TV.)

**If you make fun of the president that means you hate him and are a enemy combatant.** The president has so much to worry about, like his physical fitness and if he takes his sedatives on time, he doesn't need some wise-ass kid sneaking into the Lincoln bedroom at night and fucking his wife (you shouldn't say fuck), or his really cute daughters, who drink a lot and fall down at parties and are pretty easy. **The president was bad too, like his daughters, before he learned that Jesus wanted him to kill all the Arabs.** The president is truly blessed, so you can't tell your freinds you made a videotape of him masturbating and sent it to Seymour Hersh. You can't do that, because one of your friends may be an informer for Homeland Security and then they'll chop your fucking head off!

What I learned this year is that the President is not someone to mock. Even if he is an idiot and a war criminal who deserves to be hanged, and even if no one in the media has the balls to say so. (You shouldn't say balls either.)

Billy Wilson

Billy Wilson can be reached through his teacher at: [redspruce@comcast.net](mailto:redspruce@comcast.net)

---

## **Fuck Yoo: Berkeley Law Students Denounce Iraq Torture Lawyer**

May 22, By TERENCE CHEA, Associated Press Writer

BERKELEY, Calif. - **Graduating University of California law students used their commencement Saturday to denounce a professor who helped the Bush administration develop a legal framework that critics say led to the abuse of Iraqi prisoners.**

**About one-quarter of the 270 graduates of Berkeley's Boalt School of Law donned red armbands over their black robes** in a silent protest of a legal memo law professor John Yoo co-wrote when he served in the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. Outside the ceremony, they also passed out fliers denouncing Yoo for "aiding and abetting war crimes."

**A petition signed by nearly 200 law students and alumni since Thursday alleges that Yoo's memo "contributed directly to the reprehensible violation of human rights in Iraq and elsewhere."**

---

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

