

## GI SPECIAL 2#96

**NO MORE. BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW.**



US troops pull a colleague away after the deadly attack in Baghdad 6.4.04 (London Times Photo)

# **Cheney Intern Ambushed in Baghdad; First Neocon Shot In War So Far**

June 4, 2004 Richmond, Va. Times-Dispatch.com

Scott Erwin, a University of Richmond senior, was ambushed Wednesday.

**Erwin works for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad, helping Iraqi agencies sort out finances and operations.**

**In 2002, Erwin worked in the office of House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas, which led to an internship in Vice President Dick Cheney's office, which eventually led to the offer to go to Baghdad.**

**It was through the D.C. Initiative that Erwin learned that L. Paul Bremer, head of the authority in Iraq, was recruiting. "They were looking for people to go, and he put his hand up," Palazzolo said.**

He was shot in the abdomen and both arms.

**His father, Bob Erwin of Kansas City, Mo., said the ambush looked like a planned attack. (Duh.) Two Iraqi police officers in the front seat of the car with Erwin were killed.** A translator in the back seat pulled Erwin down and out of the line of fire, saving him from even greater injury

In an e-mail, Lt. Col. Rich Diddams, the Coalition Provisional Authority's chief of staff of the Ministry of Interior in Baghdad, wrote that Erwin is "in stable condition and recovering. Doctors repaired a bullet wound to his torso that went through his liver, spleen, stomach and small intestines. Part of the bullet fragment was extracted from his stomach, and his spleen was removed. Other rounds hit both his right and left arm. His right arm was hit near the forearm and his left arm near the shoulder."

His parents were told their son's upper left arm was shattered.

**Erwin had gone from his office at the Ministry of Interior to teach a class in the Ambassadors of Democracy program, which he started. The program teaches Iraqi university students about American democracy and asks them to pass along the lessons to other young Iraqis. (Good target selection.)**

Erwin was headed back to the heavily guarded Green Zone, headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition, when he came under attack.

Bob Erwin said an Iraqi police officer who had befriended Scott was giving him a ride along with another officer and the translator. The four were followed from Mustanseriya University by the attackers.

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

### **Balad Mortar Attack Kills One Soldier, Wounds Another**

June 6, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release  
Number: 04-06-05C

BALAD, Iraq - One 13th Corps Support Command soldier is dead and one is injured as the result of a mortar attack on their base camp near Baghdad at about 8 a.m. Sunday.

The soldiers were both initially evacuated to medical facilities where one later died.

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## Haditha IED Kills Soldier & Civilian Driver

6.6.04 Combined Joint Task Force Seven Release #040605d

**BALAD, Iraq - One civilian contract driver is dead and one 13th Corps Support Command Soldier is injured as the result of an improvised explosive device attack on their convoy at about 1 p.m. June 5 near Haditha.**

The injured soldier was evacuated by air to the 31st Combat Support Hospital and further evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

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## TWO SOLDIERS KILLED, TWO WOUNDED IN BAGHDAD IED ATTACK

June 5, 2004 NEWS Release Number: 04-06-03C, HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND

**BAGHDAD, Iraq - Two Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were killed and two others were wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated around 9:30 a.m. June 5.**

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## Two N.J. Soldiers Dead, Three Wounded; “Morale Is Really Low Right Now”

6/5/2004 Associated Press

**TRENTON (AP) Two New Jersey National Guard members were killed and three other New Jerseyans were wounded in an ambush in Baghdad on Friday, state and federal officials said.**

The soldiers are the first New Jersey National Guard members to be killed in the Iraq conflict.

All five men were from the 3rd of the 112th B Battery, according to Lynne Valente, head of a support group for spouses of Guardsmen serving in Iraq.

Joe Liguori, a spokesman for the Carvill family of Carlstadt, confirmed late Friday that Sgt. Frank Carvill was one of the two slain soldiers.

The other soldier who died is from Brick, said federal sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. The injured are from Trenton, East Brunswick and Newark, the sources said.

**The soldiers' vehicles came under attack shortly after 1 p.m. local time on Palestine Street near the Shiite district of Sadr City. Video from Associated Press Television News showed the burning wreckage of a Humvee and a huge plume of black smoke rising from the mangled vehicle.**

The troops were members of Task Force Baghdad, made up primarily of elements of the Texas-based 1st Cavalry Division, said division spokesman Army Lt. Col. James Hutton.

**Sgt. Joseph E. Nyzio, 25, of Ewing, who was also serving with the 3rd of the 112th Field Artillery based at the Lawrencville Armory, was wounded in a separate incident on Wednesday, said his mother, Barbara Nyzio.**

**Nyzio, who sustained an eye injury and a broken clavicle, was being airlifted to Germany for treatment Friday night following surgery, his mother said.**

Valente, whose husband, 1st Sgt. Matthew Valente, is a leader of the New Jersey-based unit, said her husband is "devastated" at the losses.

**"He wanted to bring every single guy home," she said. "He knew it wasn't in his control, but he wanted to do the best he could. Morale is really low right now. They lost two of their own and others have been seriously injured. It's hard to pick up after that."**

The National Guard said families of each of the slain Guardsmen were planning 5:30 p.m. news conferences Saturday in the municipal buildings of their respective hometowns.

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## **Oregon Suffers Largest Loss Of The War Three National Guard Dead In Baghdad Ambush**

June 6, 2004 Statesman Journal, Salem, Oregon

Two soldiers with Salem ties were among those involved in an attack in Iraq that left three Oregon soldiers dead and one injured.

It was the single worst loss for the state since the war in Iraq began.

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## **Marine Dies Of Wounds**

June 5, 2004 United States Department of Defense News Release No. 546-04

Lance Cpl. Todd J. Bolding, 23, of Manvel, Texas, died June 3 of wounds received due to hostile action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

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## Four U.S. Soldiers Wounded in Baghdad Vehicle Blast

Jun 4, 2004 BAGHDAD (Reuters)

Four U.S. soldiers were wounded on Friday when their vehicle was attacked as it drove through Baghdad, a U.S. military spokesman said.

Flames and smoke engulfed the wreckage of the Humvee vehicle as other U.S. troops cordoned off the scene and evacuated the wounded, Reuters reporters at the scene said.

Local witnesses said militants had fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the vehicle as it drove along a dual carriageway surrounded by open ground in eastern Baghdad, employing one of the weapons of choice for Iraqi insurgents.

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## Kill Foreign Mercenary In Mosul Convoy Attack

June 5, 2004 MOSUL, Iraq (Reuters) – **Resistance soldiers opened fire on Saturday on vehicles carrying foreign security guards in the northern city of Mosul, killing one foreigner and wounding two others, the U.S. military said.**

Witnesses said several foreigners had been in the vehicles which came under attack. **Several attacks were reported on Saturday in Mosul.**

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## Four Mercenary Workers Killed

06/06/04 AP:

**Two Americans and two Poles working for Blackwater Security Consulting were killed** Saturday afternoon when a convoy they were traveling in was ambushed, said Boguslaw Majewski, the spokesman for Poland's Foreign Ministry.

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## Marine Armored Convoy Hit In Falluja

June 6, 2004 Reuters

Saturday night when a Marine armored convoy entered northern Falluja and was attacked by guerrillas. Witnesses said at least one vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. military.

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## Straws In The Wind

June 07, 2004 By Gina Cavallaro, Army Times staff writer

**“The convoys are too long and too dangerous,”** said Sgt. Maj. Edward Massey, 43, of Detroit, the support, plans and operations sergeant major for the Division Support Command. he coordinates the people, supplies, equipment and mail that are ferried by a pair of Black Hawks to several forward operating bases, twice a day. That includes the most precious of cargo — mail: 65 bags on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 120 bags on Sundays.

**The soldiers of 2-501, part of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, joke about being a taxi service, too — serving myriad customers, from VIPs to media types. That’s something they endure. Hauling rank-and-file soldiers, however, is something they enjoy.**

“It’s a thankless job, but I don’t really care about thanks and praise **and I couldn’t care less about some of the people we fly around,**” said Bravo Company crew chief Sgt. Dominick Petro, 26, of Woodbridge, Va. **“But the Joes ... I love flying the Joes around. I know they appreciate it.”**

The 1st AD has changed its flying tactics since last fall’s rash of downed helicopters. **But there is never a complete sense of security, Spc. Nicolas Kayler said.**

**“Sometimes you get a bad feeling,”** said Kayler, 24, of Deltona, Fla., on a recent Iron Eagle Express mission. **“Over the city areas, usually that’s when you gotta watch out.”**

The Iron Eagle Express is not there to get into the fight, wherever the fight may be.

The Black Hawks fly at about 120 knots at an altitude of 50 feet during the day, a little higher at night because the pilots can’t get a visual on the power lines.

But some have gone lower and faster, which Harris said he discourages.

“That is too dangerous. I tell them, ‘Hey, don’t let the enemy force you to do something more dangerous than what he’s trying to do to you,’” Harris said.

Whatever they do, the pilots keep the birds moving.

**“There’s no hovering. We don’t hover. That [tactic] doesn’t work here,” Harris said. “Speed is life.”**

**On May 24, a rocket was launched into Baghdad International Airport, where the 4th Brigade Combat Team is stationed. It made a direct hit on one of the Kiowas, taking it out of commission.**

While the Black Hawks run the Iron Eagle Express, the Kiowa Warriors conduct regular reconnaissance and security missions for convoys that must travel the dangerous main supply route between Baghdad and Kuwait.

**But the best part of being a crew chief, Spc. Everett Colby, 20, of Miami said, is working with the noncommissioned officers. “They just make it all happen,” he said.**

## **Three Georgian Soldiers Wounded**

Jun 3 2004 Interfax

TBILISI. June 3 (Interfax) Three Georgian soldiers were wounded by mortar shooting in Iraq on Thursday, Defense Ministry representative Irakly Chikovani said.

Otar Papiashvili, Zurab Chachanidze and Gocha Zurabiani suffered slight injuries after being hit by mortar mine fragments. They were given medical aid and returned to their unit.

This marks only the second time Georgians have been injured in Iraq.

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## **Italian Embassy Mortared As Bush Visits Rome**

3 June 2004 Novanite, Bulgaria

Several people have been killed in an attack on the Italian embassy in Baghdad.

According to early, unconfirmed reports, two Iraqis died when several mortars were fired at the compound. There are no reports of Italian deaths.

The attack comes on the eve of President George Bush's trip to Rome, due to arrive on Friday, which triggered off massive demonstrations by pacifists in Italian capital.

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**TROOP NEWS**

# How Bush Brings The Troops Home; The Details

June 07, 2004 By Christopher Munsey, Army Times staff writer

CAMP WOLVERINE, Kuwait — A slow day is a good day for the young soldiers of the Army's 54th Quartermaster Company out of Fort Lee, Va. They are mortuary affairs specialists; their job is to prepare the casualties of war for shipment home.

**“Zero’s our goal. A slow day is one [casualty], a bad day is 15 in a 24-hour shift ... And a bad day is whenever we get one. One is a bad day,” said Staff Sgt. Seth Brawley, the mortuary’s noncommissioned officer in charge.**

**The pace has been busy since April**, when fighting in Iraq claimed the lives of 135 U.S. troops, the highest number of U.S. military personnel lost in a month since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003.

During a media visit here, a front-end loader rolled into the gates of the mortuary affairs center, located at a secluded corner of the camp, burdened with eight “transfer cases,” the remains of newly arrived casualties.

The soldiers of the 54th, which has been here about two months, have two main tasks — preparing the dead for air shipment to the United States or Europe, and documenting and shipping each service member’s personal belongings to a collection point stateside.

Typically, the soldiers are notified about 20 minutes before a flight arrives at Kuwait City International Airport bringing dead out of Iraq.

The remains are brought into camp in a refrigerated truck, and the transfer cases bearing the bodies are wheeled into the mortuary affairs center. There, the cases are set on a wooden table and opened up. Inside the case, each body is stored in a human-remains pouch.

The mortuary affairs specialists fill out several forms for each body, with a front and back sketch of the human body for noting scars, tattoos and other identifying marks. Packed in ice when it arrives, each body is iced down again.

Making sure the condition of the body is accurately described in the documentation is important. On a wooden post is a list with the correct spelling of descriptions, such as “mutilated” and “amputated.” Final identification of the dead takes place at a mortuary at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, through dental records and DNA profiling.

Personal belongings are boxed and shipped to a center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Keeping morale up is a constant struggle, Brawley said. His people work 24-hour shifts, and when they’re off-duty, most sleep as much as they can.



"If they say, I need a break, I can't look at another body, then we go home," he said.

**For some of the mortuary affairs soldiers, handling the keepsakes and mementos of a dead soldier's life is as difficult — maybe more so — as coping with the physical realities of his death. Inside the tent marked "PE" for personal effects, all of a casualty's personal belongings are collected and boxed. There are pictures of family members, letters from spouses, girlfriends and boyfriends.**

Pfc. Megan Angle, 18, of Mercersburg, Pa., who joined the Army just eight months ago, helps collect the personal belongings.

**"The first time I had to go through everything, you see pictures of family members, and that got to me more than seeing the bodies. ... That kills you, the first time," Angle said.**

**And every soldier seems to have some kind of keepsake, such as a necklace with a cross or something given by a loved one meant to keep him safe from harm, she said.**

Soldiers here have to read through portions of every letter to make sure it is shipped home under the correct name, said Sgt. Manuel Lopez, 25, of Brooklyn, N.Y. "It's tough; we hook up some stereos, we have some music. It's stressful, because we'll pick up a picture and read a letter," Lopez said.

Pfc. Anastasia Camp, 21, of Seattle collects medical records on each casualty. Camp has been in the Army for 21 months. The records document a person's circumstances, such as whether he was married or had children.

**The saddest thing she's seen so far, Camp said, was a soldier who met the body of her husband, a soldier killed in Iraq, at the flight line.**

Camp starts weeping as she describes seeing the woman waiting for the body and walking with the transfer case into the mortuary.

**The soldiers here talk with one another about what they see, and are supposed to let someone know if they are having nightmares or can't sleep, she said.**

**"We really try not to remember anything, because if we remembered all the pictures of the children it would destroy us," she said, "and we wouldn't be able to do our jobs."**

**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/>

# Wounded In Iraq, Soldier Gets New Arms



June 02, 2004 By Brian Williams, Correspondent, NBC News

**He can't hold hands with his father anymore. Two-year-old Danny Damon is just now realizing that. But Danny did get his father back from Iraq.**

**Sgt. Peter Damon is on one of his rare visits home to Brockton, Mass., between fittings for a set of new arms at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C.**

He struggles but does not complain — hanging up the phone, for example, used to be effortless.

**Even though this aircraft mechanic by trade must now find a new way to support his family without using his hands**, there are no complaints. "There is a life after losing limbs," he said. "I mean, it's a lot better than being dead, believe me."

His wife, Jennifer, helps when she's needed, but also watches in amazement. "He's learning how to do things probably faster than most people would expect," she said.

Their daughter seems unfazed and talks a blue streak. But the father-son relationship is more complicated. **This man with the steel hooks for hands has been gone on deployment for most of his son's life. According to Jennifer Damon, "Every time he comes home, he has to relearn 'Daddy.'"**

"It's been kind of hard as far as trying to pick up my son," Peter added. "I haven't even figured out how to change his diaper or anything like that."

What else was affected? "My head's fine," said Peter. "I can't, you know, do the things I used to do job-wise. But you know I'll get by ... hopefully I'll be able to go to school somewhere and be able to do something, use my head instead of my hands."

The Damons are living with family and need a home of their own. When John Gonsalves, a local contractor, learned there was a need, he founded a charity to build and rebuild homes for the wounded returning veterans. It's called Homes for Our Troops,

and the Damons will get the very first one. **But there are thousands of other families in need, as well, and more on the way — and they are all Peter can think about.**

"If I had seen me on the outside before, I would have said, 'Wow look at that guy — he's got no hands,'" said Peter, "but it's not as bad as you think it might be."

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## **Kannapolis Soldier Wounded; “You Wouldn’t Believe The Hatred In Those People’s Eyes”**

6.3.04 Post Publishing Company, Inc.

"His head is wanting to come home," says Delores Black of Cadillac Street in Kannapolis, "but his body can't make it."

With good reason.

Her husband, Sgt. Michael Black, 45, a highly respected and popular nursing assistant in Building 42, the newest gerio-psychiatric building at the Hefner VA Medical Center, was seriously wounded in an ambush on a highway to Baghdad recently.

Originally a member of the U.S. National Guard's 1454th Transportation Co., based in Concord, he was with the 1450th Transportation Co., based in Lenoir, at the time of the ambush.

**He and four other members of the unit were in the last truck in a convoy close to Baghdad, their destination. The other trucks had pulled ahead, his wife says.**

**"They were supposed to be right behind the others," he told her, "but somebody shot something and blew one of the sergeants out of his seat in the back of the truck, but he wasn't hurt.**

**"Everybody else started firing after the truck got hit. Mike and another guy jumped out and started firing back. He didn't know he'd been hit at that time."**

**While that was going on, she says, "the rest of the convoy found out they were behind and went back and pulled them out of there. Two of the five in the truck were injured."**

**Black suffered injuries to his back, a "big hole" in the back of his thigh and needed abdominal surgery.**

"His stomach looks like a zipper right now with all the staples they've put in it," his wife says. She saw it Monday when she; his brother, Carl Johnson of Concord; and friend Jeff Hannah, also of Kannapolis, went to Augusta to see him.

"His back," she added, "is healing good, but his leg looks bad."

"When we were there Monday, I could tell his mind wants to come home. He's really wanting to come home, but he's in no condition."

And a week ago Sunday, she got a telephone call from his captain.

"He told me that Mike and some others went on a mission near Baghdad, and he was injured, and they had flown him to Germany, and from there he would go to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington. I didn't know to what degree he was hurt.

**"I was more like stunned. It didn't really hit me. I didn't believe it. I didn't think anything would happen to him. Even with everything going on, I didn't think anything would happen to him.**

**"I went down to the Rev. J.B. Hawkins, who runs the Salvation Center in Kannapolis, and I lost it.**

"But that same day, Mike called. He tried to tell me what happened, but it was like he couldn't talk. But he told me he was OK and didn't go into details until he got to Walter Reed."

**From there, he told her, "They intended to kill all of us. "He said you wouldn't believe the hatred in those people's eyes." (Having your country invaded and occupied by George Bush and his government of murderous imperial idiots would piss anybody off.)**

"They say he's going to recover fine," his wife says, "but it's going to be a long time before he gets back. I don't want him to rush it."

The son of Mary Black of Kannapolis, he attended A.L. Brown High School and got his General Education Development diploma at Fort Campbell, Ky., when he was in the Army in the '70s.

He and Delores have been married 24 years, and he's worked at the VA Medical Center about five years.

"He's a valued colleague and a very fine man," says Dr. Don Volkmer, a staff physician. **"He's a man who's sensitive and compassionate in the treatment of veterans and a model for all of us. "He's held in high regard by patients and staff alike."**

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## **Summit County Soldier Recovering After Skull Removal**

June 03, 2004 Karen Farkas, Cleveland Plain Dealer Reporter

Jessica Clements' family calls the soldier's recovery from injuries she received in Iraq a miracle.

**"When she was in Germany they basically did not give us any hope and told us she would have to be on life support for the rest of her life and would be in a vegetative state," Brooke Clements, Jessica's sister, said Wednesday. "But I talked to her on the phone the other day and she remembers everything. She is doing awesome."**

Jessica Clements, 27, a staff sergeant in the 706th Transportation Command based in Mansfield, suffered head, hip, back and buttock injuries May 5 when the fuel tanker she was driving rolled over a land mine. She was placed in a medically induced coma but later slipped into a coma on her own, her sister said.

**Brooke said they expect Jessica to be moved sooner because her recovery is going so well. Jessica can sit up with help but is still fed through a tube, her sister said. Her worst shrapnel wound was to the head, and a portion of her skull was removed so her brain could expand if it swelled, Brooke said. The skull will be replaced in several months, and Jessica is being fitted for a helmet.**

Jessica's mother, Kim Wyatt, has not left the hospital grounds. **Wyatt's husband, Chris, Jessica's father, Andrew Clements, and Brooke drive to Washington every weekend then return home to work.**

Jessica signed up with the Army Reserve after she graduated from Green High School. She also took classes in massage therapy and is a loan officer at Beneficial, her sister said. Jessica had been in Iraq about five months when she was injured, and most of her unit is still there, Brooke said.

**To help the Summit County family meet expenses, a fund has been set up at First Merit Bank. On Wednesday, Green High School contributed more than \$1,000, money donated at lunch from students and money raised during the year by the Student Council and Girls of Green, school Principal Gary Geis said.**

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## **FORMER POCATELLO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SURVIVES HELICOPTER CRASH**

Jun 3, 2004 Oregon Trail Broadcasting KPVI

One of the army's bravest is back home after surviving a November Crash of his helicopter in Afghanistan. **The army says engine failure may have caused the MH-53 transport helicopter to go down in Bagram, north of Kabul, killing five U-S servicemen.**

**One of the eight soldiers who was injured was Pocatello High School graduate, Staff Sergeant Jonathan Purser, an eight year member of the Special Forces.**

**Purser's helicopter crashed near a river that runs through a small farming village, burning most of his face and arms.** We spoke with Purser's dad who has talked with his eldest son; he says it is near impossible to stay in touch with his ranger son who lives in Georgia.

**Leon Purser:** "He called me in July of last year and says, 'dad, basically I'm going to be out of touch; you won't be able to get a hold of me; here's what I'm going to do: They want me to do some recruiting in high schools and then **I start officer training school in October, and I won't get out of that 'til March; just be out of touch**'. Then we get this call in November this is his third trip to wherever and the helicopter went down, and it was hard."

Purser has many more surgeries ahead of him to reconstruct his facial features. **He also has a wife, who until recently was herself on active duty and based in Iraq.**

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## **Running On Empty; No More Guard Soldiers Left For Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse; Recruitment And Retention Dropping, Families Say Don't Sign Up**

June 6, 2004 By Thomas E. Ricks, Washington Post Staff Writer

With almost 40,000 troops serving in the unexpectedly violent and difficult occupation of Iraq, the National Guard is beginning to show the strain of duty there, according to interviews and e-mail exchanges with 23 state Guard commanders from California to Maine.

**Some Guard commanders are beginning to say they simply can't deploy any more troops. "As far as New Hampshire goes, we're tapped," said Maj. Gen. John E. Blair,** that state's adjutant general, or Guard commander. Of his 1,700 Army National Guard troops, more than 1,000 are in Iraq, Afghanistan or Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, or on alert for deployment. And to get units fully manned to head overseas, he said, "we've had to break other units."

**Blair, who piloted a medical evacuation helicopter in the Vietnam War, said he informed the Pentagon's National Guard Bureau two weeks ago that "before you call us again, you've got to know that we are at our limit."**

Earlier this year, 60 percent of Maine's 2,300 Army Guard troops were deployed. "The current pace isn't sustainable," said the state commander, Brig. Gen. John W. Libby, who said that pace appears to be damaging his efforts to raise manpower.

**"Our recruiting is down significantly from last year, and our retention rates are down also," he said. The biggest problem, he said, is that parents are discouraging their children from joining. "We've got a level of reluctance with parents this year that we haven't seen in the past."**

Some soldiers in West Virginia's 1092nd Engineering Battalion got home in April from 14 months of duty in Iraq -- only to be activated in the past few days for weeks of flood-relief work in Mingo County and other southwestern parts of the state. One soldier told the state commander, Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett, that he had been back to his civilian job for exactly one day. ***"The spouses and the employers are raising hell with me," the general said.***

**Tackett said he is especially worried that his most seasoned soldiers are getting out. "A lot of my experienced people are coming back from deployments and retiring," he said. "They've paid their dues."**

**Parts of the Guard are beginning to stagger under the burden.** Nearly three years into the post-Sept. 11, 2001, world, Guard commanders said they have shed the "weekend warrior" image their force once had. ***But several said they are deeply worried about how the citizen-soldiers will react to the repeated deployments into combat zones that they now are facing -- and even more about the responses of the families and employers.***

**Since Sept. 11, North Dakota's Maj. Gen. Michael J. Haugen said, his state has mobilized as many troops as were called up during World War II.**

Concerns about the new load being placed on the Guard were aired in mid-May at a meeting in Colorado Springs attended by most of the 54 Guard commanders, who come from all 50 states, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. Idaho, a small-population state that faces a big fire threat, was kind of a poster child for officers at the meeting. Out of 3,200 people in the Idaho Army Guard, about 2,000 are members of the 116th Cavalry Brigade, which is expected to deploy to Iraq later this year. **Their departure poses the question of who will be ready to deal with the state's natural disasters.**

**In Mississippi, the unit designated as "first responders" to repair hurricane damage, the 223rd Engineer Battalion, was deployed for the past year to Iraq. It has come home, said Maj. Gen. Harold A. Cross. But, he added, "they left the equipment in Iraq." He has been told that by hurricane season he will be given the gear belonging to another unit being deployed. He also noted that he has sent 21 helicopters to Iraq, leaving just five for post-storm rescues and transport of cargo and troops.**

**Ohio's commander, Maj. Gen. John H. Smith, warned, "We will soon be a hollow force without replenishment dollars to replace what is being consumed or lost."**

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

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **Najaf: Mehdi Army In Charge As U.S. Withdraws; Al-Sadr Condemns UN Cover For More Occupation**

June 04, 2004 By Mariam Fam, Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — The U.S. military and Shiite militia loyal to Muqtada al-Sadr agreed Friday to withdraw from holy shrines south of Baghdad and turn over security to the Iraqi police in a bid to end two months of fighting.

Col. Brian May, commander of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment here, said “It’s an Iraqi solution to the problem.”

**Despite the assurances, armed militiamen still manned the gates to the shrine and searched visitors well after an afternoon deadline for their departure had passed.**

**Men in yellow shirts and badges identifying them as members of al-Sadr’s militia dispersed crowds and urged people to go away. A banner outside al-Sadr’s office read: “Al-Sadr doesn’t compromise” and “We all resist.”**

**Al-Sadr failed to mention the deal in a statement read on his behalf in the Kufa mosque.** The statement denounced the interim Iraqi government and insisted on an elected leadership for the country.

**“America has taken upon itself to appoint a prime minister and a president of the nation under the cover of the United Nations,” al-Sadr’s message said. “It has done that with impertinence and domination. The government must be elected and I will never accept anything beneath that.”**

**He said he could not imagine “any reasonable person would ever accept” a government “which comes from no less than the occupying power.”**

In a speech, broadcast by the coalition-backed Al-Iraqiyah Television, the new prime minister, Iyad Allawi said Iraq would never accept occupation and looked forward to having the U.N. Security Council adopt “a new resolution regarding the transfer of full sovereignty to the interim Iraqi government.”

Allawi is a former exile leader who had close ties to the CIA and State Department.

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



# Resistance Attack On Police Station Kills 10 Iraqi Cops; Station Destroyed



A general view of what used to be the police station in al-Musayyib. (AFP/Karim Sahib)



A general view of what used to be a police station in Sadr City, a poor Shiite Muslim neighborhood of Baghdad.(AFP/Essam Al-Sudani)

June 6, 2004 Associated Press & Reuters

**MUSAYYIB, Iraq - Eight people stormed into a police station south of Baghdad, opened fire and killed officers before planting explosives to destroy the building, police said Sunday. At least 10 policemen and two civilians were killed.**

**The assailants, who wore police uniforms**, attacked the police station at 6 p.m. Saturday, said Lt. Major Aied Abdul Hussein of the police in Musayyib, 45 miles (70 kilometers) south of Baghdad. The building was then destroyed.

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## **Car Bomb Kills 9 At Iraqi Security Force Base**

Jun 6, 2004 TAJI, Iraq (Reuters)

Guerrillas detonated a car bomb outside an Iraqi security force base just north of Baghdad Sunday, killing nine people and wounding dozens in the latest attack on Iraqis cooperating with occupying troops.

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## **Collaborator Kidnapping Brings Fallujah “Assistance” Project Suspension**

6.6.04 AP

Hassan Abdul-Hadi, an interpreter for the U.S. military was kidnapped by three masked men in Karma, Iraq near Fallujah on Saturday, June 5 and U.S. Marines have suspended assistance and reconstruction projects in a suburb of Fallujah after the abduction.

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

### **5 Cents A Gallon Gas**

Jun. 06, 2004 JIM KRANE, Associated Press

**BAGHDAD, Iraq - While Americans are shelling out record prices for fuel, Iraqis pay only about 5 cents a gallon for gasoline -- a benefit of hundreds of millions of dollars in subsidies bankrolled by American taxpayers.**

**Before the war, forecasters predicted that by invading Iraq and ousting Saddam Hussein, America would benefit from increased exports of oil from Iraq, which has the world's second largest petroleum reserves. That would mean cheap gas for American motorists and a boost for the oil-dependent American economy.**

**More than a year after the invasion, that logic has been flipped on its head. Now the average price for gasoline in the United States is running \$2.05 a gallon -- 50 cents more than the pre-invasion price.**

Filling a 22-gallon tank in Baghdad with low-grade fuel costs just \$1.10, plus a 50-cent tip for the attendant. A tankful of high-test costs \$2.75.

**The fuel subsidies, which are intended to mollify drivers used to low-priced fuel under Saddam,**

**"If the price of gas goes up, we'll see lots of anger in the street," said cab driver Hashim, at a grimy filling station on Saadoun Street in central Baghdad.**

**(For more, see the article "What's Behind The Gas Price Crisis?" at [www.socialistworker.org](http://www.socialistworker.org).)**

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## **BUSH ON TENET: 'HIS FAULTY INTELLIGENCE WILL BE MISSED'** **Sudden Resignation Leaves Gap in Fake Intelligence-Gathering**

June 3, 2004 The Borowitz Report

President Bush responded to CIA Director George Tenet's surprise resignation today, telling reporters at the White House, "His faulty intelligence will be missed."

Mr. Tenet, whose tenure as the head of the spy agency was often shrouded in controversy, nevertheless received high marks from the president: "When it comes to collecting unsubstantiated shreds of fake information, there will never be anyone in the same league as Mr. George Tenet."

Mr. Bush waxed nostalgic about Mr. Tenet's assertion that the evidence of Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction was "a slam dunk," calling that moment "a milestone in the history of phony intelligence-gathering."

In the intelligence community, response to Mr. Tenet's decision to resign echoed the president's, with many fearing that his departure would leave a serious gap in the agency's ability to gather and disseminate completely fictitious intelligence.

"The next time we have to convince the American people that we need to go to war, who's going to be there to dig up the flimsy, completely bogus case that has to be made?" one agency official said. "That's when you're really going to miss George Tenet."

But just minutes after submitting his resignation, Mr. Tenet suddenly withdrew it, saying that his decision to resign had been made on the basis of "faulty intelligence."

"My bad," Mr. Tenet said.

"It's great to have George Tenet back on board," Mr. Bush said, welcoming the CIA director back to his old job. "Whew! That was close."

### **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/>

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