

GI SPECIAL 2#98

Operation Iraqi Catastrophe: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!



An Iraqi fireman tackles the blaze on a burning supply truck after a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad June 9, 2004. (Thaier Al-Sudani/Reuters)

How To Escape Stop Loss

June 14, 2004 Army Times 6.14.04

Categories normally exempt from stop-loss include:

- Soldiers eligible for mandatory retirement.
- Soldiers eligible for disability retirement; separation for physical disability or other medical conditions.
- Soldiers pending separation for the convenience of the government, such as surviving sons or daughters, parenthood, pregnancy, or failure to meet accession fitness standards.

- **Soldiers pending separation because of dependency or hardship.**
- **Soldiers whose quality of service warrants separation, such as misconduct, poor duty performance, the Qualitative Management Program, alcohol or drug rehabilitation failure, or punitive discharges under provisions of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.**

- **Soldiers in violation of the Army's homosexual conduct policy.**
- **Soldiers pending separation who are conscientious objectors.**
- **Soldiers who do not meet military personnel security standards.**

Q. What does stop-loss mean?

A. The program is authorized in federal law. It allows the military services during periods of mobilization to retain service members by suspending laws, regulations and policies relating to separations and voluntary retirements.

Those being involuntarily discharged and those waived by the service because of specific circumstances are exempted.

Stop-loss ends upon cessation of the national emergency and release of mobilized reservists and units.

Q. Who triggers stop-loss?

A. Authority for stop-loss was delegated to the secretary of defense by presidential order. The secretary of defense further delegated stop-loss authority to the service secretaries.

Q. To whom does the active Army unit stop-loss and stop-move authority apply?

A. Active-component soldiers assigned to units scheduled to deploy overseas to conduct operational missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Q. Are National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers affected?

A. No. However, reservists in mobilized units are subject to the Reserve Component Unit Stop-loss program in effect since November 2002. Under that program, reservists are placed under stop-loss as a unit 90 days after alert for mobilization until 90 days after demobilization.

Q. How long can a soldier be subject to the unit stop-loss policy?

A. Stop-loss decisions in theater are based on the operational environment. If stop-loss is not lifted, soldiers are subject to restrictions 90 days before unit deployment and up to 90 days after the unit redeploys to home station.

Q. Will soldiers scheduled to attend an NCO Education System course go to school on time?

A. No. They will attend training after redeployment. A soldier's promotion eligibility will not be affected because he or she is deployed and cannot attend school.

Q. Are soldiers previously affected by unit or skill-based stop-loss programs subject to the active Army program approved June 1?

A. Yes, if they are assigned to units scheduled to deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Q. What about soldiers in affected units who are on the verge of separating, or processing or a permanent change of station move?

A. Upon approval by personnel officials, soldiers on transition leave; leave en route to a new assignment; those who have cleared the installation transition center, and those who have officially shipped household goods are not subject to the order issued June 1.

Exceptions to policy, such as for compassionate reasons, will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the commander of the Army Human Resources Command.

Q. Some categories of soldiers are exempt from stop-loss and stop-movement policies. What are the exceptions?

A. Stop-loss does not affect most involuntary separations or retirements, nor does it generally limit laws, regulations, or policies that lead to involuntary separations, retirements or release from active duty.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

MARINE KILLED IN ACTION

June 8, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release
Number: 04-06-10C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq -- One Marine assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action June 7 in the Al Anbar Province.

Baqubah Car Bomb Kills One U.S. Soldier, Wounds 10

June 8, 2004 BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN)

A blast in Baqubah left a U.S. soldier and an Iraqi dead, an American military officer said. Baqubah is about 30 miles north of Baghdad.

The car bombing occurred at a checkpoint just outside the gate of a U.S. military base.

American troops were preparing to inspect a vehicle when it exploded, killing one U.S. soldier and five Iraqis, the U.S. military and police said. Fifteen Iraqis and 10 U.S. soldiers were wounded.

The blast happened as Iraqis reporting to work lined up at the base's gate, according to Maj. Neal O'Brien of the 1st Infantry Division.

IED Kills Soldier In Scania

June 8, 2004 United States Department of Defense News Release No. 556-04

Sgt. Jamie A. Gray, 29, of Montpelier, Vt. died June 7 in Scania, Iraq, when his military vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. Gray was assigned to Army National Guard's Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 86th Field Artillery, Williston, Vt.

Six Dead As Ammo Truck Hit By Well Aimed Mortar Attack

June 8, 2004 BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN) & By TODD PITMAN, Associated Press Writer & June 9, 2004 AP

Six European soldiers died when munitions they were transporting exploded south of Baghdad.

The Europeans — two Poles, three Slovaks and a Latvian — were killed in Suwayrah, 25 miles south of Baghdad. The deaths were the first fatalities for Slovakian and Latvian forces in Iraq, Polish army spokesman Col. Zdzislaw Gnatowski said in Warsaw.

The Polish Foreign Ministry said one Polish soldier also was critically wounded.

Poland has now lost six troops in Iraq. **"This does not make our presence and mission in Iraq easy," Polish Prime Minister Marek Belka said.** "But we cannot talk of any reaction in terms of the length of our mission."

A bomb apparently went off in a truck carrying munitions to be defused, Gnatowski said. Multinational force commander Gen. Mieczyslaw Bieniek told Poland's TVN24.

Even though the area was closed, hostile fire is being blamed for the ammo-dump explosion.

A special military commission that investigated the incident says the munitions blew up as the result of a mortar attack -- and was not the result of any "inappropriate action" by the soldiers.

The commission says it does not know who the attackers were. (Perhaps it would not be too daring to surmise that the highly skilled mortar team that pulled this one off is composed of Iraqis who fighting against a foreign invasion and occupation of their country? They are right to do so.)

Insurgents Attack Two US Convoys In Baghdad; Crowds Cheer “Let It Burn”; Two Mercenaries Wounded

09 June 2004 Agence France Presse

Insurgents ambushed a US military convoy in Baghdad.

Assailants in a speeding car Wednesday raked a US military convoy, setting ablaze a truck, Iraqi witnesses and a US soldier said. The truck was billowing thick smoke an hour after the attack on a road in the northwestern Baghdad neighborhood of Al-Khadra.

A crowd gathered and cursed the firemen dousing the blaze and demanding they let it burn.

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman for the US military said a coalition convoy came under small arms fire in eastern Baghdad at about the same time and two civilian contractors were wounded.



Two Iraqi boys flash the V-sign in front of a trailer-truck engulfed in flames and smoke following an attack on a US convoy. (AFP)

Local National Guardsman Badly Wounded

6/9/2004 Capital News 9

Specialist Roy Harper -- a Crown Point resident deployed with the Vermont Army National Guard -- was wounded during a roadside attack in Iraq Monday.

Harper was taken directly to Germany in serious condition. He is the son of Elmer "Sonny" and Suzanne Harper, who said he was wounded by shrapnel in the neck.

Harper is a graduate of Crown Point High School in Essex County. He is married with an infant daughter. He was deployed with 40 reservists from the Vermont National Guard and left for Iraq in March.

Another soldier, Sergeant Jamie Gray of East Montpelier, Vermont, was killed in the attack.

Suzanne Harper said her son was sent to Iraq to work on generators and small engines to keep the military going.

Resistance Hits Electrical System; “Insurgency Very Sophisticated” Power Grid Hit “Twice A Week”-- Occupation Command Says Nothing They Can Do About It

June 9, 2004 By JAMES GLANZ, New York Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq, June 8 — **An enormous power plant south of Baghdad was shut down last weekend by coordinated attacks on fuel and transmission lines, American and Iraqi government officials said Tuesday.** The sabotage raised new fears that insurgents were beginning to make targets of major sectors of the infrastructure as part of an overall plan to destabilize the interim Iraqi government.

At full production, the plant is capable of supplying nearly 20 percent of the entire electrical output of Iraq.

But after the war, the plant's output plunged to nearly zero, and it is still generating only a fraction of its maximum output, said Raad al-Haris, deputy minister for electricity.

An official with the Coalition Provisional Authority, which is scheduled to hand over sovereignty to a new Iraqi government on June 30, confirmed that an oil pipeline south of Baghdad was struck in the last week.

A second senior official in the Electricity Ministry said that the weekend attack was the latest in a series in the same area, and that **repairs on the lines had repeatedly been followed by new strikes**. This official said the pipeline also delivered crude oil to at least one major refinery, whose operations had also been affected.

By Tuesday, enough repairs had been done to bring the plant's output to about 300 megawatts of electricity out of a possible 750 megawatts for most of the day, the Iraqi official said. Power plants around the country put about 4,000 megawatts on the electrical grid, although demand is much higher — leading to frequent blackouts, both scheduled and unscheduled — and is expected to soar even further this summer.

More worrisome than this specific act of sabotage, said Mr. Haris, the Iraqi minister, is the pattern of **attacks on the country's electrical grid. He estimated that the high-tension lines that are the backbone of the grid had been attacked an average of twice a week** recently, and he expressed irritation at what he said was a refusal by the Coalition Provisional Authority to provide security for the lines.

"They did nothing about the transmission line security," Mr. Haris said. "They should. They say, 'We have no such capability.' "

When the Electricity Ministry asked for a helicopter to patrol the lines, it was turned down, he said.

The electrical turbines, power lines and other equipment at the plant south of Baghdad have been the focus of major reconstruction work as part of the overall rebuilding of the country, largely financed by billions of dollars of American money and revenues from Iraq's oil fields.

Saad Shakir Tawfiq, an engineer who worked on the rehabilitation of the grid in 1991 and now leads a government-owned center in the Iraqi Ministry of Industry that is doing some work at several power plants, said the insurgents' effort aimed "to distract the American-backed government."

"If there is no electricity, no water, whatever, the government will fail," Dr. Tawfiq said.

"This is a very big priority for them right now," said Ray Salvatore Jennings, representative in Iraq for the United States Institute of Peace, who often meets with American officials here. **"They see this insurgency getting very sophisticated about targeting this to delegitimize the new regime."**

Mosul Base Camp Mortared

6.8.04 By TODD PITMAN, Associated Press Writer

Attackers fired several mortar rounds at a coalition military base camp in Mosul. Two civilian contract employees were wounded, the U.S. military said.

More Bad Karma

6.8.04 By TODD PITMAN, Associated Press Writer

Gunmen opened fire Tuesday on U.S. Marines guarding the police station in the Anbar town of Karma, touching off a firefight, witnesses said. **One witness, Abbas Khalaf, said the gunmen had warned businessmen to close their shops before the attack.**

Dr. Hatem Sameer at the Fallujah General Hospital said seven people, including two women, were killed and 15 were wounded in the clashes. He said more victims were taken to another hospital. Sameer said several victims came from one family, whose house was hit by a projectile.

U.S. Asks For Safe Passage Of Tanks Through Fallujah

2004-06-09 Middle East Online & 6.10.04 AFP

FALLUJAH, Iraq - US tanks gathered outside Fallujah. Some 15 tanks were deployed on a road about one kilometre (less than a mile) east of a US checkpoint on the border of the city, which lies 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Baghdad.

Iraqis living in Fallujah said American troops had asked the local authorities to provide them with a safe passage through the city, the correspondent said.

A Marine spokesman denied U.S. forces were preparing to enter the city.

"We are not conducting any offensive operations in Fallujah," Maj. T.V. Johnson told the Agence France-Presse news service.

TROOP NEWS

Spate Of Deaths Focuses Attention On Part-time Soldiers;

“I Don’t Think They Expected What They Ended Up Facing”

6/9/2004 By David Porter, Associated Press

CARLSTADT, N.J. (AP) Daniel Carvill recalls the day in February when he last saw his brother: A cold rain fell on Fort Dix, and the two shook hands before Frank Carvill, visibly nervous but convinced "he had a reason to go," shipped off to war.

For Sgt. Frank Carvill who witnessed terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in 1993 and 2001 a commitment to his part-time job as a soldier in the National Guard took him to Iraq. He was killed Friday, the victim of an ambush.

"It was more or less a weekend job, once a month," said Daniel Carvill. "Then he ended up in Iraq. I don't think they expected what they ended up facing."

In the first week of June, nine of the 13 announced U.S. troop deaths in Iraq were National Guard or Reserve soldiers, an extraordinarily high toll on part-time troops.

Shaken by his brother's death, Daniel Carvill wondered aloud at the policy of putting National Guard units into combat.

"You have part-timers up against people who've been exposed to a lot of wars," Carvill said. "These are the people you're up against, but you realize this is the chance you take. " God help them."

The toll among National Guard and Reserve soldiers has been climbing in recent months, and the pace of casualties so far this month has been the highest of the war. May had the largest number of Guard and Reserve deaths in Iraq, 22 of the month's 80 total U.S. troop deaths.

"The loss of a single soldier is difficult to the National Guard family and community," said Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt, a spokeswoman. **"It is inconceivable that we have had to face this many deaths in such a short period of time."**

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/>

Marine Corps Refuses To Tell Father How His Son Died

(These obsessive assholes in Marine command are famous for refusing to tell the public anything at all about how troops lose their lives, or where, but this one hits a new low. They won't even tell his father.)

June 09, 2004 By Michael Wright, The Facts (Texas)

MANVEL — The mortar that thumped in a village in the Iraqi desert exploded 7,300 miles away in Manvel.

That mortar killed Marine Lance Cpl. Todd Bolding, 23, the first Brazoria County resident to be killed in the war in Iraq. Bolding, who graduated from Alvin High School in 2000, joined the Marines in 2001, informing his family only after he enlisted.

Todd Bolding was a hard worker who was a joy to be around, said Mike Bass, who coached him on the Alvin High School football team.

“He was one of those kids that epitomized what a team player was,” Bass said. “Todd was one of those quiet guys that had a smile that lit up the room.”

Keith Bolding said details of his brother's death are still hard to come by, but he's learned Todd was helping clear a village in the Al Anbar province of Iraq, which includes the hostile city of Fallujah.

“There was hostile fire,” Keith Bolding said. “There was a mortar attack in hostile fire.”

A spokesman at Camp Pendleton, where Todd Bolding was based before he shipped to Iraq, would not give any details on his death. *The spokesman wouldn't even say what part of Iraq that Al Anbar is in.* (Here we have uncontroverted proof of completely idiocy at work: to find Al Anbar, look on any map of Iraq that shows the provinces. Who do the fools at Pendleton think they're keeping it a secret from, the Iraqis? Duh.)

Keith Bolding said he wants to know more details of the attack, especially if there were any enemy casualties.

Keith said the Defense Department statement that his brother died in Iraq was wrong as well. He was evacuated to a hospital in Germany, where he died Thursday with his father, James Bolding, at his side.

James Bolding flew back three hours after his son's death, but Todd's casket didn't arrive in Delaware until Monday. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Sugar Valley Baptist Church in Houston.

Keith Bolding said his brother loved the Marines, but was rather matter-of-fact when the possibility of combat arose.

"He said, 'If they call me to go, I'll go,'" Keith said. "I told him, 'I don't want you to go and you know how Momma thinks.'"

Keith Bolding said the death has hit the family hard, especially his sister Joslyn, whom he described as Todd's favorite sibling.

"That was my baby brother," he said.

"We never argued, he always came to me for advice. It's real hard for me. When he became a man at that age, all I could do was offer my hand."

Officer Sentenced For Killing Spc.

6.14.04 Army Times

Air Force 1st Lt. Todd Doughty was sentenced to 18 months confinement and dismissal from the service after pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter and drunken driving in a general court-martial May 31.

The charges stemmed from a February incident in Kabul, Afghanistan. After drinking, Doughty lost control of his vehicle while driving at a high speed. The passenger in the car, Spc. David E. Hall, assigned to 805th Military Police Company, 16th Military Police Brigade, Army Reserve, Raleigh, N.C., was killed in the one-vehicle accident.

Mom Says GI's Wounds Not Serious

6/07/04 By LISA VERNON-SPARKS, STAFF WRITER, Home News Tribune

The family of Spc. Timothy Brosnan, an East Brunswick resident injured Friday during an ambush in Iraq, says the National Guardsman is doing fine.

Mercedes Brosnan of Beechwood said she spoke to her son Timothy on Saturday. A soldier with the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery unit, Timothy Brosnan called his mother before being transported to a hospital in Germany and indicated that his wounds weren't severe, she said.

"We're thankful he's alive. He was in good spirits. He was joking like always," she said. "Not sure when he is coming home. The important thing is that Timmy's OK. That's all that matters."

Brosnan, 33, a father of two who installs industrial gutters for a living, was among seven from New Jersey who were either killed or injured in two separate attacks that happened in east Baghdad last week.

Fresh Meat For Bush's Imperial Slaughterhouse: Montana/Idaho Guard Activated

Army Times 6.14.04

Nearly 700 soldiers in the Montana Army National Guard will mobilize for possible duty in Iraq, the largest call-up of Montana troops since World War II, military officials said June 1.

Most are in the 1-163rd Infantry Battalion, which is under a brigade of the Idaho National Guard.

The soldiers will gather at armories in late June. Soon afterward they will go to Fort Bliss, Texas, and receive special training to prepare for duty in Iraq. Their proficiency will be "validated" by personnel at Fort Polk, La., sometime in November, the Guard said.

The 1-163rd Infantry Battalion is under the Idaho National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade.

The brigade's full mobilization is the Idaho National Guard's largest call-up for overseas military deployment in the state's history

A partial mobilization order came May 8. The full order involves 4,300 citizen soldiers from seven states, 2,000 of them from Idaho. **In addition to Montana, soldiers will be drawn from Oregon, Utah, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.**

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Al-Sadr "Still In Power"— Says Bremer Full Of Shit

June 9, 2004 EDWARD WONG, New York Times

Today the Mahdi Army, still controlled the holiest Shiite site in Iraq, the golden-domed Shrine of Ali. An aide to Mr. Sadr asserted that officials linked to the militia would have the right to take part in future elections despite a recent order from the American administration saying otherwise.

Mr. Sadr still remains in power and could mobilize his army at any time.

Ahmad Shaibani, an aide to Mr. Sadr, said in an interview that it was not the right of the occupation forces or the Iraqi police to decide who would control the shrines. "Holy shrines were excluded from the agreement," he said.

He added that in regard to the shrine issue, Mr. Sadr will answer only to the marjaiyah, the most senior ayatollahs in Iraq.

In Najaf, 120 miles south of Baghdad, many members of the Mahdi Army appeared to have hidden their weapons in order to show compliance with a cease-fire announced on June 4 by the governor of the region.

Mr. Shaibani also said that L. Paul Bremer III, the American administrator for Iraq, had no power to bar any Iraqi from participating in upcoming general elections. Earlier this week, Mr. Bremer signed an order saying members or leaders of illegal militias would not be able to run for office in the near future. That would presumably bar Mr. Sadr from campaigning.

Mr. Bremer "has no right to determine the nature of the elections and whether militias have the right to participate or not, especially since his authority will end as per the U.N. Security Council resolution," Mr. Shaibani said.

The inability of the American military to disband insurgents so far in both Falluja and the Najaf area highlights the difficulties the occupation has had in dealing with the country's various militias.

Sabah Mahdi, a manager in a hotel in the city, said that "Mahdi Army fighters are still here, and their weapons are still here despite the latest agreement."

Sistani Denounces UN Plan: Thousands Of Shias March In Baghdad

June 8, 2004 BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN) & 09 June 2004 Agence France Presse

Aides to Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most prominent Shiite Muslim cleric, made public Tuesday a letter the cleric sent to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan that called the administrative law for the transitional government of Iraq unacceptable to religious leaders.

Al-Sistani objects to the interim constitution, adopted in March.

Al-Sistani wrote, "The national assembly, which will be elected in the coming year, will undertake the task of forming a permanent constitution for Iraq and it is unacceptable for them to come under order of any one, and it is against the will of the Iraqi people. Any attempt to pass this law under the cover of an international law will be considered as an act against the will of the Iraqi people and will lead to dangerous consequences."

Thousands of Shiites marched in Baghdad on Tuesday in a clear message to the United Nations they would not tolerate any reference to the interim constitution in the Security Council resolution.

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

Collaborator Cops Challenge Madhi Army; Take Ass-Whipping; Numerous Police Shot; Police Stations Captured

10 June, 2004 By Khaled Farhan, NAJAF, Iraq (Reuters) & Independence Television Company

Five people have been killed in fighting between Iraqi police and Shi'ite militia in Najaf, the first clash there since U.S. forces and guerrillas agreed a truce last week, hospital sources say.

Ali al-Qusaidi, a doctor at Najaf's hospital, said **five people were killed, including three Iraqi policeman, and 27 people were wounded, many of whom were police officers**, during the fighting that broke out overnight on Wednesday.

Gunfire echoed through the streets on Thursday as police sped past in pick-up trucks to fight loyalists of radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, despite a June 4 truce hailed at the time by U.S. forces as a "breakthrough" after weeks of fighting.

Some residents said the troubles started when Iraqi police pursued armed militiamen and tried to arrest some at the bus station near the main police headquarters.

Militia members responded with machine gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades near the headquarters building. One gunman was killed when police returned fire, and other fighters then attacked the building. Fighting later moved to the second police station.

Madhi Army Soldiers took control of the Ghari police station just 250 yards from the Imam Ali Shrine, witness Mohammed Hussein said. Police supplies were taken and police cars were burned.

"We sent a quick-reaction unit to assist the policemen defending the station, but they were overwhelmed by al-Sadr fighters," Najaf Gov. Adnan al-Zurufi said. "We

will solve this problem as soon as possible. We will ask for the help of the Americans, if necessary."

Resistance Celebrates Boast Of Open Pipeline By Blowing It Up Again & Blow Up Second For A Bonus Surprise

09jun04 News.com.au. & The Associated Press & Agence France Presse

Insurgents struck Iraq's oil infrastructure Wednesday, blowing up two pipelines in less than 24 hours.

SABOTEURS had attacked the Kirkuk-Turkey pipeline on Sunday, the security chief for Iraq's Northern Oil Company (NOC) said today, *shortly after another official of the firm had denied any such attack.*

"Assailants detonated sound grenades on the pipeline Sunday at dawn (local time), 120 kilometres east of Kirkuk, causing damage, **and a loss of a huge quantity of oil,**" said NOC security chief Ghazi Talabani.

"The oil loss has been stopped and a group of technical experts are repairing the pipeline and the damage could be repaired by Tuesday night. Restarting production depends on the decision of the coalition and the oil ministry," he said.

Earlier, NOC's project manager Abdullah al-Rubai said there had been no new attack on the Kirkuk-Turkey pipeline since May 24 and that the main export artery was about to reopen.

The pipeline destruction forced authorities to cut output on the national power grid by 10 percent, police and Iraqi officials said.

The blast cut supplies to the Beiji electric power station, forcing a shut down of the 400-megawatt power station and caused a huge blackout in the town, the ministry said in a statement. Firemen were still battling Wednesday to put out the fire on the line.

Iraq now produces about 4,000 megawatts of power. Cuts in the country now last more than 16 hours a day, making it difficult to cope with soaring heat which is already topping 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Wednesday morning saboteurs also blew up a portion of the Kirkuk-Turkey oil pipeline, the second such attack in less than 24-hours, an Iraqi security chief in northern Iraq told AFP.

"A bomb placed 80 kilometres (50 miles) west of Kirkuk exploded at 8:20 am (0420 GMT) on the main pipeline to the Ceyhan terminal" on the Mediterranean in Turkey, said Iraqi Civil Defence Corps chief Anwar Hamed Amin.

The pipeline blaze was put out Wednesday afternoon, said the fire chief for the Northern Oil Company, Jumaa Ahmad. Time to repair damages was not estimated.

Guerrillas Kill 12 Iraqi Forces in Falluja: Payback For Tuesday Killing Of Women, Kids

Jun 9, 2004 By Fadil Badran

FALLUJA, Iraq (Reuters) - Rebels killed 12 members of an Iraqi security force in a mortar attack in the flashpoint town of Falluja Wednesday, the force said.

It was the first time guerrillas have attacked General Mohammed Latif's Falluja Brigade since it set out to pacify Iraq's most rebellious town west of Baghdad last month following fierce fighting between U.S. troops and insurgents.

Officers in the force told Reuters 10 people were wounded in the attack.

Witnesses said the mortar attack hit a camp housing security forces. They said Latif was not in the area at the time and no U.S. forces could be seen.

The attack will put Latif's security forces through their first major test and raise questions over whether the Americans will redeploy their positions closer to the town.

Members of the force said a joint patrol with American troops had been scheduled to pass through Falluja at the time of the attack.

Eleven Iraqis, including women and children, were killed on Tuesday in clashes between U.S. forces and insurgents near Falluja, hospital sources said.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

To Jeremy Hinzman, With Respect

TO: GI Special

Here's a piece I wrote on my friend Jeremy Hinzman who deserted the 82nd Airborne rather than fight in Iraq.

By Lou Plummer, lou.plummer@mac.com June 10, 2004

In January, a paratrooper from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, Jeremy Hinzman, loaded his wife, son and a few possessions into their small car and drove from Ft. Bragg to Toronto, Canada. In a journey reminiscent of one taken by another generation of soldiers, Jeremy committed a felony punishable by death to avoid serving in a controversial war.

I'd known him since he arrived from advanced infantry training, which he completed in the same place I had years ago, Ft. Benning, GA. We met in an unlikely place, Quaker House in Fayetteville, NC. I was there to attend a meeting of an anti-death penalty group and Jeremy was there to talk to the director, a man who counsels soldiers on discharge issues.

When I left the military after completing my enlistment, I went to work in a southern penitentiary. It took years for me to realize that the racism endemic to the prison was something I could not tolerate. I was able to quit and walk away from that job.

It didn't take Jeremy quite so long to realize that he was participating in something that was wrong. At Ft. Benning, instructors led a chant during bayonet training "What makes the grass grow?"

His fellow trainees exclaimed, "Blood, blood, blood" and Jeremy started to question his enlistment decision. There aren't many places in American society where it's OK to scream one's bloodlust. Some people willingly train to kill for their country. Others realize they can't. That's why the US military has a conscientious objector discharge program. The all volunteer military stops being all volunteer the day that a person enlists. Even the Pentagon realizes that people can change.

After spending a few months training with his unit at Ft. Bragg Jeremy filed a conscientious objector application. He hadn't been a slacker while contemplating this decision. He'd been awarded the highly coveted expert infantry badge, worn only by those who master dozens of tasks involving deadly military skills. He's aced parts of the Army physical fitness test and was admired by his superiors for his work ethic.

After receiving his application, the Army removed him from training and assigned him duty as a guard at the gates of Ft. Bragg, checking IDs to keep terrorists from invading the home of the Airborne Infantry. Yet when his unit received orders to deploy to Afghanistan, Jeremy was ordered to go with them. His superiors claimed they had no record of his CO application.

Jeremy deployed and while on a clerical detail discovered his application in, of all places, his personnel record. A hearing was convened and after Jeremy explained that, in the event of an attack he would defend his friends in the unit in which he's served for two years, his application was denied. The Army wouldn't discharge him.

When he returned from that deployment, I saw him often. We marched against the war in a demonstration at the state capitol. We attended meetings of a local grass roots peace group. Jeremy never used his unique position to generate attention. He participated as a believer in peace, not as a novelty act from the 82nd Airborne.

We talked about computers and cycling as well the war and the occupation. I watched his son grow. When his unit received orders for Iraq, only five months after returning from Afghanistan, I was saddened beyond words. While Donald Rumsfeld held press conferences proclaiming that the soldiers he professes to support would receive real breaks between deployments, the people in military communities like the one I live in saw the real truth as we watched our friends prepare to depart to yet another combat zone.

By necessity, Jeremy planned his move to Canada secretly. Rather than laying low and avoiding the spotlight once he arrived, however, he decided to speak out for the first time, willingly drawing attention to his decision. To those who know him, he isn't a novelty act or a weakling who couldn't hack the rigors of the infantry.

I know men who've served in Iraq and I admire them. I admire Jeremy Hinzman as well. He's not a typical military hero, but he's a hero nonetheless.

(For an interview with Lou Plummer and David Cline of Veterans For Peace see the article "This Is Imperial Arrogance," centerfold at www.socialistworker.org.)

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/>

Debate:

"Support Our Troops" Yes.

3 Jun 2004 Melanie Moore, Posted By Military Families Speak Out

Let's be clear about the soldiers. Our soldiers. Those men and women in Iraq today are, indeed, just as heroic as those at Normandy. They have been put in the wrong place at the wrong time for the wrong reasons, but that's not their fault. They are fighting and dying and trying to build something good as soldiers, despite the most foolhardy civilian leadership in the modern history of the United States. Like any G.I. Joe in World War II, they're making the best of a bad situation.

Last week, for instance, I got a long letter from Lt. Col. Richard Allinger, who works out of the heavily guarded Green Zone in Baghdad, where he ought to be pretty safe, but isn't.

"Yesterday, I thought I was on the way out twice," he wrote. "I am still in a state of shock to some degree, and thankful in others that God just happens to love me a lot.

"At about three in the afternoon I was walking into the parking lot of a café when-FIZZ, WHOOSH, WHOOMP-two mortars and one rocket flew directly over my head and blew up about 100 yards from me. I hit the deck, got my heart started again, and made it back to my brigade compound rather quickly. I thought, well it just ain't my time yet. And finally got my pulse below 400.

"Then last night at about 22h30 [10:30 p.m.], I am lying on my bed when-WHOOSH, WHOOMP, and KABOOM-my whole room bounced, the outside wall was peppered. I jumped up, put on my flack vest and some shoes, and looked outside our hootch. The mortar disintegrated the tiles, blew s-- in all directions and was still smoldering when I found the crater. I mean God really loved me yesterday. The 22h30 mortar would have entered my room if it had an angle of trajectory modified by less than one degree, considering how far it traveled.

"I did not sleep well last night."

This sort of thing won't end soon, "but I will maintain my sense of humor. I will maintain my resolve," says Allinger.

"The American soldier in Iraq is a fine human being," he writes. "Young men and women, a zillion miles from home, watching their friends die day after day, being mortared just like me, eating lousy food, baking in the unbelievable heat. young men and women who are attending too many memorials and last roll calls. these young men and women suffer these indignities routinely and go out each day to help rebuild a school, build a water line, repair a bridge, fix the substations, install air conditioners in orphanages, the list goes on and on. These young men and women are heroes, not prison guards gone wild. They are the bravest most incredible people I have ever had the pleasure to know."

Reply:

“Support Our Troops”? No.

By Joe Uργο

(I am an ex- national officer of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, one of the organizers of the Winter Soldier Investigation, where 100 plus Vietnam Veterans testified for three days about the training and policies that produced massive war crimes in Vietnam I am currently a member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-Imperialist www.vvawai.org)

Yes. Let us be clear about the soldiers.

First, we are going to divide them into different categories. We are going to identify and separate out here the officer corps (especially the higher ranks), the burned out lifers who like the authority and obedience, and the mercenary types

who really have a racist bloodlust for killing people in foreign lands. While overall they are all in a minority, they are in command and know their mission well.

Most of the troops are the average kid in our family and next door, looking for education, training and to get away from the authority and boredom of young people's lives. They are then subjected to a brutal brainwashing called Basic Training.

They get sent to a foreign country under the lie of "freedom and democracy" and find themselves an invader and occupying army over a people they know nothing about, who increasingly hate and resist them. They are never told it is for treasure and empire, so they can't yet figure out what has gone wrong. Increasingly angry and hateful of being caught in a vise of mad contradictions, they take it out on the only people they have power over, the native people, and their organized resistance.

A good number of our kids in combat become cold blooded killers, some sink into the depravity of rape and torture. This is what it means to be a soldier for empire in the 20th and 21st century. Name me the imperialist war and I'll show you the examples above, time and time again. British, German, Italian, and Soviet. But, we live in the American Empire and we have to take responsibility for what has been and continues to be done in our name, for the "American Way of Life"

The key point to remember is that the majority of our youth who go thru this have been trained to do this, AND THEY CAN BE UNTRAINED TO WAKE UP AND SEE THAT THIS WAS WRONG.

But you will not be able to do this as long as you raise the slogan Support the Troops, which means you are supporting what the troops are doing to the people.

You may want to make a distinction in your head, but in the real world, you are supporting what the overall mission objectives are, but it has been personalized down to your son or daughter to make it acceptable. Look at the letter from Melanie Moore, who uses an officer to wax on about the honor and glory of "our fine soldiers". I am sure Melanie is against the war, and many many troops are.

Do you think the officer quoted is? And why is there this constant necessity to keep calling them heroes? For what? Carrying out the murderous policies of the government?

Put yourself in the shoes of an Iraqi who has just lost a whole family! We learned a long time ago in Vietnam that you will drive yourself nuts trying to atone for what we did to the Vietnamese people and still hold onto our medals. That's why we threw them at Congress in 1971.

The draft is coming, vampires will be grabbing our children by the millions for all the wars that are coming -- Iran, Korea, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, China ad infinitum.

Why can't we debate the hardest question here? That there is no glory in murder and torture for empire, no honor in blind obedience to wars against the common people of the world.

I say: NO SUPPORT FOR KILLING THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. WE DO SUPPORT SOLDIERS WHO FOLLOW THEIR CONSCIENCE AND FIND VARIED WAYS TO ACT ON THAT.

Joe Urgo

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.

OCCUPATION REPORT

The Face Of The Enemy: Bush Picks Terrorist In Suit To Run Iraq



New Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi worked with the CIA as head of an exile group that sent agents into Baghdad in the early 1990s to plant bombs and sabotage government facilities, The New York Times reported June 9, 2003. (June 7. Pool/Reuters)

OCCUPATION PALESTINE

The Resistance



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

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