

## **GI SPECIAL 2#C34**

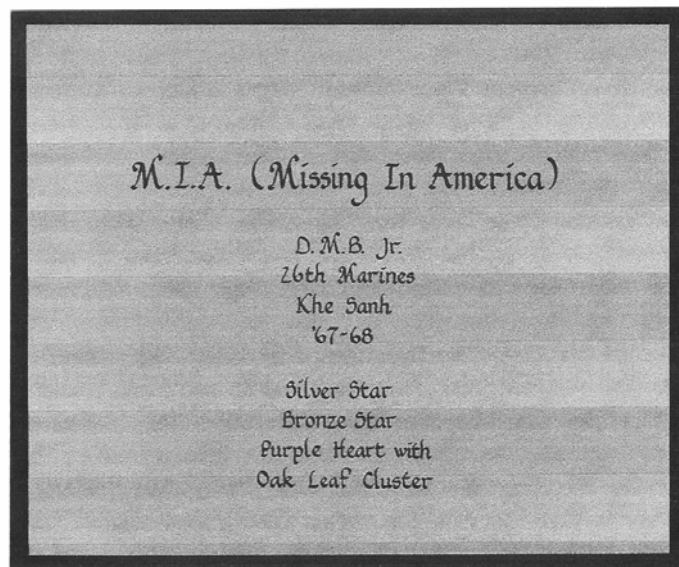


Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q ( I Remember Another Quagmire ) portfolio of Mike Hastie, U.S. Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (Please contact at: [hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) for more examples of his outstanding work. T)

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

### **Two U.S. Marines Killed In Babil**

Nov 28, 2004 NEAR ISKANDARIYA, Iraq (Reuters)

Two U.S. Marines were killed in action south of Baghdad Sunday, a Marine spokesman said.

He said they were killed in the northern part of Babil province where U.S. Marines and Iraqi and British forces have been involved in aggressive raids against Sunni insurgents for the past five days.

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### **Car Bomb Blast Wounds Two Baghdad Soldiers**

11/28/04 cjt7 Release #041128b Baghdad, Iraq & Aljazeera.Net

**A vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated at about 8:40 a.m. on Nov. 28, wounding two Soldiers and damaging a military vehicle in central Baghdad.**

**The blast occurred on the airport access road** leading out of the International Zone. Following the blast, Task Force Baghdad patrols temporarily closed the road to investigate and clear the road of debris.

Both injured Soldiers were evacuated to a nearby military medical treatment facility.

**The interim government's youth ministry reported that its general director, Ahmad Faiq, and his bodyguard were injured when their car was hit by the explosion.**

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### **Five Polish Soldiers Injured in Car Accident**

28 November 2004 Focus 1 News, Babylon.

Five Polish soldiers have been slightly injured in a car accident that occurred near the village of Abu Garaya, 10 km away from al-Hilla, announced spokesman of Centre-South Multinational Division, Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Domanski for FOCUS News Agency. The soldiers have been taken to the military hospital.

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# **“Resistance Controls Half Of Fallujah,” Al-Kubaysi Tells Al-Jazeera.**

28 November 2004 <http://mparent7777.blog-city.com/read/931149.htm>

In a telephone conversation with al-Jazeera satellite TV on Saturday, Shaykh ‘Abd as-Salam al-Kubaysi, the Chief of the Public Relations Department of the Board of Muslim ‘Ulama’ [Scholars] in Iraq said that “until now, more than half of al-Fallujah is in the hands of the al-Fallujah Resistance.”

Shaykh al-Kubaysi ridiculed US boasts about their “wiping out” Resistance in the city, telling al-Jazeera that the US now is in “difficult straits” in the city. “At the beginning they were attacking,” al-Kubaysi said, “but now they are on the defensive.” He said that the Americans are entrenched in al-Fallujah, “but cannot get out and onto any street or alley in more than half the city, whether that be in al-Jawlan, or ash-Shuhada’, or the industrial zone, or the an-Nazal neighborhood, or in many places.”

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## **ENVIRONMENT HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Army soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 24 Infantry Regiment in Mosul Nov. 22. (AP Photo/Jim MacMillan)

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## **Corinth Guardsman Injured**

November 28, 2004 Capital Newspapers

A Corinth man serving with the Army National Guard in Iraq was wounded Tuesday when a roadside bomb tore through the Humvee he was driving near Samarra, his wife said.

Matthew Welch, 23, currently is recovering in Germany after several surgeries on his legs and hands, according to Diana Welch.

"His major injury is a hole in his left knee," said Diana Welch, 22. "He has no feeling in his left leg."

Welch was the only man injured in the Humvee he was driving, his wife said. Her husband's condition has improved since he first called her on Tuesday, Diana Welch said.

Her husband returned to Iraq on Nov. 15 after a two-week leave, she said. He was first deployed in February. The couple has a 4-year-old son.

Matthew Welch graduated from Corinth High School in 1999. Before his deployment, he worked at the automotive department of the Wal-Mart in Wilton, Diana Welch said.

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## "It Could Be The Mekong Delta."



28 November, 2004 BBC

British Black Watch battle group soldiers have taken part in a river assault on a rebel stronghold in the "Triangle of Death" south of Baghdad.

**Watching the operation through his nightsights Corporal Dave Ceely, 22, turned to his sergeant major and whispered: "This is unbelievable -it's like a scene from Apocalypse Now or something. Even the trees look the same. It could be The Mekong Delta." [Right. And the story has the same ending.]**

Major Jasper de Quincy, commander of the Guards' operation, said: "Using night cover increases the element of surprise.

"We are exposed to mortar fire here if any rebels over there decide to counter-attack. They have done it before and we have learned this to our cost."

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## The Blur

One Marine, Cpl. Matthew Hummel, forgot the [Thanksgiving] day's celebration. **"Days get to blur here, someone had to remind me this morning,"** said Hummel, 21, from Easley, S.C. (November 25, 2004 By KATARINA KRATOVAC, ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER)

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## Disaster

11.26.04 Wall St. Journal

**Officials had hoped the city of Samarra would serve as an example. When U.S. and Iraqi forces retook Samarra earlier this fall, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and his senior commanders in Iraq hailed the offensive as a stirring success. But the \$480 million reconstruction effort there, planned as a model of the benefits Iraqis would enjoy in cities where most insurgents had been driving out, has proceeded fitfully because guerrillas have driven off or intimidated many Iraqis who were supposed to do the work.**

"It's been a lot harder to get projects in Samarra off the ground than we expected," one military official in Iraq said by e-mail.

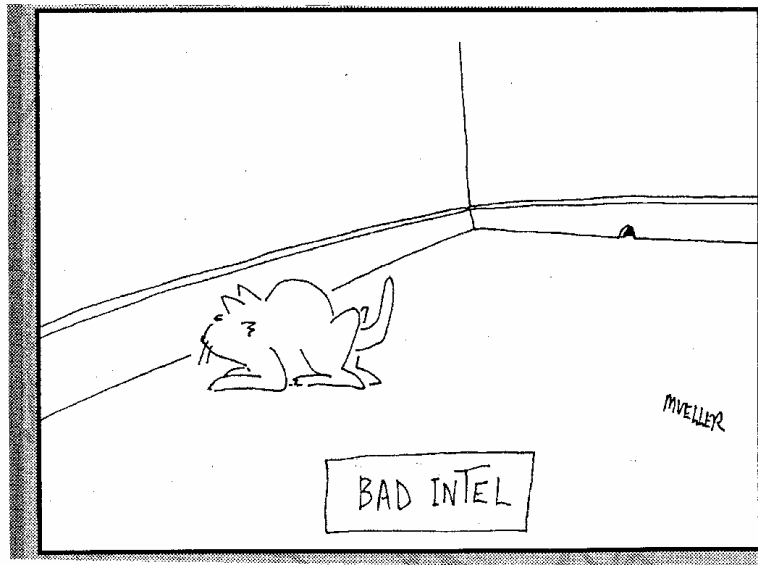
**Across the Sunni Triangle, officials continue to hold out hope that they will be able to bring one city completely under coalition control, lavish it with public-works projects and hold it up as an example of what's to come when the insurgents are defeated. Iraq's Oil Ministry has pledged workers for the cause, but so far no city has proven stable enough to serve as a toehold for rebuilding efforts.**

The latest fighting in Mosul reflects the fact that significant numbers of insurgents appear to have fled Fallujah before the fighting began there, **something U.S. forces failed to anticipate. [NO! Do not blame "U.S. forces" unless and until they arrest their officers and set up elected councils to run the army. Blame the drooling idiots in command, and the politicians in Washington who tell the Generals what to do, for each and every scrap of idiocy like this, and for this fucked up, useless, pointless war itself. It's bad, got no hope of anything but more death, and it's time to get over it and come home.]**

The top military commander in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, said U.S. forces didn't completely seal off the city until shortly before the invasion began because the traffic control points that would have been necessary for a firm cordon have become popular insurgent targets. [Thereby admitting in practice there was nothing whatever he could order to stop that state of affairs. Check out the history of Hitler's army in Yugoslavia vs. the Yugoslav partisans for an example of

what that means. The longer they stayed, the more they lost, in ground, troops and equipment, until they were reduced to scattered, besieged outposts. Sound familiar?]

The increase in attacks linked to insurgents who slipped out of Fallujah means that U.S. forces might find themselves putting down rebellions in the same cities they already have assaulted, *until Iraq's nascent security forces can maintain order on their own.* [Projected date for that: the 12<sup>th</sup> of Never.]



### **NEED 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/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.net](http://www.ivaw.net))

## **TROOP NEWS**

# **Rumsfeld Says More U.S. Troops Will Die**

27 November 2004 By Alastair Macdonald, The Age, Australia



American troops, celebrating Thanksgiving after some of their bloodiest weeks in Iraq, should brace for more losses as they pursue insurgents bent on wrecking January's election, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has warned.

"No doubt attacks will continue in the weeks and months ahead, and perhaps intensify as the Iraqi election approaches," Mr. Rumsfeld said in Washington.

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## Honored Glory



The coffin of a 22-year-old U.S. Marine Juan Lopez, in his hometown of San Luis de la Paz, Mexico, July 3, 2004. Lopez emigrated to Georgia as a teenager, joined the Marines and was killed in Iraq June 21. .(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

### Arlington National Cemetery, July 2004

The Veteran, Fall 2004, Vol. 34, Number 2, Vietnam Veterans Against The War

“Here lies in  
honored glory  
an American soldier  
known only to God ...“

Here, lies are solemn.

Here, lies are told  
in the cadence of boot heels ringing on stone,  
in the snap of a bolt shooting home  
in the breach of a polished rifle, held at port arms  
in white-gloved hands.

Here, we fold our flag  
and tell ourselves

the soldier died bravely  
in a just cause

Dead men cannot lie.  
Here, all causes are lost.

Here, the living let stones tell the lies  
the dead cannot.

To soothe sore hearts, tales are told  
of glory in battle,  
and courage under fire.

Here, the paths of glory  
discolor marble  
a shade of brown like dried blood  
scuffed into the paving stones  
by the slow turn  
and turnabout march  
of the Guard of Honor  
in roped-off sacred ground  
in front of the Tomb of the Unknown.

**Here, lies are told by presidents and generals.  
Here, the truth lies sleeping under stone.**

**Under lies, the truth rests,  
but not in peace.  
The dead have chisels that cut the heart.**

*Dana Patillo*

**Medals don't mean a thing.**

**The anger combat Vietnam vets have is based on the following:**

**Don't send us to war unless you have a damn good reason.**

**Don't send us to a war where your real purpose is to let it drag on so the war profiteers can make more money.**

**Don't send us to free people who do not want to be freed, but hate us soldiers and just want us to get out of there.**

**Don't send us to a war unless 90% of the American public will back us.**

**And don't blame us for war crimes when the nature of war turns human beings into animals.**

**[See article below: "Purple And Broken Hearts"]**



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. Send requests to address up top.

## Anti-War Activists In England Win Big; Court Case Closed As Prosecution Runs Scared



The true branding of business in Iraq

25.11.2004 indymedia.org.uk

On Tuesday the 23rd of November almost 7 months since human rights activists Ewa Jasiewicz and Pennie Quinton were charged with aggravated trespass for entering the Iraq Procurement conference, a major contract signing event attended by the Iraq interim government ministers and Brian Wilson, Blair's envoy for reconstruction in Iraq held in London last April.

**In what was unquestionably a political decision by the CPS both women have been fully acquitted and awarded costs, despite a strong case against the protestors who managed to disrupt the conference when they unfurled banners**

and informed conference attendees that their order of business was in fact nothing less than the pillage of Iraq and therefore illegal under the 1907 Hague regulations and the Geneva conventions.

The women's defense argued that they could not be charged with aggravated trespass, 'the of disruption of a lawful event' as in fact the Iraq Procurement conference was unlawful as it was facilitating the pillage of Iraq which was under occupation by the US and the UK at the time of their action.

In what is believed to be a politically motivated decision, the Crown Prosecution Service dropped charges of 'Aggravated Trespass' against two female protesters who demonstrated inside a major Iraq privatisation conference last April. The Crown stated that 'there is not enough evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction'.

**Ewa and Pennie had been charged with intending to disrupt a "lawful activity" when they entered the Iraq Procurement Conference, unfurled banners, and addressed the delegates as collaborators in the daily massacres and pillage of Iraq. Their actions caused the conference venue to be evacuated and all activity to be suspended.**

On the 23rd of November at Highbury Corner Magistrate's court the prosecution refused to give evidence and the defendants were fully acquitted with the magistrate agreeing to award costs. Ewa and Pennie regard the prosecution's climb-down as a victory and a total vindication of the validity and necessity of their actions and legal argument.

Naomi Klein, award-winning journalist and author of No Logo, had been scheduled to give evidence at the trial. Instead she took part in a press conference alongside the defendants and their lawyer at The National Union of Journalists on Wednesday the 24th of November. **She said that occupying countries are bound by what she termed the 'house sitters rule', "housesitters I.E. the occupiers are allowed to eat the food in the fridge but are not entitled to sell the house and its contents and turn it into condominiums."**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Allawi Runs, Can't Hide**

November 28, 2004, Rana Kabbani, Bahrain Tribune

"Ya Allawi, ya jaban. Ya 'ameel Al Amercaan. Sheel idak, sheel idak. Hatha shaabak mai reedak!"

**This rousing chant, in Iraqi vernacular, which calls on Allawi to make himself scarce for being a coward and an American agent, is being chanted throughout the cities of Iraq in furious demonstrations.**

Al Jazeera showed one of these last week, which may explain why Allawi scurried over to the more supine Al Arabiyya satellite station (which most Arabs sneer at, although not quite as hard as they do at Al Hurra, the Pentagon-financed and controlled propaganda station). There he denounced Al Jazeera yet again, having already closed down its offices more than three months ago, and harassed and insulted their journalists.

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## **Resistance Destroying Collaborator Forces**



A hooded Iraqi occupation policeman. (AP Photo/Muhammed Uraibi Nov. 27, 2004)

**[THANKS TO D WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: D WRITES: He must be "plainclothes."]**

Nov 27 By MARIAM FAM, Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The warning left in the garage of Omar Hameed, Iraqi National Guardsman, showed two bloody swords and a message: "If you don't quit your job in three days, you will be killed."

**The next day, Hameed, still recovering from a leg injury after gunmen attacked his patrol, gave his reply in signs he hung in the market of his hometown of Mahmoudiya and on the street leading to his home: "I wash my hands of the Iraqi National Guard."**

He said the decision to give up his job, which paid a relatively hefty \$190 a month, was easy because he knew the alternative.

"They have killed many people," Hameed said. "They can reach you anywhere. They can easily break into homes to kidnap or kill you."

**Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin, the senior Iraqi National Guard official in the northern city of Kirkuk, said the change in techniques showed a highly adaptable and astute enemy.**

**"They're smart people," he said. "They have planners and they have people experienced in the art of warfare. They make preparations, have weapons and the Internet."**

To work around increased security measures, such as barricades around military bases to fend off car bombers, militants have turned to kidnapping or ambushing security forces, he said.

**Insurgents also have been able to infiltrate security forces, buying or extorting information and tracking troop movements by monitoring their radio transmissions, he added.**

Soldiers returning home from base often are ambushed. Maj. Gen. Rashid Feleih, commander of a special police force dispatched to Mosul after the latest violence there, said **insurgents sometimes have people waiting at bus and car terminals to monitor troops getting rides from there.**

Police have been attacked and dragged from their homes. During the past six months, 60 Iraqi policemen — not including Iraqi National Guardsmen and other security force members — have been killed in the Mosul area, Feleih said.

**In Mahmoudiya, where ex-National Guardsman Hameed lives, people describe masked gunmen clutching walkie-talkies and barging into homes, inspecting IDs and searching for guardsmen.** One family, whose National Guard son was kidnapped from home, found his body almost a month later in a hospital morgue.

Hameed said that in his neighborhood, the absence of police on the streets adds weight to the militants' threats.

**In Mosul, residents and officials talk of fake checkpoints manned by militants who check IDs, single out security personnel and shoot them.**

Amin in Kirkuk said some security force members in his area received threats and CDs of gruesome beheadings at their homes. In recent weeks, 10 guardsmen were killed in three attacks in his area alone.

His forces have orders to vary their travel and patrol routines and always move in convoys.

**The Iraqi National Guard has been involved in several high-profile raids and operations with U.S. forces, making it more visible and more closely associated with the U.S. military.**

"They think of us all as spies for the Americans," said Hameed, who is Sunni."  
[Wrong. Not "spies." More like the way Americans thought of other Americans who enlisted and took up arms to help the British Empire kill George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. And they are 100% right.]

## **IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION**

### **Police Station In Baquba Attacked**

28 November 2004 Aljazeera.Net

Three people have been injured in clashes between fighters opposed to the US-backed interim Iraqi government and police in the city of Baquba, northeast of the capital Baghdad.

Aljazeera has learned that the clashes erupted after the fighters, armed with rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) and machine guns, attacked al-Wihda police station in the centre of the city, early on Sunday.

Columns of smoke have been seen rising from the area as clashes continue across the city.

Other reports state that two police officers and a woman were injured.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **Purple And Broken Hearts**

**The rule in 1967 was that if you were wounded two times, they took you out of the infantry and sent you in the back or back to the United States. [The rule also was that you spent one year in combat, and not one day more for any reason whatsoever. The reason they held to that rule was they didn't want thousands of officers killed by pissed off troops, instead of merely hundreds. Lesson learned.]**

By Dennis Serdel Perry, The Veteran, Fall 2004, Vol. 34, Number 2, Vietnam Veterans Against The War

**I was drafted in October 1966 along with two guys I went to high school with. After basic training and advanced infantry training, they cut the orders for us.**

One lucked out and went to Fort Reilly, Kansas and was a clerk for the rest of his two years' drafted time; he hated it. Another went to 1st Air Cay for training and then to combat infantry in Vietnam. I went to Hawaii for advanced jungle training and then to Vietnam combat infantry in the new Americal Division.

**The rule in 1967 was that if you were wounded two times, they took you out of the infantry and sent you in the back or back to the United States.**

The problem in Vietnam, like in Iraq, was that most of our wounds were shrapnel. Thus, with the heavy fighting in '67 to '68, many soldiers were getting hit once, but with multiple wounds. **So during our tour, the military changed the rules and said we had to be hit three times to get out of the field.**

**Comparing notes with my one high school buddy who was in 1st Cay, he told me he was hit three times and the Army would not take him out of the fighting.**

**His father had to write and personally visit his senator to get his son out of the fighting after being wounded three times. He asked, "Will you only be happy when my son comes home dead? You can only get wounded so many times before the bullet or shrapnel doesn't just wound you but hits it mark and kills you." Only after all that did they take his son out of the field.**

Comparing notes when we came home I found that everyone (except for one who contracted malaria) in our original company was wounded at least once.

Only 18% of us actually fought the war, so I'm confused nowadays just "how wounded" Americans think a soldier should be to get a Purple Heart.

It seems that if you have both legs and an arm blown off, Americans believe you should get a Purple Heart. But I know that I bandaged a machine gunner of ours when a bullet grazed his shoulder, but he acted as if it didn't even bother him. Now do Americans think that he should get the Purple Heart? One of my best buddies got a little shrapnel in his leg and spent a month on a hospital ship just offshore 'Nam and then went right back to combat. Should he get a Purple Heart?

The ones who complain the loudest about Purple Hearts are usually the chickenhawks.

**Medals don't mean a thing.**

**The anger combat Vietnam vets have is based on the following:**

**Don't send us to war unless you have a damn good reason.**

**Don't send us to a war where your real purpose is to let it drag on so the war profiteers can make more money.**

**Don't send us to free people who do not want to be freed, but hate us soldiers and just want us to get out of there.**

**Don't send us to a war unless 90% of the American public will back us.**



**And don't blame us for war crimes when the nature of war turns human beings into animals.**

## **Bananas Of Mass Destruction**

**"In Latin America, there are no terrorists - only hunger and unemployment and delinquents who turn to crime", he was quoted as saying. "What are we going to do, hit you with a banana?"** [Gen. Rene Vargas, the former head of Ecuador's military, 23 November 2004 Inter Press Service, By Jim Lobe]

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## **GIs Who Just Want To Go Home**

Nov 25, 2004 By Sarah Whalen, Asia Times Online

**"Rogues!" screamed Frederick the Great at the 1757 battle of Kolin, berating his soldiers for hesitating in battle. "Do you want to live forever?"** They decided they didn't and went forth, sacrificing themselves for an immediate battle defeat, Frederick's first.

That's the difference between 17 soldiers of the US 343rd Quartermaster Company fuel platoon of the 13th Corps Support Command based in Tallil, Iraq, and the frothing mix of Iraqi insurgents and jihadis who want them to leave. **US soldiers increasingly want to live forever, or at least for as long as it takes to get home, whereas insurgents and jihadis are increasingly willing to die - to be killed and kill themselves and also their own, to make sure the Americans go.**

Bush sent America's military and its international coalition into Iraq ostensibly to rid the world of Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. **But he now fights a war with people armed with homemade bombs and kitchen knives who seem unstoppable.**

US Army General Charles Dunlop saw the coming wave years ago while serving in Somalia: "I was struck," Dunlop says, "by the resourcefulness, cleverness and fierceness of the Somalis in confronting us" even though they had only primitive weapons and were often starving. Dunlop warns, America underestimates "the combat capability of societies we had considered too resource-poor to challenge us."

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

# The Crunch Arrives

From: LEFT FACE, Soldier Unions and / Resistance Movements in Modern Armies by DAVID CORTRIGHT AND MAX WATTS, Contributions in Military Studies, Number 107, GREENWOOD PRESS, New York, Westport, Connecticut, London

Although military budgets in the United States and Britain climbed again during the 1980s, the extra money did not lead to major increases in troop strength.

**Personnel costs have risen prohibitively. The military has been obliged, somewhat reluctantly, to increase the standard of living of its volunteers.**

**Each soldier now costs the army far more than his or her predecessor did a few dozen years ago. Per-unit labor costs have risen both directly (pay) and indirectly (conditions) as the military competes in the labor market and must now spend more on such things as increased wages, improved benefits, and new barracks. The large payroll and recruitment expenditures required to maintain a volunteer force serve as an impediment to easy expansion of the military.**

General William Westmoreland argued against the all-volunteer force in 1973 on precisely this basis: **“The cost of manpower expansion would be tremendous,” he warned, and “such realization could serve as a deterrent” to military planning.**

**The Defense Appropriations Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives made the same point when draft calls were ending: “The cost of recruiting additional personnel. . . might be prohibitive.” The committee added: “The all-volunteer force appears to be a *purely peacetime concept*, in that even a relatively small increase in personnel strength would place a nearly impossible strain upon the recruiting capabilities” (emphasis added).**

**The all-volunteer force seems to set limits on war-making capabilities.**

Military force levels are determined not by army generals but by what the recruitment “market” will bear. Without the easy option of increasing draft calls and thereby expanding forces at will, military planners lose a crucial element of flexibility. They must respond to any challenges with forces already in place or seek legislative approval for renewed conscription.

**Depending on the circumstances it may be possible for armies to fulfill their missions within these constraints but large-scale and lengthy military interventions certainly will become more difficult.**

**Morris Janowitz described this transition in striking terms to the Defense Manpower Commission in 1975: “Manpower has come to operate and will continue to operate as a crucial limitation and restraint on U.S. foreign policy.”**

Janowitz went on: “The shift from conscription to the all-volunteer force is a form of unilateral disarmament.”

The greater part of military budget increases of the 1980s have gone for expensive new hardware, to increase the capital equipment per soldier.

Karl Marx would have seen here confirmation of a basic law, the rise of the “organic composition of capital.” The ratio,  $c/v$ , of hardware costs (constant capital,  $c$ ) to labor costs (variable capital,  $v$ ) continues to grow, even when  $v$ , the cost of labor, increases.

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“They would give me a medal for killing a man, but kicked me out for loving one.”  
Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, U.S. Air Force, 1975

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### **Bright Ideas**

Funny Times, Dec. 2004

Searching for ways to convey law enforcement professionalism to the Iraqi police, Marine MP Company C in Camp Al Asad, Iraq, developed a costumed mascot, “Farid the Crime-Fighting Falcon” (patterned after the famous “take a bite out of crime” dog, McGruff, but using an animal they believe the Iraqis better respect).

**Cpl. Justin Weber has the easy job, putting on the falcon suit; his comrades have the more difficult task of explaining to their classes just how Farid fits into effective law enforcement.**

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## ***April 2003: The Falluja Massacre:*** **U.S. Forces Fire at Iraq Protest**

April 29, 2003 By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press Writer

FALLUJAH, Iraq - U.S. soldiers opened fire on Iraqis at a nighttime demonstration against the American presence here after people shot at them with automatic rifles, soldiers said Tuesday. The director of the local hospital said 13 people were killed and 75 wounded. The demonstrators insisted they were unarmed.

It was the third reported fatal shooting involving U.S. troops and Iraqi protesters in the past two weeks, underscoring the problems facing soldiers whose training focuses more on combat operations than crowd control.



U.S. soldiers take an Iraqi prisoner, center in white, inside a temporary base in Fallujah, a city 30 miles west of Baghdad, Monday, **June 2, 2003**. (AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

**The incidents, widely reported by Arab news media, have served to fuel growing resentment of the U.S. military presence in Iraq** only weeks after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime.

The latest shooting took place about 10:30 p.m. Monday in the town of Fallujah, roughly 30 miles west of Baghdad. The predominantly Sunni Muslim area provided strong support for Saddam's Baath Party.

Col. Arnold Bray of the 82nd Airborne Division said at least seven Iraqis were hit by gunfire, but he could not confirm the reported deaths. The 82nd Airborne has one battalion spread out around Fallujah, and a company of 150 was inside a school that serves as its headquarters when the incident took place, soldiers said.

"There was fire directly over the heads of soldiers on the roof (of the school). They returned fire in order to protect the lives of our soldiers," said Lt. Col. Eric Nantz.

Dr. Ahmed Ghanim al-Ali, director of Fallujah General Hospital, said there were 13 dead, including three boys no older than 10. He said his medical crews were shot at when they went to retrieve the wounded, which he said numbered 75 people.

The crowd of about 200 demonstrators reportedly was objecting to the presence in Fallujah of troops from the 82nd Airborne's 1st Battalion, 325 Regiment.

**Some townspeople, however, said the protest was held by students aged 5 to 20 to ask the soldiers to leave the school where they were staying so classes could resume Tuesday as scheduled.**

Soldiers at the scene said many in the crowd had AK-47 assault rifles and were firing into the air — a common practice at boisterous events.

"We saw three guys on the roof firing into the (school) building," said Sgt. Nkosi Campbell, pointing at the house across the street from the school. "Everybody could see the muzzle flashes."

Saying his troops acted with restraint, he said his men were worried about the rules of engagement — whether they should open fire.

"They turned around and said, 'Hey, Sergeant, can we shoot?'" Campbell said. "That was when they were already receiving fire."

Bray said there were infiltrators in the crowd, including some who were armed and on nearby rooftops. "Which kind of schoolboys carry AK-47s?" Bray asked.

**But Iraqis interviewed at the hospital insisted it was a peaceful demonstration and that no one was armed or throwing rocks. One wounded 18-year-old man, Aqil Khaleil, said U.S. soldiers opened fire with no warning.**

**"They waited until we came very close, and then they started shooting," he said.**

Residents said the shooting continued for at least 30 minutes. Edtesam Shamsudeim, 37, who lives nearby, said her 45-year-old brother died in the gunfire. She was shot in the leg; her husband was wounded.

**"We were sitting in our house. When the shooting started, my husband tried to close the door to keep the children in, and he was shot," she said at the hospital, sitting in a chair with a bandaged leg, surrounded by some of her children. Their clothes were stained with bloody handprints.**

**"Americans are criminals," she said.**

The unusual nighttime demonstration sprung from evening prayers held earlier, residents said.

The demonstration Monday was the first organized protest against the Americans in Fallujah, although one soldier was slightly injured recently when a flare was fired toward some troops, according to Nantz.

Residents say they had been growing increasingly disturbed by the presence of U.S. forces.

Some in the conservative town were upset that American soldiers were using night-vision goggles and could see into courtyards and onto rooftops, where women often sleep outside in the hot weather, according to one resident, Basheer Abdul Aziz.

**Outside the school Tuesday afternoon, people chanted for U.S. forces to leave Iraq. "Go, go USA!" they shouted in Arabic, adding some English at the end: "Go away!"**

**MORE:**

## **Iraqis Say Troops Kill 13**

*By Edmund Blair (April 29, 2003)*

FALLUJA, Iraq (Reuters) - U.S. troops shot dead at least 13 Iraqis during an anti-American protest in the town of Falluja overnight, witnesses said on Tuesday, in bloodshed sure to inflame anger at the U.S. presence in Iraq

**Our soul and our blood we will sacrifice to you martyrs," mourners in Falluja chanted as they buried some of the dead at a cemetery while U.S. helicopters flew overhead.**

**"It was a peaceful demonstration. They did not have any weapons," said local Sunni Muslim cleric, Kamal Shaker Mahmoud. "They were asking the Americans to leave the school so they could use it."**

**MORE:**

**2003**



A U.S. soldier holds an Iraqi person to the ground near the market of Fallujah, Iraq, a city 30 miles west of Baghdad, Monday, **June 2, 2003** after troops said they found a weapon in his car. **Two U.S. soldiers were killed and nine injured during an attack last week. Resentment of the United States runs deep since American troops fired on crowds in April, killing 18 Iraqis and wounding at least 78.** (AP Photo/Ali Haider

**MORE:**

## **US Troops 'Kill 13 Iraqi Protesters'**

Sarah Left and agencies, Guardian UK, Tuesday April 29, 2003

US troops opened fire on a group of Iraqi demonstrators near Baghdad yesterday, killing at least 13 people and wounding 75 others, according to reports from the area.

**Qatar's al-Jazeera television station reported that troops had fired on the demonstrators in the town of Falluja, around 30 miles west of Baghdad, after someone in the crowd threw a stone at US soldiers.** The protesters had been demonstrating against the continued US presence in Iraq, al-Jazeera said.



US central command in Qatar said troops had shot at armed Iraqis who had fired on the soldiers. **Witnesses said that the demonstrators, who had been protesting at a local school, had not been armed. They said that the protest had been peaceful.**

A correspondent for the Reuters news agency in Falluja said that residents put the death toll at between 13 and 17 people. The director of the main hospital in Falluja said 13 people had died and said his staff and treated another 75 people.

A local Sunni Muslim cleric, Kamal Shaker Mahmoud, told Reuters that the demonstrators had gone to a school occupied by US troops to ask them to leave.

"They were asking the Americans to leave the school so they could use it," he said. "They opened fire on the protesters because they went out to demonstrate. We are asking the Americans to completely leave Iraq, but first we want them to leave residential areas."

An al-Jazeera reporter in Baghdad said that the injured were being treated at five hospitals around Falluja. The Reuters correspondent witnessed six burials.

**2004**



A US Marine of the 1st division walks through the western part of Fallujah Nov. 15, 2004. (AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

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## **OCCUPATION HAITI**

# **Thousands Of Haitians March In Support Of Aristide**

November 26, 2004 PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (Reuters)

Thousands of Haitians marched on Friday to show support for former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and called on the international community to include Aristide in the search for peace in the troubled Caribbean country.

The march was peaceful, in contrast to other recent demonstrations against an interim government appointed after Aristide was ousted in February.

Protesters kept to slum areas where support for Aristide still runs deep and Haitian police and Brazilian-led U.N. troops trying to keep the peace did not intervene.

"Aristide is our blood, we'll never deny him. They can do two things, either kill all of us or send him back," said Mariline Dejean, 26, who wore a Haitian flag around her head.

**Anger at the interim authorities is not confined to the ranks of Aristide supporters. Former soldiers who helped oust him say they are becoming frustrated at unmet demands to re-establish the Haitian army *and for 10 years backpay.***

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **Airport Groping Ordered By Government; Feeling Up An 83 Year-Old "Terrorist"**

November 25, 2004 November 25, 2004 By Vanessa Ho, SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER REPORTER

It was one thing for Caroline Snipes to slip off her high-wedged sandals and heavy-knit sweater before walking through a metal detector. It was another thing to stand with her feet apart and arms out and have a stranger touch her breasts.

**"She basically felt me up. I'm not a real squeamish person, but I just felt violated,"** said Snipes, a 25-year-old Alaska law enforcement officer, as she waited for her flight to Montana at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport yesterday.

**As the airport braced for the busiest travel day of the year, many passengers complained bitterly about the new pat-down searches the federal government instituted this fall, in which airport screeners are now directed to pat the bodies of certain passengers.**

The increased security measure, which is supposed to help find explosives, targets all passengers, but has particularly incensed women. Around the country, women have threatened lawsuits, shed underwire bras, and, at times, ditched flying. When they have refused to submit to the searches, they have been barred from flights.

**"I couldn't work the next day," said Lisa Lynch, a 44-year-old doctoral student from Edmonds, after a recent pat-down. On a round trip from Denver, she endured two such searches, including one in which a female screener ran two fingers under each breast and a hand up the insides of both thighs.**

"It was awful. What if I was a rape victim, or had a history of sexual abuse?" she said. Lynch, who flies nearly once a week, said she has filed a complaint with the American Civil Liberties Union and contacted Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Wash.

Screeners are supposed to pat down passengers if a metal detector goes off or if a passenger is wearing something bulky or baggy and the contours of the body are not visible. **Also, some passengers are randomly selected for a "secondary" search, which includes a scan with a hand wand, a bag search and a pat-down. About 10 percent of all passengers are selected, Peppin said.**

Screeners doing pat-downs are supposed to be the same gender as the passenger. **They are instructed to explain what they're doing and to use the backs of hands for "sensitive" areas, including genitals, buttocks and women's breasts. Passengers can request a private room for a pat-down.**

But many passengers have found the searches intrusive and unnecessary. **Others said screeners used the front or side of their hands, and not the back of the hand.**

"Look at what I'm wearing," said Snipes, as she stood up and showed off a thin, tight, stretchy, short-sleeved shirt that revealed every curve of her chest and torso. "Does it look like I'm hiding anything?"

**An 83-year-old woman, whose pacemaker had apparently triggered the metal detector, said she was embarrassed when a stranger singled her out and ran her hands up and down her body.**

"I'm an old lady," said the California woman, who didn't want to be named. "I thought, 'For God's sake, what are you looking for?' I've never had anyone do that to me before."

In New York, a woman is considering filing a lawsuit after a pat-down in Florida, the Dallas Morning News reported.

**A Colorado woman complained to the TSA after a screener asked her to lift her shirt and expose her stomach in front of several men, while her toddler cried, the paper said.**

**A woman in Florida was recently asked to strip off her belt, shoes and leather jacket -- and then her shirt. After much protest, she took off her shirt to reveal a**

**thin, see-through camisole, which didn't stop a screener from touching her breast and groin area, The New York Times reported.**

Doug Honig, a spokesman for the ACLU in Washington state, said the agency has gotten several complaints and plans to discuss them with the TSA and the Department of Homeland Security.

**"Everybody wants to be safe when we travel, but we don't see groping women in airports as a way to make us safer," Honig said.**

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.**

## **Bush Buddies Looted War Supplies While Soldiers Died For Lack Of Armor**

Nov. 26, 2004 WASHINGTON, The Associated Press

**A third or more of the government property Halliburton Co. was paid to manage for the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq could not be located by auditors, investigative reports to Congress show.**

Halliburton's KBR subsidiary "did not effectively manage government property" and auditors could not locate hundreds of CPA items worth millions of dollars in Iraq and Kuwait this summer and fall, Inspector General Stuart W. Bowen reported to Congress in two reports.

**Bowen's findings mark the latest bad news for Vice President Dick Cheney's former company, which is the focus of both a criminal investigation into alleged fuel price gouging and an FBI inquiry into possible favoritism from the Bush administration.**

**Investigators could not track down 52 of 164 randomly selected items in an inventory of more than 20,000 items overseen by KBR, including two electric generators worth nearly \$1 million, 18 trucks or SUVs and six laptop computers.**

**Bowen's auditors found the problems extended beyond Iraq's borders. More recently, auditors sought to determine how well KBR managed the inventory and supplies of the CPA offices and warehouses in neighboring Kuwait, initially sampling 90 items from an inventory of more than 3,000.**

The auditors found 30 of the 90 items could not be accounted for, and then reviewed additional documents and projected a total of 1,297 of the 3,032 property items, or 42.8 percent, could not be accounted for or were missing.

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## **British Government Denies It Ever Sent Troops To Iraq; All British Soldiers There Can Go Home Now**

[THANKS TO MARK S. WHO E-MAILED THIS:

11.27.04 LONDON (Reuters)

Britain denies being involved in any plot to topple Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo despite accusations from Zimbabwe that U.S., British and Spanish spy agencies did play a part.

A Foreign Office spokeswoman said: "**It has been the consistent policy of the government never to condone or support the actions of those who seek to overthrow sovereign governments by military coup or by undemocratic means.**"

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Child Killed As Thousands Protest U.S. Occupation Forces Taking Woman As Hostage**

Nov 28, 2004 JALALABAD, Afghanistan, Nov 28 (Reuters)

**A girl was shot dead on Sunday during protests by tribesmen in eastern Afghanistan against the U.S. detention of several local people, including a woman, in an anti-al Qaeda raid, officials said.**

**Up to 6,000 protesters blocked about five km (three miles) of the main road link from the eastern city of Jalalabad to Pakistan to protest against the arrests on Friday, police said.**

The protesters were mainly ethnic Pashtuns from the Shinwari and Mohmand tribes. Provincial police chief Hazrat Ali said **they dispersed after being told three people detained by U.S.-led forces, including a woman, had been released.**

**U.S.-led forces have upset conservative tribal elements in southern and eastern Afghanistan in the past by detaining or searching women while pursuing Islamic militants.**

**The U.S. embassy described the woman's husband as a "key al Qaeda facilitator" but said she was treated with "dignity". [Being hauled off by a foreign occupation army because of what your husband may or may not have done is a twisted, sick, and very stupid exercise in simple tyranny. *Furthermore, hostage taking is against the laws of land warfare, as issued by the United States Army, but when did U.S. command ever give a shit about that?*]**

The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press quoted Bati Kot district chief Sayed Rehman as saying the young shepherd girl was killed in an exchange between the protesters and guards of a Pakistani firm working to improve the highway.

The protesters had attacked the offices of the firm and broken some windows, he said.

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