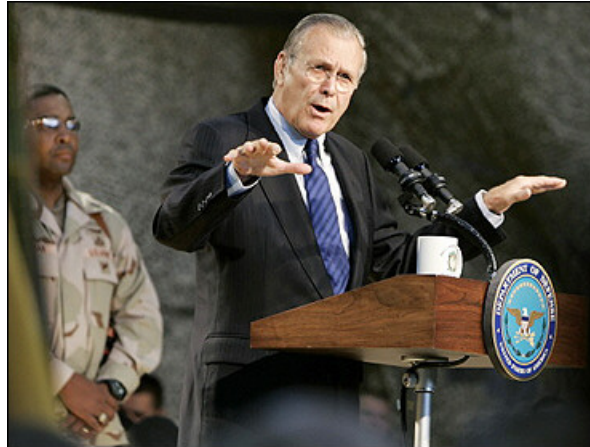


GI SPECIAL 2#C46

**LIAR
TRAITOR
SOLDIER-KILLER
UNFIT FOR COMMAND**



Rumsfeld 08 December 2004 in Kuwait (AFP/Pool/File)

**A JURY OF HIS PEERS AIN'T BUYING WHAT
HE'S SELLING**



US troops listen to Rumsfeld lie to them at Camp Buehring in Kuwait.
(AFP/POOL/File/Larry Downing)

Rumsfeld Lied To Troops: Order For Armored Humvees Was Never Approved; Company Says Still Waiting For Pentagon OK

December 10, 2004 By Bryan Bender, Boston Globe Staff

Brian Hart, whose son John, a Bedford native, was killed when his unarmored Humvee ran over a roadside bomb in Iraq in October 2003, said the failure to produce armored Humvees and trucks at maximum capacity is emblematic of the administration's broader failure to fully face reality in Iraq.

"We are the largest economy in the world," he said yesterday. "It is inconceivable we can only get a few hundred vehicles out the door in a month."

Executives at Armor Holdings in Jacksonville, Fla., as well as Army officials and members of Congress, said Rumsfeld's assertion that the protective equipment is being provided as quickly as possible is not true and added the company has been waiting for more purchase orders.

WASHINGTON -- Despite Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld's assertion that the military is outfitting Humvees with armor as quickly as possible, the company providing the vehicles said it has been waiting since September for approval from the Pentagon to increase monthly production by as many as 100 of the all-terrain vehicles, intended to protect against roadside bombs in Iraq.

Army officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged yesterday that they have not approved new purchase orders for armored trucks, despite the company's readiness to produce more. They said the Pentagon has been debating how many more armored Humvees are needed.

Rumsfeld, questioned by soldiers in Kuwait on Wednesday who said they have had to pick through landfills for scrap metal to boost vehicle protection, said the

Army was working as quickly as it could to get armored Humvees to the front. It is "a matter of physics, not a matter of money," **Rumsfeld said, adding that the Army was "breaking its neck."** President Bush yesterday reiterated that "the concerns expressed are being addressed."

But executives at Armor Holdings in Jacksonville, Fla., as well as Army officials and members of Congress, said Rumsfeld's assertion that the protective equipment is being provided as quickly as possible is not true and added the company has been waiting for more purchase orders.

"We're prepared to build 50 to 100 vehicles more per month," Robert Mecredy, head of Armor Holdings' aerospace and defense unit, said in a statement. The company is producing about 450 armored Humvees per month, up from 50 in late 2003, when a sudden surge of attacks in Iraq exposed a lack of protective armor.

The company says that by February it could be producing as many as 550 fully armored Humvees per month -- with armor plates on the sides, front, rear, top, and bottom -- if given the go-ahead. The company estimated it would cost the military about \$150 million a year to pay for the additional 100 vehicles per month.

The company said it also told the Army it could add new production lines and turn out even more vehicles.

More than half of the roughly 1,200 US soldiers who have died in Iraq have been killed by roadside bombs or in ambushes from rocket-propelled grenades. **A lack of armor on thousands of older vehicles has been blamed for many of the deaths.**

In an unusual public airing of grievances, Specialist Thomas Wilson, a member of the 278th Regimental Combat Team of the Tennessee National Guard, took Rumsfeld to task Wednesday at a meeting at Camp Buehring in Kuwait, where his unit is preparing to deploy to Iraq.

"We do not have proper armored vehicles to carry with us north," he told the Pentagon chief.

Rumsfeld told the troops the Army was doing all it could to get armor protection to the front, but was quickly criticized as sounding callous for telling them, "You go to war with the Army you have, not the Army you might want."

Yesterday, the Pentagon was clearly on the defensive. Lieutenant General R. Steven Whitcomb, commander of the Third Army, said in a video briefing from Kuwait that commanders are not sending any more wheeled vehicles to Iraq without armor protection for their Humvees or trucks.

Of the 30,000 estimated wheeled vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan, **about 8,000 of the older models do not have armor protection.** Of those that are protected, about 6,000 have full protection, while about **10,000 vehicles have received "add-on kits" providing front, rear, and side protection, but not top and bottom.**

At the same time, 4,500 vehicles have received what Whitcomb called a "stopgap" measure, taking locally manufactured steel plates and bolting or welding them on the vehicles.

The Army's Tank-Automotive Command in Warren, Mich., which purchases Humvees and trucks for all the military services, said many more fully-protected vehicles are needed.

The military needs 8,105 so-called "up- armored" Humvees such as those being outfitted by Armor Holdings. Currently, there are about 5,900 up-armored Humvees in Iraq. As for those with "add-on kits," 13,872 Humvees in Iraq are needed, but only 9,100 have received the kits.

Pentagon spokesman Don Jarosz said he could not immediately explain why more orders have not been placed for the fully armored Humvees. But defense officials who asked not to be identified blamed bureaucratic delays in determining how many orders should be placed.

Representative Marty Meehan of Lowell and Senator Evan Bayh of Indiana, Democratic members of the armed services committees, said yesterday they have talked repeatedly with Armor Holdings and informed the Pentagon as long ago as April that top officials were mistaken about how many Humvees with the best armor protection could be produced.

"That's just not true," Bayh told reporters in a teleconference, referring to Pentagon assertions that it is moving as quickly as possible.

Bayh, who raised the issue of production capacity with Rumsfeld in an Oct. 6 letter, said he could not explain whether the failure to increase production was due to "bureaucratic ineptitude" or simply "general denial" about the magnitude of the need.

Meehan said of Armor Holdings: "They have never been at full production. They haven't received an order from the Pentagon despite telling them they can do that. They told them in September. Rumsfeld claiming that there is a production limit is not true. There is production capacity that isn't being used."

Michael Fox, a spokesman for Armor Holdings, said the company is simply waiting for the Pentagon to say how many it needs: "We have always said, 'Tell us how much you want, and we'll build them.' "

Brian Hart, whose son John, a Bedford native, was killed when his unarmored Humvee ran over a roadside bomb in Iraq in October 2003, said the failure to produce armored Humvees and trucks at maximum capacity is emblematic of the administration's broader failure to fully face reality in Iraq.

"We are the largest economy in the world," he said yesterday. "It is inconceivable we can only get a few hundred vehicles out the door in a month."

MORE:

Transport Trucks Go Without Armor: Bush Lies To Back Up Rumsfelds' Lies; Marine "Commanders" Kiss-Ass

The Rat Caught Lying Again:



Dec 9 (AFP/Luke Frazza)

December 11, 2004 By Thom Shanker and Eric Schmitt, The New York Times & By John J. Lumpkin, Associated Press

Thom Shanker reported from Washington; Eric Schmitt reported from New Delhi. John F. Burns contributed to the report from Baghdad, John Files from Washington and Michael Moss and Leslie Wayne from New York City.

Congress has released statistics documenting stark shortages in armor for the military transport trucks that ferry food, fuel and ammunition along dangerous routes in Iraq, while President George W. Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld have spoken out to defuse public criticism.

Bush said on the same day: "The concerns expressed are being addressed, and that is we expect our troops to have the best possible equipment. **And I have told many**

families I met with, we're doing everything we possibly can to protect your loved ones in a mission which is vital and important."

The statistics, released Thursday by the House Armed Services Committee, showed that while many Humvees are armored, most transport trucks, which crisscross Iraq to supply troops, are not.

Only 10 percent of the 4,814 medium-weight transport trucks have armor, and only 15 percent of the 4,314 heavy transport vehicles do.

A resourceful insurgency has seized on an American vulnerability - the shortage of armored vehicles - and attacked supply lines with roadside bombs. The trucks are driven primarily by reservists, while active-duty soldiers are deployed in direct combat, and disparities between these troops have already prompted the Defense Department to carry out sweeping changes in the way U.S. soldiers are trained and equipped.

Rumsfeld, after leaving Kuwait for an official visit to India, said it was valuable for senior Pentagon officials to hear concerns directly from troops, but he offered no immediate changes in how the army was dealing with the problems. [Obviously ordering more armored vehicles wasn't a change he had any interest in.]

Gone are the days when the U.S. military could plan for fighting along dangerous front lines while relying on a relatively safe rear area for logistics.

"Last year, we began to see an increase in improvised explosive device attacks against our forces, primarily against convoys that were moving throughout Iraq," said. "And they began having an impact on our soldiers, a deadly impact, as we all know."

In a hastily arranged video press conference from Kuwait for Pentagon reporters, Lieutenant General R. Steven Whitcomb, commander of coalition ground forces in the Middle East, said the U.S. Army had since rushed armored vehicles into the region and to add armor to others.

"I've got enough metal, I've got enough folks, and I've got enough time to meet our schedule that ensures that **no combat unit in a wheeled vehicle goes into Iraq now that is not in an armored vehicle**," he added. "So we're continuing to work feverishly to ensure that they meet **our requirement, and that's that nobody goes north without it.**" *[So, obviously, any officer who disobeys these orders from the General, and tries to put soldiers into unarmored vehicles going over the border into Iraq, is disobeying a direct command of the General, and the command may be refused by his or her troops, and if that officer menaces troops by the employment of a personal weapon, the officer may be shot in self-defense. That's good to know. Witnesses will be important at the court-martial.]*

Shortages have prompted soldiers to scrounge for steel and ballistic glass, improvising shields that have come to be called hillbilly armor.

At the transit camps in Kuwait, U.S. Army and Marine Corps drivers weld antishrapnel collars onto the hoods of their trucks, to deflect exploding debris while maintaining visibility.

Sandbags are laid on the floors of Humvees, trimming the skimpy legroom from economy class to steerage. And before they roll north, crews go to metal shops at the transit bases, to get makeshift steel doors for the journey for their otherwise unarmored Humvees and trucks.

At the battlefield in Iraq, there is an air of resigned acquiescence, rather than the bitter complaints Rumsfeld heard. Among units that lack armored Humvees, or enough of them to carry all the troops deployed on potentially dangerous missions, the mood, 20 months into the war, tends more to jokes than to recrimination.

Showing embedded reporters to one of three open-backed Humvees assigned to a raid on a suspected rebel stronghold south of Baghdad this week, a Marine sergeant said: "If they i.e.d. you in this thing, there won't be enough of you left to package up and send home."

Among marines, the lack of adequate equipment has been bolted onto an ethos of toughness. At briefings, **commanders resort often to an old Marine adage**, "Improvise, adjust, overcome," **and are dismissive of complaints.** [The clueless reporter confuses "commanders" with "Marines." Marines are men and women who die because their vehicles have no armor, because Rumsfeld didn't order it. "Commanders" like the one quoted are nothing but ass kissing scum who work for Rumsfeld, and peddle stupid bullshit like the "adage" just quoted while betraying their own troops. Their mission is their own promotion, walking over the dead bodies of their troops to get there.]

It's the big trucks that do much of the heavy hauling around Iraq, ferrying supplies, troops and even other vehicles through rough stretches of highway. The better-known Humvee serves as a light troop carrier, weapons platform and all-purpose transport vehicle.

But the big trucks, like the five-ton M939 medium truck and the tank-hauling Heavy Equipment Transporter, face some of the same threats as the Humvees, including roadside bombs and gun and rocket ambushes.

Some have weapons on board, but very few have armor, and of those that do, the armor offers less protection than is carried by many Humvees.

The armored vehicles that rely on the add-on kits are suffering from increased wear, as engines and frames haul around tons of extra weight they weren't built to handle.

MORE:

Mosul Troops Drive Rolling Scrap Heaps Into War; Unprotected Against RPGs, Soldiers “Hope For The Best”

December 10, 2004 By C. Mark Brinkley, Army Times staff writer

“That was the best protection we could come up with, considering what we had on hand,” Lewis said. The combination has done well against the scattered small-arms fire, but forget about stopping a rocket-propelled grenade. All the soldiers can do in those situations is hope for the best.

MOSUL, Iraq — There’s a huge Army dump truck here that’s unlike any other in the U.S. arsenal, a virtual Frankenstein’s monster truck, bulging and rippling at its spot-welded seams.

It’s half gravel hauler and half Iraqi armored personnel carrier, half general issue and half junkyard find.

“We’ve had to come up with some ways to do our mission,” said 1st Lt. Eddie Lewis, 24, a National Guard combat engineer from Fredericksburg, Va. “It’s been tough.”

In response to a question from a serviceman in Kuwait on Wednesday about a shortage of armored vehicles in Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said, “As you know, you go to war with the army you have, not the army you might want or wish to have.”

The soldiers from the 276th Engineer Battalion (Combat), an Army National Guard unit from Richmond, Va., know about improvising. **They have few armored vehicles. And conducting missions in Mosul, one of Iraq’s largest cities, without armor is like poking a bear with a stick, just inviting trouble.**

Insurgent attacks have been on the rise for weeks. **Improvised explosive devices and car bombs are frequent, especially against the trucks that aren’t armored.**

So the combat engineers have learned to turn heavy equipment into fighting vehicles. **The soldiers scavenge for parts from destroyed Iraqi personnel carriers and weld the parts on their own vehicles.**

It’s more art than science. The cargo and dump trucks were not made for hauling troops in the back — one combat engineer had his leg dislocated as a result of being jostled in the bed of the truck, Lewis said — and they certainly weren’t made for strapping on weapons.

Most have improvised gun turrets welded to their beds, where the soldiers mount machine guns but often have a tough time keeping them steady.

The sides have been reinforced with steel, ordered from neighboring countries and “acquired” from scrap and junkyards nearby, which the riders hope will stop insurgent bullets.

Behind the plates are sandbags, and behind the sandbags are Kevlar blankets, and behind the blankets are sheets of plywood.

“That was the best protection we could come up with, considering what we had on hand,” Lewis said.

The combination has done well against the scattered small-arms fire, but forget about stopping a rocket-propelled grenade. All the soldiers can do in those situations is hope for the best.

Most of the Humvees here have been “up armored” to some degree, with additional bulletproof glass and reinforced doors. **But many still have canvas tops, and the floorboards are particularly vulnerable to booby traps, even with sandbags lining the floor.**

“The stuff the armor’s bolted to is just aluminum,” Lewis said, pointing to a reinforced Humvee that had been pocked by shrapnel from an insurgent mortar shell. “So there’s still a lot of weak spots.”

Some of those who questioned Rumsfeld suggested National Guard units were given hand-me-down equipment. But Lewis and others said active-duty units using similar equipment are facing the same problems throughout Iraq.

MORE:

Rumsfeld = Criminal Negligence

12.10.04 Carl Luna, San Diego Union-Tribune (California)

Rumsfeld’s apparent failure to insure proper armor protection for US troops has already, to date, resulted in more lives lost or maimed than happened in Somalia.

Meanwhile Rumsfeld’s off the cuff musings that, “If you think about it, you can have all the armor in the world on a tank and a tank can be blown up,” has to rank as one of the great non-sequiturs of any modern Defense Secretary.

Does this mean you might as well go into combat naked, painted blue with beards tarred like the Celtic warriors of old?

I thought the goal was to produce tanks that blew up the other side before they blew up you and armored vehicles that kept soldiers from dying at the hands of low-grade homemade bombs?

Rumsfeld's job is to make sure the troops go into combat with everything they need to minimize losses. **That he should have done so and hasn't is indicative of incompetence, if not outright criminal negligence.** That he makes light of it by essentially telling the troops "Life's not fair" "tough cookies" borders on reckless endangerment.

For Republican members of Congress not to call for his head is partisan hypocrisy of the most brazen and dangerous kind.

MORE:

Iraq War Cost \$99.1 Billion Through August, Pentagon Says; But No Fucking Money For Armor!

(Bloomberg.com, December 9, 2004)

The United States spent \$99.1 billion through Aug. 30 on the invasion and occupation of Iraq, **with costs running at an average pace of about \$4.4 billion a month**, the Pentagon comptroller's office said.

MORE:

Armoring Military Trucks Will Take Until September Thousands Of Vehicles In War Zones Unprotected

Baltimore Sun, December 10, 2004

Several thousand trucks that carry troops, equipment and supplies in Iraq are not equipped with protective steel plating, and Army officials say it will take until September to finish armoring the vehicles. Army statistics reveal that the problem is widespread in a dangerous country where convoys are threatened frequently by roadside bombs.

MORE:

Bush Tries To Defuse Furor On Armor

(Los Angeles Times, December 10, 2004)

President Bush and top military commanders scrambled to contain the political damage from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's contentious meeting with U.S. soldiers bound for combat in Iraq,

MORE:

Texas Troops Get Burnt Up Leftovers

Houston Chronicle, December 10, 2004

For Texas troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.... units often have to wait until they reach Iraq to know the quality of their equipment. **"What has been happening is that units are falling onto vehicles left behind by the troops they are replacing. So the equipment can vary from unit to unit,"** said Lt. Col. John Stanford, spokesman for the Texas National Guard. [Translation: they drop off the burnt-out shit, and that's what we're supposed to use to get back into Iraq.]

MORE:

Pa. Guard Officer Promises Troops No Orders For Iraq Unless All Armor Ready Armor

(Philadelphia Inquirer, December 10, 2004, Pg. 1)

No Pennsylvania National Guard soldier awaiting deployment from Kuwait will be sent across the border into Iraq unless he has up-to-date body armor, said Lt. Col. Philip J. Logan, in charge of the 800-man Task Force Dragoon, made up of units from across the state. **He also said that any vehicle lacking armor plating would be towed into Iraq, rather than driven.**

MORE:

Tactless Tactician

(New York Daily News, December 10, 2004)

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's on-the-spot response was horribly curt, if not callous. "You go to war with the Army you have, and not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time."

Small comfort to the men and women who answered the defense secretary's call to fight with this Army and now wait to be blown up. "While our soldiers over there are sitting ducks, the Pentagon is taking far too long to get its ducks in a row."

MORE:

The Bloody Mess

(Baltimore Sun, December 10, 2004)

This isn't just soldiers griping. **If the United States had a secretary of defense who actually listened rather than a Pentagon chief willing to bet young soldiers' lives on the premise that more can be done with less—Iraq might be a far different place today instead of the bloody mess it has become. And nobody in an American uniform would be looking for scrap metal for protection.**"

MORE:

Don't Blame Me

(Washington Post, December 10, 2004, Pg. 36)

Insouciant, charming, worldly-wise is Donald Rumsfeld, but also breezily blame-passing.

MORE:

Rumsfeld Can't Wriggle Off The Hook

Jay Bookman *(Atlanta Journal-Constitution, December 9, 2004)*

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld continues to wash his hands of any responsibility, saying that he gave his field commanders everything they asked for. "In other words, Rumsfeld's defense is that he was just following orders . . . from his subordinates."

MORE:

Truth From The Troops

E. J. Dionne Jr. *(Washington Post, December 10, 2004, Pg. 37)*

"As you know, you go to war with the Army you have," says Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. "They're not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time."

Excuse me, but if the United States was going to embark on one of the riskiest and potentially most consequential military engagements in our history, was it too much to ask our politicians to make sure that the military was adequately prepared and equipped before they started the war?

MORE:

Back Home, The Bluntness Was No Surprise

New York Times, December 10, 2004

Lyndon K. Wilson still bears the scars of shrapnel wounds he suffered as a marine in Vietnam 36 years ago when an enemy mortar round hit as he skirted a rice paddy. So when he first saw television coverage from Kuwait of his son posing a pointed question to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld about inadequate armor for military vehicles, what he felt was pride. And maybe a little fatherly concern, as well.

RUMSFELD DEMANDS FULL BODY ARMOR FOR NEXT MEETING WITH TROOPS: Felt 'Unprotected,' Defense Secretary Says

December 9, 2004 The Borowitz Report

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld blasted the White House today for not providing him with full body armor for his acrimonious question-and-answer session with troops in Kuwait this week, saying that the lack of body armor put him in a potentially perilous situation.

"I felt totally unprotected out there," Secretary Rumsfeld said. "You cannot send a Secretary of Defense out on a mission like that without full body armor."

Secretary Rumsfeld said he had spent hours scavenging around Kuwait City looking for body armor before his meeting with troops, and warned that he would "think twice" before engaging in another question-and-answer session without adequate protection.

The Secretary of Defense added that if the White House did not provide him with full body armor immediately, the next time he spoke to troops he would do it from inside a Bradley fighting vehicle.

At the White House, President George W. Bush said that a full body armor suit had in fact been ordered for Secretary Rumsfeld, but that it no longer fit because Mr. Rumsfeld ate too much at Thanksgiving.

Mr. Bush added that until a new body armor suit was ready, Mr. Rumsfeld would have to make do with a Brooks Brothers suit for future encounters with troops.

"You go to war with the Secretary of Defense you have," he said.

Elsewhere, congressional leaders expressed hope that the just-passed intelligence reform bill would provide accurate, up-to-date intelligence reports for the president not to read.

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 inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

DoD Identifies Marine Casualty

December 10, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 1277-04

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a Marine.

Cpl. Kyle J. Renehan, 21, of Oxford, Pa., died Dec. 9 in Kaiserslautern, Germany, from injuries received on Nov. 29 as result of enemy action in Babil Province, Iraq. He was assigned to Marine Air Control Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 28, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed, 4 Injured In Iraq Helicopter Accident

December 10, 2004 MOSUL, Iraq (AP)

A helicopter accident at an air base in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul killed two U.S. soldiers and injured four, the military said Friday.

The crash occurred when an AH-64 Apache helicopter hit a UH-60 Black Hawk that was on the ground, U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Hastings said. The accident is under investigation and the cause had not been determined, he said.

The four injured soldiers have returned to duty. They and the two soldiers who died were all from Task Force Olympia, whose headquarters are in Mosul.

The Apache is a heavily armed gunship with two crewmembers. The Black Hawk is a transport helicopter that has two pilots and can carry up to 20 passengers.

ONE MARINE KILLED IN AL ANBAR PROVINCE

December 10, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
NEWS RELEASE 04-12-11C

FALLUJAH, Iraq -- One Marine assigned to the I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Thursday, while conducting security and stabilization operations in the Al Anbar Province.

Car Bomb Wounds “At Least” One U.S. Soldier In Mosul



U.S. soldiers guide a wounded colleague to a Humvee vehicle following a car bomb attack in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, Dec. 9. (Namir Noor-Eldeen/Reuters)

East Texas Soldier Wounded

12/9/04 KLTV

An East Texas soldier has been critically wounded in action in Iraq after a militia attack.

On Sunday army sergeant Chad Field, a native of Granbury, was in a "humvee" travelling through Fallujah. A group of militia fighters fired on the humvee, and Field suffered a gunshot wound to the head.

Part of his family, which live in Gregg county, are flying to Germany where Field will be flown for treatment. The soldier remains in critical condition.

Olean Soldier Wounded In Green Zone Attack

12/10/2004 By CHARLES FIEGL, The Times Herald

An Olean U.S. Army specialist is recovering from injuries he sustained in Iraq from an explosion last week.

Spc. Todd Reed, 37, suffered burns to his face, multiple fractures to his legs and shrapnel wounds after an explosion Saturday, his mother, Josephine Reed, of Route 16 said. Ms. Reed said she received a call Saturday morning notifying her that Spc. Reed was in serious condition following an attack.

"I thought, 'Oh, my God,' and I started praying," she said. "I was thoughtful or very thankful that it wasn't the other bad news."

Through different Army reports, Ms. Reed believes her son was near a self-propelled rocket explosion. Spc. Reed was deployed to Iraq in October and was near the Green Zone of Baghdad when he was hurt.

She spoke with him Thursday morning by telephone. "He sounds good and his spirits are up," Ms. Reed said. Ms. Reed plans to visit her son, a 16-year veteran of the Army, today.

According to The Associated Press, several car bombs and mortar attacks were reported near the Green Zone days leading into the weekend.

At least five mortar rounds exploded Thursday. One round struck near a mobile phone office in Baghdad's Arasat neighborhood, killing one person and wounding three, police said. Witnesses also said people were wounded in the other blasts around Baghdad, but the number of casualties wasn't known.

Saturday's car bombs in Baghdad went off nearly simultaneously at about 9:30 a.m. by a police station across the street from a checkpoint leading to the heavily fortified Green Zone, which houses Iraqi government offices and several foreign missions.

Bursts of automatic fire followed the thunderous detonation, which shook windows hundred of yards away in buildings on the opposite side of the Tigris River.

Health officials said the bodies of seven people killed by the blast and 59 wounded were brought to two Baghdad hospitals. Officials said most of the victims were police officers, but the identities of all the dead were not yet known.

TROOP NEWS

Decode This Message

December 10, 2004 By John Strauss, IndyStar.com

ORLANDO -- A Hoosier soldier who survived a fiery ambush in Iraq is among wounded service members being honored this week at a national conference.

Sgt. Chris Leverkus, 21, a member of the Army Reserve 209th Quartermaster Company of Lafayette, lost part of his right leg and suffered other injuries, including burns to his hands and face. Leverkus and about 150 other wounded soldiers are at the Road to Recovery Conference and Tribute at Walt Disney World.

The conference began Wednesday and ends Sunday and includes motivational speakers, seminars on disability benefits and job placement, and a concert by country music stars Toby Keith and Lee Ann Womack.

The conference is sponsored by the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, a nonprofit group based in McLean, Va., that helps seriously wounded soldiers with job training **and other assistance.**

"A lot of these guys are slipping through the cracks in terms of their needs," said Roger Chapin, a San Diego businessman who founded the coalition and has organized other soldier-support groups dating to the Vietnam War.

"The federal government can only do so much. *There are thousands of casualties, and not all of these guys are able to process their (disability) claims.*"

[Why not? Care to explain that? If they had decided to not to go fight Bush's Imperial war, you can bet personnel would have been found to "process" their combat refusal. Well, maybe it's just a question of priorities. Invading and occupying somebody else's country for no reason but corporate greed has one priority. Caring for the wounded who were betrayed by the super-rich who own the government is a much lower priority. Just like a fucked up steelworker or teamster, the usefulness of severely wounded troops as hired labor is over, so now they can try to survive on table scraps.]

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)

Command Trying To Send PTSD Soldier To Prison

(Washington Post, December 10, 2004, Pg. 20)

An Army reservist who checked himself into a civilian psychiatric hospital after being turned away from a military clinic should be court-martialed for being absent without leave, according to an Army report.

1st Lt. Jullian Goodrum, of Knoxville, Tenn., a veteran of both U.S. wars in Iraq, is being treated for post-traumatic stress disorder at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Goodrum was also suffering from the disorder last fall, the time of his alleged infraction.

Idiot Ft. Carson Brass Defeated By Local Newspaper; Forced To Surrender 24 Hours After Trying To Ban Paper From Base

December 9 & 10, 2004 Associated Press

DENVER — Fort Carson has lifted its restrictions on reporters from The Denver Post, a day after a spokesman said the newspaper wouldn't be allowed to cover events at the base because officials were upset by a story the newspaper had published.

The front-page Sunday story focused on mentally and physically ill National Guard and Army Reserve members who say they have been denied quality care and are being pushed out of the service without disability pay.

Lt. Col. David Johnson, chief of public affairs at Fort Carson, spoke with Post editor Greg Moore on Thursday and Johnson agreed to lift the ban.

"We are pleased that the ill-advised ban on The Post is no longer," Moore said. "We continue to believe our story fairly and accurately addressed a situation that has attracted the Army's attention about the quality of medical treatment for its soldiers."

Last week, the Post fought the Army's decision to close a hearing for three Fort Carson soldiers accused of murdering an Iraqi general. The newspaper won an injunction to stop the hearing while the Army appeals court reviews the closure.

Yesterday, Moore said. "We hope Fort Carson officials reconsider their ban of The Denver Post. If they don't, we will appeal to senior military officers at Fort Carson and in Washington, and through any other legal or congressional channels that are available to us."

Japanese Want Troops Home Now; Government Dictatorship Doesn't Care What Majority Wants

(Washington Post, December 10, 2004, Pg. 19)

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's cabinet agreed to extend the deployment of Japan's 600 non-combat troops in Iraq for up to one year, **despite condemnation of the mission by more than half of the Japanese public** and opposition political parties.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Election Workers Killed In Drive-By Shooting

December 10, 2004 BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN)

An Iraqi election group announced Friday that three of its workers had died in a drive-by shooting earlier this week. Sayid Essa Sayid Jaafar, a spokesman for the Hezbollah Movement in Iraq, said masked gunmen in a black BMW and a Daewoo opened fire Wednesday night on the members at a market area in the Al-Shula neighborhood of Baghdad.

Sattar Jabbar Al-Mishari, head of Hezbollah's operations in Baghdad, and two office workers died. Al-Mishari had received death threats because of his

participation in the election process, Jaafar said. This election group is not affiliated with the militant movement in Lebanon or another in Iraq that also bear the Hezbollah name.

Al-Mishari's organization is one of the groups that joined the United Iraq Alliance, the largely Shiite coalition that is fielding candidates for the January 30 election.

Mosul: Warm Welcome For Anti-Iraqi Occupation Guards; Lost Cause For Occupation Command

Photos: December 10, 2004, sheek abbas



Scary Surprises In Mosul, by David Ignatius, Washington Post, December 10, 2004

While President Bush and Iraq's interim leadership insist that the country's first free elections are going to be held on schedule, **two days of patrolling Iraq's third-largest city with U.S. forces suggests that the security necessary for that to happen remains a distant goal.**

In Mosul, U.S. troops come under daily attack from insurgents and fledgling Iraqi security forces—meant to put a local face on the military presence and win over fearful civilians—are a shambles.

A year ago the northern Iraqi city of Mosul was a model for American commanders of how to do it right. U.S. troops worked closely with Iraqis and gradually gained their trust; they found ways to finance thousands of popular reconstruction projects; they even helped produce offbeat programs for local television, including a Mosul version of "Cops" and a talent show they called "Iraqi Idol."

Today Mosul illustrates how things have gone wrong in Sunni Muslim areas of Iraq. There are fewer U.S. troops there than there were a year ago. Meanwhile, a well-organized insurgency has taken root.

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

Billiard Hall Death

December 11, 2004 News Limited, Reuters

INSURGENTS killed a police captain at a checkpoint and gunned down an Iraqi National Guard officer in a billiard hall in scattered violence against US forces and their allies in northern Iraq today.

Police Captain Bassam Ali Ahmed died of wounds a day after being shot as he manned a checkpoint in Samarra, police said. Iraqi and US forces mounted a major offensive against Sunni Muslim rebels in the city two months ago but there have been frequent attacks since then.

Further to the north, in the restive oil refining town of Baiji, Ziyad Tareq, an off-duty member of the national guard, was shot dead by men who burst into a billiard hall armed with automatic rifles, police and hospital staff said.

Resistance Attacks Shut Down Refinery;

Occupation Bosses Admit Resistance Has Cut Off Supplies Throughout Country

December 11, 2004 By Khaled Yacoub Oweis & staff, Reuters

An explosion caused a large fire near Baquba on an oil pipeline that runs from Khanaqin, on the Iranian border, to Baghdad's Dora refinery. Police suspect sabotage.

At Baiji, an official of Iraq's North Oil Company said the Salaheddin refinery had shut down because it had reached its storage capacity and pipeline sabotage was stopping it transporting its products further afield.

It is partly a result of sabotage to pipelines but mainly due to attacks on convoys that import much of Iraq's energy.

Although it possesses oil reserves second only to those of Saudi Arabia, Iraq has little capacity to refine energy products as a result of years of sanctions, war and now sabotage.

U.S. officials in Baghdad fear that a fuel crisis, which has left Iraqi homes cold and dark and drivers waiting days for petrol, may inflame unrest before next month's election.

"If the current situation does not improve quickly, public confidence in the government may deteriorate significantly," a diplomat wrote this week in a note circulated among the U.S.-led coalition occupying Iraq and obtained by Reuters.

Blaming sabotage, banditry and guerrilla attacks on convoys, the note urged "extraordinary efforts" to ease shortages in Baghdad and elsewhere that have sent fuel prices soaring.

With temperatures dropping close to freezing, electricity seems in shorter supply even than a few months ago, despite U.S. efforts to repair war and sabotage damage. Typically many households have two hours of power before a four-hour blackout.

Iraq has oil reserves second only to Saudi Arabia but wars and sanctions have so crippled its refineries that it relies heavily on imports along guerrilla- and bandit-prone highways as well as pumping fuel along vulnerable pipelines.

The cost of paraffin for heating has risen fivefold in the capital and bottled cooking gas tenfold, causing serious hardship for the many Iraqis without jobs or regular income.

Lines several km (miles) long snake from the city's petrol stations where drivers can fill up for a subsidized 3 U.S. cents a liter. The choice is to pay 20 times as much to profiteers.

Anger has boiled over, fights and shooting have broken out.

The note circulated among coalition officials said frequent sabotage of supply pipelines to Baghdad's Dora refinery and attacks on and intimidation of tanker drivers are key problems.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Rebellion In The Ranks: Facing Down Rummy

December 10, 2004 by Justin Raimondo, Antiwar.com

It was a Maalox moment for Donald Rumsfeld. At a forum held with U.S. troops in Kuwait who are headed to Iraq, the barrage of friendly fire soon scored a direct hit when a scout with the Tennessee National Guard, one Specialist Thomas Wilson rose, and, his voice confident and clear but with an undertone of bafflement, asked:

"We've had troops in Iraq for coming up on three years and we've always staged here out of Kuwait. Now why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromise ballistic glass to up-armor our vehicles and why don't we have those resources readily available to us?"

The official Pentagon transcript of this exchange indicates "Applause" in brackets, but it was more like a roar. Rummy was clearly taken aback. It looked to me like alarms were going off in his head:

Incoming fire! Man battle-stations! Fall back and regroup!

"I missed the first part of your question," said the Secretary of Defense, who had parried the pointed inquiries of Senator Robert Byrd, and given the platoons of the press corps the shock-and-awe treatment, yet had been caught flat-footed by this steely-eyed kid. "And could you repeat it for me?"

This was a soldier, not some slumping reporter, and Specialist Wilson, standing ramrod straight, showed not the slightest sign of awe as he repeated his question with shocking clarity:

"Our soldiers have been fighting in Iraq for coming up on three years. A lot of us are getting ready to move north relatively soon. Our vehicles are not armored. We're digging pieces of rusted scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass that's already been shot up, dropped, busted, picking the best out of this scrap to put on our vehicles to take into combat. We do not have proper armament vehicles to carry with us north."

Translation: Why the f* are you sending us out here to get our butts blown off, you stupid s.o.b.?**

Rummy's answer, when it came, was curt and more than a little contemptuous: After launching into an explanation of how it's "not a question of money," or the will to do it, but a question of "physics" – perhaps the supply of armored vehicles was caught in some alternate dimension, possibly the Twilight Zone or Bizarro World – he lashed back with this stinging rebuke:

"As you know, you go to war with the Army you have. They're not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time."

Translation: Screw you, soldier – and that goes for the rest of you, too.

The truth about our unpreparedness is starkly illustrated in the remarks of General Mark P. Hertling, assistant division commander of the 1st Armored Division, who explained to *Newsweek* why our troops are tootling around Iraq in lightly-armored Humvees.

American soldiers are expected to travel through hostile territory in little more than glorified jeeps that "were never designed to do this" because "it was never anticipated that we would have things like roadside bombs in the vast number that we've had here."

"Why aren't there more armored HMMWVs in-theater?" asks Lefkowitz: "Because the Pentagon didn't anticipate that HMMWVs would operate under enemy fire." Why, after all, would anyone fire on their own liberators?

The architects of this war fervently believed their own propaganda – the only problem being that the Iraqis didn't.

Roman emperors feared nothing so much as their own Praetorians, and a hint of that seemed to flicker across Rumsfeld's face as he parried a second sharp question, utterly respectfully enough by a soldier from the Idaho National Guard's 116th Armored Cavalry Brigade, who asked Rumsfeld what was being done "to address shortages and antiquated equipment" suffered by National Guard soldiers on their way to Iraq.

The *New York Times* reports:

"Mr. Rumsfeld seemed taken aback by the question and a murmur began spreading through the ranks before he silenced it. 'Now, settle down, settle down,' he said. 'Hell, I'm an old man, it's early in the morning and I'm gathering my thoughts here.'"

But why should they settle down when they're being sacrificed on the altar of an obscenely overweening ambition?

Telling them to "settle down" may not be enough.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Bush Buddy Criminals At Halliburton's Suck Up \$10 Billion In War Contracts--- While Soldiers Die For Lack Of Armored Vehicles

December 10, 2004 By Matt Kelley, Associated Press

The largest U.S. contractor in Iraq, Halliburton Co., has passed the \$10 billion mark in work orders from the Army for services supporting troops and rebuilding the country's oil industry.

The Army has ordered \$8.3 billion worth of work from Halliburton under a contract to support soldiers with meals, housing, laundry and other services. Halliburton got \$2.5 billion more in work from the Army Corps of Engineers to put out oil well fires and shore up Iraq's dilapidated oil infrastructure.

Allegations of financial misdeeds, including corruption and overcharging, have led to criminal, congressional and Pentagon investigations of Halliburton's work in Iraq.

Congressional critics say the Bush administration is going easy on the oil services company, which Vice President Dick Cheney ran from 1995 to 2000.

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Eternally Rumsfeld?

12.09.04 By Harold Meyerson, The Washington Post

The year is 2016, and the defense secretary is disturbingly familiar.

Rumsfeld faced calls for his resignation this summer over the abuses at the Abu Ghraib military prison in Iraq. Republicans close to the White House said the decision to retain

him was driven by the calculation that replacing him would appear to be a concession that the administration made mistakes in Iraq.

Moreover, some Republicans have speculated that Rumsfeld wanted to stay on with the hope that security conditions in Iraq would improve, leaving him with a better legacy.

-- from a Dec. 4 Washington Post story on President Bush's decision to retain Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8, 2016

President-elect George P. Bush announced today that he would reappoint Donald Rumsfeld to another term as secretary of defense. Rumsfeld has served in that position since he was appointed by President George W. Bush in 2001.

After serving two terms in George W. Bush's administration, Rumsfeld served an additional two terms in the subsequent administration of President Jeb Bush. **His 16 consecutive years heading the Pentagon is the longest uninterrupted tenure of any defense secretary, and that doesn't include the nearly two years he served in that post under President Gerald Ford. Rumsfeld is 84.**

Sources close to the president-elect say that failing to reappoint Rumsfeld would be taken as a criticism of his uncle, former president George W. Bush, whose decision to invade Iraq in the spring of 2003 has bogged down U.S. forces there in a bloody and ongoing conflict that has lasted nearly 14 years.

"George W. is mighty proud of independent Kurdistan," said one former official who is close to the Bush family. "He may have regrets about the Islamic Theocratic Republic of Basra, particularly since they got the bomb, and the PTCZWBOS (Permanent Temporary Curfew Zone Where Baghdad Once Stood), but he'll never admit it."

Rumsfeld does not plan on serving all four years of President-elect Bush's term, one Defense Department official said today. "As soon as things turn up, the moment the Green Zone is secured, he's out of there."

One figure in the outgoing and incoming administrations who argued strongly for Rumsfeld's retention was Vice President-elect Dick Cheney, who first worked with Rumsfeld in the Ford administration. Cheney himself is about to begin his fifth term as vice president, a record-breaking tenure brought about in part by the decision of his cardiologists in 2008 that he could not safely be moved from the vice president's office.

Both Presidents George W. Bush and Jeb Bush periodically found themselves compelled to mount strenuous defenses of Rumsfeld's lengthy tenure. In a memorable 2006 news conference, a visibly exasperated President George W. Bush argued that wartime presidents had traditionally stuck with their commanders for the full duration of their conflicts. "Lincoln didn't dump McClellan, and I'm not dumping Rumsfeld," the president declared, leading the White House press office to issue its now-famous clarification that the Civil War had actually ended in 1862.

Rumsfeld's most recent term was marked by controversy over the extended tours of duty that many of the U.S. soldiers and marines in Iraq have been compelled to serve.

With enlistments in the armed services down to a trickle, and with Congress unable to find the votes to pass the so-called Sensenbrenner Plan to staff the armed services with unpaid, undocumented immigrants, many of the front-line U.S. soldiers in Iraq have been serving there since 2004, their terms of enlistment repeatedly extended by Rumsfeld's order.

Since the Mutiny of 2009 Defense Department officials have been concerned that bringing the "colonial army" home would risk infecting stateside troops with a crisis of morale. *"We're fighting low morale in Iraq," one general said, "so we don't have to fight it here at home."*

Rumsfeld's decision to remain at the Pentagon's helm may not have been dictated entirely by his desire to stay until the PTCZWBO is secured. "Don took a bath when the dollar tanked back in 2005," one prominent Republican said, "and hasn't done all that well since the dollar was pegged to the yuan. In the absence of Social Security, he can't afford to quit."

Harold Meyerson is editor-at-large of The American Prospect.

Received:

Coma Zone

From: Richard M. H, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, Vets For Peace
To: GI Special
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2004 6:43 PM
Subject: Coma Zone

Your latest issue of GI Special [Discouraging Chaos, 2#C43] was an IED. Pardon the analogy. But your stuff is the only thing that is going to wake-up the American people who are in a Coma Zone, as opposed to a Combat Zone.

People need to have their denial traumatized, so we can end this horrible war.

Whenever I think about Iraq and George Bush, which is every 3-5 minutes if you are normal, I think of what Napoleon once wrote: " Do not interfere with the enemy when he is in the process of destroying himself."

REPLY: The real heavy lifting is being done by the people in the armed services organizing to stop the war. GI Special can report on it, but can't make it happen. Veterans and civilians can reach out to them. They need all the help they can get. Guards and reserves meet in a town or city near you. Some of them at least don't want any part of the Imperial War either, and might be just waiting for somebody to give a shit . Veterans in particular have the cred to reach out to them. Faced

with a government that cares nothing for their lives, or ours, the life you save may be your own,. Time to make their armed forces our armed forces. T

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

Received:

From: artisan
To: GI Special
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2004 1:55 PM
Subject: Comments

Good on u for publishing the graphic picture of wounded soldier, and comment regarding Chinese occupation of Haiti is also commendable. Overall C45 was a very good and interesting read. All the best.

Web Copies

For back issues see: GI Special web site at <http://www.militaryproject.org/>

The following that we know of have also posted issues:

<http://www.notinourname.net/gi-special/> ; www.gifightback.org ;

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/gi-special.htm>,

www.williambowles.info/qispecial

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