

**GI SPECIAL 3B56:**

# **Mission Preposterous: Collaborator Troops Decline To Collaborate: Defy U.S. Orders**



**Amir Omar, a 19-year-old Iraqi corporal, patrols in Baiji, a desolate oil town where "the people have been destroyed." By whom? he was asked. "Them," Omar said, pointing at the U.S. Humvees leading the patrol. (By Anthony Shadid, The Washington Post)**

**"In 15 days, we're all going to leave," Nawaf declared. The two-dozen soldiers gathered nodded their heads. "All of us," Khalaf said.**

**U.S. forces then ordered the Iraqis to arrest everyone inside the mosque, including the respected elderly prayer leader. The Iraqi platoon leader refused, U.S. soldiers recalled. The platoon leader and his men then sat down next to the mosque in protest. "We wanted to tell the Americans they couldn't do this again," Dhanoun said.**

June 10, 2005 By Anthony Shadid and Steve Fainaru, Washington Post Foreign Service, BAIJI, Iraq

**An hour before dawn, the sky still clouded by a dust storm, the soldiers of the Iraqi army's Charlie Company began their mission with a ballad to ousted president Saddam Hussein. "We have lived in humiliation since you left," one**

sang in Arabic, out of earshot of his U.S. counterparts. "We had hoped to spend our life with you."

**But the Iraqi soldiers had no clue where they were going. They shrugged their shoulders when asked what they would do. The U.S. military had billed the mission as pivotal in the Iraqis' progress as a fighting force but had kept the destination and objectives secret out of fear the Iraqis would leak the information to insurgents.**

"We can't tell these guys about a lot of this stuff, because we're not really sure who's good and who isn't," said Rick McGovern, a tough-talking 37-year-old platoon sergeant from Hershey, Pa., who heads the military training for Charlie Company.

The reconstruction of Iraq's security forces is the prerequisite for an American withdrawal from Iraq. But as the Bush administration extols the continuing progress of the new Iraqi army, the project in Baiji, a desolate oil town at a strategic crossroads in northern Iraq, demonstrates the immense challenges of building an army from scratch in the middle of a bloody insurgency.

Charlie Company disintegrated once after its commander was killed by a car bomb in December.

**And members of the unit were threatening to quit en masse this week over complaints that ranged from dismal living conditions to insurgent threats.** Across a vast cultural divide, language is just one impediment.

**Young Iraqi soldiers, ill-equipped and drawn from a disenchanting Sunni Arab minority, say they are not even sure what they are fighting for. They complain bitterly that their American mentors don't respect them.**

In fact, the Americans don't: Frustrated U.S. soldiers question the Iraqis' courage, discipline and dedication and wonder whether they will ever be able to fight on their own, much less reach the U.S. military's goal of operating independently by the fall.

**"I know the party line. You know, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army, five-star generals, four-star generals, President Bush, Donald Rumsfeld: The Iraqis will be ready in whatever time period,"** said 1st Lt. Kenrick Cato, 34, of Long Island, N.Y., the executive officer of McGovern's company, who sold his share in a database firm to join the military full time after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. **"But from the ground, I can say with certainty they won't be ready before I leave. And I know I'll be back in Iraq, probably in three or four years. And I don't think they'll be ready then."**

**"We don't want to take responsibility; we don't want it,"** said Amar Mana, 27, an Iraqi private whose forehead was grazed by a bullet during an insurgent attack in November. **"Here, no way. The way the situation is, we wouldn't be ready to take responsibility for a thousand years."**

Overall, the number of Iraqi military and police trained and equipped is more than 169,000, according to the U.S. military, which has also said there are 107 operational

military and special police battalions. As of last month, however, U.S. and Iraqi commanders had rated only three battalions capable of operating independently.

**Two Washington Post reporters spent three days traveling with the Americans and the Iraqis, respectively. The unit was selected by the U.S. military.**

The journey revealed fundamental, perhaps irreconcilable differences over everything from the reluctance of Muslim soldiers to search mosques and homes to basic questions of lifestyle. Earlier this year, for instance, the Americans imported Western-style portable toilets that the Iraqis, accustomed to another style, found objectionable. In an attempt to bridge the difference, the U.S. military installed diagrams depicting proper use of the "port-a-johns."

**In Taluto's region, insurgents set off five car bombs in February; there were 35 in May. Over that period, 1,150 roadside bombs were planted, according to division statistics.**

Last week, U.S. soldiers from 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, and Iraqis from 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company, clambered into their vehicles to patrol the streets of Baiji. The Americans drove fully enclosed armored Humvees, the Iraqis open-backed Humvees with benches, the sides of which were protected by plating the equivalent of a flak jacket. The Americans were part of 1st Battalion, 103rd Armor Regiment of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

As an American reporter climbed in with the Iraqis, the U.S. soldiers watched in bemused horror.

"You might be riding home alone," one soldier said to the other reporter.

"Is he riding in the back of that?" asked another. "I'll be over here praying."

#### **'Preschoolers With Guns'**

**The Iraqi soldiers were a grim lot, patrolling streets where they lived and mosques where they worshiped. As they entered their neighborhoods, some of them donned black balaclavas and green scarves to mask their identities.** They passed graffiti on walls that, like the town, were colored in shades of brown. "Yes to the leader Saddam," one slogan read. "Long live the mujaheddin," said another.

**Nearly all the men had received leaflets warning them to quit; the houses of several had been attacked by insurgents.**

"Don't you dare move!" shouted Cpl. Ahmed Zwayid, 26, pointing his gun at an approaching car.

**The men spoke of the insurgents with a hint of awe, saying the fighters were willing to die and outgunned them with rocket-propelled grenades and, more fearsome, car bombs. Zwayid, a father of three, looked in disgust at his own AK-47 assault rifle, with a green shoelace for a strap.**

**"We fire 10 bullets and it falls apart," he said. Zwayid patted a heavy machine gun mounted in the bed of the Humvee. "This jams," he said. "Are these the weapons worthy of a soldier?" He and others said it was a sign of the Americans' lack of confidence in them.**

"We trust the Americans. We go everywhere with them, we do what they ask," he said. "But they don't trust us."

Up ahead, McGovern conducted his own tour of Baiji's panorama of violence. He pointed out "dead man's grove," a stand of trees the Americans recently bulldozed because it was used to conceal bombs, and "dead man's road," a dangerous stretch of highway. A nearby lot was strewn with jagged pieces of car bomb.

**"Honestly, I don't think people in America understand how touchy the situation really is right now," McGovern said. "We have the military power, the military might, but we're handling everything with kid gloves because we're hoping the Iraqis are going to step up and start taking things on themselves. But they don't have a clue how to do it."**

**Asked when he thought the Iraqi soldiers might be ready to operate independently, McGovern said: "Honestly, there's part of me that says never. There's some cultural issues that I don't think they'll ever get through."**

"We like to refer to the Iraqi army as preschoolers with guns," he said.

**[Here you have a classic of Imperial blindness. Would McGovern care to explain why the resistance fighters have no trouble at all "taking things on themselves?" Would he care to venture some thought about why his collaborator troops won't fight, but the Iraqis going to war against the U.S. occupation and for their country's' freedom will?**

**[He assumes because these collaborator soldiers can't and won't do shit, that's some kind of marker about what Iraqis are like. "Preschoolers with guns." Does he think the resistance soldiers are "Preschoolers with guns" who "don't have a clue how to do it"? How many dead and maimed U.S. troops will it take before he gets it?]**

**[Apparently he is completely, utterly clueless about why his opposition is highly motivated, highly skilled, courageous, and willing to give up their lives to get rid of the Occupation, while his pretend troops sing songs to Saddam Hussein, plan to quit as soon as possible and blame the occupation for their misery of their country. These are called "clues."]**

An hour later, the men returned to Forward Operating Base Summerall, a sandy expanse behind concrete barricades and concertina wire a few miles outside town. They followed U.S. military protocol: Each soldier dismounted from the vehicle and cleared his weapon. Zwayid stayed in the truck, handed his gun to a friend and asked him to clear it.

"Get down and clear your own weapon!" Cpl. William Kozlowski shouted to Zwayid in English.

Zwayid answered in Arabic. "That's my weapon," he explained, pointing to his friend.

"Corporal, you're a leader!" Kozlowski shouted back. "Take charge!"

Zwayid smiled at him. "What's he saying to me?" he whispered.

### **Searching for Respect**

Charlie Company collapsed at 9:15 a.m. on Dec. 5. A gray Chevrolet Caprice packed with explosives detonated among a crowd of Iraqi soldiers during a shift change. Among the five dead was Capt. Mohammed Jassim Rumayidh, the company commander. His death prompted all but 30 of the company's 250 soldiers to quit; many took their weapons with them.

The bombing coincided with the arrival of a battalion of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. The unit began rebuilding the Iraqi company from scratch. The Americans initially sent a small group of soldiers to work with the Iraqis. That changed after the Jan. 30 elections. Cato said the unit received a flurry of orders from commanders to make the training of Iraqi security forces "our main effort."

The battalion dispatched McGovern's platoon, about 35 soldiers, to work exclusively with the Iraqis. But the effort was immediately beset by problems.

**Due to a mixup in paperwork, dozens of Iraqi soldiers went without pay for three months. Many lacked proper uniforms, body armor and weapons.**

**[Oh please. There is no "mixup in paperwork." Just as in Vietnam, the scum on top pocket the troops' pay and steal the supplies to sell to the resistance, or on the black market. Duh.]**

**To meet the shortfall, U.S. forces gave the Iraqis rifles and ammunition confiscated during raids in Baiji.**

**Of six interpreters assigned to the company, two quit and two others said they were preparing to.**

"They've come a long way in a short period of time," Cato, the Alpha Company executive officer, said of the Iraqi soldiers. "When we first got here, soldiers were going to sleep on the objective. Soldiers were selling their weapons when they went out on patrol. I was on missions when soldiers would get tired, and they would just start dragging their weapons or using them as walking sticks."

**The men are housed at what they call simply "the base," a place as sparse as the name. Most of the Iraqis sleep in two tents and a shed with a concrete floor and corrugated tin roof that is bereft of walls. Some have cots; others sleep on cardboard or pieces of plywood stacked with tattered and torn blankets. The air conditioners are broken. There is no electricity.**

Drinking water comes from a sun-soaked camouflage tanker whose meager faucet also provides water for bathing.

"This is the shower of the National Guard, Baiji Division," said Tala Izba, 23, a corporal, as others laughed.

**"Mines, car bombs and our duties, and then we have to come back to this?" said another soldier, Kamil Khalaf.**

Pvt. Aziz Nawaf, 23, shook his head. "At night, I'm so hot I feel like my skin is going to peel off," he said.

Almost to a man, the soldiers said they joined for the money -- a relatively munificent \$300 to \$400 a month. The military and police forces offered some of the few job opportunities in town.

**Even then, the soldiers were irate: They wanted more time off, air-conditioned quarters like their American counterparts and, most important, respect. Most frustrating, they said, was the two- or three-hour wait to be searched at the base's gate when they returned from leave.**

**The soldiers said 17 colleagues had quit in the past few days.**

**"In 15 days, we're all going to leave," Nawaf declared.**

**The two-dozen soldiers gathered nodded their heads.**

**"All of us," Khalaf said. "We'll live by God, but we'll have our respect."**

But the Americans said the Iraqis hadn't earned respect. "As Arab men, they want for us to think that they're just the same as us as soldiers, that they're just as brave," Cato said. "But they show cowardice. They'll say to me, 'I wasn't afraid.' But if you're running, then you were obviously not just afraid, you were running away." **[So why do you suppose your collaborator Iraqi soldiers run away, while the resistance soldiers come to hunt you down? Answer? Anybody home?]**

Last month, three trucks filled with two dozen soldiers from Charlie Company were ambushed near a Tigris River bridge. Instead of meeting the attack, the Iraqis fled and radioed for help. The Americans said the Iraqis told them they had lost 20 men, had run out of ammunition and were completely surrounded.

When a U.S. quick reaction force arrived, the area was quiet and the Iraqi soldiers were huddled around their trucks.

Four were missing; it was later learned that they had hailed taxis, gone home and changed into civilian clothes. One soldier, the company's senior noncommissioned officer, refused to come out for several hours, saying he continued to be surrounded by insurgents. **[It's called search and evade, invented by U.S. anti-war troops in Vietnam. You see, these troops aren't stupid "preschoolers" at all.]**

After the incident, McGovern said he summoned an interpreter, asked him to translate the soldier's words verbatim and "disgraced" the Iraqi soldiers.

"You are all cowards," he began. "My soldiers are over here, away from our families for a year. We are willing to die for you to have freedom. You should be willing to die for your own freedom. If you continue to run away from the enemy, the enemy will continue to chase you. You will never win." **[Wrong. The Iraqis already have won. It's the U.S. Empire that's lost the war. And this story is some of the best evidence yet.]**

McGovern asked the interpreter, Nabras Mohammed, if he had gone too far.

"Well, you shouldn't have called them women, and you shouldn't have called them" wimps, Mohammed told him.

**"Of course they were scared," said Cpl. Idris Dhanoun, 30, a native of Baiji with two years in the security forces, who defended his colleagues. "The majority of them haven't seen fighting, they haven't seen war, they haven't been soldiers. The terrorists want to die. A hundred percent, they want to die. It's jihad. They want to kill themselves in the path of God." [There it is. The Cpl. knows.]**

Shortly after the ambush, a sniper shot a U.S. soldier standing on the roof of a police station, inflicting a severe head wound. The Americans suspected that the fire had come from the nearby Rahma mosque. American and Iraqi troops surrounded the building. Fearful of inflaming resentment, U.S. soldiers ordered their Iraqi counterparts to search the mosque. They initially refused, entering only after McGovern berated them.

"But I don't know if they searched it that well. They were still tip-toeing when they were in there," said Sgt. Cary Conner, 25, of Newport News, Va., who was among the first soldiers on the scene.

## **Combat Refusal First Class**

**U.S. forces then ordered the Iraqis to arrest everyone inside the mosque, including the respected elderly prayer leader. The Iraqi platoon leader refused, U.S. soldiers recalled. The platoon leader and his men then sat down next to the mosque in protest.**

**"We wanted to tell the Americans they couldn't do this again," Dhanoun said.**

In a measure of the shame they felt, the men insisted they had not entered the mosque.

"You can't enter the mosque with weapons. We have traditions, we have honor, and we're Muslims," Dhanoun said. "You enter the mosque to pray, you don't enter the mosque with guns."

At 4:30 a.m. Monday, the men of Charlie Company and the entire U.S. battalion -- some 800 soldiers -- set out in a convoy for west Baiji. The Americans used night-vision goggles to see in the dark. The Iraqis had glow sticks. Before the troops had left the base, an Iraqi driver plowed into a concrete barrier, momentarily delaying the convoy.

U.S. commanders said the involvement of the Iraqis on the mission -- a series of raids to crack a bomb-making cell -- was critical to its success. But the Americans clearly have lowered their expectations for the Iraqis' progress.

**"Things are going to change according to their schedule, not our politics back home," said Sgt. Jonathan Flynn, 36, of Star Lake, N.Y. "You can't just put an artificial timetable on that."**

Along dirt roads bisected by sewage canals, the men of Charlie Company crouched, their weapons ready. Before them was their home town, dilapidated and neglected. Cpl. Amir Omar, 19, gazed ahead.

**"Look at the homes of the Iraqis," he said, a handkerchief concealing his face. "The people have been destroyed."**

**By whom? he was asked.**

**"Them," Omar said, pointing at the U.S. Humvees leading the patrol.**

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

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



US corporal Manuel Jaimez, member of Echo Company 2nd platoon of the 3rd BN 7th Infantry scans the area under a highway overpass close to the area where a road side bomb targeted a US military convoy, south of Baghdad. (AFP/Yuri Cortez)

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# Two Officers Fraggged: U.S. Opens Criminal Probe

July 10 (Reuters)

**The U.S. army has opened a criminal investigation into a blast that killed two soldiers at a base in Iraq after discovering it was not caused by an insurgent mortar attack, a military statement said on Friday.**

**The military said the soldiers killed were New York National Guard troops assigned to the Headquarters Company of the 42nd Infantry Division. Esposito was company commander and Allen was an operations officer.**

It said Captain Phillip Esposito and 1st Lieutenant Louis Allen were killed on Tuesday in an explosion at Forward Operating Base Danger near Saddam Hussein's hometown, Tikrit.

**"The initial investigation by responders and military police indicated that a mortar round struck the window on the side of the building where Esposito and Allen were located at the time," the statement said.**

**"Upon further examination of the scene by explosive ordnance personnel, it was determined the blast pattern was inconsistent with a mortar attack."**

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## Five Marines Killed By Haqlaniyah IED

June 10, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS  
Release Number: 05-06-13C

**6.10.05 CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Five Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action June 9, when their vehicle hit an explosive device while conducting combat operations near Haqlaniyah, Iraq.**

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## TWO MARINES KILLED BY IED NEAR SAQLAWIYAH

June 11, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS  
Release Number: 05-06-14C

**CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Two Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team-8, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed June 10 when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle.**

The incident took place during combat operations near Saqlawiyah, Iraq.

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## **US Soldier Killed In Bayaa Bombing**

AFP 11/06/2005

An American soldier was killed in a roadside bombing in Baghdad on Saturday, the US military said.

**"One coalition forces member was killed in action by an improvised explosive device in Bayaa (southwest Baghdad) just after midday,"** said spokesman James Drake.

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## **Task Force Liberty Soldier Dies Of Non-Battle Injury Near Tuz**

June 10, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS  
Release Number: 05-06-12C

**TIKRIT, Iraq -- A Task Force Liberty Soldier died of a non-battle injury at about 6:40 a.m., June 9 near Tuz.**

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## **Pfc. Dead In Nippur Rollover**

June 10, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 590-05

Pfc. Douglas E. Kashmer, 27, of Sharon, Pa., died June 8 in Nippur, Iraq, when the wrecker in which he was a passenger was involved in a non-combat related rollover. Kashmer was assigned to the Army's 70th Transportation Company, Mannheim, Germany.

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## **Pontotoc Marine Killed**

6/10/2005 By Regina Butler, The Pontotoc Progress

PONTOTOC - A Marine from South Pontotoc has been killed in Iraq as the result of a Humvee accident Wednesday.

Lance Cpl. Marc Lucas Tucker, son of Donna and Kelly Bagwell and Mark Tucker, died when the vehicle in which he was riding overturned while he was on missions in Iraq.

Tucker was on a night mission when the accident occurred at 8:30 Iraq time.

**He was reported to have been traveling with three other soldiers when they ran into a hole flipping the Humvee. The other three soldiers in the vehicle were critically wounded.**

Tucker, who was single, joined the Marines in November 2003. He is the third Northeast Mississippi soldier to die in Iraq.

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## **Local Marine Dies: Seymour Was Deployed In February**



June 10, 2005 IBS

NEWARK, Ohio -- A Licking County Marine was one of three Ohio servicemen who died Thursday in Iraq.

Lance Cpl. Devon Paul Seymour, 21, of St. Louisville, was killed during combat operations in Haqlaniyah, Iraq.

Seymour graduated from Utica High School in 2002 and joined the Marines shortly after, according to the Newark Advocate.

Seymour was a member of the Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines, out of Akron, according to his family.

Seymour's father, Jim, recently returned from deployment in Afghanistan.

Devon Seymour was deployed to Iraq in February.

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## **New Roads Soldier Killed**

June 10, 2005 The Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS - Sgt. David Joseph Murray, assigned to Company B 1088th Engineer Battalion, New Roads, La., was killed in a roadside blast in Iraq on Thursday, the Army said on Friday.**

Murray, 23, joined the Louisiana National Guard June 30, 2000.

Murray was serving in the 256th Brigade Combat Team.

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## **DoD Identifies Department Of The Army Civilian Casualty**

June 10, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 579-05

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a Department of an Army civilian who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**Ms. Linda J. Villar, 41, of Franklinton, La., died June 3 in Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained when a mortar struck her forward operating base. Villar worked for the U.S. Army Field Support Command, Fort Stewart, Ga.**

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## **Mosul Car Bomb Wounds 7 U.S. Soldiers**

6.10.05 By PAUL GARWOOD (AP)

**Seven U.S. soldiers were wounded when a car bomber attacked their vehicle patrol in the northern city of Mosul on Friday, spokesman Sgt. John Franzen said.**

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## **Tikrit Car Bomb Wounds 5 U.S. Soldiers**

June 10, 2005 The Associated Press & (Xinhuanet)

**Five U.S. soldiers were wounded Thursday when a car bomber detonated an explosive-laden vehicle next to their convoy between Beiji and Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad,**

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## **Toms River North Graduate Wounded**

06/11/05 BY JEAN MIKLE AND KIRK MOORE, Asbury Park Press

**A 2003 graduate of Toms River High School North who is serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq was wounded earlier this week when the vehicle he was riding in ran over a land mine, his aunt said Friday.**

Christopher Wood, who turned 20 in early April, was flown from Iraq to a hospital in Germany after he was injured Wednesday. On Friday, he was flown to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., according to his aunt, Kelly Harmon of Toms River.

Wood suffered eye, nose and arm injuries in the explosion, she said.

Wood is a member of the Second Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

**The battalion's primary weapons system is the Light Armored Vehicle, an eight-wheel vehicle armed with a rapid-firing 25mm gun in a turret.**

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## Fayetteville Soldier Injured

6.11.05 By Sarah Terry, The Morning News

**FAYETTEVILLE -- James Daniel Quinn, 24, a Fayetteville High School graduate and an Army sergeant, was serving in Iraq on June 8 when the vehicle he and four other soldiers were riding in rolled over a land mine.**

One of the soldiers was killed and Quinn was flown to a hospital in Germany, according to Daniel Quinn's commanding officer, who called Quinn's family.

The family received few other details, said Deborah Quinn, James' mother.

"They couldn't tell us too much at first," she said Friday from her Fayetteville home. "They had to prepare us if they had to fly us over there. We're thinking, 'oh, my gosh, we might have to go quickly.' We didn't know how bad it was."

Subsequent calls to the Quinn household told the family, including father James and three siblings, that Daniel was seriously injured with puncture wounds and second-degree burns to his face, hands, right leg and knee.

"We kind of sat on pins and needles just waiting to hear," Deborah Quinn said. "About every eight hours, we would call to try to get an update. You couldn't really come to a conclusion. We were just waiting to hear something. I was trying not to get too worried because they couldn't tell us how serious it was."

The family planned to speak to Daniel on Friday evening, when he is taken off sedation for the first time.

Doctors have assured the Quinn family that Daniel should heal completely.

"He was just really looked out for," Deborah Quinn said. "I don't know the extent, but I do know one other person was killed. It was a pretty serious accident."

She said the family has prepared for this sort of accident since Daniel announced his intention to enlist in the military.

"Before he went in, we had to set our thoughts on the possibility that he might die," she said.

Deborah Quinn said her son enlisted as a way to give back to the community.

"All the time he was in high school he hoped to have a (military) career this way," she said. "I guess his interest is public service. He's got a good heart."

Daniel Quinn enlisted full time in the military in 1999 and has completed four, six-month deployments, including stints in Kuwait and Baghdad.

He was working in the Army's 297th Delta Company when the accident occurred.

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## **Killing More American Troops With Bigger Bombs.**

Jun. 09, 2005 BY MARK WASHBURN, Knight Ridder Newspapers

CAMP ANACONDA, Iraq - (KRT) - Improvised explosive devices, the roadside bombs that insurgents build from castoff artillery shells and other munitions, have become the No. 1 killer of American troops in Iraq this year, despite a massive U.S. campaign to blunt their effectiveness.

In spite of those efforts, deaths due to IEDs rose by more than 41 percent in the first five months of this year, compared with the same period last year, and account for nearly 51 percent of the 255 U.S. combat deaths so far this year, according to statistics assembled by Iraq Coalition Casualty Count, an Internet site that assembles statistics based on official U.S. casualty reports.

**Pentagon officials acknowledge that insurgents are killing more American troops with bigger bombs.**

**The rising number of deaths due to IEDs suggests that insurgents have been able to counter American measures with bigger and better bombs.**

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## **U.S. Troops Kill 2 "Security Guards"**

June 11, 2005 Associated Press

U.S. soldiers shot to death two Iraqis and wounded two others in Baghdad when their car came too close to an American armoured patrol, military spokesman Lt. Jamie Davis said.

American soldiers left the scene without stopping but an American patrol returned later and found "multiple AK-47s" inside the vehicle.

**Police Maj. Moussa Abdul-Karim said those killed were Iraqi security guards driving to work in northern Baghdad and were mistakenly shot by American soldiers.**

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## **U.S. General Says “Good And Honest” Iraqis Fighting US Forces**

09/06/2005 By Phil Sands, Staff Reporter, Gulf News Online

**Tikrit: A senior US military chief has admitted "good, honest" Iraqis are fighting American forces.**

**Major General Joseph Taluto said he could understand why some ordinary people would take up arms against the US military because "they're offended by our presence".**

**In an interview with Gulf News, he said: "If a good, honest person feels having all these Humvees driving on the road, having us moving people out of the way, having us patrol the streets, having car bombs going off, you can understand how they could."**

General Taluto, head of the US 42nd Infantry Division which covers key trouble spots, including Baquba and Samarra, also said some Iraqis not involved in fighting did support insurgents who avoided hurting civilians.

**He said: "There is a sense of a good resistance, or an accepted resistance. They say 'okay, if you shoot a coalition soldier, that's okay, it's not a bad thing but you shouldn't kill other Iraqis.'"**

**His comments come in stark contrast to the assertions of other top US figures, who persist in claiming all insurgents are either Baathists or Al Qaida terrorists.**

General Taluto also admitted he did not know how many insurgents there were. "I stay away from numbers how can I quantify this? We can make estimates by doing some kind of guesswork," he said.

He added: "Who knows how big these networks are, or how widespread? I know it's substantial enough to be a threat to the government and it will be for some time."

**General Taluto said "99.9 per cent" of those captured fighting the US were Iraqis.**

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## **COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers secure area after a car bomb exploded outside the Slovakian Embassy in Baghdad June 11 (Ali Jasim/Reuters)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Another U.S. Soldier Killed, 3 Wounded**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

**An American soldier was killed and three U.S. troops were wounded when insurgents ambushed a patrol Friday in eastern Afghanistan — the third deadly attack on U.S. forces in the border region in a week.**

Seven militants were killed in fighting set off by the ambush of U.S.-led coalition and Afghan forces in Paktika province, a U.S. military statement said. The militants fled after the fighting and American forces deployed attack aircraft in pursuit.

**Fighting in Paktika has killed five U.S. troops in the past week.**



**"Our patrols of coalition and Afghan forces are relentless in the pursuit of the enemy," Army Brig. Gen. Jack Sterling was quoted as saying of Friday's clash. [Looks more like the resistance has been relentless in the pursuit of his patrols.]**

**"The enemy may still be powerful at times, but not nearly as powerful as the combined efforts of Afghan and coalition forces when fighting alongside each other," U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Jerry O'Hara told The Associated Press by telephone. [Wow, that's reassuring. He wants everybody to know that his forces are more powerful than the resistance. If he's so sure, why raise the question?]**

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **Military Districts Put Heat On Congress To Get The Fuck Out Of Iraq**

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

June 11, 2005 Susan Milligan, Boston Globe Staff

WASHINGTON -- Faced with plummeting public support for the war in Iraq, a growing number of members of Congress from both parties are reevaluating the reasons for the invasion and demanding the Bush administration produce a plan for withdrawing US troops.

**Representative Walter Jones of North Carolina, a conservative Republican who voted to authorize force, said his district is growing weary of a war that has cost the lives of more than 1,600 US troops and left more than 12,000 wounded.**

"I'm hearing: 'How much do we have to do? We're giving blood. We're giving money. What is the final chapter for our involvement?'

**"I think people are looking to the administration for an explanation, whether we have done all we can do," said Jones, whose district is home to 60,000 retired military personnel.**

Jones said he felt misled by the administration on the reasons for the war because no weapons of mass destruction have been found. "If I knew what I knew today, I would not have voted for the resolution," Jones said.

**Representative Harold Ford, a centrist Democrat who also voted for the war, said his constituents in military-friendly Tennessee are clamoring to have their loved**

ones in Iraq brought home, and are growing increasingly skeptical about the future of the mission there.

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## Recruiter Fraud And The DTP: The Predators Are At It Again

Those recruiters told Mr. Doe that he could not withdraw from the DTP, and further stated that he would be denied federally subsidized school assistance and federal employment if he tried. I am shocked that less than two weeks after the Army was forced to institute a nationwide day-long recruitment stand down in response to recruiter fraud, Army recruiters are up to their same old tricks.

From: Diane R, Veterans For Peace  
To: GI Special  
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2005 1:49 AM  
Subject: Attorney letter to commander regarding recruiter fraud and the DTP

*This came to me from a counter recruiting yahoo group.*

*Diane*

This is a letter from an attorney who counsels people (pro bono) on getting out of the DEP (DTP in this case). **It tells an interesting story that includes typical recruiter misbehavior.**

**Note that the threatened loss of financial aid and job training is an apparent attempt to exploit confusion over the difference between military enlistment and draft registration, a recruiter tactic that we are encountering increasingly in immigrant communities (there have also been threats concerning residency status).**

This letter is also a useful example of how to communicate with a recruiting commander regarding a counselee's situation. The names of the counselee and recruiter have been changed for privacy reasons. -R

MICHAEL I. MARSH  
State Bar Number: 232861  
Attorney at Law  
1950 Ginger Street #63  
Oxnard, CA 93036

June 6, 2005

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Army Recruiting Station

1201 Truman Street, Suite D1  
San Fernando, CA 91340

Re: John Doe, SSN 123-45-6789

Dear Commanding Officer:

I represent John Doe who enrolled in the Army Reserve Delayed Training Program (DTP) on August 13, 2004, when he was seventeen years and three months old. Mr. Doe's recruiter was Sergeant A.K.

I have reviewed Mr. Doe's enlistment contract and advised Mr. Doe that he is eligible for separation from the DTP based on his change of life plans and based on basic principles of contract law.

**Mr. Doe was a minor when he signed the DTP "contract." A contract signed by a minor is not enforceable against the minor unless the minor, upon reaching adulthood, takes some action to exercise rights or obligations under the contract.**

**Mr. Doe has taken no such step since turning eighteen years old on May 15, 2005.** Mr. Doe has not received any pay, taken any oath, signed any paper, or attended any activity sponsored by the Army Reserve since turning eighteen years old.

**In short, the Army cannot enforce the enlistment "contract" against Mr. Doe.**

**The fact that his parents signed the contract is insignificant and of no importance, because the parents of a minor, without seeking judicial intervention, cannot bind a child past his or her eighteenth birthday.**

My client has decided that military enlistment is not in his best interest and therefore the enlistment contract is invalid.

What disturbs me is that two recruiters provided my client with false information.

**Those recruiters told Mr. Doe that he could not withdraw from the DTP, and further stated that he would be denied federally subsidized school assistance and federal employment if he tried.**

**I am shocked that less than two weeks after the Army was forced to institute a nationwide day-long recruitment stand down in response to recruiter fraud, Army recruiters are up to their same old tricks.**

**I respectfully request that you investigate this matter and take appropriate action. If the Army does not resolve this matter, it might be necessary to take additional steps to bring this situation to the public's attention.**

Feel free to contact me at 805-486-1068 x 224, should you have any questions. We look forward to the prompt processing of my client's separation from the DTP.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,  
Michael I. Marsh

**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.**

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **GET THE MESSAGE?**



Kharkh District in Central Baghdad, June 10, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

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## **Assorted Resistance Action: Guerrillas Kill Head Of Anti-Guerrilla Unit**

June 10, 2005 The Associated Press & DÜNYA Süper Veb Ofset Anonim Şirketi & June 10 (Reuters) & June 11, 2005 Associated Press & KUNA & By EDWARD WONG, The New York Times Company

**A hospital official in Falluja said a roadside bomb explosion killed two Iraqis believed to be working at an American base in the area and injured three others.**

**Guerrillas killed the head of an Iraqi police unit charged with fighting guerrilla violence in the troubled northern oil city of Kirkuk, police said on Friday.**

The colonel and a second senior officer were shot dead late on Thursday when the attackers opened fire on their vehicle from a passing car.

**Colonel Adel Zain Alabideen of the Kirkuk police identified the dead men as Colonel Rahim Uthman, head of the anti-terrorist department on the local force, and Major Ghanim Jihad.**

"They were struck by gunfire by people driving a blue BMW," he said.

**In southern Basra, guerrillas killed the dean of the city's police academy, Col. Karim al-Daraji, police said.**

**Yusuf Akar (49), a Turkish truck driver in a convoy carrying goods for US troops in Iraq, was killed yesterday morning in Ramadi during an attack on the convoy by insurgents.**

**In Basra, Iraq's second city and centre of the southern oilfield, Colonel Abdelkarim al-Daraji was shot dead in his car with a second person, a police officer said at the hospital where they had been taken.**

**Witnesses said neither victim was in uniform when three or four gunmen swerved in front of their unmarked car and opened fire.**

**Two oil ministry employees were shot to death and another man was critically wounded in southern Baghdad.**

**In Baghdad, resistance fighters in a speeding car attacked an Interior Ministry commando convoy in western Baghdad's Mansour area, killing three Iraqi forces, police said.**

**Resistance partisans also opened fire on a minibus in Diyara, almost 50 kilometres south of Baghdad, killing at least 11 Iraqi construction workers employed at government and U.S. bases, police said.**

**A bomber detonated a small water tanker full of explosives outside the Slovak Embassy in Baghdad.**

**The attack occurred about 3:00 p.m. (7 a.m. EDT) in the Jadriyah neighborhood near Baghdad University, Interior Ministry Maj. Falah al-Mahmadawi said. The four injured included a guard.**

Associated Press Television News footage showed the remains of the car bomber in front of the blast walls, heavy concrete barriers, that protect the two-story embassy.

Slovakia has 109 soldiers in Iraq.

An Iraqi truck driver was killed on Saturday in an attack on a convoy of trucks for the Iraqi Ministry of Trade in Mosul, northern Iraq.

**An Iraqi Police source said that an unknown armed group launched an attack on a convoy of trucks for the Ministry of Trade while passing through Baladiyat neighborhood in Mosul, noting that the attack killed one driver and wounded another, and one of the trucks was completely burned.**

The source added that the trucks were carrying supplies for the Ministry of Trade.

The Iraqi Police on Saturday found the bodies of three Iraqi civilians on a highway nearby the area of Dourah, south of Baghdad, said an Iraqi Police source.

The source told reporters that the three bodies were handcuffed, blindfolded, and shot several times.

**The men, who belonged to the Sunni-dominated Dulaim tribe in western Iraq, had been handcuffed and blindfolded, and there were signs of torture on their bodies, the official said. The victims were Saadi Khalaf, an Oil Ministry employee; Muhammad Khalaf, a reporter for Al Majd, a newspaper; and Esam Fadhil, their cousin.**

**The three men were taken from their homes in southern Baghdad on Friday night, reportedly by men wearing police uniforms and riding in Interior Ministry vehicles, the official said. Their kidnappers told people in those houses that they were intelligence officers with the Interior Ministry, the official added.**

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

## **Elite Occupation Terror Brigade Headquarters Attacked: 8 Dead**

June 11, 2005 Associated Press & KUNA

**A bomber dressed as a policeman blew himself up during morning roll call at the heavily guarded headquarters of a feared commando unit which is headed by a top leader of Iraq's largest Shiite Muslim political party. Police say the bomber was wearing the explosives under his uniform.**

Eight people have died from that attack, and 12 others are now reported injured.

**The attacker was disguised as a policeman and detonated explosives during a roll call for new commandos**, according to witness Maj. Falah al-Mahamdawi.

"I was inside the headquarters building when the explosion took place," he said. "Then I saw five dead bodies lying on the ground plus seven injured people, most of them are policemen."

**The attack at the two-story Baghdad headquarters of the Wolf Brigade followed weeks of accusations against the Shiite Muslim-dominated force by Sunni Arab leaders, who accuse it of kidnapping and killing Sunnis, including clerics.**

Interior Minister Bayan Jabr said. "The only thing left of the bomber was his head and feet."

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## **Foreign-Run Convoy Ambushed**

10 Jun 2005 (Reuters)

**A foreign-run convoy of civilian trucks was ambushed west of Baghdad this week and several of those working on it may be dead, the British-based security company that supervised it said on Friday.**

**Reuters Television footage from near the town of Habbaniya, between Falluja and Ramadi, showed several burnt out trucks as well as documents apparently issued in Turkey.**

Video distributed in the Sunni rebel stronghold of Ramadi showed the same site, apparently at an earlier time with the trucks still burning and at least seven dead men slumped in an irrigation ditch.

**Among personal documents displayed was an identity card issued by Hart, a British-based security company.**

Hart said on its Web site a convoy of trucks escorted by Hart security vehicles was ambushed near Habbaniya on Tuesday. A spokesman for the company said the fate of those on the convoy was still unclear but that U.S. forces had recovered "a number of bodies" which had yet to be identified.

Routes close to Habbaniya form a main artery of supply from Jordan for the Iraqi capital and for U.S. forces.

**The Hart spokesman declined to say what the trucks were carrying or for whom. Attacks on civilian and U.S. military supplies are a favoured tactic of insurgents**

**Protecting supply routes and adding armour to vehicles has been a significant added cost to the U.S. forces in Iraq.**

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# **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

## **Dear Mothers**

From: Mike Hastie  
Sent: June 10, 2005 3:29 AM  
Subject: Dear Mothers

**To G.I. Special:**

**The following was written by a friend, who did not want to be named.**

"When I finished Marine Corps basic training at eighteen, I felt like the loving heart of my mother died inside of me. But, when I got severely wounded in Vietnam, she was the first person I thought of.

One other Marine who was wounded at the same time, was actually yelling out for his mother. When we were put on the helicopter, along with three other Marines in body bags, I could still hear him crying out for his mother. A few minutes before we landed, he stopped crying, because he bled to death.

I still hear him screaming in my nightmares, and that happened in 1968.

**I truly believe if mothers had been on that helicopter that day, the anti-war movement in this country would skyrocket."**

**Dear Mothers,**

**Don't let your children join the military.**

**I don't care what you have to do.**

**Once they have been exposed to war, they never come home the same--never.**

**As a medic in Vietnam, I saw teenage boys take their last breath. It is a moment in time you never forget. When you zip up a body bag, something inside of you dies.**

**When I came home from that lying war, I shut the door on my life.**

**The only person I eventually let in, was my mother, because she never stopped loving me.**

**Five years ago she died, and her loving memory is the only thing that gets me up in the morning.**

**Mike Hastie**



**U.S. Army Medic,  
Vietnam 1970-71**

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.**



*Patterns Of War*

*Dead leaves on the ground  
Slats in a picket fence  
Soldiers in formation  
Names on a wall*

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

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

# No More Human Sacrifice!

From: Z  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 11, 2005 2:43 PM

## No more human sacrifice

**Why bleed on the altar of corporate profit  
when we've got the power to move ourselves off it  
and kick Mammon's priests so hard in the ass  
they'll forget they were ever a troublesome class.**

Solidarity  
Z

**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.**

## OCCUPATION REPORT

### Collaborator Vice-President "Worried"

June 11, 2005 Associated Press

"I'm worried about the way the recent security plan has been implemented," Iraq's Sunni Arab Vice-President, Ghazi al-Yawer, told the London-based, pan-Arab Al Hayat newspaper.

"That's why I call for not breaking into people's homes without a legitimate reason and for depending on thorough security information and not on biased information," he added. [He may be assured when the resistance breaks into his home, there will be a legitimate reason: treason.]

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

## Iraq Sees No Hope Of Oil Export Increase

Jun 10, 2005 AMMAN (Reuters)

Iraqi crude exports will remain severely limited at just 1.5 million barrels daily.

**With Iraq's northern and central pipeline network hit by 70 sabotage attacks that cost \$1.25 billion of lost revenue in the first five months of this year, Iraqi oil officials had hoped to raise output from southern fields.**

**Problems with water injection facilities at the Rumaila field will cap southern output at 1.6-1.7 million bpd in the near term, the agency said.**

"The objective is to have a top notch military force in place as soon as possible to take charge of protecting the pipeline network, especially in northern Iraq," Uloum said.

**The U.S. had high hopes that open access to the world's second largest reserves would eventually boost output to as much as six million barrels daily.**

**Lower Iraqi output contributed to a fall in OPEC output in May, the Paris-based International Energy Agency said.**

**May Iraqi output fell 80,000 bpd to 1.75 million bpd, including domestic consumption, the lowest level since August last year due to production problems at southern fields, the IEA said Friday.**

**The problems in the south forced Iraq to cut its crude contract sales to around 1.45 million barrels per day for the second half of 2005, a cut of 80,000 bpd over the first half.**

### **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. 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))

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**Hey Goliath, Bring It On**



**A Palestinian protester loads a sling used to hurl a stone at nearby Israeli army soldiers, at a demonstration against the construction of Israel's ghetto segregation wall at the occupied Palestinian village of Bil'in June 10, 2005. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)**

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

#### **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.iraq-news.de/>, <http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>,

[www.williambowles.info/qispecial](http://www.williambowles.info/qispecial),

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

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