

## GI SPECIAL 3B60:



[Thanks to David Honish, Vets For Peace, who sent this in.]

# "We Can't Kill Them All" Generals Say Military Victory In Iraq Is Impossible: "When I Kill One I Create Three"

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

The recognition that a military solution is not in the offing has led U.S. and Iraqi officials to signal they are willing to negotiate with insurgent groups, or their intermediaries.

Jun. 12, 2005 By Tom Lasseter, Knight Ridder Newspapers

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A growing number of senior American military officers in Iraq have concluded that there is no long-term military solution to an insurgency that

**has killed thousands of Iraqis and more than 1,300 U.S. troops during the past two years.**

Instead, officers say, the only way to end the guerilla war is through Iraqi politics.

**"I think the more accurate way to approach this right now is to concede that ... this insurgency is not going to be settled, the terrorists and the terrorism in Iraq is not going to be settled, through military options or military operations," Brig. Gen. Donald Alston, the chief U.S. military spokesman in Iraq, said last week, in a comment that echoes what other senior officers say. "It's going to be settled in the political process."**

**Gen. George W. Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, expressed similar sentiments, calling the military's efforts "the Pillsbury Doughboy idea" - pressing the insurgency in one area only causes it to rise elsewhere. "The political process will be the decisive element."**

**The recognition that a military solution is not in the offing has led U.S. and Iraqi officials to signal they are willing to negotiate with insurgent groups, or their intermediaries.**

The message is markedly different from previous statements by U.S. officials who spoke of quashing the insurgency by rounding up or killing "dead enders" loyal to former dictator Saddam Hussein.

**As recently as two weeks ago, in a Memorial Day interview on CNN's "Larry King Live," Vice President Dick Cheney said he believed the insurgency was in its "last throes."**

**Lt. Col. Frederick P. Wellman, who works with the task force overseeing the training of Iraqi security troops, said the insurgency doesn't seem to be running out of new recruits, a dynamic fueled by tribal members seeking revenge for relatives killed in fighting.**

**"We can't kill them all," Wellman said. "When I kill one I create three."**

Asked about the success in suppressing the insurgency in Baghdad recently - the result of a series of large-scale raids that targeted primarily Sunni neighborhoods - Brig. Gen. Alston said that he expects the violence to return.

**"We have taken down factories, major cells, we have made good progress in (stopping) the production of (car bombs) in Baghdad," Alston said. "Now, do I think that there will be more (bombs) in Baghdad? Yes, I do."**

### **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))

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE SOLDIER KILLED, TWO WOUNDED BY BAGHDAD RPG**

June 14, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS  
RELEASE 05-06-18C

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A Soldier serving with the 18th Military Police Brigade was killed by a rocket propelled grenade while on patrol in Baghdad June 14.

Two Coalition Soldiers were wounded in the attack and taken to a Coalition forces medical facility for treatment.

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### **TWO SOLDIERS ASSIGNED TO MARINES KILLED NEAR RAMADI**

June 14, 2005 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS  
Release Number: 05-06-17C

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Two Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action June 13 when their vehicle was struck by an explosive device.

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

The 2nd BCT is assigned to II MEF (Fwd)

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### **Citrus County Soldier Killed: "The Suddenness Of His Death Is What Destroyed Us."**

June 14, 2005 The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Fla. -- A college graduate who enlisted in the Army after the 2001 terrorist attacks was killed while serving in Iraq, his family said.

Army Specialist Stanley Lapinski, 34, died Saturday from a roadside bomb in Iraq, said his parents, Stan and Gaye Lapinski.

The parents said they were informed of the death Saturday by two soldiers.

Lapinski graduated from the University of South Florida with a bachelor's of psychology. He wanted to go to graduate school to become a professor of ancient history, but the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks led him to join the Army.

The soldier's parents said he was first offered a desk job with the Army, but he declined because he wanted to serve as a foot soldier.

**"He wanted to do something for his country," Gaye Lapinski said. "He didn't join the Army because I wanted him to, believe me."**

The son, who e-mailed or called his parents every week from his station in Baghdad, was scheduled to come home in August for a two-week leave. He planned to take his parents to Las Vegas, where they lived before coming to Beverly Hills, about 65 miles north of Tampa.

**"We will miss the thoughts of all his promises, aims and goals," Stan Lapinski said. "The suddenness of his death is what destroyed us."**

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## Kill Five Civilians After Attack

June 14, 2005 Associated Press, BAGHDAD, Iraq

**Marines and Iraqi soldiers killed five Iraqi civilians in western Iraq on Tuesday shortly after an attack on a military checkpoint left one Iraqi soldier dead, the military said.**

The car bombing targeted a joint U.S.-Iraqi checkpoint at an entry point into the volatile city of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, military spokeswoman Lt. Kate VandenBossche said. One Iraqi soldier was killed in the attack.

The five Iraqis killed were in the second vehicle shot, which was a station wagon carrying 11 people, the military said.

**Dr. Mohammed al-Ani of Ramadi General Hospital said six Iraqis were shot dead by coalition forces, including relatives of Jassem al-Kubaisi, director of the treasury department at Anbar province.**

Before the bombing, insurgents lobbed two mortar rounds toward U.S. forces in Ramadi, prompting Marines to return fire. No American casualties were reported.

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An U.S. army lorry is ablaze after being attacked by a roadside bomb in southern Baghdad June 14, 2005.

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## ***UNFRIENDLY FIRE:*** **HOSTILE INCIDENTS INCREASING BETWEEN US TROOPS AND PRIVATE MILITARY CONTRACTORS**

**What is occurring in Iraq is not friendly fire but willful fighting between occupation forces.**

JUNE 13, 2005 Wayne Madsen Report, Baghdad, IRAQ

**Reports about armed confrontations between active duty U.S. and coalition military forces and coalition armed private military contractors in Iraq have gone from a trickle to a steady flow.**

**While fragging incidents between U.S. enlisted and officers were more commonplace in Vietnam than ever admitted by the Pentagon, the violence between active military and quasi-mercenaries in Iraq is a fairly new phenomenon, according to U.S. military experts.**

**What is occurring in Iraq is not friendly fire but willful fighting between occupation forces.**

Last year there were a number of incidents between US Army personnel (including officers) and armed employees of the Rhode Island-based and GOP-connected firm Custer Battles.

This military-contractor schism has resulted in overall bad blood between the military and the privateers throughout Iraq and has resulted in armed confrontations between active duty military and Custer Battles personnel, especially in and around Baghdad International Airport, where Custer Battles has been involved in security operations.

**Last November, there were a number of shooting incidents and other physical altercations between US Army troops and Custer Battles personnel at Baghdad airport.**

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## **For U.S. Soldiers, Patrol Boat Duty Is Perilous**

June 13, 2005 San Francisco Chronicle

**U.S. soldiers patrolling the Tigris River by boat may not be exposed to car bombs or roadside bombs, but they are virtually defenseless against small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades from the shore. The only protection afforded the boats lies in hulls filled with Styrofoam, "so you can put 100 bullets in it and it won't sink."**

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **IED Attacks Wounds Four U.S. Troops**

6.14.05 Reuters

**Four U.S. troops and an Afghan interpreter were wounded on June 14 2005 when an explosive device detonated near their vehicle in southeastern Afghanistan, a day after a bomber rammed a car into a U.S. military convoy. The attacks are the latest in a surge in militant violence.**

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **Wounded Soldier Improves: Rogers Graduate Faces Long Rehabilitation**

6.14.05 By Don Dailey, The Morning News

**ROGERS -- Lance Cpl. Aaron P. Mankin is out of intensive care but faces a year of rehabilitation to regain use of his burned hands and arms, his mother said Monday. The Rogers High School graduate was wounded in Iraq in May.**

**Diana Phelps, Mankin's mother, said doctors amputated one-half of his right thumb and two-thirds of his right index finger, and another surgery is scheduled for Wednesday to apply more skin grafts.**

Mankin, a combat correspondent serving with the Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq, was injured May 11 in a vehicle explosion near the Syrian border.

The 2000 graduate of Rogers High School suffered second- and third-degree burns to his face, arms and hands, and extensive damage to his lungs. He was transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio from a military hospital in Germany within days of the explosion.

**Phelps said her son will have about a year's rehabilitation in San Antonio to regain the use of his arms.**

Mankin's lungs are healing, and he is not on a respirator, Phelps said.

A fund has been created to defray travel costs for Mankin's family to visit him in Texas.

Mankin's father, Steve Mankin, lives in Rogers, and his mother lives in Oklahoma City.

Donations may be sent to Midfirst Bank, P.O. Box 76149, Oklahoma City, 73147 Attn: tragedy fund Lance Cpl. Aaron Mankin.

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## **HE HAS BLOOD ON HIS HANDS,**

From: Maxine Gentle, Scotland  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 13, 2005  
Subject: Re: GI Special 3B57: 1700 Gone

BLAIR KILLIED MY BIG BROTHER ONE

YEAR ON HE HAS KILLIED, MORE,

HE HAS BLOOD ON HIS HANDS,

TO PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR,

MY NAME IS MAXINE GENTLE, I AM 14 YEARS OLD

I AM THE SISTER OF FUSILIER GORDON GENTLE, WHO DIED IN IRAQ

ON 28TH OF JUNE 04, I WANT MY THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS

TO BE HEARD AND KNOWN, MY FEELINGS ARE I THINK YOU ARE.

RUBBISH AT YOUR JOB. YOU DONT CARE A BOUT THE BRITISH PUBLIC,

ARMED FORCES OR ANYONE IN FACT, MY BIG BROTHER DIED AT THE

AGE OF 19, AND WHAT FOR, A WAR, OVER OIL AND MONEY, THATS WHAT

I THINK THE WAR IS ALL ABOUT, THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS

WEPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, IF THERE WERE, SADDAM HUSSEIN,

WOULD HAVE USED THEM, AT THE START OF THE WAR,

MY FELLINGS TOWARDS YOU AND GEORGE BUSH IS IF I PERSONALLY

HAD A GUN I WOULD SHOOT YOU MYSELF. AND HAVE THE PLEASURE OF

RUBBING MY HANDS IN YOUR BLOOD, BUT I NO THAT WILL NEVER

HAPPEN, I THINK YOU SHOULD WITHDRAW ALL THE TROOPS FROM

IRAQ, AFTER ALL ITS NOT OUR WAR, SO WHY DID WE THE BRITISH,

HAVE TO GET INVOLVED, I THINK YOU JUST DONT WANT TO GET ON

THE WRONG SIDE OF GEORGE BUSH, MY BIG BROTHER MEANT THE

WORLD TO ME. I LOOKED UP TO HIM. WITH PRIDE, BECAUSE HE MADE

SOMETHING OF HIMSELF, HE WAS WELL KNOWN, JUST LIKE YOU. BUT

EVERY ONE LIKED AND LOVED, HIM, NOT LIKE YOU, BECAUSE, I HATE



YOU, AND SO DO ALOT OF PEOPLE IN NO. GORDON HAD ONLY PASSED  
OUT ON APRIL. YET ON MAY YOU SENT HIM AND MANY OTHERS TO A  
WAR ZONE, WE ARE ALL HURTING BADLY I DONT JUST BLAME  
GORDONS DEATH ON THE IRAQS I BLAME YOU, BECAUSE ITS YOUR  
FAULT THAT OUR SOLDERS ARE THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE, AGREEING  
WITH GEORGE BUSH. MY BIG BROTHER DIED IN THE EARLY, HOURS IN  
THE MORNING YET, WHEN YOU AND GEORGE BUSH, WENT ON TV, IN THE  
AFTERNOON TO HAND THE COUNTRY BACK OVER, YOU BOTH STOOD,  
SMILING AND ACTING LIKE ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY, WHEN YOU NEW  
A FINE BRITISH TROOP HAD DIED THAT MORNING, NOTHING YOU CAN  
DO OR SAY WILL CHANGE MY MIEND, OR THE FACT THAT I AM HURTING  
BADLY INSIDE, I CRY MY SELF TO SLEEP MOST NIGHTS,  
BECAUSE GORDON HAS GONE AND IS NIVER COMING HOME. I WOULD  
LOVE TO MEET YOU MYSELF AND TELL YOU ALL THIS PERSONALLY,  
BUT IF I MET YOU I WOULD NOT SHAKE YOUR HAND I WOULD SPIT IN  
YOUR FACE, THIS IS MY PERSONAL FEELINGS TOWARDS YOU AND  
GEORGE BUSH, I HATE YOU MORE THAN HIM BECAUSE YOU ARE THE  
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, WELL SUPPOSE TO BE, SUMETIEMS I  
AM ASHAMED TO ADMIT I AM BRITISH, WHEN I HAVE SUCH A BAD PRIME  
MINISTER AS YOU, .

I HOPE YOU HAVE THE PLEASURE READING THIS AS I HAD  
THE PLEASURE WRITING IT,

YOURS SINCERELY  
MAXINE GENTLE,

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# OCCUPATION: DREAMLAND

[Thanks to D who sent this in.]

**(After all, as one soldier asks, how would you feel if troops from another country kicked down your door in the middle of the night and barged into your home?)**

(2005-03-20), Un-rated, 78 Minutes  
Film Review by Merle Bertrand at Filmthreat.com

"Insurgency." "Roadside bomb." "Coalition patrols." We read these terms and others like them every day in the newspapers; watch the reports every night on the evening news. Yet, there's never really been any way to see what life has actually been like for the U.S. troops fighting the ongoing insurgency in Iraq, until now. "Occupation: Dreamland" takes the you-are-there journalism of CNN or Fox News one step further, as co-directors Garrett Scott and Ian Olds chronicle the daily trials and tribulations of a squad of soldiers in Falluja, Iraq.

Considered the heart of the Sunni-led insurgency in post-Saddam Iraq, Falluja appears here as a God-forsaken wasteland of ruined buildings, miserable, bitter residents, and dirty trash-strewn streets. There's not so much color in Falluja as there are simply different shades of brown.

**No such uniformity exists amongst the subjects of this captivating documentary, however, except for their impressive professionalism in the face of unrelenting chaos and hostility...and the universal desire to get the fuck out of this miserable hellhole alive and in one piece.**

Based in "Camp Dreamland," the nickname they've given their headquarters on the edge of the ruined city, these soldiers' politics run the gamut of the spectrum, as do their views on the reason for the war, its value to America, and its prospects for success. Yet, to a man, they risk their lives every day to do the job they've been sent to do.

"Operation: Dreamland" provides an intimate look at what that job entails. Scott and Olds have loosely organized their film around a series of neat-on-paper "Mission Objectives;" bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo for getting shot at in a variety of different ways in a variety of different places.

We see the troops' futile efforts at mending public relations and witness as they round up suspected insurgents and hunt for hidden weapons caches. We see the hostility and fear on the faces of the occupied Iraqis, and come under fire with the soldiers on numerous occasions.

Cynical and blunt, yet full of ironic and caustic humor, "Occupation: Dreamland" succeeds in putting human faces on both the soldiers that we read about so clinically in our papers, as well as, to a lesser extent, the Iraqis who, not surprisingly, come across as both victims and aggressors.

(After all, as one soldier asks, how would you feel if troops from another country kicked down your door in the middle of the night and barged into your home?)

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## **National Guard Running On Empty: Trash For Equipment, Troops Quitting, Recruits Missing**

June 13, 2005 Detroit Free Press

Thrown into a fast-paced new era of fighting insurgents abroad and protecting neighbors from terrorists at home, the Army National Guard is hanging on by its fingertips. It provides half the Army's combat power and is the country's primary terrorism response team.

**But its battalions struggle to scrape up enough soldiers and hand-me-down equipment for overseas deployments. Recruiting has dropped, and seasoned soldiers are quitting.**

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## **Fewer Applying To US Military Academies; Long Grey Line Gets Shorter**

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

June 13, 2005 By Brian MacQuarrie, Boston Globe Staff

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- The Long Gray Line of cadets still drills on the impeccably groomed parade field as it has throughout the 203-year history of the US Military Academy. Reminders of the calling and challenge of military service are everywhere, from the statues of Generals Douglas MacArthur and Dwight Eisenhower to the meticulously maintained monuments to West Point's war dead.

**But across the nation this year, the number of high school seniors hearing the call to service is down; applications to join the Long Gray Line dropped 9 percent. And that was the least-discouraging news for the nation's top three service academies, where room, board, and tuition for four years of a sterling education are free.**

**Applications for the US Naval Academy plummeted 20 percent, and the number for the US Air Force Academy fell 23 percent, military officials said.**

**"All together, these factors amount to a kind of referendum on one aspect of George Bush's policy, and that's the Iraq war,"** said Michael T. Corgan, a Boston University professor of international relations who graduated from and taught at the US Naval Academy and served in the Vietnam War.

"Parents, in particular, are simply not encouraging their children to go into the military because, for many, this means an immediate posting to Iraq or at least to forces in that region," Corgan said.

**The decrease occurred as many colleges and universities experienced a record number of applications.**

**About 80 percent of the West Point class of 2005 could serve in Iraq and Afghanistan within two years.**

Frank Sullivan, guidance director for Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School, said student interest was almost nonexistent this year. Academy recruiters visited the school once or twice this year, Sullivan said, but the presentations didn't yield any applications from the class.

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## ***How Bad Is It?***

# **"Sir, You've Got To Give Me At Least Enough Time Between Deployments So I Can Get A Divorce"**

14 June 2005 By Joseph L. Galloway, Knight Ridder Newspapers

Unceasing rotations are wearing down soldiers and their families. Corporate headhunters are finding that more captains and majors are turning up to learn what's available in the civilian world because they see only an endless string of combat deployments if they don't get out.

The Army confirmed recently that statistics show that divorce among Army officers has tripled since 2000, with a 75 percent increase in 2004 alone. The divorce rate among enlisted soldiers is up 75 percent.

An Army commander told a Knight Ridder reporter that one of his junior officers was only half-joking when he told him: "Sir, you've got to give me at least enough time between deployments so I can get a divorce."

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## ***How Bad Is It?***

# **Basic Training Classes Cancelled:**

# No Recruits To Train

14 June 2005 By Joseph L. Galloway, Knight Ridder Newspapers

**Recruiting shortfalls are having an impact on basic training schools.**

**"Since March, they have canceled 15 basic training classes for the infantry at Fort Benning," the official said. "They did not have the soldiers, 220 to 230 of them, for each of those classes. Now they will begin processing smaller classes of 180 to 190."**

He said basic training schools also were beginning to receive recruits who wouldn't have been allowed to enlist a year ago because they didn't meet Army standards.

"They are seeing a few Cat IV's," he said. Category IV is the lowest acceptable level on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.

"They are getting more GEDs (General Educational Development certificates) in place of high school graduates. They are paying bonuses to get people who wouldn't have qualified before," he said.

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## Class Of 2010: The Next Generation Of Soldiers? "It Just Has To Stop"

From: Ashley Smith  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 14, 2005

*I received this article from twelve-year-old middle school student, Eliza Leas.*

*She tells the story of National Guard recruiters coming to her school to try and recruit, yes attempt to recruit, students who are years away from eligibility.*

*Eliza has asked me to distribute this to your website so that she can tell her story. Please run it.*

*She also has gotten permission from her parents to include her email address so that other students can contact her. It is [swimfin222@msn.com](mailto:swimfin222@msn.com).*

*Ashley Smith*

**Class of 2010: The Next Generation of Soldiers?**

By Eliza Leas

Last Friday, June 10, I entered the cafeteria in FHT Middle School in South Burlington, VT only to be greeted by a strange sight. A large screen had been set up on the stage, and adults were milling around and passing out flyers.

**I glanced down at a flyer on the nearest table, and was indignant to find that this invasion of my middle school's cafeteria had been orchestrated by none other than the Police and the Vermont National Guard.**

The point of the presentation was to encourage middle school students to attend a camp that is designed to keep kids "off the streets." A movie began to play on the screen, and other students and I walked closer, curious.

I was repelled by what I saw: kids my age doing jumping-jacks in army-style pants. It might seem odd that this bothered me, but it wasn't so much what was on the screen as the knowledge that I was forced to endure this if I wanted my school to continue to receive federal funding.

That's the issue: the government will take away my school's funding if we refuse to let the National Guard in.

**I am twelve years old.**

**I will not be eligible to be in the armed services for another six years. So why do they insist on advertising in my middle school?**

**I can barely tolerate that they are in my sister's high school lobby every day, but a middle school? Trying to recruit me and other kids, barely out of childhood, and telling us we should go to Iraq and die?**

**I said something to my friend along the lines of "this is so stupid, I don't want to be recruited!", and a policeman standing nearby immediately latched on.**

**He went crazy trying to convince me and my friend that the presentation wasn't about recruitment and that I shouldn't judge the camp before going and finding out what it's really about.**

**He was rude and actually stooped so low as to insult me personally.**

Is the Guard trying to justify their revolting recruiting tactics by saying that they are coming to schools to "help prevent crime?" If the purpose of the camp is to prevent crime, why are the campers engaging in typical army activities such as "security patrol" and "land navigation training?"

**Perhaps the answer to all my questions lies in a simple statistic: the army hasn't met its recruitment goals for the fourth month in a row, and it's becoming desperate. Now the armed forces are trying to recruit and train younger and younger kids.**

**You can always tell a war's gone bad when the government starts targeting children in its search for soldiers.**

**It has to stop, and soon.**

**It has to stop before one more Iraqi child is killed.**

**Before one more American dies in a pointless and unjust war that is supposed to be over, while we keep sending troops.**

**It has to stop before one more human life winks out because cruel war-mongers were put in to power.**

**It just has to stop.**



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[Thanks to David Honish, Vets For Peace, who sent this in.]

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## **U.S. Opposed Calls At NATO For Probe Of Uzbek Massacre: Officials Feared Losing Air Base Access**

June 14, 2005 Washington Post

**Defense officials from Russia and the United States last week helped block a new demand for an international probe into the Uzbekistan government's shooting of hundreds of protesters last month, according to U.S. and diplomatic officials.**

**The outcome obscured an internal U.S. dispute over whether NATO ministers should raise the May 13 shootings in Andijan at the risk of provoking Uzbekistan to cut off U.S. access to a military air base on its territory.**

[So, bloody tyrants are OK, as long as they help George W. What was that reason soldiers are in Iraq again? Something about a bloody tyrant? Of course it wasn't about oil and Empire. Was it?]]

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## **Doctors Want No Part Of Slow, Stingy Tricare**

June 13, 2005 Honolulu Advertiser

**Private physicians are not lining up to accept Tricare, a government insurance program that in some cases reimburses doctors less than Medicare and Medicaid and has a reputation for slow payments.**

**The family of a mobilized reservist from, say, Houston or Texarkana, suddenly thrown from private insurance into the military plan, is not always able to find a doctor participating in the plan.**

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## **Bigots In Retreat**

**Gilchrest, a former supporter of the ban, said he changed his view partly out of respect for gay Marines he served with in Vietnam and for his brother, who is gay.**

June 14, 2005 By David Crary, Associated Press

**NEW YORK — Critics of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy are gaining new allies, including a few conservative congressmen and a West Point professor, as they press on multiple fronts to overturn the ban on out-of-the-closet gays and lesbians in the armed forces.**

In Congress, four Republicans — including stalwart conservatives Wayne Gilchrest of Maryland and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida — have joined 81 Democrats co-sponsoring a bill to repeal the policy.

**Gilchrest, a former supporter of the ban, said he changed his view partly out of respect for gay Marines he served with in Vietnam and for his brother, who is gay.**

**A U.S. Military Academy professor, Lt. Col. Allen Bishop, wrote a column this spring in Army Times urging Congress to repeal the ban. "I thought I'd get lots of hate mail, and my colleagues would walk on the other side of the hall — but there's been none of that," he said Tuesday.**

Still, neither the White House nor the Pentagon has given any signal that they would drop their long-standing support for the policy, implemented in 1993 under the Clinton administration. It prohibits the military from inquiring about the sex lives of service members but requires discharge of those who acknowledge being gay.



More than 9,400 troops have been discharged since the policy was implemented.

**Discharges peaked at 1,227 in 2001, and declined to 653 last year, a drop which critics attribute to reluctance by war-zone commanders to deprive their units of experienced gay and lesbian personnel during difficult missions.**

**“The services are far less likely to discharge gays and lesbians serving on the front lines,” Servicemembers Legal Defense Network said in its report, released Monday.**

It said those discharged last year included 41 health care professionals, 30 sonar and radar specialists, 20 combat engineers, 17 law enforcement agents, nine language specialists and seven biological/chemical warfare specialists.

“The military continues to sacrifice national security and military readiness in favor of simple prejudice,” said SLDN Executive Director C. Dixon Osburn.

**“Americans do not care if the helicopter pilot rescuing a wounded soldier or the medic treating that soldier is gay.”**

**Gilchrest, the Maryland congressman, said he was unsure how many of his fellow majority Republicans were ready to join in seeking repeal, but suggested the momentum was shifting in that direction.**

“When this issue comes up, members who believe that gays shouldn’t be in the military are now more hesitant to voice their opinion,” Gilchrest said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

**“Many of us who feel the other way have come out of the closet, so to speak. A year ago, I would have been uncomfortable expressing my feelings.”**

Bishop, who teaches philosophy at West Point, said he had been troubled for years by “don’t ask, don’t tell” before deciding to write about it.

**“They can be gay, but they can’t practice being gay. They can be here, but they can’t tell you who they are — it seemed pretty confusing to me,” he told The Associated Press.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**



An Iraqi police vehicle burns after a car bomb attack in Tikrit June 13, 2005.  
(Stringer/Iraq/Reuters)

14 June 2005 (AFP) & AP & Telegraph Group Limited

**A blast ripped through waiting civil servants outside a bank in the northern Iraqi oil hub of Kirkuk, killing at least 20 people and wounding more than 60 others, police said.**

A bomber blew himself up amidst public workers standing outside the Al-Rafidain bank in the city centre, Kirkuk police chief Major General Turhan Yusif said.

According to Colonel Shirzad Abdullah, chief of the Rahimao police station: "Most of the casualties were civil servants lining up outside the bank to receive their monthly pay."

The blast came shortly before Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani was to be sworn in as president of three provinces in northern Iraq.

The pavement outside the bank was strewn with rubble and glass from the building, while several bodies were seen lying underneath wreckage. At least two cars parked nearby were set ablaze.

Seventeen bodies believed to be all Iraqis were found near Khaldiyah, 75 miles west of Baghdad, Chijan said.

Hospital official Dr. Mohammed Jawad said some of the bodies had been decapitated and the others had been shot in the head.

Jawad said the bodies might belong to men who have been missing since their convoy delivering supplies for the U.S. military was ambushed near Khaldiyah on Thursday.

**Two of the bodies were identified as an Iraqi policeman and an interpreter, but it was not immediately clear which company they worked for.**

**Chijan said the badly decomposed bodies of another seven men, including one Iraqi and six believed to be "Asians," were brought to the hospital after being killed in a convoy ambush several days ago. Most had been shot in the face.**

The slain Iraqi was identified as Ahmed Adnan, said his cousin, Hussein Ali, who was interviewed by The Associated Press at the hospital.

**Ali said his cousin worked for a U.S.-owned company American-Iraqi Solutions Group, a large firm dealing in Iraqi reconstruction projects with its headquarters in Carson City, Nevada.**

**The company later sent the AP a statement saying 11 of its employees were killed Sunday when one of its five-vehicle supply convoys was ambushed east of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, by up to 20 heavily armed fighters firing from a highway overpass.**

**"The attackers used light and heavy machine-guns as well as rocket propelled grenades to disable three of the five vehicles," the statement said.**

The last two vehicles in the convoy escaped the attack.

10 Iraqis were killed and seven wounded by a car bomb in Kan'an, about 30 miles north of Baghdad, according to security and hospital sources.

**"Ten people were killed in all and seven wounded," an Iraqi army officer said, adding four deaths among his own soldiers to an earlier report of six dead and four wounded.**

**The troops had been called in to reinforce a police station in the town of Kanaan that was under mortar attack, and were targeted by a car bomb parked nearby, a police officer said.**

Insurgents also hit Kanaan police station with mortars, setting it on fire, police said.

<p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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## **Oil Workers Union Calls For Immediate Withdrawal Of U.S. Troops And No Privatizing Of Oil Industry**

June 12, 2005 David Bacon, SFGate.com

Baghdad -- For most Americans, the idea that Iraq has unions is a strange concept. We have become accustomed to seeing images of soldiers and bombs, while Iraq's working families have little visibility and are given little consideration in U.S. policy debates.

Yet Iraq, a country of 24 million people, has a long history of civic and labor activism dating back to the 1920s, when the British dug the first oil wells, and oil workers organized their first unions.

**They weren't legal then - - in fact, the British shot strikers in one of Iraq's first labor confrontations. They're not legal now, either.**

**Saddam Hussein, fearing a progressive movement to topple his dictatorship, banned unions for public workers in 1987. Iraq's public sector includes all of its largest industries -- oil, railroads, ports and big factories. When the occupation began, however, U.S. authorities refused to repeal that law, despite promises of democracy.**

Instead, chief occupation administrator Paul Bremer issued Public Order 30 in September 2003 to privatize Iraq's state-owned industries. Thomas Foley, a fund-raiser for President Bush, drew up lists of factories, airlines, railroads, mines and other enterprises to be sold to private investors, including foreign corporations. Despite last January's elections, that program is still on the books.

Iraqi workers adamantly oppose privatization, since it would lead to massive job loss in a country already suffering 70 percent unemployment, according to economists at Baghdad University.

**To Iraqi unions, denying them legal status is a way to keep them weak in the face of the occupation's economic program.**

Oil workers recently held a large congress in Basra to voice their opposition to privatizing oil, or selling it to transnational corporations at discounted prices. Oil income, they said, is needed to rebuild their country. Their union calls for keeping public assets in public hands.

**It also calls for an end to the occupation, and the withdrawal of U.S., British and other foreign troops.**

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**Retired Lt. Gen. Marc Cisneros of Corpus Christi, Texas:**  
**"If young people aren't enlisting, that tells me we are not doing the right thing over there (in Iraq). If our leaders can't see that, the damage will go deeper than it did in Vietnam." Aref Mohammed, Reuters, 6.14.05**

# When People Refuse To Take Any More

From: Z  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 13, 2005

Greetings, T!

**Bravo and thanks to A.W. for reminding the GI Special readers of a very significant date: the 100th anniversary of the June 14th mutiny aboard the Battleship Potemkin, immortalized in Eisenstein's film classic of the same name!**

As A.W. rightly points out, the Potemkin mutiny was a forerunner of a much greater revolt to come a dozen years later.

**Speaking of anniversaries, in exactly a month, on July 14, we will be celebrating another revolutionary milestone: the 1789 dismantling by the people of the prison fortress Bastille. And there is also the celebration on July 4 of the Declaration of Independence. Is history trying to give us a hint?**

**Incidentally, the manifesto published by the sailors of the Potemkin said in part:**

**“To all civilised citizens and to the working people! The crimes of the autocratic government have exhausted all patience... Down with the chains of bondage! The government wants to drown the country in blood, forgetting that the troops consist of sons of the oppressed people. The crew of the Potemkin has taken the first decisive step... We demand an end to the war... All free men, all workers will be on our side in the struggle for liberty and peace. Down with the autocracy!”**

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 HAITI**

**WELCOME TO LIBERATED HAITI**



Haitian woman walks in front of a Brazilian United Nations occupation soldier in the La Saline area, Port-au-Prince, June 11 . Guerrillas opened fire on occupation troops at a checkpoint on Thursday, wounding two Friday. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

# **The Great Iraqi Collaborator Troop Training Fiasco Rolls On: The Sergeant Sighed. "They Probably Shouldn't Have Been Out Here"**

June 13, 2005 By SABRINA TAVERNISE and JOHN F. BURNS,

**MAHMUDIYA, Iraq - A small but telling test of Iraq's fledgling army came recently in this troubled farm town south of Baghdad, when a group of Iraqi soldiers, ending a house raid and rushing to board pickups they use as troop carriers, abandoned the blindfolded, handcuffed man they had come to arrest.**

**"They left the detainee," an astonished American soldier said, spotting the man squatting in the dust along a residential street. "They just left him there. Sweet."**

**A few days before the Mahmudiya raids, Iraqi soldiers at a local checkpoint apparently fell asleep in the hours before dawn, and the checkpoint was ambushed by insurgents. They tossed a grenade into the building, then stormed in and executed those left alive, killing at least eight Iraqis, American soldiers said. Since the attack, American troops have been conducting nighttime patrols to make sure the Iraqis stay awake.**

"I just wish they'd start to pull their own weight without us having to come out and baby-sit them all the time," said Sgt. Joshua Lower, a scout in the Third Brigade of the First Armored Division who has worked with the Iraqis. "Some Iraqi special forces really know what they are doing, but there are some units that scatter like cockroaches with the lights on when there's an attack."

The Iraqi troops' story is one of light and dark, American officers say.

**Especially in regions sympathetic to the insurgents, they have performed woefully, with Sunni Arab soldiers making little secret of their support for Saddam Hussein and their contempt for the Americans.**

**In Mahmudiya, American officers traced many of the problems with Iraqi units to a lack of competent junior officers, coupled with enlisted men with minimal training, motivation centered on the monthly pay, and equipment that included cheap fiberglass helmets and poor-quality flak jackets.**

**[How can it be the resistance has no trouble whatever motivating their soldiers, with infinitely less? It would appear nobody wants to ask that question. And rightly so. The answer would be too ugly: traitors helping foreign invaders occupy their country do not make a motivated, effective armed force, and never have.]**

First Lt. Carlos Montalvan, an American officer attached to the unit that conducted the house raids, described it as "pre-MOC," not even minimal operational capability. The unit "should have been locked down for several months to train and to do static operations," he said.

A lack of basic infantry tactics surfaced during the raids, when Iraqi troops assigned to watch the houses while raiding parties entered to make arrests gathered closely together outside, rarely taking up defensive positions.

**On several occasions, Sgt. First Class Michael Hanaway admonished the Iraqi soldiers to watch the perimeter instead of staring at the house being raided.**

**"You've got to look that way," he shouted, motioning. "Not at me. That way." The sergeant sighed.**

**"They probably shouldn't have been out here," he said.**

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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# More Babies, Young Kids Going Hungry In US

[Tough shit. Need the money for tax cuts for the rich and the war in Iraq, right?]

12 June 2005 Agence France-Presse

**Increasing numbers of young American children are showing signs of serious malnourishment, fueled by a greater prevalence of hunger in the United States, while, paradoxically, two-thirds of the US population is either overweight or obese.**

In 2003, 11.2 percent of families in the United States experienced hunger, compared with 10.1 percent in 1999, according to most recent official figures, released on National Hunger Awareness Day held this year on Tuesday, June 7.

**Some pediatricians worry that cuts in welfare aid proposed in President George W. Bush's 2006 budget will only exacerbate the situation. By contrast Bush plans to keep tax cuts for more affluent sectors of the population, they note.**

In the working class port city of Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Maureen Black, a pediatrician, sees numbers of underweight babies in her clinic specialized in infant malnutrition located in one of the poorer areas.

Dr. Deborah Frank, a professor of pediatrics at Boston University's School of Medicine, who also runs a specialized clinic for malnourished babies, has similar concerns.

**"We are seeing more and more very young babies under a year of age which is a particular concern because they are most likely to die of under nutrition, and also their brains are growing very very rapidly,"** said Frank, in a telephone interview.

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### Received:

**“How Many Is Too Many American Dead To George W Bush?”**

From: JF  
To: GI Special  
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2005 12:44 AM



Subject: This Madness Must End!

'Then, when our military men and women finally get home, Mr. Bush is willing to show the smiling faces of those reunited with their families, yet he refuses to allow television cameras to film the return of caskets to Dover Air Force Base. He says this is to protect the families - I say it is because he is afraid, and rightly so, that America will become aware of the true cost of war.'

George W Bush has made the cold-blooded calculation that he will expend just as many of the lives of "his fellow Americans", of those who don't have the luxury of having "other priorities" that is, as it takes to assure his foreign and domestic cronies' control of Iraq's resources; of contracts for weapons, armaments, services and bases; of an expanded appropriation of land and a share in Iraq's infrastructure.

**How many is too many American dead to George W Bush? As many as it takes to dry up the supply of what he views as cannon fodder.**

**So you can see why he doesn't want any acknowledgement of the fact that the lives of 1700 Americans have now been lost in Iraq.**

**And you can see exactly what kind of man we Americans are up against.**

---

**Received:**

## **Vietnam Veteran Needs Assistance**

From: MAHnPGH2@aol.com

To: GI Special

Sent: June 13, 2005

**I am appealing to all veterans to help reverse an injustice and an act of censorship.**

**KDKA radio talk host, Chris Moore and the ONLY veteran on KDKA Pennsylvania is being eased out.**

I'm calling this The People Need Chris effort after hearing a caller tell him long ago how much we needed him on the radio. His show has aired on KDKA <http://www.kdkaradio.com/> since 1993 on Saturday from 7:00 PM EST to midnight and on Sunday from 4:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

On Saturday evening, this consistent voice for the veterans informed us that his Saturday show would be replaced with a music/talk format to appeal to a younger audience even though he is number one in his time slot in the 25+ age group.

**IMHO, the reason that he is being replaced is because he has invited guests like Scott Ritter, Operation Truth members, Jack Dalton, a Gold Star Mother and others who tell the truth about what our country faces in our illegal war on terror.**

**Chris is not a microphone warrior. He never wavered when he questioned the wisdom of the war in Iraq long before it began. He never shied away from pointing out when he thought we were being lied to.**

He boldly tells about cuts in funding for the veterans and the fact that they are coming home from Operation Iraqi Freedom to the freedom of being UNEMPLOYED and sometimes HOMELESS in the greatest and richest country in the world!

**He proudly enlisted to serve his country in Vietnam and he serves his country now by being courageous enough to invite guests that won't be heard elsewhere.**

**Please help keep him on the air and forward my request to take action to reverse this decision and betrayal of a fellow veteran to all interested parties.**

***For any veterans in the Pittsburgh area who can go to KDKA in Gateway Center next Saturday June 18th at 7 PM to show support, please do that.***

All of us can also complain weekly to:

KDKA Radio Vice President and General Manager Michael Young (412) 575-3262  
Greg Jena, Director of Marketing and Promotion, (412) 575-2508  
Steve Hansen, Programming Director- shansen@kdka.com

KDKA 412-575-2200  
One Gateway Center  
Pittsburgh, PA  
KDKA-AM  
One Gateway Center  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

To send e-mail  
<http://kdkaradio.com/contact.shtml>

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## **Received:**

# **The War In Iraq & The Economy Of Wealth At Home**

From: [katestorm@zydecotech.net](mailto:katestorm@zydecotech.net)  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 08, 2005

Hi,

I just recently found your site and it has settled a lot of confused feelings for me. I'm going to share this site with lots of people.

Military Project is important not only for GIs to communicate, but also to us citizens. I just discovered the Project and am very impressed at how thorough it is. A lot of us here at home are confused, because we don't want to just pull out and leave the Iraqis dangling in the face of militant Islamics.

**We really bought the idea of establishing freedom and democracy over there. (While Bush/Cheney are busy destroying it back here.)**

But you guys are on the ground are the ones who know what's going on. I belong to several e-mail political groups with lots of activists. I've turned at least 500 people onto your site (and the other two GI sites) in the past two days. A good portion of those people are active in the schools, churches, civic affairs, and politics of their community.

Word that you want out is going to spread, I promise.

Pretty far down on this page, the writer (I don't know if it's you by that point) expresses the feeling that it's hard to figure out why we're there except for Bush/Cheney's corporate friends to make a fortune in war profiteering.

And, of course, we wanted to control the oil.

But I believe that there's a third reason, the advancement of Israel, that hasn't been discussed since before the war began. The group of neoconservatives who planned this war before Mr. Bush came into office, are dedicated to the advancement of Israel. They believe in a "Conflict of Cultures" and permanent war against Muslims.

You're probably already familiar with the article by Pat Buchanan at the Web site I attach, but I just discovered it and if it's new to me it might be new to some of the men.

I'm a liberal Democrat and I never thought I'd agree with Pat Buchanan. But after two solid months of researching the neoconservatives and the war, I'd say this article sums up what I discovered. The neoconservatives aren't just Jews, although that is a large part of their contingent in Washington. Cheney, Rumsfeld, and Jeb Bush are neoconservatives.

If you have time to spend on the web, check out the Project for a New American Century, and "Leo Strauss and the Grand Inquisitor" by Shadia Drury, and the rest of her writings on the neoconservatives. A guy named Irving Kristol drummed up neoconservatism here in the United States, and he makes it sound positively jolly. The PNAC White Paper which came out in 1998, I think I recall, states the neoconservative agenda, and pretty well says we have to have military control of the world to ensure democracy and freedom to the rest of the world.

If that doesn't make sense to you, since we would be ruling the world and they wouldn't be free, I have to say it doesn't make sense to me, either.

Cheney, a neoconservative, is a joint President with Bush, and often uses his willpower to overrun the President when he hesitates over another bad policy. Cheney's office operates in great secrecy, and it's only fair to suspect they are up to no good.

At home here, they are wreaking havoc and building in a permanent neoconservative revolution over all the government in Washington, muzzling free speech, stripping away employee rights, putting their people, or people who remain silent, in key positions, and, I note, the Log Cabin Republicans, the gays who supported Bush/Cheney, are circulating a petition because gays are being stripped of protection in the Federal Workplace (a bit naive on their part, since Bush campaigned against them and they voted for him anyway).

**Irving Kristol says neoconservatism is a happy, out-going philosophy. I don't see how permanent war is a happy philosophy. And since the middle and working classes are being ruined here at home, I don't see how neoconservatism is an upbeat creed at all.**

I also include the Web site of a NY Times article on the economy which came out yesterday. It's a pretty shocking look at the economy for the average bloke.

Well, this is getting pretty long. We're aware and concerned over here, and we'll do all we can to get you out of there.

[http://www.amconmag.com/03\\_24\\_03/cover.html](http://www.amconmag.com/03_24_03/cover.html)[http://www.amconmag.com/03\\_24\\_03/cover.html](http://www.amconmag.com/03_24_03/cover.html)  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/07/opinion/07tues1.html?incamp=article\\_popular](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/07/opinion/07tues1.html?incamp=article_popular)

**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.**

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The following that we know of have also posted issues:  
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[www.williambowles.info/qispecial](http://www.williambowles.info/qispecial),  
<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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