

## **GI SPECIAL 3B71:**

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Members of the Mississippi Army National Guard's honor guard salute the casket of Sgt. Terrance Lee. The Associated Press

# **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Says War Is Lost, Morale Is Terrible, Senior Officers Are Convinced It's "Vietnam Redux"**

June 23, 2005 Juan Cole, Informed Comment

"Yesterday I talked with a 2nd Lt and West Point grad who has just come back from Iraq. He says flat out that the war is lost, that "we" only control territory when the troops are there in massive numbers and that "they" take over as soon

as the troops leave, that the army is over-extended and morale is terrible -- drug use is escalating -- that there still isn't enough armor, that the Iraqi army and police are worse than useless, and that senior officers are convinced that it is Vietnam redux.

"One of his classmates a 23-year old was killed last week -- for nothing. There are signs that this story is belatedly beginning to sink in across the country, but he, and I, fears that it is too late."

We saw this sort of thing in Vietnam, too.

The Generals are the last to know, and they always think victory is around the corner if only they can convince the US public to commit "blood and treasure" for a few decades.

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## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **Miss. Soldier Killed In Iraq Blast Mourned At Moss Point Service**



Sgt. Terrance Lee

June 25, 2005 The Associated Press

MOSS POINT — Sgt. Terrance Lee knew there was a chance he would never return from Iraq, but the young soldier put his country above his own life, and left behind a pregnant wife and two young sons.

Lee, 25, of Moss Point was killed in action on June 11.

Friends, relatives and soldiers gathered at First Missionary Baptist Church on Friday to say goodbye to "T-Lee".

About 250 people attended the service and even more passed by the open casket, half draped with an American flag, to view the soldier dressed in a navy blue, velour jogging suit.

Lee and Staff Sgt. Larry Arnold, 46, of Carriere were killed when an improvised explosive device detonated beside the vehicle they were in.



Ramone Lee (left) and Terrance Lee Jr. at Friday's graveside services for their father, Mississippi National Guard Sgt. Terrance Lee, at Macphelah Cemetery in Pascagoula. Lee died June 11 in Iraq when the vehicle he was riding in triggered an explosive device. The Associated Press

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## Naval Reservist From Centralia Killed



June 25, 2005 By George Howell, KOMO RADIO-TV

LEWIS COUNTY - A Naval Reservist from Centralia, Regina Clark, was among those killed in a bloody attack June 23 in Iraq.

The news of Clark's death hit hard in her hometown.

Her mother, Melitta Fountain, said the military was her daughter's passion. Petty Officer 1st Class Clark worked as a mess cook in the Navy, serving three tours of duty.

**"I really didn't want her to go this time," said Fountain, "I figured once was enough."**

Clark, 42, and her mother spoke to each other Thursday, they talked about getting care packages in the mail. But just hours after their conversation, Clark was killed by a suicide car bomber.

"We're all going to miss her, she was quite a character," said her mother.

**Clark honed her cooking skills in Centralia. She worked at Fuller's market.**

"It was just hard to believe, I guess," said store manager Al Nelson. "You realize that it happens, but you just don't believe that it could happen to somebody close to your home."

**"It was hard to say goodbye to her when she left this time," cried Kim Boehl, Clark's friend. "There were a lot of hugs and kisses. I really thought she's come back, so it was a big shock."**

**Clark leaves behind her 18-year-son and her mother.**

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**REAL BAD PLACE TO BE:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



6.25.05 US soldier during a patrol in central Baghdad. (AFP/Yuri Cortez)

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## **Three Hour Battle At Tal Afar**

6.25.05 Aljazeera

Officials at Tal Afar, near Mosul, where U.S. troops have cracked down this month, said three bomb attacks were followed by a battle involving U.S. tanks and helicopters that lasted about three hours.

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## **US Plane Downed In South Kirkuk**

2005/06/25 IRIB News

**US unmanned plane sank in Hay al-awsat area in South oil-rich Kirkuk province late Friday.**

The US military forces have sealed off the region immediately after the crash, barring the Iraqi army to approach the area, informed sources told CNA on Friday.

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## **Resistance Force Of 100 Launches Coordinated Attack In The Heart Of Baghdad: “We Will Be Back”**

[Thanks to John Gingerich, who sent this in.]

<p><b>Last month the government said Operation Lightning, a sweep of the capital by 40,000 troops, would choke the violence. A spate of explosions in the past two days killed more than 40 people but it was the spectacular but less bloody attack at Baya'a that showed the resistance was still in business.</b></p>
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June 24, 2005 Rory Carroll in Baghdad, The Guardian

Dawn had yet to break and Baghdad's biggest police station, like the rest of the city, was quiet. About 80 officers dozed inside the fortress, leaving just a few sentries guarding the walls, razor wire and concrete barriers.

**It started with mortars. A series of whooshes from north and south followed seconds later by explosions inside the perimeter. Figures emerged from the gloom and knelt in the middle of Hi al-Elam and Qatar Nada streets, pointing rocket launchers.**

**More figures materialised on rooftops overlooking the station to spray gunfire and lob grenades. Dozens of gunmen, guerrilla infantry, swarmed from houses and alleys. It was just after 5.30am and the station was surrounded.**

The defenders heard engines rev and guessed what was next: suicide car bombers. Baghdad's biggest battle in months - and possibly the boldest yet by insurgents - had begun.

**Bullet holes and debris testified to a synchronised and audacious strike by up to 100 rebels in what is supposed to be a locked-down capital.**

**The combination of heavy shelling, diversionary feints, infantry thrusts and suicide vehicles - the "precision-guided" equivalent of tanks - left parts of the district of Hi al-Elam a smoking ruin.**

**If the objective was to overrun the station and free its prisoners the offensive failed. The attackers retreated after two hours, leaving dozens dead and captured. But if the objective was to send a message of power and determination it succeeded.**

Residents said their confidence in the government and security forces was severely dented.

**A rash of graffiti has spread across the area: "We will be back." One taxi driver, a Shia who loathes the mostly Sunni Arab resistance, shrugged. "Yes, they will."**

On one level the assault at Baya'a was being presented as good news for Washington. "The enemy spent weeks, maybe months planning this," said Lt Col David Funk, a US infantry commander responsible for the area. "They failed spectacularly."

**Not since April's attack on Abu Ghraib had there been such a concentration of force in the capital and yet the insurgents were repulsed thanks to the heroism of the beleaguered police officers, he said.**

**But in Baghdad, the fact the insurgents had launched the attack at all was more indicative.**

The sentries, pinned down by fire from the rooftops, did not respond when they heard the approaching suicide bombers. One vehicle exploded at the main entrance, killing at least four officers but without breaching the compound.

**A nearby Iraqi army base was simultaneously targeted by mortars, gunfire and a suicide bomber, trapping the soldiers inside. Gunmen attacked the police station from four sides and came close to overrunning it.**

**From bases in southern Baghdad US and Iraqi ground troops rushed for Baya'a only to confront insurgents at Derwesh Square and on the Doura highway tasked with slowing the relief force. At least three suicide car bombers had been held back for this purpose.**

The attackers retreated at around 7.30am. At least 10 were killed and 40 captured.

**"It was our victory," said the Iraqi commander, Col Khaldoon. But residents, picking their way through rubble that had been homes and shops, disagreed.**

Last month the government said Operation Lightning, a sweep of the capital by 40,000 troops, would choke the violence. A spate of explosions in the past two days killed more than 40 people but it was the spectacular but less bloody attack at Baya'a that showed the resistance was still in business.

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## TROOP NEWS

# **“It Seems Like Just About No One Wants To Join The Army Anymore”**

June 27, 2005 By Joseph R. Chenelly, Army Times staff writer

They aren't in Iraq, but they feel under fire. Their bosses want them on the job. Their spouses want them at home.

And, they are finding, the people whom they desperately need just want them to go away.

**“It seems like just about no one wants to join the Army anymore. It has changed a lot in the past year and a half,”** said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Due, a recruiter who has been beating Seattle's streets for two years.

The recruiters who spoke with Army Times said they hear “no” more often and more firmly now than ever before.

Doors are slammed in their faces, phones aren't answered by parents with caller ID, and recruiters are turned away daily by potential soldiers who say, “I don't want to die in Iraq.”

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## **Air Force Vet Sees Armed Forces Resistance To War Growing**

[Thanks to Phil G who sent this in.]

<b>"Some people accuse us of being against the troops or antipatriotic but we are the troops.</b>
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Jun 25 AFP News

The World Tribunal on Iraq (WTI), an anti-war grouping of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), intellectuals and writers, heard witnesses condemn the United States for rights abuses and the worsening plight of Iraqi women.

**A former US Air Force pilot called on US troops in Iraq to "resist" the orders of their superior officers in an "illegal war".**

Former pilot Tim Goodrich said US troops should realize they were taking part in an illegal war and resist.

**"There are some people that have, there are pieces of resistance that people don't know about...some soldiers who refuse to go on a mission," he said.**

"The military is part of the problem, not of the solution."

**"Some people accuse us of being against the troops or antipatriotic but we are the troops. How can I be antipatriotic by asking our soldiers to come back home alive?"**

**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.**

## **“The Military Will Keep Marching On To The Ugly Tune Of Those In Charge Who Don't Know The Meaning Of Sacrifice”**

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
6.27.05

There is one scary element to the war in Iraq: Americans are not asked to sacrifice a thing.

Good thing that President Bush doesn't have to plead to the American people to really sacrifice. He's off the hook and continues the war without question.

After all, if Americans aren't required to give up something that affects them personally, will they wonder what's going on?



**The sick part is the military will keep marching on to the ugly tune of those in charge who don't know the meaning of sacrifice.**

Not many Americans see the pain and suffering of wounded, dismembered and burned U.S. troops coming home to families, let alone the dead.

**The news is so diluted. No blood, no misery, no pain, no reality. Just "two soldiers were wounded in Iraq today."**

**What they didn't say was, "Two soldiers got their legs blown off, but survived. Two others died and one other was severely burned." Their families are awaiting notification, and are unaware of the painful news and the realization that their lives will change forever.**

**If only spouses, parents, friends and loved ones could stand in line to greet our leaders and tell them what happened to their soldiers.**

Sgt 1st Class Randy Lauscher  
East Point, Ga.

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## **Losing About A Battalion Per Month**

From: Lietta & Arthur Ruger  
Sent: June 24, 2005  
Subject: Losing about a battalion per month in Iraq?

**(I wasn't exactly sure what the size of a battalion is; so asked via my daughter and her husband, active Army, Iraq veteran. That would be 4 companies; a company = 200. So  $200 \times 4 = 800$  people)**

From the Senate Armed Forces Committee Report; Thursday, June 23

Participants; Sen Warner presiding; Rumsfeld; Gen. Abizaid; Gen. Casey; Gen. Myers; Sen. Levin; Sen. McCain; Sen. Ted Kennedy; Sen. Reed; Sen Graham; Sen Clinton; Sen Bayh; Sen Collins; Sen Lieberman; Sen Ensign; Sen Byrd; Sen Talent; Sen Chambliss; Sen Dole

**Sen. Jack Reed said "engaged in a very fierce fight that is taking roughly a battalion size group of Americans every month as casualties; killed, wounded, injured."**

***Good News!***

# The General Starts Sweating: Troops See Majority Of Americans Turning Against The War

June 24, 2005 By Liz Sidoti, Associated Press

One of the officers grilled by Congress — Gen. John Abizaid, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East — acknowledged that U.S. troops were becoming aware of the drop in the public's confidence.

**“When my soldiers say to me and ask me the question whether or not they’ve got support from the American people or not, that worries me. *And they’re starting to do that,*” he said.**

[Maybe he’s smart enough to understand that when the troops question a general about the point of a war, the general is in deep shit, and so are the politicians. In Vietnam, the rebellion of the U.S. army stopped that war. And nothing is more dangerous to Imperial politicians than troops asking questions.

[He still desperately lies and twists what’s going on: the drop in public confidence isn’t a drop in confidence in the troops, it’s a drop in confidence in the Imperial politicians and their stupid, hopeless war.]

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## Japanese Occupation Troops Stand Down After Attack: The Happy Talk: Only “A Small Explosion” By “Discontented Locals”

June 24, 2005 The Yomiuri Shimbun

Ground Self-Defense Force personnel in Samawah, southern Iraq, will not resume their reconstruction activities until next week, when an investigation into Thursday's roadside blast is expected to be completed, a government official said Friday.

The government played down the possibility that the explosion in Samawah that damaged a GSDF vehicle was part of a full-scale terrorist attack, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

"It was a small explosion," the official said.

**However, the GSDF will not resume activities outside of the Japanese camp in Samawah until next week since the motive for the blast and details behind it have not been clarified. [What, they expect to get a letter explaining it?]**

**"We haven't confirmed why the shell was planted." [Gee, that will take a whole study group to figure out. How about some people pissed off that you're occupying their country? Naw, that couldn't be it.]**

The SDF [Self-Defense Forces] barracks has been attacked before and we need to keep security tight," Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said. He stressed the government's intention to keep a close eye on the investigation into the explosion being conducted by Iraqi authorities.

**Because the blast was not powerful enough to destroy a vehicle and no group has claimed responsibility, the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Agency believe that the shell was not planted by powerful militants that have launched organized attacks on U.S. forces, but by discontented locals. [What the fuck do these geniuses think the resistance is made up of? Only millions of "discontented locals." And he's happy that it wasn't a more powerful blast? That can be fixed next time.]**

The Defense Agency has said GSDF activities should resume because it has received a report from GSDF troops in Iraq that although the explosion alarmed some personnel, **the troops were expected to regain control in one or two days. [Meaning they have lost control. Notice how casually that piece of news was slipped in. ]**

The Prime Minister's Office, however, cautioned against the move. Therefore it is expected to take some time for the results of the local investigation and for the final government decision to be announced.

**"Operations will be suspended for several days," a senior Defense Agency official said.**

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## **Fashion Tip Of The Week: No Time For Privates**

6.27.05 Army Times

**An unusual order has gone out to British troops being fitted for new uniforms: Please put on your underwear.**

Agence France-Presse reports the British Ministry of Defence issued a notice to all its branches that tailors hired as contractors to do fittings for new parade uniforms were not happy that so many men and women were not wearing undergarments.

The practice, becoming increasingly common in the British military in an odd show of nonconformity that one official called "a macho thing," led to some unexpected exposures of body parts that are better kept private.

The notice to commanders seems to have worked, as no further complaints from tailors have been reported. One reason for the notice's effectiveness undoubtedly was a warning to troops that tailors would be taking names of anyone who showed up for a uniform fitting sans underwear.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **Oppression Goes On "Since The Time Of Baathists To Our Day"**

6.25.05 By Borzou Daragahi, L.A. Times Staff Writer

**Shiite clerics decried rampant corruption and incompetence in the new government, which is dominated by Shiites.**

**"The Iraqi government is practicing oppression against the people of Iraq," said Sheik Aws Khafaji, a cleric in Kufa, south of Baghdad.**

**"No one is exempted from the oppression practiced against the people of Iraq since the time of Baathists to our day."**

<p><b>OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME <u>NOW!</u></b></p>
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## **"An Independent Guerrilla Republic"**

Jun 10, 2005 By Pepe Escobar, Asia Times Online Ltd.

**Mosul, a big city of almost 1.8 million people on the banks of the Tigris, is still controlled by Sunni Arabs (70% of the population) and remains the epicenter of Arab nationalism and a major guerrilla base.**

**Even a west Baghdad neighborhood such as Adhamiyah is essentially an independent guerrilla republic.**

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# ***Iraqi Oil Workers And Oregon Longshore Workers Agree: "It Is The Same Government And The Same Corporations That Are Exploiting You That Exploit Us"***

**"We believe American forces must withdraw immediately," Al Asade said outside the Port's Terminal 6. "We want to rebuild our country as Iraqis."**

June 23, 2005 KRIS KODRICH, The Oregonian

Two Iraqi labor leaders who visited Portland on Wednesday know firsthand that Iraqis still desperately need jobs.

"Where are these job opportunities? I have three daughters, all college graduates, sitting at home," said Hassan Juma'a Awad Al Asade, an oil worker on a visit to the Port of Portland.

Part of a national tour by Iraqi labor leaders, Al Asade, 53, and Umara, 47, both leaders of Iraq's General Union of Oil Employees, spent the day in Portland meeting with activists and labor leaders.

Oregon longshoremen welcomed the Iraqis with a pledge to work together globally to thwart any anti-worker efforts of multinational corporations or President Bush.

**"Your struggle is our struggle," said Leal Sundet, president of Local 8 of the International Longshoreman's and Warehousemen's Union. "It is the same government and the same corporations that are exploiting you that exploit us."**

Speaking through translators, the two gray-haired Iraqis -- Al Asade sporting a neatly trimmed beard and a short-sleeved shirt, Umara wearing glasses and a long-sleeved shirt with a button reading "Workers' rights are human rights" -- recounted the struggle of Iraqi labor unions, which Saddam Hussein banned but which re-emerged following his overthrow.

The Iraqi oil workers union has opposed privatization of public-sector industries and has helped force higher wages for oil workers. The union also helped dockworkers in Iraq in their struggle against foreign firms that had brought in foreign workers to do the work.

In the past, President Bush has promised more support for free labor unions in the Middle East. In Iraq, however, workers still technically don't have the right to form unions in the public sector, Al Asade said.

The Iraqi labor leaders also made it clear where they stand on the ongoing violence in Iraq.

**"We believe American forces must withdraw immediately," Al Asade said outside the Port's Terminal 6. "We want to rebuild our country as Iraqis."**

Activists and others struggled to hear Al Asade over the roar of trucks making their way in and out of the facility, and even an occasional jet taking off from Portland International Airport.

**The two Iraqis blamed the U.S. government for the violence in Iraq. "Everything that is happening in Iraq is caused by the occupation," Al Asade said. But he was optimistic that things would improve if the United States pulled out. "Iraq will be rebuilt because Iraqis care about Iraq." Umara added he didn't think a civil war would result "because all Iraqis are brothers."**

The Oregon AFL-CIO, along with more than 50 Portland area labor, religious and community organizations, sponsored the Portland visit.

During a meeting with Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams and Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz, the Iraqis talked about the removal of Saddam from power.

**"It was a good thing, but it should not have been done this way," Al Asade said. "I think to destroy a country and to destroy the infrastructure of a country is not a nice thing."**

**MORE:**

## **“Only A Mercenary Benefiting From The Occupation Would Want It To Continue Any Longer”**

**"I visually see the American failures in Iraq every single day. I see a huge number of Iraqis who are willing to put their lives on the line to end the occupation. And I see that it will eventually happen because we are all united against the occupation. That is a collective call for all people regardless of their political position, religion or affiliation."**

June 23, 2005 Zachary Lown, ZNet

Hassan Juma'a Awad, Chief of the Executive Bureau for this oil union arrived last week in Washington DC.

This marks the first time an Iraqi union has come to the US to explain their experience. Hassan attributes his success to the centrality of Iraqi oil workers for the US occupation.

**“The Americans have to show the world that they can deliver oil to the world market as justification for their continued presence,” he explains. He believes that he is wielding a powerful social force, a force that will inevitably bring the occupation to its knees.**

The following day Hassan addresses a lunch meeting at the Communications Workers of America. “Many people are in the dark and don’t know the real intentions of the occupation, but we the indigenous have known since the first day,” he says.

“Oil is the main reason for the invasion. This became clear when the Occupation authority tried to privatize the oil sector in Iraq. It covered this practice with various disguises so many Iraqis will buy it.” The crowd seems transfixed. He tilts his head to the side and rests both fists on the podium waiting for his interpreter to hurry up and finish.

“Privatization is a nice word, but it means the economics of colonialism. The transfer of public national wealth to private foreign ownership.. .As soon as they came in with tanks from Kuwait they began defending the oil fields. The Ministry of Oil is the only department where there has been no looting. Do you all know this? I don’t think so because the mainstream media is molding your opinion... **We have to fight and struggle to expel the occupiers from our land. We need your support in this goal.**” Enthusiastic applause bursts from the crowd but Hassan does not smile as he sits down.

**“Only a mercenary benefiting from the occupation would want it to continue any longer.”**

As an oil worker Hassan stresses how essential his fellow workers are to the American occupation. His union held elections on April 9, eleven days before the fall of Saddam Huessien so as to pre-empt the United States' attempt to "seize Iraq's national wealth."

**Yet despite this feeling of isolation Hassan sees the occupation in a process of defeat. "I see victory very close." He says straightening up as he speaks.**

**"I visually see the American failures in Iraq every single day. I see a huge number of Iraqis who are willing to put their lives on the line to end the occupation. And I see that it will eventually happen because we are all united against the occupation. That is a collective call for all people regardless of their political position, religion or affiliation."**

It is not clear what force is going to drive the US out of Iraq or what will happen in the wake of a US withdrawal. But according to Hassan this is not the most important question facing Americans.

**“Only the Iraqi people can figure out how to drive out the Occupiers. This is not the decision of any foreigner.”**

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***Assorted Resistance Action:***

# Fighters “Employing Infantry Tactics Similar To Those Of Regular Troops”

Jun 25 AFP News & By FRANK GRIFFITHS (AP) & Aljazeera

**The bodies of eight Iraqi policemen were found near the capital, said security sources and relatives.**

**The policemen, who had been manning a checkpoint on the road between Ramadi and the Syrian border to the west, were found at 8:00 am (0400 GMT) Saturday after they had been captured by armed men the day before, Lieutenant Colonel Ziad Khalaf said.**

**Police said about 20 gunmen stormed the station at Ramadi, capital of Al-Anbar province.**

**The attack on the Ramadi police station had elements of previous such raids that have become more frequent in the past six to eight months, in which U.S. officials describe resistance fighters, some of whom may be led by former officers in the Iraqi army, employing infantry tactics similar to those of regular troops.**

**In other violence, a firefight between police commandos and an unknown number of attackers in western Baghdad left two policemen dead and three wounded early Saturday, a defense ministry source said. The victims belonged to a commando unit, he said.**

In the capital's northeast Shiite district of Sadr City, a local municipal council member was kidnapped from his home late Friday, the source added, without being able to identify the victim.

**An Iraqi Kurdish contractor was shot dead and another wounded in a drive-by shooting south of the northern city of Kirkuk, a police officer said.**

Asu Ahmed died late Friday and Khalil Mohammed was seriously wounded after gunmen sprayed their car with automatic weapons fire in the village of Al-Salsah, Colonel Mohammed Khaled said. **The men worked for a US company installing concrete blast walls.**

**Guerrillas ambushed a police patrol in western Iraq, killing eight policemen and wounding one on Friday, police and hospital officials said Saturday.** The attack happened in the Anbar provincial capital of Ramadi, Dr. Munim al-Kubaisi and Dr. Mohammed al-Ani said. The area is an insurgent stronghold and the police officers were assigned to protect highways on the city's outskirts.

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



# Two-Fer: North *And* South Pipelines Blown Up

Jun 25 AFP News & By Borzou Daragahi, L.A. Times Staff Writer

**A crude pipeline near Yussifiyah that was attacked with an explosive device Friday left firefighters continuing to battle the huge flames, said a spokesman at the oil ministry in Baghdad.**

The pipeline carries crude from the southern fields around Basra to the large refinery and power plant complex in Doura in southern Baghdad, said Asem Jihad.

**In other developments, saboteurs blew up a crucial oil pipeline leading from Kirkuk in the north to Turkey. An official with the state oil company said it would take two days to douse the flames and repair the line.**

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## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

### ***Baghdad Mini-Tet:* “The First Throes Of American Rejection Of The Iraqi Imperial Adventure”**

[Thanks to Z, who sent this in.]

**Hi al-Elam, the neighborhood around the police station, was turned into a smoldering disaster zone. The guerrillas retreated after two hours, having lost dozens of men.**

**But just like the Tet offensive, the message was clear: the writing, scrawled in graffiti, was literally on the walls of Hi al-Elam - "We'll be back."**

Jun 25, 2005 By Pepe Escobar, Asia Times Online Ltd.

***"The insurgency in Iraq is in its last throes."***  
- Vice President Dick Cheney, in May

**A mini-Tet offensive happened in Baghdad on Monday.**

**In a city allegedly under the control of American and American-trained Iraqi forces, more than 100 guerrillas mounted a devastating attack on Baya'a, the biggest police station in Baghdad - employing successive waves of mortars, explosions, rocket-launcher attacks, hand grenades, sophisticated diversionary tactics and the sinister icing on the lethal cake, car bombings.**

**Hi al-Elam, the neighborhood around the police station, was turned into a smoldering disaster zone. The guerrillas retreated after two hours, having lost dozens of men.**

**But just like the Tet offensive, the message was clear: the writing, scrawled in graffiti, was literally on the walls of Hi al-Elam - "We'll be back."**

**Three days after this mini-battle in Baghdad. . . during eight hours of back-to-back testimony to House and Senate committees in Washington, the Pentagon still refused to abandon the rhetoric of "steady progress" and "victory is certain".**

General John Abizaid, the Centcom chief, had to admit "more foreign fighters [are] coming into Iraq than there were six months ago" - not exactly Cheney's "last throes" scenario.

**The disorientation was more than evident in the behavior of Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican from South Carolina and staunch war supporter.** Graham said he was concerned by declining support for the war - which means bad news in the next elections - but he also said, ominously, "We have bought into a model that is extremely difficult, but the only answer, because you can't kill enough of these people" - implying that it is such a pity the Pentagon cannot produce a thousand Fallujahs.

**For his part, Carl Levin, Democrat from Michigan and the senior Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, came up with the wacky suggestion that "the United States needs to tell the Iraqis and the world that if that deadline (for approving a new constitution) is not met, we will review our position with all options open, including but not limited to, setting a timetable for withdrawal".**

Levin shifts the blame for all the mess from the occupation to Iraq's politicians. He should beware of what he wants: Iraqis may enthusiastically welcome his proposition, as throwing the occupiers out is their No 1 priority.

The hearings this Thursday in Washington may have been just the tip of the iceberg.

**The real facts on the ground are, in Iraq, a horrific quagmire; and in the US, the unstoppable rising of anti-war sentiment.**

**This is not a "last throes" scenario - rather the first throes of a national American rejection of the Iraqi imperial adventure. Just like in Vietnam.**

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# **“....Those Gentle Heroes You Left Behind”**

From: Donald Bacon  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 25, 2005  
Subject: DON'T LET THEIR DEATHS BE POINTLESS

**"If you are able,  
save for them a place inside of you  
and save one backward glance when you are leaving  
for the places they can no longer go.  
Be not ashamed to say you loved them,  
though you may or may not have always.  
Take what they have taught you with their dying  
and keep it with your own.  
And in that time when men decide and feel safe  
to call the war insane,  
take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you  
left behind."**

**Major Michael Davis O'Donnell  
1 January 1970  
Dak To, Vietnam  
Listed as KIA February 7, 1978**

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# **“High Time To Put An End To This Shit!”**

From: Z  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 25, 2005 4:53 PM  
Subject: **Said on empire**

***Every empire tells itself and the world that it is unlike all other empires, that its mission is not to plunder and control but to liberate. Edward Said***

It really has been the same sorry story over and over again, hasn't it?

British in India, Dutch in Indonesia, French in Indochina, Italians in Ethiopia, Japanese in China, Germans in Russia, Portuguese in Mozambique, US in Iraq...

**Always a series of imperial atrocities sugarcoated with humanitarian BS.**

**High time to put an end to this shit!**

Solidarity,  
Z

**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.**

## **“When The War Comes Home”**

From: T  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 25, 2005

Just a few remarks. You continue to do a marvelous job with GI Special, every day of the week. It's the first thing I read every evening, and I always feel a passionate hatred aroused against this pointless slaughter of Americans and Iraqis.

**I'm in Nanjing, China. For some reason Nanjing is particularly hot in the summer. Many people have told me that's so, but nobody has told me exactly why. 97 one day. 98 the next. It's a trial.**

**But I just think of the American soldiers spending a summer in Iraq, the temperature at 125. At that temperature a normal American loses the will to live. Not only are our soldiers sitting ducks, they are exhausted, disillusioned sitting ducks.**

This whole war is about peak oil. We all know that now. The world's oil supply is half gone. My view is that gasoline prices will never again come down. They will keep rising and rising.

Do they troops know that when they get home they soon won't be able to afford to drive? If you can't drive, you may lose your job. It's hard to look for a job if you can't drive to a job interview.

In China, I ride a bicycle. I haven't owned a car for 20 years. Most of the Chinese teachers I work with have never owned a car. When there's an announcement, "World oil in short supply, everyone must return to the simple life," we will all just chuckle.

It's easy to return to the simple life when you're already there. But America is designed entirely differently. In many places you can't eat if you don't have a car. The nearest supermarket is that far away.

**I weary of reading about the young Americans dying pointlessly in Iraq.**

**When the war comes home, the good ones will fight, bravely, gloriously, against all odds. They will fight passionately for what they remember America once was, and die with pride, just as the best Iraqis are now doing.**

Solidarity,  
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## **Two Quotes On Freedom: American Indian & Palestinian**

From: JM  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 25, 2005  
Subject: Two Quotes on freedom-American Indian-Palestinian.

**[THANKS TO JM FOR SENDING THIS IN. SHE WRITES: I send two quotations from a fairly long article which is named below. One quote is from an American Indian, one from a Palestinian, and they fit Iraqi sentiment very well.]**

By Ramzy Baroud - Jordan Times - June 23, 2005

I will finish with these great words from the 1927 Grand Council of American Indians: "We want freedom from the white man rather than to be integrated. We don't want any part of the establishment, we want to be free to raise our children in our religion, in our ways, to be able to hunt and fish and live in peace. We want to be ourselves. We want to have our heritage, because we are the owners of this land and because we belong here.

**"The white man says, there is freedom and justice for all. We have had their 'freedom and justice', and that is why we have been almost exterminated. We shall not forget this."**

The sentiments of Abdelrazik Abu Al Hayjah, the Palestinian administrator of the Jenin refugee camp who showed similar defiance, are similar: "If they will destroy the camp many times, the people of Jenin will rebuild it, because every time the people's courage and determination intensify.

“The more Israel brutalises Palestinians, the stronger their resistance shall be. Israel cannot resolve its problems by force. They have to understand that Palestinians' quest for freedom cannot be stopped.

**“It's only human nature for people to resist, to regain their freedom.**

“The people of Jenin do not hate Israelis because their names are different, or because their language is different.

**“Nor do they hate them because they have anything against the Jewish religion, but because they are occupiers, and as long as they are occupiers, the resistance will go on. The Palestinian resistance shall live as long as the occupation lives.”**

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## **“The Day You See A Politician Trying To Pose With A Group Of Armed Troops Is The Day You Will See A Dead Politician”**

June 24, 2005 By David Honish, Veterans For Peace

**Troops serve as photo op background BECAUSE THEY WERE ORDERED TO DO SO.**

**During my hitch I was ordered to attend retirement ceremonies for lifers that I did not know, did not care about, or were even in the same unit with, just so some lifer could have an audience for their retirement ceremony.**

On one occasion in the National Guard, our company even had our once a year outing with personal weapons for the one day they would actually have bolts in them and also have the 42 bullets each we were allotted to do our annual qualification cancelled in order to spend the entire weekend drill setting up and rehearsing for a retirement ceremony for some Colonel we could care less about.

Enforcement of existing federal law prohibiting the use of the military for political purposes might be a step in the right direction.

**As for those photo ops with politicians, you might find it of interest to note that such always occur in rear areas where the troops have been carefully screened and disarmed.**

**The day you see a politician trying to pose with a group of armed troops is the day you will see a dead politician.**

As for why do troops, particularly wounded troops, ask to return to Iraq, the answers are age old. The inexperience of youth and shock from traumatic wounds would account for a small percentage.

The majority do so simply to stick with their buddies. Soldiers fight for the guy they share a foxhole or crew a tank with, NOT for some politician's ego, or Haliburton's war profiteering.

### **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))

## **“A Shiver Up The Generals' Spines”**

Jun 21, 2005 By John Catalinotto, Workers World

The Pentagon made it clear it considers the recent deaths of two officers in Iraq a case of “fragging.” It has charged Staff Sgt. Alberto Martinez with murder in the deaths of Capt. Philip Esposito and 1st Lt. Louis Allen.

Whatever the details of the case, this sends a shiver up the generals' spines. While there have always been examples of killings not by enemy fire, in Vietnam this reached the level of political protest, which many war resisters saw as a legitimate tactic against warlike or racist officers.

Between 1969 and 1971, the U.S. Army reported 600 fragging incidents, which killed 82 officers and non-commissioned officers and injured 651.

**The Pentagon knows the high level of discontent among U.S. troops, and fears that fragging will become a more popular method of opposing the tour of duty in Iraq.**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# While U.S. Troops Die, Collaborator Scum Grab The Money And Run

June 24, 2005 By JAMES GLANZ, The New York Times Company

BAGHDAD, Iraq, June 23 - Allegations of widespread corruption have dogged the Iraqi government since the invasion in 2003, when billions of dollars for reconstruction and training began pouring into the country. Many programs had far less impact than expected, but persistent rumors that money was being siphoned by corrupt officials were largely impossible to pin down.

**Now, an office originally set up by the American occupation to investigate corruption in Iraq has accumulated the first solid estimates of the problem. The results are likely to fuel the most pessimistic concerns over where the money has gone.**

**The abuses range from sweetheart deals on leases, to exorbitant contracts for things like garbage hauling, to payments for construction that was never done.**

**The cases touch not just the executive branch but sprawl across provincial and city governments.**

In one case, said Mazin A. Makkia, head of the Baghdad City Council, the cost for a garbage-hauling job shot up fivefold in one year, even though the original contract was already far overpriced.

**In cases involving American money, Mr. Makkia said, the council is looking into what appear to be phantom rebuilding projects - expenditures that have left a paper trail but no trace on the landscape of the city.**

"It's so clear where the money goes," he said, smiling wearily.

**Other cases reported, especially in a nation whose health-care system is stretched far beyond its limits, raise eyebrows even among the most cynical observers of official graft.**

In Kut, a city in the south, an official is accused of taking kickbacks in a case involving a public hospital that was improperly leased to a well-connected private cooperative for 1,000 Iraqi dinars (about 70 cents) a year, said Abdul Jaleel al-Shemari, the deputy health minister.

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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



# **49% Of Americans Say Bush Responsible For Provoking Iraq War; 44% Say Hussein**

June 23, 2005 Rasmussen Reports

**Forty-nine percent (49%) of Americans say that President Bush is more responsible for starting the War with Iraq than Saddam Hussein. A Rasmussen Reports survey found that 44% take the opposite view and believe Hussein shoulders most of the responsibility.**

In late 2002, months before the fighting began, most Americans thought that Hussein was the one provoking the War. Just one-in-four thought the President was doing the provoking at that time.

**Among those not affiliated with either major party, 52% name Bush and 34% Hussein.**

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## **70% Oppose Return Of Draft**

**[During the election campaign, “anti-War” Kerry supporters tried to panic people into voting for him by babbling inane bullshit about how Bush would reinstate the draft right after he got re-elected. A lot of decent people were suckered into getting all hot and sweaty about the draft coming back for Iraq. No way. Case closed.]**

June 24, 2005 By WILL LESTER, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Americans overwhelmingly oppose reinstatement of the military draft and most say they wouldn't encourage their children to enlist in the service either, an AP-Ipsos poll found.

**Seven in 10 Americans say they oppose reinstatement of the draft, and almost half of those polled strongly oppose that step, the AP-Ipsos poll found. About a quarter of the people in this country say they favor reinstating the draft.**

The shortfalls in military recruiting have led to speculation that the government might be forced to reinstitute the draft. But Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has ruled it out, saying the all-volunteer force has proved the wisdom of discontinuing the draft in 1973.

"There isn't a chance in the world that the draft will be brought back," Rumsfeld told a House hearing Thursday.

**The American public has strongly opposed reinstating the draft for the past couple of decades, according to various polls. And the decreasing support for the war in Iraq suggests that is unlikely to change anytime soon.**

**"People simply don't want their kids to be sent off to Iraq to be shot at in a situation in which the value of the war is becoming more and more questionable," said John Mueller, a political science professor at Ohio State University and author of "War, Presidents and Public Opinion."**

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## Senator Confronts Terrorist Chief



**Butt-ugly terrorist enemy combatant Donald Rumsfeld sneers during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the U.S. military strategy in Iraq on Capitol Hill, June 23, 2005. (Larry Downing/Reuters)**

Jun 25, 2005 By Pepe Escobar, Asia Times Online Ltd.

**Senator Robert Byrd, a Democrat from West Virginia, told Pentagon chief Donald Rumsfeld to "get off your high horse" and stop answering questions "with a sneer"**

**MORE:**

# Condescending Asshole Insults “American People”

June 24, 2005 By Liz Sidoti, Associated Press

**Rumsfeld told the senators:** “You sense the American people are tipping away from support. I have a feeling they’re getting pushed myself.” [“Getting pushed”? He’s saying the American people are stupid lumps who can’t figure things out for themselves, without a mysterious somebody “pushing them.” Rumsfeld is the kind of arrogant, elitist ruling class scumfuck that used to say that slaves were happy in slavery, it was just “outside agitators” who were “pushing” them.

[These people don’t belong in high office, they belong in prison. And that’s another good reason to bring all the troops home now; they can take a lead in getting that necessary house cleaning work done.]



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**Received:**

## Counter-Recruitment At MEPs?

From: D, Atlanta  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 25, 2005  
Subject: Counter-Recruitment at MEPs

What the Sacramento Veterans for Peace did was inspiring--convincing a potential recruit, minutes from signing an Army contract, to turn away. I wonder if antiwar activists near other Military Entrance Processing stations could do the same thing?

The problem I see is that our local MEP station is located on a military base.

Does anyone know if the MEP station in Sacramento is on a military base as well?

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**Received:**

## Women Resisters?

From: heidi starr  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 24, 2005  
Subject: **women resisters?**

hello-

I'm an activist w/ a radio show-"voices of resistance" on 89.5 kvmr fm out of nevada city, ca.

I'm seeking women gi resisters if you know of any.

**Also how about families of women soldiers killed...who are speaking out?**

thanx alot..

in solidarity,  
heidi starr  
530-470-0918

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

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

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

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