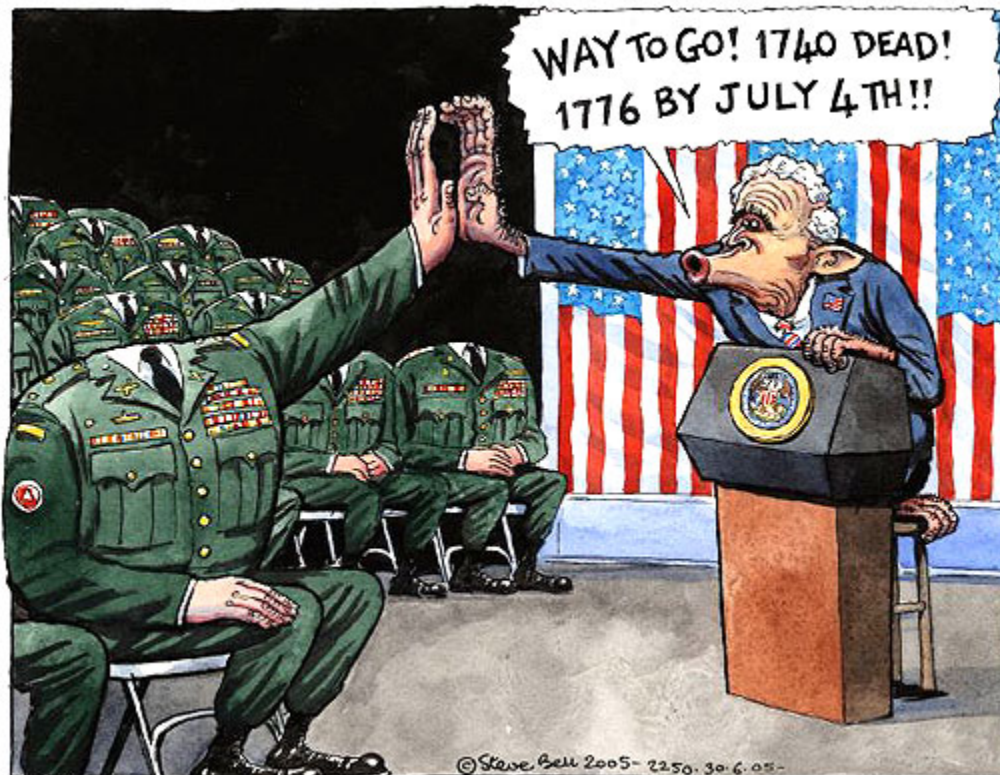


## GI SPECIAL 3B76:



© Steve Bell 2005 [Thanks to Artisan, who sent this in.]

# ‘What If It Were My Child?’

July 04, 2005 Army Times: **By Staff Sgt. Derek A. Kitts.. The writer is with A Company, 2-7 Infantry, serving in Tikrit, Iraq. On his second tour in Iraq, he was involved in a checkpoint shooting he calls the worst day in his life, so far.**

I am a father and a husband. I am also a soldier and an infantryman in the U.S. Army deployed to Iraq.

My life is a little different than most. I do things that most people wouldn't or couldn't, all in the name of freedom, duty and honor. I say this not to get your approval of what I do, just your understanding.

April 28 started like many other days except it was Saddam's birthday, so it promised to be a little tricky.

We began with a traffic control point at the south entrance of town. We had just had two vehicle bombs blow up a few days earlier. Although there had been no casualties on our side, the Iraqi police took the tough end of it. So there we are at 6 a.m. with two squads of our Iraqi counterparts checking cars for bombs.

The bad part, and the accepted fate, is that there is a car or truck waiting to get to the checkpoint and blow up. Not if it's coming, but when. So everybody is kind of tense, just waiting to shoot at a vehicle speeding right at him. While you are on the ground, you feel that driver is aiming right at you. It becomes personal: This driver is trying to kill you.

**Later in the morning, a BOOM echoes in the distance. You look at the radio and wait; it seems like hours, but it's actually just seconds for the report: A vehicle-borne, improvised explosive device has exploded at the northern checkpoint.**

**At that moment, your stomach makes the most uncomfortable feeling. You can't even try to explain it; only combat veterans and people who have lost a loved one can come close to trying to understand.**

**As the reports start to trickle in, things are actually better than they originally sounded. The final count is five Iraqi and three U.S. soldiers wounded, none critical. At that moment, you experience a personal sense of euphoria. First that everybody is OK, and second, that it wasn't you.**

As the day progresses, we are sent out on patrol, almost routine. Except that nothing over here is routine, and complacency is what will get you killed. We move through neighborhood after neighborhood mounted in up-armored Humvees. It's kind of funny to watch, because during the day we carry candy to throw to the children. The kids chase the trucks like the ice cream man back home.

So wherever we go before the sun sets, there are children surrounding our trucks screaming, "Give me," "Mista, give me chocolate." Usually I try to throw candy to the little girls on the side, because they usually don't ask for any, and I think about my little girl at home chasing the ice cream truck.

But not today, we left without any candy this time, and things were kind of tense on the street. Except for the kids; they don't know fear or that anything has changed. All they see is that the Americans are coming, and that means candy.

As we turn a corner, we see a car matching the description BOLO (Be on the lookout). We stop and set up a hasty cordon so an opportunistic bomber can't drive into us without some warning. It's always a good sign to see children around, because that usually means that it's not going to blow up anytime soon. But not this day. When we dismount, the children keep their distance.

We search the car and it turns out to be nothing, and we let out a collective sigh. We would love to catch some bad guys with a trunkload of weapons, but at least it didn't blow up.

Then it happens, a car on the BOLO list comes charging down the road right at our position. Everyone stays calm. Then our guys on the ground open up with M16s at less than 50 meters, concentrated on the car. It's a battle for survival now, the car against you, and you are going to win, come hell or high water.

**As the car comes to a screeching halt, you hear nothing, and everything runs in slow motion. The driver steps out; he's hit in the upper arm, nothing too serious. Then he identifies himself as Iraqi army and says that he didn't see you standing in the middle of the road.**

**Damn, right description, wrong car.**

Then real speed and sound kick in. I look up the block as I hear a woman screaming; I see the limp body of a 5-year-old girl.

I scream "medic" several times and tell the other soldiers to treat the driver as I run toward the wounded girl. She's beautiful in a pink dress but there's a hole in her lower back where the bullet went in.

The medic runs up and looks at it. Calmly he treats the initial wound and stops the bleeding. The parents keep screaming, "WHY, WHY?"

**Through our interpreter we tried to explain, but how do you explain to a parent that you shot their daughter to protect your ass, because people are trying to blow you up?**

**It doesn't matter that you were shooting at the car and a stray round went through the windshield and hit their daughter. There is nothing that you can say. I know that there is nothing you could say to me if it were my child.**

That's what runs through your mind: What if it were my child? Then the soldier in you kicks in and, while it's hard to accept, you come to the realization that you had to shoot that car. The first time you don't shoot is the last time you may have a chance to.

I was told later that we evacuated the girl to an American hospital with her family and that she was going to be OK. She was surrounded by nurses and already had a big television, a pile of Teddy bears and an unlimited amount of suckers.

**It made me feel a little better, but I still felt like crap. I am a professional soldier, this is my second tour, and there will probably be more to come, but when you see a child hurt at your hand, you feel a small piece of your soul ripped out.**

Thankfully, a few days later, I sprained my ankle. I say thankfully because, as it turned out, I ended up in the same ward at the same combat support hospital as that little girl.

At first, I was almost terrified. (Realize that I'm 6 feet, 235 pounds and not much scares me.)

A female colonel told me that I should see the girl, that she was doing well, that her nails were painted every day and that she was the princess of the ward. I told the colonel that I didn't think that I could.

But eventually I crutched over in the middle of the night and saw her. It felt like a weight had been lifted off of my chest.

Over the next three days, I began to speak with her. As she began to walk again with the help of crutches, more pain left my heart.

All she needed was a skin graft to cover the scar.

It was the only thing in two tours that has even remotely bothered me. But each day I saw the little girl, I felt better. It was like the wound was finally healing.

## **Comment:**

**The point?**

**If you're looking for people to blame for the endless evil shit that happens in Iraq in this dishonorable Imperial war, blame the politicians that put troops like the Staff Sgt. downrange, in an impossible situation.**

**Everything flows from the act of invasion and conquest ordered up by the greedy Imperial liars and traitors in Washington DC. The enemy isn't in Iraq.**

**And the enemy is not Staff Sgt. Derek A. Kitts.**

**The man who wrote this is a decent, honorable man. People who shit on and sneer at troops like this, call them ugly names, and blame them for what happens in Iraq might as well be paid agents of George Bush. They're doing his work for him.**

**People who demand that troops stand up in formation and earn a ticket to military prison by denouncing the war and throwing down their weapon might as well be paid agents of George Bush. They're doing his work for him too.**

**Not only are they cowards, standing safety on the sidelines telling somebody else to do a Kamikaze; even worse, if they had their way, every organizer inside the armed forces would be IDd and arrested in a heartbeat. Brilliant way to stop a war.**

**More and more troops are turning against the war. Instead of snotty moralizing about what bad things they do, they need a helping hand.**

**You want something to support, support the GI resistance. It's alive and well.**

**Quit making excuses about how busy you are with "more important" things, get off your ass, and go find some active duty, guard or reserve troops to listen to, talk with about what you think, and learn from, provided you leave the condescending preachy "look how political I am" bullshit at home. Assuming you have some sane, responsible associates who don't babble endless stale rhetoric at anybody that comes within range, bring them along.**

Compared to today's anti-war soldiers, too many arrogant "activists" don't know shit and don't do shit.

You think not?

Check out what this 2005 Iraq combat veteran has to say:

*"We are just beginning to build on the movement. It will grow as the soldiers start coming back and seeing what a lie the war was.*

*"The boys and I will stay active and it will gain speed and mass. By the time we hit the real brick walls we should have enough power to blast them down.*

*"Every avalanche starts with one snow flake, but requires a million more to wreck some shit.*

*"We just have to learn where to dynamite!"*

It's time to stop living in the past and start acting in the present.

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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.

## **"People Need Not Be Helpless Before The Power Of Illegitimate Authority"**

*[Based on a statement by David Cortright, Vietnam Veteran and armed forces resistance organizer.]*

**In the final analysis the stationing of American forces abroad serves not the national interest but the class interest of the corporate and political elite.**

**The maintenance of a massive, interventionist-oriented military establishment is based on the need to protect multinational investment and preserve regimes friendly to American capital.**

Imperialism is at the heart of the national-security system and is the force fundamentally responsible for the counterrevolutionary, repressive aims of U.S. policy.

Only if we confront this reality and challenge it throughout society and within the ranks can we restore democratic control of the military.

Of course nothing can be accomplished without citizen involvement and active political struggle.

During the Vietnam era enlisted servicemen created massive pressures for change, despite severe repression, and significantly altered the course of the war and subsequent military policy.

To sustain and strengthen this challenge we must continue to build political opposition to interventionism and support those within the armed services, including national guard and reserves, who defy the goals and program of Empire.

The central lesson of the GI movement is that people need not be helpless before the power of illegitimate authority, that by getting together and acting upon their convictions people can change society and, in effect, make their own history.

The Military Project  
Contact@militaryproject.org

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

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**New U.S. Command Offensive  
Breaks Records For Recruiting:  
Thousands More Pissed Off Iraqis  
Ready To Sign Up For Armed  
Resistance Movement**



Operation Sword: Marine Lance Cpl. Aaron Reynolds, left, of New Vienna, Ohio, and Navy Hospital Corpsman Marcus Arnold of Odessa, Texas were ordered to break the padlocks on storefronts with hammers in order to enrage civilians so they will take up arms and join the resistance. The Iraqi town of Hit is 125 miles west of Baghdad. — Jacob Silberberg / AP Photo

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## **Huge, Clunky, Useless Vietnam Style “Operation Sword” Nets 13 “Insurgents” And Two Roadside Bombs**

June 30, 2005 By Frank Griffiths, Associated Press

**More than 1,000 American and Iraqi troops taking part in the most recent effort — Operation Sword — have detained 13 insurgents in the Anbar provincial city of Hit, 85 miles west of Baghdad.**

**The troops have met little resistance since the operation began Tuesday, said U.S. Marine Capt. Jeffrey Pool, a spokesman. The raids have also netted several hundred mortar and artillery rounds along with explosives, rifles and two roadside bombs, he said.**

**Marines raided about 100 shops and homes looking for weapons before dawn Thursday in downtown Hit, pounding down doors with sledgehammers and using shotguns to bust open locks, an Associated Press reporter at the scene said.**

**The commotion woke up the neighborhood and some men and boys ran to get keys for some of the shops.**

At one house, where they used explosives to blow open a double door, Marines tried to warn an elderly man to go inside his home before the blast. They used sign language, putting their hands over their ears, and said "Boom." The man didn't understand until his young daughter came out and pulled him inside.

The troops later napped at a telephone company office to beat the searing heat, which soared to 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). Marines took sodas from shop refrigerators.

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## **Command Manages To Look Weak And Incompetent Simultaneously, As Usual**

June 30, 2005 By Frank Griffiths, Associated Press

**Coalition forces released Sheik Daher Khamis al-Dhari several hours after detaining him Wednesday in a raid west of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.**

**He was released at the request of Iraq's vice president. The Association of Muslim Scholars had previously issued a statement condemning the detention of al-Dhari, head of the Zubaa tribe.**

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## **Japanese Base Mortared**

30 June 2005 Aljazeera.Net

**An explosion occurred near the Japanese army base in the city of Samawa in southern Iraq, without causing casualties. Police said the blast was caused by a mortar that fell near the base.**

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## **Nassiriya: Spari Contro Gli Italiani Tutti Illesi I Paracadutisti (Nassiriya: Resistance Fucks With Italian Army Convoy)**

30 giugno 2005 Repubblica



ROMA - Spari contro un plotone di paracadutisti italiani, la scorsa notte nei pressi di uno dei ponti di Nassiriya. I soldati hanno risposto al fuoco. Nessuno è rimasto ferito e non c'è stato nessun danno ai mezzi.

I paracadutisti della Folgore stavano svolgendo un'attività di controllo del territorio insieme a dei militari iracheni. Intorno alle 2,40 locali (mezzanotte e 40 in Italia) contro i paracadutisti e contro i soldati iracheni sono stati indirizzati colpi di arma automatica e un paio di razzi che non hanno centrato il bersaglio, senza provocare danni nè alle persone nè ai mezzi.

I militari dell'Esercito italiano hanno risposto al fuoco e si sono successivamente allontanati.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **"Somebody In Iraq Had Other Plans"**

06/29/2005 By Erin Emery, Denver Post Staff Writer

**Fort Carson - Army Staff Sgt. Clint Smith returned from Iraq this spring, but he still swerves his vehicle to avoid small bags of trash in the roadway.**

**Merging traffic makes his heart leap with fear of suicide bombers; and, at night, reflectors on the side of a bridge remind him of tracer fire.**

**Smith has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.**

On Tuesday, he received the Purple Heart for a multitude of injuries suffered when a car bomb exploded and an insurgent tried to run over him with his car.

"I didn't even hear it because it blew out both my eardrums right away," said Smith, 26, of Tacoma, Wash.

The Nov. 11 explosion hurled Smith 27 feet and knocked him out. When he regained consciousness, he stood up and a white car was barreling down on him.

The car smacked Smith in the thighs at an estimated 35 to 40 mph. His head and shoulders pierced the windshield as his feet and waist flipped over the top of the car. Smith's gear flew off. He landed on the ground and briefly lost consciousness again.

"I could see him, vaguely," Smith said of coming to and noticing that the driver had exited the car. "It was pretty much of a foot race between him and me to see who could get to my weapon first. "I got to my weapon first."

The attack near Ramadi left Smith with a traumatic brain injury, a torn rotator cuff, a lacerated face and hearing loss, an impairment eventually restored by surgery. **He returned to active duty for five months until doctors discovered he had also broken his neck and back. He then returned stateside.**

None of that hell ever made him cry until he started physical rehabilitation at Fort Carson.

Running a quarter-mile around a track at the mountain post brings tears, he said, and a pain that drops the tall, muscled soldier to his knees.

**The war has taken a heavy toll on the 2nd Brigade. Sixty-eight soldiers have died, and dozens more have been injured. Lt. Wesley Fine from Waimanalo, Hawaii, one of the soldiers honored Tuesday, lost his left eye when a mortar round exploded.**

Smith's injuries are too severe for him to return to active duty. His doctors, he said, are reluctant to do back or neck surgery because the risks are too high.

"If I receive the surgery, they have to move so many nerves around, it's very possible that I could become paralyzed. So, I've been given - two or three doctors have told me - that I have about 10 to 15 years to walk on my own before I need help or assistance of some sort," Smith said. In the coming days, he said, he'll frame his Purple Heart and hang it on the wall next to a picture of his squad.

**He soon will be medically discharged from the Army after serving 6 1/2 years. Like his father, he had planned to make the Army a career, but "somebody in Iraq had other plans," he said.**

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## Soldier, Distraught Over Orders To Go To Iraq, Threatens Suicide



10:47 a.m. Photo by Jason B. Smith

A group of Georgia State Patrol troopers, McDuffie County deputies and local emergency workers wrestle Sgt. Rogers to the ground to end the standoff.

June 30, 2005 By Jason B. Smith, Editor, The McDuffie Mirror

**A 31-year-old Oklahoma soldier, distraught over orders to go to Iraq and a restraining order keeping him from seeing his six-year-old son, threatened to jump off an interstate overpass in McDuffie County Monday morning.**

**Sgt. James Richard Rogers climbed out of his gold Saturn about 10:15 a.m. Monday and was standing on the overpass railing as emergency personnel arrived.**

McDuffie County Public Information Officer Don Norton said the incident lasted about 30 minutes as traffic on the westbound lanes of Interstate 20 was diverted up the Exit 172 ramp and across Highway 17.

Around 10:50 a.m. a cadre of Georgia State Patrol Troopers and McDuffie County Sheriff's deputies wrestled Sgt. Rogers to the ground.

**Georgia State Patrol Post Commander Mark Bentley and McDuffie County Sheriff Logan Marshall said Monday afternoon their agencies would likely not be filing charges in the incident.**

**Officials said Sgt. Rogers was first transported to McDuffie Regional Medical Center and then to Fort Gordon.**



10:55 a.m. Photo by Jason B. Smith

Officers check Sgt. Rogers before loading him into the back of a McDuffie County Sheriff's Department vehicle.

Mr. Norton, who also serves as county manager, said Sgt. Rogers had come to the McDuffie County Courthouse in an effort to see his child Monday morning.

There he was told a restraining order was in place, and the man became distraught.

**"He was not threatening over here or anything like that, just terribly upset," Mr. Norton said.**

**Fort Sill Media Chief Nancy Elliott said Sgt. Rogers is attached to the B Battery, Second Battalion, Fifth Field Artillery Regiment and the unit is on deployment orders.**

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## **“My Son Was Killed For The Lies Of Bush And Blair” “Get The Boys Out Of Iraq”**

June 29 2005 By RUARIDH ARROW, Families of UK Forces in Iraq

The family of Gordon Gentle, the Scottish soldier killed in Iraq, held a memorial procession and rally in Glasgow last night, on the anniversary of his death.

The 19-year-old was serving with the 1st Battalion the Royal Highland Fusiliers when he was killed by a roadside bomb while on patrol in Basra.

**Rose Gentle, his mother, has maintained a campaign criticising Tony Blair, the prime minister, for her son's death.**

**She said: "I'm not giving up, because my son was killed for the lies of Bush and Blair.**

**"We're determined to keep fighting to get the boys out of Iraq, so that no more of them are killed.**

**"I want to see that liar Blair, face to face, and eye to eye."**

The procession of relatives, friends and supporters walked from the family's home in Pollok, Glasgow, to nearby St James's Church, on Lyoncross Road, where they were addressed by Mrs Gentle, her daughter, Maxine, and Aamer Anwar, the civil rights lawyer.

**Paying tribute to her brother, Maxine, said: "He was my best friend, he had a heart of gold and he'd do anything for anyone. If it wasn't for that muppet George Bush he would be alive today."**

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# General Demands Congress & White House Send Their Kids To War In Iraq

June 30, 2005 By Pauline Jelinek, Associated Press

**“Those who are looking to serve this country should be encouraged to do so,” said Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.**

**Pace said the younger generation needs to be encouraged by society’s leaders.**

**“I believe there is sufficient love of country, desire to serve, that if encouraged properly by the leadership — and if sent to do missions that are understood to be good and supported [oops, a faint whiff of something there?]**— that we’ll continue to fill the ranks of our services,” he said.

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## The Chair-Borne Pentagon Generals "Kiss Up And Kick Down"

29 June 2005 By Ray McGovern, Truthout Perspective

As was the case in Vietnam, the Iraq war is being run by civilians innocent of military experience and disdainful of advice from the colonels and majors who know which end is up.

**Aping the president's practice of surrounding himself with sycophants, Rumsfeld has promoted a coterie of yes-men to top military ranks - men who "kiss up and kick down," in the words of former Assistant Secretary of State Carl Ford, describing UN-nominee John Bolton's modus operandi at the State Department.**

**So when the president assures us, as he did yesterday, that he will be guided by the "sober judgment of our military leaders" he is referring to the castrati.**

Is there no top military official - active-duty or retired - around to tell it like it is? Active-duty? No. Retired? Sure there are.

. . . outspoken still has been Lt. Gen. William Odom (US Army, ret), the most respected senior intelligence officer still willing to speak out on strategic and intelligence issues. Unfortunately, you would have to understand German to know what he thinks of "staying the course" in Iraq, because US media are not going to run his remarks.

Here is my translation of what Gen. Odom said last September on German TV's Panorama program:

*When the president says he is staying the course, that makes me really afraid. For a leader has to know when to change course. Hitler did not change his course: rather he kept sending more and more troops to Stalingrad and they suffered more and more casualties.*

*When the president says he is staying the course it reminds me of the man who has just jumped from the Empire State Building. Half-way down he says, "I am still on course." Well, I would not want to be on course with a man who will lie splattered in the street. I would like to be someone who could change the course*

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## Pressure On Recruiters: “I’ll Ruin Your Career If You Don’t Get That Body To The Floor”



Army Times 7.4.05

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
7.4.05

**If the commanding general of the Army Recruiting Command thinks a one-day standdown will help recruiting, he needs to take a urine test.**

**The problem is the command itself.**

**Recruiters hear a couple of lines from their superiors every day:**

- **“I want that body on the floor now, and I don’t care how you do it or else.”**
- **“I’ll ruin your career if you don’t get that body to the floor.”**

I spent 10 years in the command and my wife spent 15, so I know what I am talking about.

USAReC commands by threat, coercion and intimidation.

Company commanders and first sergeants hand out Article 15s for not making mission even though the regulations say a soldier can't be given one for not making mission, but for not prospecting.

Sgt. 1st Class Craig A. Baker (ret.)  
Sioux City, Iowa

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**“Heartless shit-eating ass-monkey slime-fuck clueless lame-brained limp-dicked bastard waste of fucking space and bane of all human existence.”**

Words by: Iraq Vet

Photo by: REUTERS/Larry Downing



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**V.A. Underestimated Returning  
Iraq Vets Needing Medical  
Treatment This Year By 80,000:**

# \$2.6 Billion Short For Their Care

**Instead of dealing with the problem, Edwards said, the House Republican leadership "fired Smith," forcing him out of the chairmanship.**

June 29, 2005 By Thomas B. Edsall, Washington Post Staff Writer & By Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

**The Bush administration disclosed yesterday that it had vastly underestimated the number of service personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan seeking medical treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and warned that the health care programs will be short at least \$2.6 billion next year unless Congress approves additional funds.**

**Veterans Affairs budget documents projected that 23,553 veterans would return this year from Iraq and Afghanistan and seek medical treatment. However, Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson told a Senate committee that the number has been revised upward to 103,000 for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30.**

"I sit here having recently learned that the information provided to me thus far has been disturbingly inaccurate," Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Larry E. Craig (R-Idaho) told Nicholson.

**House Appropriations Committee Chairman Jerry Lewis (R-Calif.) told Nicholson that the failure to alert Congress earlier about the VA's money problems "borders on stupidity."**

**"Somebody was hoping they could hide the ball for a while and talk about it later, and frankly in this arena you can't afford to do that," Lewis said.**

**Rep. Chet Edwards (Tex.), the ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations subcommittee on military quality of life and veterans affairs, said the administration and Republican leadership had been made aware of the problems as far back as 2004 when Reps. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.) and Lane Evans (Ill.), then chairman and ranking Democrat on the Veterans Affairs Committee, called for major increases in spending.**

**Instead of dealing with the problem, Edwards said, the House Republican leadership "fired Smith," forcing him out of the chairmanship.**

The VA is diverting money intended for other purposes to cover health care costs.

The diversion of money, mainly from capital infrastructure funds for building and maintaining VA facilities, does not sit well with Congress.

**"Right now, medical facilities are literally falling down around their patients," said Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin, ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee and one of those urging urgent action.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Storms Samarra**

June 30, 2005 By Caesar Ahmed and Raheem Salman, Los Angeles Times & Aljazeera

**BAGHDAD, Iraq — Resistance fighters stormed the former insurgent bastion of Samarra in northern Iraq yesterday, killing at least two elite police commandos and injuring as many as six.**

Witnesses said armed men in as many as 10 civilian cars attacked a building used by security forces with mortars and rocket-propelled-grenade launchers.

**Samarra was the site of a U.S.-led assault last summer meant to rid the city of insurgents. Residents said tensions had peaked in the city after a Tuesday raid on a pharmaceutical factory by security forces.**

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### **Assorted Resistance Action**

30 June 2005 Aljazeera.Net & (UPI) & By Caesar Ahmed and Raheem Salman, Los Angeles Times

**Aljazeera has learned that the natural gas pipeline near al-Yusufiya was blown up by unknown assailants.**

**Residents said a group of men were seen planting an explosive device under the pipeline**

**Police said the body of a soldier who disappeared two days ago in the Howeiija area, 60 kilometers (37 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, was found by policemen.**

**Police said an Iraqi contractor was killed by unknown gunmen in the province of Kirkuk in northern Iraq which is inhabited by Kurds, Arabs and Turkmen communities.**

**An insurgent group claimed responsibility in an Internet statement for the execution of Kamal Khaled Zebari, a Kurdish security officer in the city of Mosul.**

**In Baghdad, a mortar round landed in the parking lot of the Babel Hotel last night. There was no official word on casualties.**

<p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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# The Only Alternative Is Armed Resistance

Since the Iraqi government has accepted the American presence as morally and legally sound, it can be assumed by the resistance that the Americans will remain for some time in spite of the wishes of the Iraqi people. The only alternative that remains for those opposed to the occupation, therefore, is an armed one.

[Thanks to Z, who sent this in.]

28 June 2005 By Laith Saud, Aljazeera.Net. Laith Saud is an Iraqi academic researcher and lecturer in the United States.

Following one of the deadliest periods for Iraqis since the American-led invasion of the country in 2003, there is as yet no indication as to when the situation may improve.

Indeed, the war being waged in the middle of the streets of Baghdad and Mosul or Najaf and Falluja has made life for the average Iraqi difficult, precarious and dangerous, especially with no foreseeable end to the conflict.

In addition, promises to end the American occupation of Iraq figured largely in the campaigning of the United Iraqi Alliance, (UIA); in spite of victory, however, the alliance has taken no steps towards such an end - betraying or ignoring the wishes of the Iraqi electorate.

**The question remains: If there is no seeming end to the American-led occupation, then why should there be an end to the resistance?**

The failure of the Iraqi government, neighbouring regimes and the international community at large to identify the invasion accurately - as an aggressive, imperial and illegal invasion - has permitted the United States an open-ended presence in the country.

The failure to address the Americans as an imperial presence in Iraq has facilitated a variety of assumptions on the part of the Iraqi people and the resistance. The first of these assumptions is that the current Iraqi government accepts the presence of American troops as legitimate. If legitimacy is conferred upon the American occupation, there is little basis by which the Iraqi government can assume authority over it.

Consider the current situation in Falluja: According to a recent article by Daud Salman, of the 65 schools severely damaged by the American assault on Falluja, only one quarter have been repaired. Of these few, many are being used as American bases and staging points for military operations.

For the average resident of Falluja, the implication is clear - their standard of living and their children's education are subordinate to the wishes and well-being of the American

military campaign. Instead of labouring on behalf of the residents of Falluja, the current Iraqi government has conceded to American authority in this regard and has relegated the well-being of Iraqi people to a secondary concern.

**Needless to say, many of these residents, including teenagers, who have been robbed of normalcy, will join the resistance, not out of hatred or zealotry (as the American media has led many to believe), but simply to eject the disruptive American presence and restore normalcy in their own city.**

The current Iraqi government has obscured the status of the American occupation by maintaining accommodating relations with it.

**According to a Gallup poll taken last year, a solid majority of Iraqis would like to see an end to the occupation immediately or reasonably soon.**

**Asked whether the Americans were "liberators" or "occupiers", 71% responded "occupiers"; there is, therefore, a context by which most Iraqis view this occupation.**

As we have already mentioned, the UIA promised to pursue an American withdrawal as part of its party platform and was successful in securing the largest number of votes in the elections earlier this year.

When we analyse the UIA's success, its campaign promises and the figures communicating Iraqi feelings towards the occupation, it is safe to assume that the UIA's victory was due, in large measure, to its stance towards the occupation.

However, it has failed to address the status of the occupation in any recognisable fashion, let alone secure a timetable for withdrawal. Thus it seems when Iraqis speak with a clear political voice and do so within the mechanism of elections, little is accomplished.

**In short, the elections failed in bringing a foreseeable end to the occupation, although that is what the majority of Iraqis voted for; it is only logical that the armed resistance then would gain in momentum as it is evident that a political end to the occupation is not forthcoming.**

**The truth, however, is that the current government has not represented the will of the Iraqi people and the majority of Iraqis sympathise with the resistance's goal of ending the occupation.**

**Since the Iraqi government has accepted the American presence as morally and legally sound, it can be assumed by the resistance that the Americans will remain for some time in spite of the wishes of the Iraqi people.**

**The only alternative that remains for those opposed to the occupation, therefore, is an armed one.**

## **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))

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

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

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

## **Command Responsibility**

Historians will remember Sanchez as the William Westmoreland of the Iraq war -- the general who misunderstood the nature of the conflict he faced and thereby played into the enemy's hands. Vowing in December 2003 to use "whatever combat power is necessary to win," Sanchez echoed promises of victory made by Westmoreland in Saigon a generation earlier. "That's what America expects of me," Sanchez declared, "and that's what I'm going to accomplish."

June 28, 2005 By Andrew J. Bacevich, The Washington Post Company. [Excerpt]

Who "lost" Iraq?

With blame for the unhappy course of events since U.S. forces occupied Baghdad in April 2003 routinely heaped on civilian officials, the military itself has gotten a pass.

**In fact, senior U.S. commanders have botched the war.** Acknowledging that fact is an essential first step toward improving the quality of U.S. generalship.

For this reason, reported plans to promote Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez deserve particular attention. According to media reports, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld intends to nominate Sanchez for a fourth star.

**But the general does not merit promotion; he can best serve his country by retiring forthwith. He failed to accomplish his assigned mission in Iraq.**

When Sanchez assumed command of U.S. and coalition ground forces in Iraq in June 2003, the insurgency was barely in its infancy. When he left Iraq a year later, it was raging all but out of control.

**By any measure -- estimated number of enemy fighters, frequency of attacks, Iraqi civilian casualties and U.S. troop losses sustained -- conditions in Iraq worsened appreciably during Sanchez's tenure in command. His task was to provide security; his efforts produced chaos.**

Historians will remember Sanchez as the William Westmoreland of the Iraq war -- the general who misunderstood the nature of the conflict he faced and thereby played into the enemy's hands. Vowing in December 2003 to use "whatever combat power is necessary to win," Sanchez echoed promises of victory made by Westmoreland in Saigon a generation earlier. "That's what America expects of me," Sanchez declared, "and that's what I'm going to accomplish."

**But victory is precisely what he did not accomplish. Combat power as such was never the answer. Indeed, as with Westmoreland, whose doctrine of search-and-destroy committed U.S. forces to an unwinnable war of attrition, Sanchez fought his war in ways that turned out to be monumentally wrongheaded.**

**His kick-down-the-door tactics served only to harden resistance to the U.S. occupation. Rather than winning Iraqi hearts and minds, he alienated them.**

In Baghdad this month, the senior U.S. military spokesman announced that it was time "to concede that . . . this insurgency is not going to be settled . . . through military options or military operations," tacitly acknowledging that the exertions of the past two years had failed. In that acknowledgment lies the definitive judgment of what Sanchez -- although not he alone -- has wrought.

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **Day After Bush's Optimism, State Dept Says Iraq Too Dangerous To Visit**

June 30, 2005 Anne Gearan (AP)

The State Department called Iraq too dangerous for American travellers on Wednesday, hours after President George W Bush pointed to "significant progress" there.

"Attacks against military and civilian targets throughout Iraq continue," and targets include hotels and restaurants, the State Department's travel warning said. "There have been planned and random killings, as well as extortions and kidnappings."

"In the past year, we have made significant progress," Bush said.

The State Department warning said terrorism threatens travel over land and by air.

"There is credible information that terrorists are targeting civil aviation . **Civilian and military aircraft arriving in and departing from Baghdad International Airport have been subjected to small arms and missiles,**" the warning said.

**US government personnel are not allowed to fly commercially aboard Iraq's national airline, Iraqi Airways. They must come and go to the country on US military or other government-owned aircraft, or by Royal Jordanian Airlines.**

"All vehicular travel in Iraq is extremely dangerous," the warning said.

"There have been numerous attacks on civilian vehicles, as well as military convoys.

**Attacks occur throughout the day, but travel at night is exceptionally dangerous."** More than 1,700 US troops have died in Iraq, with thousands more injured. The toll is even higher among Iraqis.

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

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

# **Israeli Soldier Killed As Hizbullah And Israeli Occupation Troops Clash**

6/30/2005 Daily Star

**An Israeli soldier was killed and three others wounded yesterday as Hizbullah launched an attack in the occupied Shebaa Farms.**

The attack drew a sharp response from Israel who hit back with a series of air strikes and artillery attacks into Southern Lebanon which the Israelis claimed wounded a Hizbullah fighter.

**Hizbullah's strike at Israel comes just one day after the newly elected speaker of Lebanon's Parliament vowed to defend the resistance group, insisting that "as long as Israel continues to occupy Lebanon and breach our sovereignty we will continue our policy of resistance."**

**Hizbullah's political officer in Southern Lebanon, Sheikh Hassan Ezzeddine, told The Daily Star... "Our Palestinian brothers have to understand that resistance is the only way to regain their rights, and that the Israeli enemy will never give them their rights easily."**

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## ***Olive Tree Called Abeer Qibti:* Refusing To Stand Up For Racist Flag Costs Palestinian Woman \$1.1 Million**

6/12/2005 Palestine Blogs

This pretty young lady is Abeer Qibti, a Palestinian young woman from Al-Nasserah (Nazareth), participated in a TV show called "Looking for a leader" in Channel 2 of the Israeli TV.

Abeer Qibti was the strongest among the four finalists in the show, which is a form of Donald Trump's show, "The Assistant"

**The team of the show judges disqualified Abeer when she refused to stand up in respect to the Israeli national anthem.**

**She explained her position saying that she would not show respect to the symbols of Zionist racism even if this means the loss of \$1.1 million, the value of the award she was expected to win.**

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

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