

## **GI SPECIAL 3B92:**

**THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME;  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



Regina Roberts is escorted toward the graveside service for her daughter Lance Cpl. Holly Charette, Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter, R.I., July 2, 2005. She was killed when her convoy was attacked by a bomber June 23. (AP Photo/Joe Giblin)

# **“Why Are We Still Over There?”**

## **“Why Am I Going To Get Taken From My Family? For What?”**

July 16, 2005 By MARC PARRY, STAFF WRITER, Cape Cod Times

First her father kisses the 20-month-old in bed before leaving for work. Then she hears him shut the gate. And then Kaleigh, dressed in her Dora the Explorer nightgown, pops out of her pink sheets and charges into daddy's arms.

"She'll just hold on to me for a good 10 or 15 seconds," Terrence Rogers, of Buzzards Bay, said. "It feels like forever."



Terrence Rogers of Buzzards Bay, gets a kiss from Kaleigh, his 20-month-old daughter, while his wife, Rebecca, holds their 2-month-old son, Andrew. **Rogers is reporting for duty tomorrow against his will.** (Staff photo by KEVIN MINGORA)

But, short of a miracle, tomorrow will be their last embrace for almost a year.

**It doesn't matter that Rogers hasn't had any training since the U.S. Army discharged him honorably four years ago. Or that he pleaded for an exemption because he is the sole supporter of Kaleigh and a 2-month-old son. Or that his Army contract is in its last year.**

**Against his will, his last appeal exhausted yesterday, Spc. Terrence Rogers will be reporting to base tomorrow in South Carolina for deployment to Iraq. He must serve until May 2006.**

That's because soldiers make an eight-year commitment when they join the Army. They don't always serve on active duty for the full term. They can leave after a certain number of years and join one of the reserve components - the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, or the Individual Ready Reserve.

Rogers joined the Army in May of 1998 during his senior year at Falmouth High School. A Humvee specialist, he served three years on active duty, including a hard-duty tour in Korea. He chose to serve the last five in the Ready Reserve - earning no pay, getting no benefits - and figured his military days were over.

Unlike Guard and Army reserve soldiers, who are assigned to particular units and train regularly, Ready Reservists engage in no military activities unless activated, said Lt. Col Pan Heart, an Army spokeswoman. But they are essentially on an administrative roster and can be called to duty at any time.

**Only about 2,529 of the roughly 168,000 soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are from the Individual Ready Reserve. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are the first time since the Gulf War that the Army activated Individual Ready Reserve members involuntarily.**

"If you are in the IRR ... you aren't in a reserve unit, so the Army is not your focus," Heart said. "When they are called into IRR, sometimes it is a little shocking."

Rogers and his wife, Rebecca, got that shock on a routine trip to pick up some mail at his mother's house in Falmouth. She remembers the date precisely: Aug. 16, 2004. Twelve days before their wedding.

Nine months before the birth of their second child, Rogers applied for an exemption but got just a 135-day delay, enough time so he could be there through his wife's post-partum recovery.

The 24-year-old tried again, saying he had sustained an ankle injury and would only have nine months left on his contract by the time he recovered.

That appeal was rejected yesterday.

The only choice he has left is not to show up. In the first Gulf war, 2,971 of the 20,277 Ready Reservists activated didn't report, Heart said. This is what Rogers' orders say will happen if he fails to report: "You will be declared Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and possibly declared a deserter from the Army."

**"It's either I desert my family or I desert the military," he said. "What do I do?"**

What he plans to do is report to base. Yesterday, as 2-month-old Andrew sucked a bottle of formula in his lap, Rogers reflected on what that would mean.

It means he won't hear Andrew's first word or be there for his first birthday. It means Rebecca will be living alone for the first time in her life. It means he'll be beset by worries: Who will shovel the snow? Mow the lawn? Repair the front steps?

**The reasons are unclear to Rogers and it rankles him. He said he supported the war at first. Now he said it doesn't make sense to him.**

**"Why are we still over there?"** he said outside the white clapboard home he recently bought. **"Why am I going to get taken from my family? For what?"**

Today, his last full day on the Cape, will be busy. He'll return the van to the concrete company where he works as a foreman. He'll pull the duffel bag out from his closet and pack it with a few possessions: razors, clean underwear, T-shirts. He'll write a will.

Tomorrow, booked on the last flight to South Carolina, he'll kiss his family goodbye.

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.**

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS



U.S. soldiers stand next to a damaged Humvee after a roadside bombing in Baghdad  
Photo by Ceerwan Aziz/Reuters

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### **Three British Soldiers Killed, Two Wounded In Al-Amarah**

July 16, 2005 (AFP) & By Sami Jumaili (Reuters)

**Three British soldiers were among seven people killed in Iraq as insurgents pressed their campaign.**

**The British soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb exploded at 1:30 am (2130 GMT Friday) in the southern town of Al-Amarah.**

**Two soldiers were also wounded in the explosion in the town's Hayae al-Risala district, the defence ministry said in London.**

The soldiers were part of Task Force Maysan, a battle group based on the 1st Battalion Staffordshire Regiment and supporting troops from the 8,500-strong British contingent in southern Iraq.

**A predominately Shiite city of 300,000 people, Al-Amarah lies near the Iranian border, 150 kilometres (95 miles) north of the main southern city of Basra,**

**A little-known Iraqi insurgent group said in a Web statement that it was behind the killing.**

"Thank God, this morning ... three British soldiers were killed and at least three others were injured by exploding a package by their patrol in the Maysan province," the group, calling itself the Imam Hussein Brigades, said.

The statement was posted on a site used by the main Iraqi insurgent groups.

**But unlike those mainly Sunni groups, the name suggested it was a Shi'ite group. It said it also killed an Iraqi judge in the town of Nassiriya.**

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## Nebraska National Guard Member Killed

July 16, 2005 (AP)

A Nebraska Army National Guard medic was killed Thursday in Iraq while trying to treat wounded Marines, the guard said Friday in a release.

Staff Sgt. Tricia L. Jameson, 34, of Omaha was killed near Trebil, Iraq, when a roadside bomb exploded near her ambulance, the guard said. Another Nebraska National Guard medic who was driving the ambulance was injured and evacuated to Germany.

**According to the guard, Jameson was the commander of an ambulance that was supporting a convoy mission from Camp Korean Village to the Treybul border crossing on the boarder of Iraq and Jordan. During the mission, Jameson's ambulance encountered Marines who had been attacked and were injured.**

**As Jameson's ambulance approached to aid the marines, a bomb went off killing Jameson, injuring the driver and destroying the ambulance, the guard said.**

Jameson, a member of the 313th Medical Co. of Lincoln, was a 1989 graduate of Millard South High School and attended Central Community College at Columbus from 1990 to 1991.

**Jameson is the 22nd U.S. service member with connections to Nebraska to have died in Afghanistan and Iraq** since the beginning of military operations following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, according to the Department of Defense and family members.

She is survived by her mother, Patricia Marsh of Omaha.

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## Ecrú Mourns Death Of Marine

7/16/2005 BY DANZA JOHNSON, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal

**ECRU - Friday's activity around downtown made it look like any other day - people headed to work, children playing in the yards, dogs barking.**

**But a closer look revealed flags waving at half-staff, a clue that something was different.**

**A hometown Marine, 22-year-old Cpl. Blake Mounce, was killed in Iraq, and the death has blanketed the town with sadness.**

Late Thursday, Marines told Mounce's family that he had been killed.

**In the Marines, he was known as Cpl. Mounce, but at home, the North Pontotoc High School graduate was brother, husband, friend and son.**

"He was the best and he always has been," said Tiffany Mounce, Blake's wife of three years. "I love him so much. And he loved being a Marine. When he picked up his corporal ranking, he was so excited."

He had a great sense of humor, she said, and he loved to fish, hunt and ride dirt bikes.

"We had our best times sitting on the couch and watching 'Will and Grace.' He loved that show," said Tiffany.

**Mounce became the fourth Northeast Mississippian to die in Iraq, and the second in less than a month.**

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## **Kirkuk Explosion Wounds Two U.S. Soldiers**

7.16.05 Aljazeera.Net

**Two US soldiers and three Iraqi troops were injured in a blast caused while they were trying to defuse an explosive device in the al-Dabas district, western Kirkuk.**

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## **U.S. Soldier Wounded In Samarra Fighting**

7.16.05 AFP & HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND NEWS  
Release Number: 05-07-10

**In the city of Samarra, mortar fire in the early hours had wounded two Iraqi soldiers,** the army said. Task Force Liberty Soldiers were responding to a rocket-propelled grenade and small-arms attack.

**One U.S. Soldier was wounded in the attack and was evacuated to a nearby Coalition Forces medical facility for treatment.**

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# Valley Marine Wounded By Land Mine

July 16, 2005 By John Finnerty, The Daily Item

**NORTHUMBERLAND — Marine Lance Cpl. Todd Bucher, of Northumberland, was injured by a land mine blast in Iraq on Sunday, his father said Friday.**

**Cpl. Bucher, 21, suffered 18 or 19 shrapnel wounds, said his father, Barry Bucher, of Port Huron, Mich.**

**Mr. Bucher said his son's injuries include nerve damage that limits his ability to use one of his hands.**

For the past three or four months, Cpl. Bucher had been in Iraq with Alpha Company of the First Battalion of the Sixth Marines Regiment based at Camp Lejeune, N.C. At one time, he was stationed near Fallujah, but Mr. Bucher said he didn't know exactly where his son was on Sunday.

Cpl. Bucher was taken from Iraq to a hospital in Germany, where he was initially treated. Friday, he was being flown from Germany to a military hospital in Bethesda, Md.

Cpl. Bucher has done tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan, his father said.

Cpl. Bucher was a 2002 graduate of Shikellamy High School. His mother, Debbie Bucher, lives in Northumberland.

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## Baghdad Humvee Hit & Burning; Casualties Not Announced

Sameer N. Yacoub, Associated Press Writer

**A car bomber struck near a U.S. military convoy in southeast Baghdad, setting a Humvee ablaze, police Lt. Col. Hassan Salloub said. No U.S. casualties were reported.**

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## Stryker Troops At War In Mosul

July 18, 2005 By Matthew Cox, Army Times staff writer

MOSUL, Iraq — It's just past 8:30 a.m. when Capt. Blake Lackey notices the three Iraqi men in a gold Toyota sedan pass his Stryker combat vehicle on the opposite side of the highway.

“Virginia this gold car!” the commander of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, barks into his radio headset.

Each of the three Stryker vehicles in the column makes a hard, 90-degree left turn, drives over the median and halts perpendicular to traffic in the opposite lane.

The aggressive maneuver is known as a “flash TCP,” or traffic control point, and “Virginia” is a code word Lackey uses to signal his men to execute the movement without hesitation.

The tactic blocks oncoming traffic and traps cars with suspicious passengers between the Strykers.

The rear ramp descends from Lackey’s Stryker, and Sgt. James Duke quickly emerges with his M4 carbine leveled at the gold Toyota. First Lt. Ryan Mendenhall follows with an M16 at the ready.

With the help of Selva Saker, an Iraqi-American interpreter, the duo orders the men to the side of the road.

Nothing suspicious is found, so Duke and Mendenhall release the three and begin to search the only other car between the Strykers.

Crack! Crack! Two rifle shots splinter the morning quiet. One bullet glances off the back right corner of the Stryker to their rear.

Both soldiers crouch low and seek cover near the blue sedan they were searching seconds ago.

“Selva! Get down!” Duke shouts to Saker. “Get in that Stryker!” The interpreter obeys, disappearing into safety.

The Strykers’ grenade launchers shoot multicolored smoke canisters in all directions. The thick smoke fills the air as Duke and Mendenhall dash inside Lackey’s Stryker.

**The enemy sniper is never spotted, but everyone knows the pattern — an insurgent fired the shots from an idling car, this time about 300 meters away, before disappearing into traffic.**

**A Company’s July 7 sniper contact is a common occurrence these days as Stryker units from the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (SBCT), scour this northern Iraqi city for what leaders here refer to as “commuter terrorists,” Lackey said.**

**These are insurgents who slip in and out of the city to mount attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces from their cars, disappearing into traffic moments after they strike.**

Stryker Brigade soldiers, along with Iraqi troops and police, are in the midst of a crackdown designed to snare these mobile insurgent forces.

**As part of that effort, Army combat engineers have moved tons of earth and built a dirt berm, 4 to 6 feet high and about as wide, running a total of 58 kilometers —**



**about 35 miles — around the city. The berm closes off about 70 “rat lines,” unpaved tracks, channeling all vehicles onto paved roads and a series of checkpoints run by Iraqi troops. [Which are, obviously, absolutely useless, and pointless, since the Iraqis inside Mosul are as much for the resistance as the Iraqis outside Mosul. The French tried similar defensive perimeters in Vietnam. So did the Chinese, when they built the Great Wall. Lot of good it did in either case; just so much pissing in the wind.]**

But the main offensive thrust of the crackdown involves keeping nearly 250 Strykers on the streets every day, working with Iraqi police to maintain pressure on the enemy.

“It’s cat-and-mouse, but we are the better mousers,” said A Company’s acting first sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Edwin Wittstruck.

**“They like to do the same thing again and again, and we catch them.”**

The constant presence paid off 24 hours after the July 7 attack, when possibly the same enemy sniper team drove into the kill zone of A Company, 2nd Platoon’s ambush site.

five soldiers were preparing to leave their ambush position atop a two-story building overlooking a major T intersection when a charcoal gray Nissan sedan caught their attention.

The car, with three Iraqi men inside, made a partial U-turn at the intersection and then stopped. The passenger in the back seat fired two shots from an SVD sniper rifle at an Iraqi army TCP about 300 meters away.

The soldiers on the rooftop unleashed a storm of lead from an M240B machine gun and a M249 squad automatic weapon, striking the hood, windshield and roof of the car, and killing the driver. The front-seat passenger tried to run across the street.

He didn’t get far.

“The guy got out with his AK and started running; we shot him down,” said Spc. Joshua Waguespack, the 240 machine gun team leader, who was armed with an M4. “Then the (other) guy got out from the back seat and started running. I think he had an AK. I popped off three shots at him, and he crumpled to the ground.”

The mood on the rooftop was jubilant, Waguespack said.

“We were happy; I’m not going to lie,” he said. “This guy had been taking shots at us all week.”

The scene below was a grisly sight as soldiers searched the vehicle afterward.

Blood and shattered glass were everywhere.

In addition to the SVD sniper rifle, soldiers found a BKC medium machine gun with about 200 rounds of belted ammunition, two AK47-style rifles with seven 30-round magazines, a new rocket-propelled grenade launcher and two warheads, six hand grenades and three 9mm pistols.

Two of the pistols were Glocks, a detail that concerned Lackey, because they are the standard sidearm of the Iraqi police.

“Glocks mean they have either killed IPs before or they are IPs,” he said.

Saker later examined a bloody identification card that revealed one of the men was a policeman.

During the evening, Lackey and his men will chase down a teen who appeared to warn others of their presence. But otherwise, the evening is quiet. When Lackey and his sniper team leave, he thanks the man for his hospitality and the man hugs the captain in return.

“These people are good people,” Lackey says later. “I come into his house, and I put him in danger and through it all, he still thanks us for what we are doing. ... “

“Without the people, in an insurgency fight, you cannot win. Without them, we are just guys with big vehicles out screwing up traffic.”

[Since U.S. government polls find 80% of Shia and Sunni regard the occupation as an enemy, and want the troops to go home now, what conclusion, therefore, is obvious?]

## REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM AL HOME NOW



7.15.05 U.S. troops at the scene of a carbomb attack which targeted a U.S. military convoy in the Rustamiya area of Baghdad, Iraq July 15, 2005. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

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## TROOP NEWS

# DEFEND SGT. KEVIN BENDERMAN

7.16.05 Military Families Speak Out NY-NJ-CT

**Sgt. Kevin Benderman, a 10 year veteran of the Army's Third Infantry Division, refused to deploy for his 2nd tour in Iraq.**

**He applied for conscientious objector status, recognized by the Army Legal Code as the right of every soldier, even in combat units. Sgt. Benderman was rejected as a CO; his court martial is scheduled for July 28th at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, and he faces up to 7 years in jail.**

***17 other soldiers from Sgt. Benderman's unit went AWOL, two tried to kill themselves and one had a relative shoot him in the leg to avoid deployment.***

**SUPPORT: SGT. BENDERMAN and his wife MONICA have a national defense campaign. Please sign the petition online: [www.bendermandefense.org](http://www.bendermandefense.org) Letters are sent to Representative Patricia McKinney and Secretary Rumsfeld.**

**Please forward this email to all your friends.**

If you want to contribute to Sgt. Benderman's legal defense, send a check or money order to the meeting made Payable to: Traprock Peace Center. All the checks or money orders will be mailed to:

Kevin Benderman C.O. Defense Fund  
C/O Susan Watkins  
P. O. 325  
Shutesbury, MA 01072-0325

Sincerely,  
Military Families Speak Out NY-NJ-CT

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## 11 Soldiers Charged With Assault Of Prisoners

July 16, 2005 (AFP) & Sameer N. Yacoub, Associated Press Writer

**The US military said it had charged 11 soldiers with "violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice" after complaints of assault against suspected insurgents in custody.**

**A U.S. statement said the charges, which were filed Wednesday, followed a complaint by a soldier assigned to Task Force Baghdad that "other soldiers had allegedly assaulted some suspected terrorists."**

The military did not specify the nature of the assault, but said charges had been levelled on Wednesday.

"The army's criminal investigation division immediately began an investigation into the reported incident for possible criminal conduct," the statement said.

"None of the insurgents required medical treatment for injuries related to the alleged assault. **Only one of the suspected terrorists remains in custody of coalition forces at this time.**

"The unit involved has been pulled off line to complete the inquiry and retraining."

The soldiers had been assigned to the Army's Task Force Baghdad but were taken off-duty pending the investigation, the military said, adding that the Army's Criminal Investigation Division would determine whether they should face trial by court-martial.

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## ***Please Sir, Me First!*** **UK Occupation Force 'Could Lead Iraq Withdrawal'**

July 13, 2005 London Financial Times

**British troops could lead the way out of Iraq in a scaled reduction of allied force as early as next year, a senior western diplomat indicated.**

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## ***Game Over Dept.---*** **Nothing Left In The Army Reserves**

[Thanks to PB, who sent this in.]

This is the accessible text file for GAO report number GAO-05-660 entitled 'Reserve Forces: An Integrated Plan Is Needed to Address Army Reserve Personnel and Equipment Shortages' which was released on July 12, 2005.

**About 43 percent of Army Selected Reserve personnel have been mobilized since September 11, 2001, and are not eligible to be remobilized under current DOD and Army policies.**

***Only about 16 percent, or 31,300 personnel, are considered eligible for mobilization.***

**The other 41 percent are ineligible or not available at this time for a variety of reasons**, including the nature of their current assignments--such as providing recruiting and retention support, training for mobilizing units, and other critical duties; lack of required training; or various medical and administrative issues, such as pregnancy or pending separations.

Those soldiers who complete the required training or resolve medical and family issues may become available for mobilization in the future.

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## **Concert To Benefit Wounded Soldier**

July 16, 2005 Linda May, Columnist, The Macomb Daily

A tiny poppy-orange spot may brighten an otherwise gray, cloudy scene for the family of Iraq War veteran John Chrzanowski.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Poppy Fund benefits from a concert featuring the Harmony Heritage Chorus and barbershop quartets at 6:30 p.m. Sunday at VFW Bruce Post 1146.

**The fund kicked in so that Chrzanowski's parents can be at his hospital bedside in a San Antonio military hospital.**

**"On June 17, while serving the United States Army in Iraq, the Humvee that John and several others were traveling in had a remote bomb detonated from underneath, rendering the entire vehicle one large fireball," post commander Ken DeBoer said.**

**"John was able to escape from the vehicle covered in flames and douse himself in a nearby canal," DeBoer said. "He then had to wait for 40 minutes until his comrades could come and help him."**

**Chrzanowski, 21, a South Lake High School graduate, was burned over 80 percent of his body.**

**"John's parents left their jobs and everything behind to be with him and will not return until he is well," DeBoer said.**

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***“We Don’t Think That We Have The Truth”***  
**Was Her Son’s Death In Iraq Suicide Or Murder?**  
**A Mother Wants Answers**

Physical evidence also raises doubts, she said, including a lack of gunshot residue on her son’s hands, lack of fingerprints on the barrel of his weapon, and conflicting information from the attending doctor and medical examiner on entrance and exit wounds. And, according to Elizabeth Sweet, no field fatality review was conducted.

July 18, 2005 By Deborah Funk, Army Times staff writer

In a scrapbook decorated with ribbons of red, white and blue, Elizabeth Sweet catalogs her son’s stint in the Army.

There’s T.J. graduating from basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., in June 1999. There he is with his mom by a Dumpster after cleaning out his barracks room. And there, he’s ready to ship out from Fort Riley, Kan., to Iraq on Sept. 8, 2003.

Words not quite fit for a family newspaper occasionally surface in his notes home. “His conversation was peppered with expletives,” Sweet said, laughing gently.

One letter from Iraq talks about a tire falling off of a Humvee and about him riding past bombed-out buildings and “wreckage of vehicles from years back.” He could use some powdered drink mix, beef jerky, note paper and baby wipes.

Just as he signed off another letter in fall 2003, he noted it was now officially his birthday: Oct. 2. He had turned 23.

**A new photograph is the final one in the chapter of Thomas John Sweet II’s military life: his mother laying T.J.’s wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.**

**Other documents stored with the personal photos and letters, including military health forms and criminal investigation records, reveal bare-bones details of T.J. Sweet’s death: suicide by gunshot to the head on Nov. 27, 2003, in Ramadi, Iraq. His family got notification from the Army as they sat down to dinner on Thanksgiving Day.**

**Elizabeth Sweet, a mental health administrator and former counselor, wants to know how his death could have happened — how in the span of an hour, a verbal**

**altercation between then-Spc. T.J. Sweet, who was on the verge of promotion to E-5, and a sergeant ended in her son's death.**

On March 12, 2003, T.J. asked to go to the mental health center to see whether his diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder — he had received the diagnosis as a child — was still accurate and whether he needed medication; he had not taken Ritalin since fifth grade. **He apparently was referred for a civilian assessment, but an appointment was never made. The disorder normally is a disqualifier for military service, but T.J. Sweet had obtained a waiver to join the Army, his mother said.**

**An Aug. 11, 2003, pre-deployment screening asked: "During the past year, have you sought counseling or care for your mental health?" T.J. checked yes. A physician assistant said no referral was needed; he was deemed deployable.**

At this point, Elizabeth Sweet isn't even convinced her son took his life. She said she has received conflicting information from the Army, starting with the death notification, the Army's follow-up visit the next day, and documents supplied by service officials after her son's death.

***The family initially was told T.J. died at the hands of another soldier, then that a negligent discharge of his M16 was under investigation.***

***Physical evidence also raises doubts, she said, including a lack of gunshot residue on her son's hands, lack of fingerprints on the barrel of his weapon, and conflicting information from the attending doctor and medical examiner on entrance and exit wounds. And, according to Elizabeth Sweet, no field fatality review was conducted.***

"We don't think that we have the truth," she said.

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## **National Guard Chief Suffers Psychotic Episode During Interview: To Receive Electro-Shock Treatments**

July 13, 2005 Boston Globe,

Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said **the Guard likely won't meet its recruiting goals for this month, but expects the situation to turn around in the next 18 months.**

***He noted that most Guard recruitment is done by word of mouth, and when soldiers return from Iraq they will tell others how important it is to serve their country.***

**[The interview terminated abruptly as the General began hopping up and down, giggling, while holding one finger in his left ear, and the other in a place not to be**

mentioned in a family newspaper. A report from Walter Reed Hospital indicated the general is doing "as well as can be expected."]

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## **Shrapnel From Home: It's A War That Soldiers In Iraq Weren't Trained For**

July 15, 2005 Los Angeles Times

U.S. soldiers in Iraq are not only fighting insurgents, they are also trying to cope with the need to keep their marriages and bank accounts intact.

**The number of Army-wide marital breakups has increased by 86% from 2000 to 2004.**

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## **Bureaucratic Stupidity Costs 2 Families Their Tricare Coverage; And The Assholes Blame The Soldiers For It!**

July 18, 2005 By Deborah Funk, Army Times staff writer

**Two military families complain they erroneously lost their Tricare Prime coverage and learned about it only when they tried to get medical care.**

Although how they lost their coverage differs, they each want refunds from Tricare.

**Retired Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stuart Soffer of White Hall, Ark., has lived a lot of places, but never in Kansas. So he cannot understand why his Tricare enrollment fee bill was sent to Kansas. It never reached him and his wife, Linda, in Arkansas.**

***When Humana Military Healthcare Services did not receive payment, it canceled coverage for Soffer and his wife without telling them, he said. Soffer said he essentially was told "it was my fault that they screwed up my address."***

Tricare officials said they got a wrong address from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System when the Tricare management contract changed hands last year, according to correspondence Soffer received from the Tricare Regional Office South, which monitors Humana's work.



“My information has always been correct” in DEERS, said Soffer, who is also a volunteer in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. “Somehow, when they did the changeover, an incorrect address was entered into the system for me, not my wife.”

**Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Bickers took great pains to make sure he and his family continued to have Tricare Prime coverage when he demobilized and transferred his coverage from Washington, D.C., back home to Dallas, where his family had lived and been covered by Prime while he was on active duty in Iraq and the nation’s capital.**

“I started this before I left Washington. ... I wanted to make sure this thing went as smooth as possible because I wanted no interruptions for my family,” said Bickers, who served on active duty with the 701st Military Police Group of the Army Criminal Investigation Command protective services unit.

**But when Bickerses took their daughter to the doctor, they learned they no longer had Prime coverage, and they could be out as much as \$300. He’s already paid \$150, when under Prime he would have paid nothing, he said.**

**When he called Tricare managers, Bickers was told, for the first time, he said, that he should have re-enrolled his family in Prime when he moved his coverage back to Dallas.**

Both Bickers and Soffer say they want to be reimbursed.

“Basically, I want it just as it should have been,” Bickers said. A refund “would be nice — not that I’m holding my breath.”

**Like the Bickers family, the Soffers learned of their problem only when they sought care. Linda Soffer was not allowed to schedule an appointment because she was told she was no longer in Prime, Stuart Soffer said.**

To continue their coverage, the Soffers had to pay \$230 for the previous six months even though they were not covered during that time, Soffer said. The other option was to enroll anew and delay coverage.

Soffer wants a refund. “I didn’t think I should have to pay for the period I wasn’t covered,” he said.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **“If A Foreign Army Comes To Your Country, You Should Fight Them”**

July 16, 2005 Will Van Wagenen , Electronic Iraq

So why is the Iraqi resistance fighting? I'm not sure anyone really knows with certainty, and there are probably a combination of reasons.

**But if the U.S. backed Shiite Iraqi forces have to kill fellow Shiites that oppose the occupation, and even Shiites whose friends have been killed in terrorist attacks oppose the occupation, this would indicate that there would be plenty of Iraqis, both Sunni and Shiite, who are willing to fight the occupiers and their Iraqi allies, not out of any hatred for Shiites, but for hatred of the occupation.**

As another Shiite I met the other day put it, "If a foreign army comes to your country, you should fight them. This has been true for thousands of years."

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## **WELCOME TO RAMADI: HAVE A NICE DAY**



Iraqi insurgents take up positions at a crossroads in the Iraqi town of Ramadi, west of Baghdad. (Stringer/Iraq/Reuters)

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

July 16, 2005 (AFP) & Khaleej Times Online & Sameer N. Yacoub, Associated Press Writer & Aljazeera.Net

**In Mosul, a bomber wearing an explosives belt walked into a police station where he detonated his charge, killing six policemen and wounding 20,** police General Wathiq Mohammed said.

A doctor at the nearby Hamman al-Alil healthcare centre, Ithar Mohammad, confirmed the deaths, adding that eight of the injured were in critical condition.

**In the al-Mashada area, north of Baghdad, an armed group ambushed a 10-vehicle convoy of Interior Ministry police officers, known at the al-Dhib Brigades. The police exchanged fire with the attackers. An unknown number of police were killed and injured, reported Khalid.**

**In Baghdad's southern district of Dura, a bomber attacked police commandos with a vehicle packed with explosives. Three commandos were killed and five commandos wounded, an interior ministry official said.**

**In the normally quiet southern city of Nasiriyah, judge Nurreddin Ahmed, a Kurd from the northern oil centre of Kirkuk, was shot dead at his home, police said.**

**Just south of the capital, a bomber blew himself up in the Jabala area, when Iraqi police tried to arrest him. The explosion wounded two policemen and four civilians, police said.**

**In the insurgent bastion of Hawijah, west of Kirkuk, a car bomb wounded one Iraqi soldier, police said.**

**Two policemen were wounded by gunfire near Ad Dawr, some 150 kilometres (90 miles) north of the capital, police said, while three guards hired to protect oil installations were wounded by gunfire near the key refinery town of Baiji.**

**A foreign truck driver, whose nationality was not specified, was killed when a US-protected convoy in which he was travelling hit a roadside bomb close to the nearby town of Dhuluiyah.**

**Guerrillas killed two policemen and wounded three on the highway between Hilla and Mahaweel, south of Baghdad, a police source said.**

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **It's About Damn Time!**

July-August, 2005 Traveling Soldier, Issue 11

*"There is only one thing that moves government on any level: stark fear.*

***“And if you will recall when Richard Nixon sent the troops into Cambodia, in April of 1970, to look for Vietcong strongholds and shelters in that country, the United States went on a tear that culminated in 4 young people being shot down in Kent State, in 2 at Jackson State, and in the closing down of 300 colleges and universities, and it forced the president of the United States to walk to the Lincoln Memorial where students were gathering and tell them that he was withdrawing the troops from Cambodia because he was scared shitless.*”**

***“And that is the only thing that moves them.*”**

***“Not whether you vote for them tomorrow or the next day.*”**

***“Electoral politics doesn’t really bother them that much.”***

**These are the words of William Kuntsler, who spent a lifetime defending people in court from the government which tried to prosecute them for fighting against the Vietnam war. His words are as true as ever.**

**Polls show that 6 in 10 want a full or partial withdrawal from Iraq, and even a few Republicans in Congress have signed onto a bill calling on Bush to draw up a timetable for “victory” and withdrawal from Iraq.**

**Now is the time to put the stark fear Kuntsler talked about into the government.**

**Eight months after Kerry handed Bush the election, the anti-war movement has called for mass demonstrations in Washington on Saturday September 24. It’s about damn time! But eight months late is better than never.**

**Soldiers, military families, veterans, and everyone against the war needs to mobilize as many people as possible for the march.**

**While March 20, 2003 showed that a couple of big anti-war marches can’t stop a war, Vietnam showed that mass demonstrations, combined with direct action on campuses and soldiers organizing against the war in the military, CAN force the government to bring the troops home now. It may have taken years for this process to happen, but happen again today it must.**

**The lives of tens of thousands of American troops and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi men, women, and children depend on it.**

**The demonstrations (they are separate as of this writing) are being sponsored by International ANSWER and United for Peace and Justice. Information about the times and places where the marches and rallies will be on September 24, visit either [www.internationalanswer.org](http://www.internationalanswer.org) or [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org).**

**Send an email to [contact@traveling-soldier.org](mailto:contact@traveling-soldier.org) if you are on active duty, a veteran, or a military family and you’d like to go.**

## **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))

## **Days Of Deceits**

From: Mike Hastie

To: GI Special

Sent: July 16, 2005

Subject: Days of Deceits, Turn Into Day After Day War In Iraq

All four branches of the U.S. military committed atrocities during the Vietnam War.

The reason the vast majority of the American public will never believe this, is because they could never take their belief system being ambushed by the truth.

**When the U.S. military started massive bombing and missile attacks on Baghdad on March 19, 2003, this was an act of terrorism. The entire war was a setup, based on lies and deceits, just like the Gulf of Tonkin Incident in August 1964, that launched the Vietnam War.**

**As Bob Dylan once wrote: "The truth was obscure, too profound and too pure; to live it you have to explode."**

Once you become a global citizen, it is easy to find your way home.

Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran

**"American bombing in Indochina, was like an insane game of musical chairs."  
Marilyn B. Young  
The Vietnam Wars  
1945-1990**

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# **“The Greater The Repression, The Stronger The Resistance”**



**Texbooks tactic used to recruit for armed resistance to U.S. occupation:  
Silly, stupid, “futile searches for insurgents.”**

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Cheston Bailon, center, of Shiprock, New Mexico aims at an Iraqi man, while he and U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Paul Wolowiec, left, of Buffalo, New York enter the man's house to search it, in Heet, west of Baghdad, June 28, 2005. (AP Photo/Jacob Silberberg)

July 15, 2005 Robin Cook, The Guardian. Robin Cook was Tony Blair's first Foreign Secretary

**Homes in every neighbourhood have been trashed by US forces in futile searches for insurgents.**

**Every extended family knows of at least one person who has disappeared into the new gulag of detainees. A year after President Bush promised to demolish Abu Ghraib it is being expanded, rather than closed, to accommodate an even larger number than were held there by Saddam.**

**It is an inexorable law of foreign occupations that the greater the repression, the stronger the resistance.**

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

## **Q & A**

**This past Sunday, the Iraqi government acknowledged its security forces have been resorting to the same sort of torture and abuses that Saddam used. Did our soldiers die to replace a horrible regime with another? Kelvin Wade, July 16, 2005,**

Daily Republic [Yes. And the horrible regime is the U.S. occupation government, operated by G. Bush, on behalf of the Empire and its shareholders. T]

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## Iraq Is *Not* Vietnam

July 15, 2005 LewRockwell.com

We can all take comfort securely in our knowledge that Iraq is not Vietnam; Vietnam is spelled with a "V" and is in Southeast Asia, Iraq is spelled with an "I" and is in Southwest Asia.

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# Army War College Prof. Says Iraq Game Over

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

15 July 2005 By Erich Marquardt, The Power and Interest News Report (PINR)

**Dr. Max Manwaring**, a research professor of military strategy at the U.S. Army War College, explained to PINR in January 2005 that it is unlikely the U.S. will defeat the insurgency in Iraq.

**Manwaring** highlighted the consistent failure of occupying powers to defeat an indigenous insurgency by showing that his studies of post World War II insurgencies demonstrate that "the more intense and voluminous the military actions of the intervening Western power, the more likely the incumbent government was to lose to the insurgents," and that "the more the intervening power escalated the numbers of its forces in response to a deteriorating situation, the worse (the situation) got."

The intervention has revealed the extent of the U.S. military's power, demonstrating that Washington does not have the military forces necessary to engage in protracted insurgent warfare.

The United States does not have the troop strength or the political will to conduct its current scope of operations for years to come.

<p><b>What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to <a href="mailto:contact@militaryproject.org">contact@militaryproject.org</a>. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.</b></p>
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# **“Why The Damned Thing Never Works”**

From: Z  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 16, 2005  
Subject: Why the damned thing never works

**For all rationalization,  
explanation, obfuscation,  
it takes no imagination  
to know foreign occupation  
and violent usurpation  
of a people's native nation  
causes deep humiliation,  
consternation, desperation,  
degradation, devastation,  
that combined with deprivation  
trigger bitter indignation  
as most of the population  
see the wolf of depredation  
dressed as sheep of liberation  
and decide the situation  
-- imperial domination --  
calls for insubordination  
and for armed participation  
in the struggle for salvation  
that ends all colonization  
and brings forth: Emancipation.**

Solidarity,  
Z

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## **The Blindness Of Empire**

Jul 16 IPS, Aaron Glantz, Author of 'How America Lost Iraq' (Penguin, 2005).

**“I think one of the biggest problems the Bush administration has is that they think they are fighting a finite number of terrorists in Iraq and if they just kill them all the insurgency will go away.**

**“But what Bush doesn't realise or doesn't understand properly is that every innocent person killed in Iraq has a family and when that person is killed there may be dozens of new supporters of armed resistance in Iraq.”**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**



## **Answer: Heaps Of Dead?**

**An official at the human rights ministry in Baghdad said: "Under Saddam we feared and despised the police. What has changed?"** Michael Howard in Irbil, July 13, 2005, The Guardian [Thanks to JM, who caught this one.]

## **The Cultural Toilets Of Camp Lima: Separate, But Equal?**

[Via Andy Robinson, Anti-Allawi Group, July 16, 2005. He writes: **Why do Americans need their own toilets in Iraq? They're already pissing all over the entire country.**]

Jul 14 (IPS)

When we got to Camp Lima Base of the U.S. military, we were greeted by the civil affairs battalion team. Major Ken Booth voiced U.S. concern for Iraqi human rights and democracy. He also explained U.S. reconstruction plans and the unit's motto: SWEAT (sewage, water, electricity, academic, and trash priorities).

**On the way out of Camp Lima Base were two latrines, one marked "Iraqis Only" and the other "No Iraqis -- Americans Only".**

**Asked for an explanation, Major Booth replied that this was due to 'cultural differences'.**

## **More Occupation Prisoners Murdered**

July 16, 2005 (AFP)

**A former general in Saddam Hussein's army and his son were found shot dead in Baghdad after being detained by police commandos,** an interior ministry official told AFP, raising new question marks over the discipline of the elite force.

**Akram Ahmed Rasul al-Bayati, a major general in the old regime's disbanded military, and his son Ali, a policeman, were killed on Friday evening after being arrested last Sunday,** the official said asking not to be identified.

There was no immediate word of any official investigation.

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# **Puppet Regime: Pigs With Snouts In The Feeding Trough**

July 15, 2005 Los Angeles Times

Iraqi lawmakers are often mired in trivialities.

**Many voters, who risked their lives to cast ballots in January, believe that the lawmakers are preoccupied with their "chairs"---a local term for power and perks.**

The public is disappointed that the transitional National Assembly is moving so slowly to enact meaningful changes.

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## **OCCUPATION HAITI**

# **Roger Noriega, Stupidest Imperial Butcher Of The Year, So Far**

14 July 2005 By Naomi Klein, The Nation

**On June 23 Roger Noriega, assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, called on UN troops to take a more "proactive role" in going after armed pro-Aristide gangs.**

**In practice, this has meant a wave of Falluja-like collective punishment inflicted on neighborhoods known for supporting Aristide.**

**On July 6, for instance, 300 UN troops stormed Cité Soleil, blocking off exits and firing from armored vehicles. [Oh please, call them what they are: Brazilian Occupation troops, supplemented by military police murderers sent from the Chinese Empire. Having no U.S. troops left to send, Bush is fortunate in having such loyal Imperial allied governments to kill Haitians on his behalf, and their own.]**

The UN admits that five were killed, but residents put the number of dead at no fewer than twenty. Reuters correspondent Joseph Guylor Delva says he "saw seven bodies in one house alone, including two babies and one older woman in her 60s." Ali Besnaci, head of Médecins Sans Frontières in Haiti, confirmed that on the day of the siege twenty-seven people came to the MSF clinic with gunshot wounds, three-quarters of them women and children.

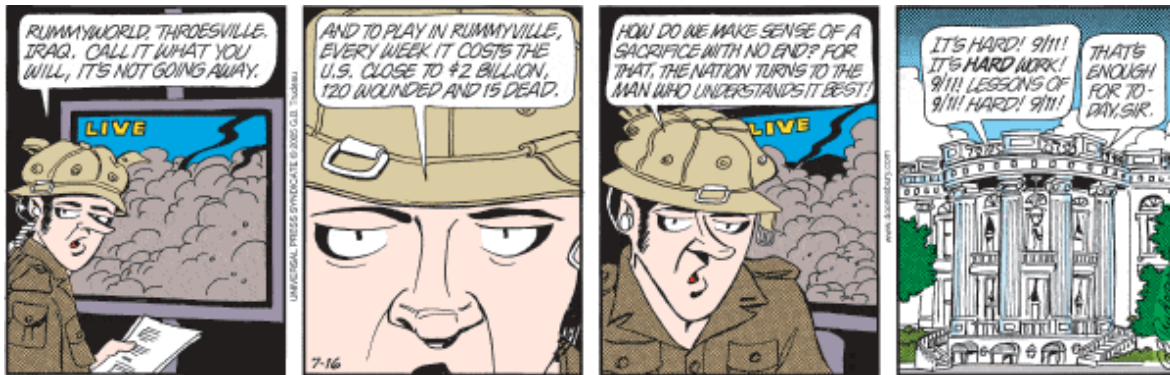
Yet despite these attacks, Haitians are still on the streets - rejecting the planned sham elections, opposing privatization and holding up photographs of their president.

And just as Washington's experts could not fathom the possibility that Aristide would reject their advice a decade ago, today they cannot accept that his poor supporters could be acting of their own accord - surely Aristide must be controlling them through some mysterious voodoo arts.

"We believe that his people are receiving instructions directly from his voice and indirectly through his acolytes that communicate with him personally in South Africa," Noriega said. [Yessuh, Mr. Noriega, our slaves are so content, it's those Yankee abolitionists giving 'em secret messages that got 'em all stirred up.]

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

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### Received:

### **Rumsfeld -The Great Supporter Of Terrorism**

From: JM  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 15, 2005  
Subject: Rumsfeld -The great supporter of terrorism

**Rumsfeld manages to give me, a pacifist, the desire to commit violence.**

**He is the most persistent, trouble stirring, liar one could ever wish ill towards.**

I just read something about the two boys, murdered by the IDF, and the frustration in Palestine at a "ceasefire" that allows Israel to continue killing and injuring the defenceless.

**Now I read that one-eyed, moronic, Rumsfeld is busily blaming the ensuing bombing on Iran. That son of a bitch needs shutting up before he fuels the next world war. Below is what I'm commenting on. --- JM**

Agence France Presse  
12 July 2005

**WASHINGTON (AFP) - Iran could be behind the suicide attack at a shopping mall in Israel that killed at least four and injured dozens, US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said.**

"I wouldn't want to suggest that I know about the attack today, but clearly that's been one of the stated and continuous purposes of Iran, to harm Israel," said Rumsfeld, speaking at a press conference with his Italian counterpart Antonio Martino.

"We know that Iran has been on the terrorist list. We know that Iran has been assisting Hezbollah and other organizations and moving equipment and people down through Damascus into Beirut and down into positions where they can attack Israel for years and years and years and years," he said.---

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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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