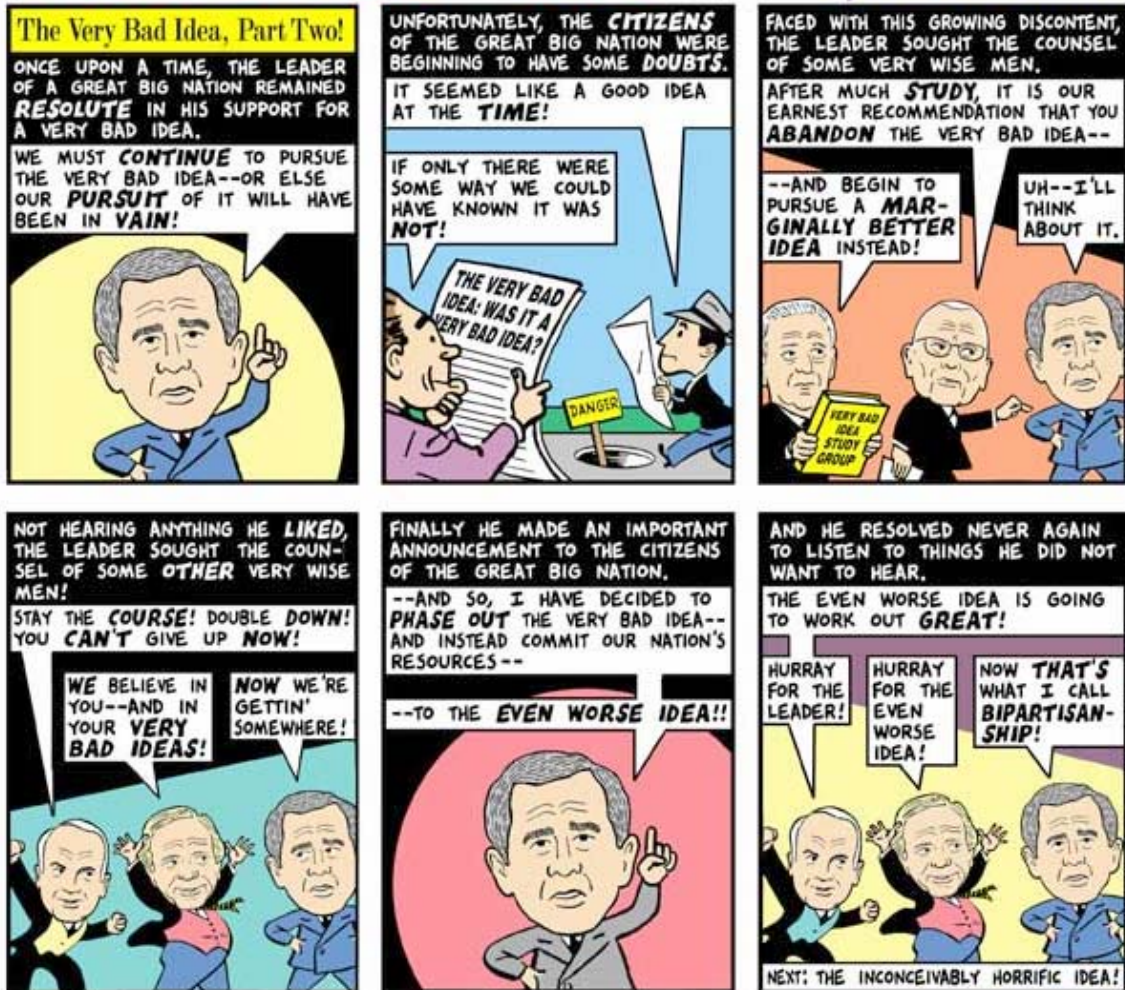


## GI SPECIAL 5A20:

### THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



“It’s Hard To Tell What’s  
Right Here Anymore”  
“Some Look Inward,  
Demoralized”

# **“Some Soldiers Say It’s Getting More Difficult To Swing Their Legs Over The Edge Of The Cot Each Morning”**

## **“It’s Hard To Tell Who The Good Guys Are”**

[Thanks to Pham Binh and Elaine Brower, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

January 17, 2007 By LAUREN FRAYER, Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Their alarm clocks went off at 3:30 a.m., sending members of the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division reaching for their M-4 assault rifles then trudging from their tents and trailers into six-inch deep mud.

Piling into Humvees, they rumbled through verdant brush along irrigation canals south of Baghdad, which provides excellent cover for bombs. Hundreds of American Soldiers have died in these mostly Sunni Muslim villages since the war began.

**But nearly four years into the fighting, some Soldiers say it’s getting more difficult to swing their legs over the edge of the cot each morning. With America’s Iraq policy in flux, some troops say they’re asking themselves for the first time whether the U.S. can win the war - or what winning really means here.**

**"It’s hard to tell what’s right here anymore," said Case Dewinkel, a 23-year-old Army specialist from Madison, Wis.**

The Soldiers said they do their jobs and leave politics to the generals. But the debate in the U.S. over the legitimacy of the Iraq conflict has trickled down to the Soldiers patrolling this dangerous area.

Dewinkel and other members of the 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division gathered one recent rainy morning in a schoolhouse south of Baghdad to set up a makeshift medical clinic for villagers.

While Iraqis lined up in a dank corridor outside, a few American Soldiers leaned against desks in a ramshackle classroom, chomping candy, chatting, pacing to keep warm.

They were reticent at first to express their thoughts about the war, but finally said they felt a certain apathy and ambiguity.

"There are a lot of reasons why we’re here, but they’re complex. This isn’t a war like they used to be, like in World War II when there was good and evil and the direction was

clear," Dewinkel said, scuffling his feet on the muddy schoolhouse floor. Rain poured outside.

He pulled off his camouflaged helmet and bulletproof glasses, exposing youthful cheeks turned pink from the cold.

"It's hard to tell who the good guys are," Dewinkel said.

**While Soldiers back home prepare for the call to deploy, some here are asking if there was more they could have done. Others fault Iraqis for their slow progress. Some look inward, demoralized. Others dig in their heels, or urge patience.**

Sgt. Maj. Fred Morris found himself on a blighted Baghdad street corner at dusk, arguing with barefoot Iraqis about electricity.

Six men, surrounded by their children in tattered clothes, pleaded with Morris for help. They had no power or water or fuel, they said, and they had given up looking for work. Militiamen had infiltrated the local police station. Even their revered sheik left town.

Morris, 45, is on his third tour in Iraq, including Desert Storm. He said he's grown frustrated with Iraqis, who have become increasingly demoralized and more dependent than ever on U.S. troops.

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## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

# Black Hawk Down Near Baghdad: 13 Killed

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]

Jan. 20, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070120-11 & Associated Press & 21 Jan 2007 Reuters

BAGHDAD – A US forces helicopter went down northeast of Baghdad this afternoon. Emergency Coalition Forces responded and secured the scene.

Residents living near Baquba, in Diyala province, said they saw a helicopter in flames before it crashed but that could not immediately be confirmed.

Thirteen passengers and crewmembers were aboard the aircraft and all were killed.

**The military statement did not include the customary comment that the Black Hawk had not been shot down, indicating it may have been brought down by insurgent fighters.**

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# Five U.S. Troops Killed, Three Wounded By Militia In Karbala; Provincial Headquarters Attacked

(Jan. 20) By BASSEM MROUE, AP & 21 Jan 2007 Reuters

**The U.S. military later reported that militia fighters attacked the Provincial Joint Coordination Center for U.S. and Iraqi forces in the Shiite Muslim holy city of Karbala, killing five American soldiers and wounding three Saturday night.**

**The statement said "an illegally armed militia group" attacked the building with grenades, small arms and mortars.**

**A local politician inside the building said armed men in a convoy of unmarked four-wheel drive vehicles clashed with U.S. troops guarding the building around 6 p.m. (1500 GMT).**

**"A meeting was taking place at the time of the attack to ensure the security of Shiite pilgrims participating in the Ashoura commemorations," said a statement from Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, deputy commander of the Multi-National Division-Baghdad.**

Karbala is 50 miles south of Baghdad and thousands of Shiite pilgrims are flocking to the city to mark the 10-day Ashoura festival commemorating the death of one of Shiite Islam's most sacred saints, Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.

**Brooks said Iraqi officials and security forces as well as U.S. troops were present at the meeting, but his statement did not mention other casualties from the attack.**

"The PJCC is a coordination center where local Iraqi officials, Iraqi security forces and Coalition forces (are) stationed within the center meet to address the security needs of the population," Brooks added.

**Earlier, Karbala Gov. Akeel al-Khazaali had reported that U.S. troops raided the provincial headquarters looking for wanted men but left with no prisoners.**

Al-Khazaali said the American troops used stun grenades during the raid, causing people living nearby to report the building was under mortar attack.

Residents reached by telephone speculated the raiding Americans were after followers of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and said helicopters were seen flying over the main al-Sadr headquarters in Karbala well past nightfall.

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## **One Soldier Killed, Two Wounded By Ninewah Province IED**

Jan. 20, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070120-09

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Task Force Lightning Soldier assigned to 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, was killed Friday as a result of injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in Ninewah Province. Two other Soldiers were wounded and transported to a Coalition Forces' medical treatment facility.

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## **Baghdad IED Kills One Soldier, Another Wounded**

Jan. 20, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070120-08

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldier died when an improvised explosive device detonated near a patrol in a northern section of the Iraqi capital Jan. 20, killing one Soldier and wounding another.

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## **Marine Killed In Al Anbar**

Jan. 20, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070120-10

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – One Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 died Friday from wounds sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar Province.

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## **Soldier Killed By IED In Northern Iraq**

21 January 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070121-06

TIKRIT– A Task Force Lightning Soldier assigned to 105th Engineer Group, died Saturday of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle while conducting combat operations in northern Iraq.

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# Family Asks For A 'Hero's Welcome Home'



Miller

January 10 By JANE CARLSON, The Register-Mail

GALESBURG - Funeral arrangements for Senior Airman Daniel B. Miller Jr. were still pending this morning, awaiting notification of when the slain airman's body will arrive in Galesburg.

Miller, 24, of Galesburg, was killed Sunday by a car bomb in Al-Mahmudiya, south of Baghdad, Iraq, along with two other airmen in his unit, Tech. Sgt. Timothy R. Weiner, 35, of Tamarac, Fla., and Senior Airman Elizabeth A. Loncki, 23, of New Castle, Del. A fourth airman was injured in the explosion.

The 2001 ROWVA High School graduate was a bomb disposal technician serving with the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, based at Hill Air Force Base in Utah.

Miller's mother, Robin Mahnesmith of rural Wataga, said his body arrived Tuesday at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Del. She said the funeral will be at Bethel Baptist Church, 1196 N. Academy St.

The date and time will be determined once the family knows when Miller's body will arrive in Galesburg, Mahnesmith said.

Miller's body will be escorted to Hinchliff-Pearson-West Galesburg Chapel, 1070 W. Fremont St., by motorcade. Details of the route are being determined and will be published in a future edition of The Register-Mail.

Mahnesmith said a "hero's welcome home" is very important to the family, not just for Miller but to show support for all troops serving in Iraq.

"It doesn't matter what you think about the rest of the war," she said. "They all deserve a hero's welcome home. Let's use Danny's death to show support for every one of them."

Mahnesmith said her son was born in Grand Prairie, Texas, and had lived in Galesburg, Cambridge, Rio, Oneida, Wataga and Altona. His father is Daniel Miller of Galesburg.

"He considered every town in ROWVA his home," said Mahnesmith. "He would do anything for anybody. He had such a big heart."

Services for the four other area soldiers killed in Iraq since November 2005 have been held at Bethel Baptist Church in Galesburg, with arrangements handled by Hinchliff-Pearson-West.

#### In the Line of Duty

- Sgt. 1st Class Kyle B. Wehrly, 28, of Galesburg was killed Nov. 3, 2005, in a roadside bomb explosion in Ashraf, Iraq.

- Pfc. Caleb A. Lufkin, 24, of Knoxville, died May 25, 2006, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., during surgery to treat wounds sustained in a May 4 roadside bomb explosion in south-central Baghdad.

- Petty Officer 1st Class Gary T. Rovinski, 44, of Roseville, was killed June 4, 2006, in a roadside bomb explosion in Al-Anbar Province, Iraq.

- Petty Officer 1st Class Jerry Tharp, 44, of Aledo, was killed July 12, 2006, in a roadside bomb explosion in Al-Anbar Province, Iraq.

- Senior Airman Daniel B. Miller Jr., 24, of Galesburg, was killed Jan. 7, 2007, by a car bomb south of Baghdad, Iraq.

Free red, white and blue ribbons to display in support of Senior Airman Daniel B. Miller Jr. are available from the floral department at Hy-Vee Food Store, 1975 National Blvd. The ribbons can be worn on clothing or displayed on vehicle antennas.

The floral department has provided more than 3,000 ribbons for area soldiers who have been killed in Iraq. For more information, call 344-1098.

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## **U.S. Officer & Translator Wounded By Rabia IED Attack On Brigade Office; Iraqi Commander Killed**

Jan. 20 (Xinhua) & (UPI)

The Iraqi army said Col. Nizar Al-Atroshi was killed when a bomb that had been placed beneath his window exploded, sources told KUNA, the Kuwait News Agency. His office was west of Mosul on the border between Iraq and Syria.

"Colonel Nazar al-Atroshi, Commander of the 1st Brigade of the Iraqi 3rd Division, was killed in Rabia," said the police source from Nineveh province which the city belongs to.

The blast also wounded a U.S. army captain visiting the Iraqi officer, an Iraqi interpreter, and one more person who was near the office at the time of the blast, the source said.

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## **Resistance Offensive Hits British In Basra**

January 20 2007 Los Angeles Times

In recent days, a palace housing British forces has come under heavy rocket bombardment.

Attackers have also planted mines in the Shatt al Arab waterway, targeting river patrols, and buried roadside bombs aimed at convoys driving through the city.

A spokeswoman for the British forces in Basra said six British troops were injured and two vehicles destroyed in an attack on their base that included rocket and machine-gun fire.

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**REALLY BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION;  
HOPELESS WAR:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier at a checkpoint during a curfew in Baghdad November 5, 2006.  
REUTERS/Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud

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# **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

## **Five Dutch Soldiers Wounded In Uruzgan**

Jan. 20 2007 CTV & January 21, 2007 News Limited

Five Dutch soldiers with the International Security Assistance Force were wounded by an explosive device in Uruzgan province on Friday, the Dutch news agency ANP said.

Shortly after the bomb blast, Taliban rebels opened fire on the convoy, [Squadron Leader David] Marsh said.

The soldiers, who have not been named or identified, were being treated at a NATO-hospital in Kandahar. Marsh did not disclose the nature of their injuries.

The soldiers were on a routine patrol when they were attacked.

After the attack the troops called in air support, and ISAF helicopters and gunships then bombed the area where the militants were thought to have been hiding, Marsh said.

There was no evidence that the militants had sustained any damage from the attack.

Another roadside bomb targeted another occupation convoy on Saturday in Zhari district in Kandahar province.

One ISAF vehicle was damaged, but no troops were hurt, Marsh said.

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## **Fuel Convoy At U.S. Kandahar Base Attacked, Trucks Burning**

January 21, 2007 News Limited

An explosion ripped through a tanker supplying fuel from Pakistan to the US main base in Kandahar and set ablaze several others late yesterday, the military said.

The blast was likely caused by an explosive device. The trucks were parked outside the base before being allowed to enter, Afghan army general Rahmatullah Raufi said.

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## **U.S. Official Says Resistance Attacks Are Surging In Afghanistan**

1.17.07 New York Times

Attacks by militants crossing into Afghanistan from Pakistan have tripled since September along portions of the border, a senior American intelligence official said, prompting calls for a larger deployment of American and other NATO soldiers here.

Of particular concern, officials said, has been a rise in attacks by Taliban and other militants from remote and largely ungoverned tribal areas in Pakistan in eastern Afghanistan, where most of the American combat forces in the country are based.

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## **Well, You Can't Expect Him To Know Everything, Right?**

Jan 17 By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer [Excerpts]

Defense Secretary Robert Gates suggested on Wednesday that he is likely to urge President Bush to send more troops to Afghanistan to fight the resurgent Taliban.

**"There's no reason to sit back and let the Taliban regroup," Gates said.**

**As described by U.S. military officers in Afghanistan, the Taliban already have regrouped.**

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### **TROOP NEWS**

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



The casket of Specialist Dustin Donica, a U.S. soldier killed in Iraq, during graveside services in Houston January 8, 2007. Donica has been widely reported in the U.S. media as the 3,000th American soldier killed in the Iraq war. REUTERS/Richard Carson

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## **SENIOR CALL-UP APPROVED: California Geezer Guardsmen Face 2nd Call To Iraq**



[by luke314pi]

January 15, 2007 By Rone Tempest, L.A. Times Staff Writer

**John Hanson, a city building inspector in Northern California, already served one tour in Iraq with his National Guard unit. If called, he said he is prepared to go back: "But I'm not going to lie and say I'm happy about it."**

Francis Shaw, a Long Beach medical technician, worries about the toll another deployment would take on his family, his civilian job and his 55-year-old body.

So far, more than 7,000 members of the California National Guard have been deployed for 12- to 18-month tours in Iraq, the first use of the state militia in overseas combat since the Korean War.

**Until last week, under National Guard policy, most of these soldiers were exempt from another activation for at least two years.**

**But faced with the "surge" of forces proposed Wednesday by President Bush as a way out of the Iraq conflict, senior military officials have announced a change in the rules that would let them recall some of these state units to serve an unprecedented second tour.**

Pentagon officials say that California units, such as the 1st Battalion, 185th Armored Regiment in San Bernardino, which served in Iraq in 2004-05, may be asked to go again under the president's proposal.

**"If I were 20 years younger and had a better background in the infantry, I wouldn't mind going. But as old as I am and with my family situation, it's going to be difficult," said Shaw, who works at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Long Beach. Shaw said that when he was in Iraq, the staff at the hospital was trained to cover for him.**

Many National Guard soldiers are older than their regular military counterparts. In addition to his tour in Iraq as a team leader outside Baghdad and on the Kuwait border, Shaw also served two tours in the Vietnam War with the Navy.

The Huntington Beach resident has three older children from an earlier marriage and a 3-year-old son with his wife, Cindy, a former Navy nurse.

Because of the former policy limiting active duty for guardsmen to two years in a five-year enlistment, the number of California guardsmen in Iraq had dropped to 747.

**Under the changed policy, however, nearly all California guardsmen who previously served in Iraq would be eligible to go again.**

Sgt. 1st Class John Hanson, 44, worries that the changes will diminish the Guard's traditional role as a responder to state emergencies and affect its ability to recruit.

Hanson, who joined the National Guard in 1998, served in Iraq and then five months later was sent to New Orleans to help with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, said another tour in Iraq would pose yet another hardship for his family.

"I do have another life outside Sgt. Hanson," he said. "I have a 16-year-old son who I'd like to see stay on the right track."

**Hanson also worries that civilian careers will be damaged by another tour.**

His own employer, the small coastal city of Carmel-by-the-Sea, could not have been more understanding, making up the difference in his salary and maintaining his benefits when he was in Iraq. But he said other soldiers in his unit were not so fortunate.

**"A lot of guys got grief because of their being in the Guard," Hanson said. "The law says that nobody can be fired, but several guys were laid off. It really hurt those who had their own business."**

Curtis Lewis, 44, a history teacher at Poway High School in San Diego County who served in Iraq as a sergeant in the California National Guard, said concern for his students was one of the main reasons he decided not to reenlist when he returned from overseas in 2005.

"I also have four children of my own. When I was gone the first time, it was especially hard on them and my wife.

"War is a young man's game," he said.

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## **Iraq Veterans Condemn The War: "Our Humanitarian Mission Was A Hoax. It Was A Contrived Thing"**



Former Army soldier Drew Cameron (left), 24, now a student at the University of Vermont, and former Marine Matt Howard, 25, of Burlington say fighting in Iraq changed their ideas about the war and about their duty as soldiers. They support bringing U.S. troops home and have joined Iraq Veterans Against the War. RYAN MERCER, Free Press

January 20, 2007 By Victoria Welch, Free Press Staff Writer

Matt Howard, 25, said he listened all night as tanks moved ahead in Nasiriyah, Iraq, in 2003. A member of the 1st Marine Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Howard

knew that 18 Marines had recently been killed, and the rules of engagement had changed to "weapons-free."

"You can only shoot someone under certain terms, if they were wearing a uniform or carrying a weapon. Weapons-free meant you could shoot anyone," Howard said as he addressed a standing-room-only crowd at Contois Auditorium in Burlington's City Hall on Friday evening. "While I sat on the other side of the bridge, waiting to go through, I got to listen to the tanks and the mortars and the gunshots, as they all leveled this town."

"I had to drive through and see what it looked like the next morning. Everything was shot. Man, woman, donkey, it didn't matter. If it was moving, it died," he said.

Howard, now a Burlington resident, served two tours in Iraq as a Marine. He was part of the first wave into Iraq; Drew Cameron, 24, a University of Vermont student, was with the Army in the second wave.

**Both now members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, the men said during an anti-war panel discussion Friday that a U.S. military presence in Iraq was doing nothing to quiet violence and insurgence -- it was only making it worse.**

"I cannot express to you how urgent the situation is on the ground in Iraq. Clean water, access to sewage, education, health care.

"It's to the point that it's so dire that it's worse than when Saddam was running the place," Cameron said, referring to former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. "This is supposed to be a country heralded for spreading democracy and changing the map of the Middle East. How can that be the case when after two years of occupation, it has gotten so much worse?"

**Cameron said he served as a field artillery soldier in Iraq for eight months in 2003, and he participated in one humanitarian mission. He and fellow Army soldiers delivered desks to a school and, after the delivery, were ordered to take a defensive position and wait. About a half hour later, a convoy arrived containing high-ranking Army officials and public relations staffers.**

**"Our humanitarian mission was a hoax. It was a contrived thing.**

**"A PR representative came up with this idea, 'Look, it's only a few months after we invaded their country and we're already rebuilding. Isn't it amazing?'**

**"It was absolutely disgusting."**



[www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)

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# **Majority Of Americans Reject Iraq Escalation; 60% Say War Not Worth Fighting**

1.18.07 Los Angeles Times

A strong majority of Americans opposes President Bush's decision to send more troops to Iraq, a Times/Bloomberg poll has found.

As he seeks to chart a new course in Iraq, Bush also faces pervasive resistance to and skepticism about the U.S. commitment — more than three-fifths of those surveyed said the war was not worth fighting, and only one-third approved of his handling of the conflict.

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special 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 email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

## **The Surge: #1 Roll Call For Deployment To The Imperial Slaughterhouse; “The Pentagon Doesn't Think It's Going To Work,” Said A Pentagon Strategist**

January 22, 2007 By Matthew Cox and Gina Cavallaro - Staff writers Army Times  
[Excerpts]

At the order of President Bush, the Army will send an added 20,000 troops in five combat brigades into Iraq in an attempt to quell violence in the war-torn country.

As part of this new strategy, the Army will deploy some units sooner than planned and extend some units in Iraq beyond their 12-month tours. Others were placed on deployment orders:

- 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division will begin deploying from Kuwait into Iraq immediately.
- The 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, a Patriot Missile unit, will return to the Persian Gulf region in February.
- 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, based at Fort Benning, Ga., will deploy in March.
- 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, based at Fort Lewis, Wash., will deploy in April.

The unit was scheduled to spend most of February training at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., but canceled the NTC rotation Jan. 11 and is planning a field training exercise at Lewis. NTC cadre will help conduct the exercise.

Unit leaders maintain the new orders actually give them more time to prepare for Iraq, since they don't have to rotate to NTC just months before a major deployment.

"We have a good bit of time to prepare for this deployment," said Maj. Keith Markham, the executive officer for 4-2's 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment.

- 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, based at Fort Stewart, Ga., will deploy in May.
- 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, based at Fort Riley, Kan., will deploy as scheduled next month, but about three days earlier than previously planned.

"Most likely, we would end up in Baghdad," brigade commander Col. Rick Gibbs said. "We've been training mostly on urban combat, which is the function of an [infantry brigade combat team]."

Gibbs said the brigade of about 3,400 soldiers, which stood up just a year ago, is at about 98 percent strength. About 75 percent of the enlisted and officer leaders had combat experience, he said. However, Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne said, about 60 percent of the soldiers E-4 and below just came out of basic training.

"They're hungry, but they are inexperienced," he said.

Some Defense Department officials believe the surge of troops will create problems in the long run.

**"The Pentagon doesn't think it's going to work," said a Pentagon strategist who asked to remain anonymous.**

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## The Surge: #2



# **“If The Pentagon Really Wanted To Succeed It Would Not Send Troops Off To Combat With The Same Tired Equipment”**

**Defense officials acknowledge that previous strategies simply did not have enough troops to carry them out. It still won't, said retired Marine Col. T.X. Hammes, a counterinsurgency expert.**

January 22, 2007 By Gordon Lubold - Staff writer Army Times [Excerpts]

Bush's failure-is-not-an-option strategy is seen as his last chance with an impatient American public and newly emboldened Democrats now in charge of Congress.

**Defense officials acknowledge that previous strategies simply did not have enough troops to carry them out.**

**It still won't, said retired Marine Col. T.X. Hammes, a counterinsurgency expert.**

“The administration keeps saying it wants to be serious, yet all of their actions seem to say it isn't,” Hammes said.

**For one thing, if the Pentagon really wanted to succeed in Iraq, it would not send troops off to combat with the same tired equipment, he said.**

**He also said he believes Baghdad alone needs a force of about 120,000 to maintain some semblance of order. Currently, there are about 130,000 U.S. troops across all of Iraq.**

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs and Gates' principal military adviser, told House lawmakers Jan. 11 that the U.S. will soon be able to tell if the Iraqis are holding up their end of the deal.

“We will know that fairly early, and before very many American additional troops have been sent to Iraq,” he said.

Defense officials acknowledge that the near-term surge plan for Baghdad depends heavily on the ability of Iraqi forces to play a prominent role.

**Asked if the Iraqi brigades that are critical to the plan to secure the capital are ready, a senior Pentagon official shrugged.**

**“We'll find out,” he said. [No. He won't. The U.S. troops KIA and maimed for life will be the ones finding out, up close and personal. Unfortunately, the “senior Pentagon official” is likely to survive the disaster.]**

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# The Surge: #3

## “It’s Wacky — 20,000 Is Nowhere Near Enough,” The Field-Grade Officer Said

**He pointed to a Jan. 10 statement from Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., that the Bush initiative is “a dangerously wrong-headed strategy that will drive America deeper into an unwinnable swamp.”**

January 22, 2007 By Sean D. Naylor - Staff writer Army Times [Excerpts]

Active and retired officers with Iraq experience are divided as to whether President Bush’s “surge” stands any chance of success.

A senior U.S. officer in Baghdad said the plan is what’s needed. “We support the surge,” the officer said. “It will be enough. We have no choice — the capital must be secure.”

**But a field-grade officer who has spent a year in Iraq derided the new strategy as “too little, too late.”**

**“It’s wacky — 20,000 is nowhere near enough,” the field-grade officer said.**

***He pointed to a Jan. 10 statement from Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., that the Bush initiative is “a dangerously wrong-headed strategy that will drive America deeper into an unwinnable swamp.”***

Kalev Sepp, a retired Special Forces lieutenant colonel who served two years as a counterinsurgency expert on the “strategy team” of Gen. George Casey, the outgoing senior U.S. commander in Iraq, also said it does not appear the additional forces will be enough to quell the insurgency and interethnic violence in Baghdad.

**“The force as described can cover about 2 million of the population, in a city of 5 to 7 million,” Sepp said.**

“The American troops don’t speak Arabic,” Sepp said. “Most of the troops that are supposed to be brought in are going to be Kurdish. While they’re reasonably well trained, they also have a language barrier, not to mention cultural and ethnic issues with putting them inside Baghdad.”

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## The Surge: #4

# **The Lt. Col.s' Plan To End Iraq's Sectarian Violence: Get Iraqis To Kill Americans**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

January 16, 2007 By Ivan Eland, Center Of Peace & Liberty [Excerpts]

According to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, if the Iraqi government doesn't deliver its promised troops, money for reconstruction, and progress in meeting other benchmarks, the United States might stop the month-by-month increase in troops before the 21,000 level is reached.

Since the Iraqi government is not enthusiastic about U.S. escalation in the first place, this U.S. threat appears to be empty.

It's like threatening to withhold a kid's spoonful of castor oil if he or she fails to do homework.

**But according to the Washington Post, Lt. Col. Fred Johnson, deputy commander of the 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, there may be good news.**

**Johnson said that augmented U.S. forces could end sectarian violence between Sunnis and Shi'ite militants because "when they are thinking about us, they are not killing each other."**

**His soldiers, who could now be attacked by both Sunnis and Shia, might not be as thrilled as he seems to be about this new reality.**

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## **The Surge: #5 "Iraq's Leaders Will Need At Least A Few More Months" To Get Ready**

1.18.07 USA Today

Iraq's leaders will need at least a few more months to hammer out political deals central to President Bush's security overhaul, outgoing U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said.

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## **The Surge: #6**

# **U.S. Commanders Reluctant To Order Troops To Attack Sadr City**

1.18.07 Philadelphia Inquirer

**U.S. commanders have signaled that they will shy away from a Fallujah-style assault on the Baghdad stronghold of Iraq's biggest Shiite militia—even though President Bush insists that driving armed groups from the capital is key to his plan for success.**

The talk from the Bush administration has been tough, with strong assurances that no part of Baghdad is off-limits to the new push for control. But in reality, the risk of killing civilians and outraging the Iraqi government might be too high to launch an all-out attack on the Mahdi Army of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in its base of the capital's Sadr City district—at least for now.

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## **The Surge: #7 Game Over**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

Jan. 12, 2007 By JOE KLEIN, Time [Excerpt]

"If this is Plan B, we'd better start working on Plan C," says Andrew Krepinevich, a leading military thinker.

Plan C has to be a smart, detailed withdrawal from Iraq that doesn't leave chaos and regional war in its wake.

I wish Petraeus were working on that rather than on Bush's futile pipe dream.

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## **“Blood-Sucking Mercenaries Will Eat Their Own If It Means Profit”**

[Thanks to Andy Sapp, Iraq Veterans Against The War, who sent this in. He writes: Just wanted to pass along an article in today's Boston Globe. Seems Halliburton & Dynacorp have been cutting off pay & benefits to workers injured in Iraq.

I, for one, am shocked and appalled.

**I guess blood-sucking mercenaries will eat their own if it means profit.**

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January 20, 2007 By Farah Stockman, Globe Staff [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON -- US companies employing civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan have refused to settle workers' compensation and medical benefit claims for hundreds of war-zone injuries that range from back pain to post-traumatic stress.

A Globe review of rulings by administrative judges that resolve disputed claims found that Halliburton Co., DynCorp International, and other US contractors have been ordered to pay millions of dollars in compensation to workers whose claims they initially denied. In some cases, the companies had fought the claims for years even though their own doctors agreed that a worker had been injured.

Judges ruled in favor of the employee three times as often as they ruled for the companies, according to the review.

**One truck driver who earned \$87,000 a year in Iraq was forced to live on food stamps after he hurt his back in an accident in his truck and Halliburton cut off his workers' compensation payments.**

**A construction foreman in Iraq who earned \$2,583 a week was forced to live in his car as he fought for medical care and workers' compensation. Halliburton had sent him home to receive medical treatment after a mortar attack, but then cut off his pay and failed to cover doctors' visits.**

The Globe examined the records of 113 contested cases that eventually went before the Office of Administrative Law Judges in the US Department of Labor. In 37 of the cases, the workers won outright. In 65 cases, companies settled the claims, often agreeing to pay tens of thousands of dollars or more in additional benefits. Only 11 employees' claims were turned down by judges.

Lawyers for the workers say the cases prove that companies are denying claims they should have quickly paid.

It took Robert Purcella nearly two years to win back his workers' compensation benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder and physical injuries, during which time he had to sell his car and move in with his mother.

Purcella, a truck driver from Texas, had his windows blown out in four attacks in Iraq from September 2003 until March 2004. During one attack, a robber tried to pull him from the truck, and he was forced to kill the man with a hammer, "cracking his skull wide open," the ruling in his case states.

**The judge also stated that Purcella was instructed by the military not to stop his truck under any circumstances and he "on occasion . . . ran over civilians as they attempted to stop the convoy."**

Purcella was eventually diagnosed with "combat fatigue" and sent home after he reported additional injuries from a car accident that he said injured his shoulders and an eye. He filed a workers' compensation claim for all of those.

His workers' compensation checks abruptly stopped coming after a doctor hired by AIG found that he suffered from a congenital eye problem, not an eye injury, even though the doctor agreed that he had difficulty holding down a job because of the trauma that he had experienced, according to the documents.

**The judges' rulings also detail the case of Samuel Walker, who won his case against Halliburton. Walker was burned on his hands and face during a suicide bombing on a military base in Iraq. Walker was initially refused treatment because his wounds were not life-threatening, a judge recounted in his ruling.**

**Halliburton then prevented Walker and four other wounded employees from leaving the base to seek treatment on their own, because the company was understaffed.**

**After a television reporter threatened to publicize their story, the five were sent home, but were never given instructions on how to receive medical care in the United States, according to the ruling. It took months for him to find a doctor who would agree to treat him and who was also acceptable to Halliburton.**

**One pending claim is that of Robert Rowe, an Ohio truck driver who was shot in Iraq in August 2004.**

**Rowe says it took him months of phone calls to Halliburton and AIG after his return to the United States to arrange for needed surgery to repair his leg. Ultimately, he said, AIG told him it would not compensate him because he did not have enough documentation and because they alleged that he had quit his job.**

**Rowe now has a lawyer and is fighting for compensation, but says he has been evicted. He said all he received in worker's compensation was a check for \$386.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

20 Jan 2007 Reuters & Los Angeles Times & 21 Jan 2007 Reuters

A roadside bomb wounded five policemen, two of them seriously, in Kirkuk, police said.

Guerrillas assaulted a police checkpoint south of Baghdad and killed three policemen and wounded two, police said.

In Baghdad, a roadside bomb killed a police officer and injured another.

Police recovered the body of a politician in Fallouja.

An employee of Iraqiya state television was killed by gunmen in an attack on his car in the Jihad district of southwestern Baghdad.

Gunmen killed police Major Salim Sattar in his car in the Shaab district of northern Baghdad, a police source said.

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

## **Playing With Fire, Continued**

(Jan. 20) By BASSEM MROUE, AP

Al-Sadr's followers voiced increasing anger over Friday's capture of a senior aide to the radical cleric in a raid in eastern Baghdad.

Nassar al-Rubaie, the head of al-Sadr's bloc in parliament, accused U.S. forces of trying to provoke the Sadrists into violence during the expanding campaign to quell Iraq's fighting.

"We condemn strongly the arrest of Sheik Abdul-Hadi al-Darraji. He is moderate and well-known as a media personality and always available in negotiations," al-Rubaie said. "He is a peaceful man and what was mentioned in the American release is lies and justification for the aggression against al-Sadr's movement."

Sadiq al-Rikabi, an adviser to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, told Al-Arabiya television the operation was not coordinated with Iraq's political leaders and was not part of the new security campaign.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

## **Prisoners And Slaves**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: January 19, 2007  
Subject: Prisoners And Slaves

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade,  
purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War,  
United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

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## **Prisoners And Slaves**

**"Hell" said Harry to Jack,  
"when I joined the National Guard  
I never thought, never dreamed  
I would be here in Iraq.**

**I was making 60 + grand at General Motors  
now I can't even make 30 grand.  
All I see is my money waving away  
like the star spangled banner  
in a sand storm."**

**Jack replies, "I know what you mean  
my old lady had to quit a good job  
that she liked, to work at a bad job  
that she hates, because it pays more  
so we can scrape by."**

**"What we should do," Harry says  
"is go out on Strike."**

**"Yeah," Jack says, this is just another job  
Why can't we just say we quit  
like if we were working at GM ?  
I mean what are we, Slaves?"**

**"Yeah," Harry says, "Bush has us chained  
to the flag as slaves and if we don't sing  
God Bless America, he calls us traitors  
in his fight for the oil war."**

**"The parades when we come home  
just don't get it anymore," Jack added.**

**"Yeah, soon we won't have that anymore  
they will just keep us here forever."**

**Harry says, "I'm not a slave  
I'm just going to tell them I quit  
or they can fire me."**

**"Me too, Harry.**

**Do you think they will put us in prison?"**

**"We are prisoners in uniforms now.**

**We are Slaves."**

**"They will say that they are Fascists  
and we are their slaves  
like GM tries to do, you know ?"**

**"But they made one big mistake**



they gave us guns and ammo to fight  
back with."  
"Amen to that brother."

**“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

### **Troops Invited:**

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **Bush’s Good Buddy, Pro-Iranian Leader Of Iraq’s Biggest Death Squad, Condemns U.S. Occupation For Hassling Iranians**

[Hakim supported the invasion, has been a key figure within collaborator alignments ever since, and runs the Badr Brigades, Iraq’s largest militia, whose death squads have infiltrated the police and happily butcher anybody and everybody opposed to the occupation. Of course he just happens to be a collaborator with the Iranian government also, as well as having recently been a guest of Bush in Washington. T]

2007/01/17 BBC NEWS

**One of Iraq’s most powerful Shia politicians has condemned the arrest of Iranians by US forces in Iraq as an attack on the country’s sovereignty.**

The comments by Abdel Aziz al-Hakim, made in a BBC interview, are seen as the strongest expression yet of Iraq’s concern about the US approach to Iran.

They follow two recent US raids in which Iranians were arrested.

**The remarks are interesting as Mr Hakim is seen as close to President Bush, says the BBC's Andrew North in Baghdad.**

Mr Hakim also has close links to Iran, after many years in exile there.

Iraq has sought to bring about a dialogue between the US, Iran and Syria, Mr Hakim, leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, told the BBC.

Any tension between Washington and Tehran might have adverse consequences for Iraq, he said.

"They represent a kind of attack on Iraq's sovereignty and we hope such things are not repeated."

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## **The Iraqi Government Of Collaborators And Traitors Says Gay Iraqis Have No Rights**

**[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: OPPORTUNIST ISLAMICIST COLLABORATORS TO U.N.: WE HAVE A DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL POLICY HERE. PLEASE RESPECT IT WHILE WE KILL AS MANY GAYS AS WE CAN.]**

Jan 18 By BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press Writer

Iraq's government on Thursday strongly criticized a U.N. report on human rights that put its civilian death toll in 2006 at 34,452, saying it is "superficial" and discussed subjects that are taboo in Iraqi society such as homosexuality.

The government did not reject the casualty figure but said the U.N. Assistance Mission report was "not professional or neutral as we would expect from the missions of the international organization. The report was superficial in dealing with several points," spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said.

The U.N. report, which was released Tuesday in Baghdad, also was critical about the government's performance on human rights violations, raising concerns about homosexuals and other vulnerable groups.

"The current environment of impunity and lawlessness invites a heightened level of insecurity for homosexuals in Iraq. Armed Islamic groups and militias have been known to be particularly hostile toward homosexuals frequently and openly engaging in violent campaigns against them," the U.N. report read. "There has been a number of assassinations of homosexuals in Iraq."

**"There was information in the report that we cannot accept here in Iraq. The report, for example, spoke about the phenomenon of homosexuality and giving**

them their rights," al-Dabbagh said. "Such statements are not suitable to the Iraqi society. This is rejected."

"They should respect the values and traditions here in Iraq," he said. [Like a pack of traitors running a collaborator government dependent on a foreign Imperial army of occupation for survival. There's a value to be really proud of. T]

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

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **Libby Defense Having Trouble Finding Jurors That Don't Think Cheney Is A Piece Of Shit**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

Jan 17 By MATT APUZZO, Associated Press Writer

A potential juror in the perjury trial of former White House aide "Scooter" Libby was allowed to remain in the jury pool Wednesday after saying she would be impartial and put aside her tepid impression of Vice President Dick Cheney, an expected defense witness.

"I'm not particularly impressed with a lot of his manners of being, but I can't speak to his credibility," said the woman, who works for the Department of Health and Human Services, as jury selection continued for a second day.

**Cheney's credibility has emerged as a key issue, with defense lawyers looking for a panel that can trust the vice president, expected to testify on behalf of Libby, his former chief of staff. Libby is accused of lying to investigators about his conversations with journalists about an outed CIA officer.**

"I don't have the highest opinion of him," a young financial analyst said. "If I had to rank people as to credibility, I wouldn't put him at the top of the list."

**He was dismissed, as was a young woman who said she was "completely without objectivity" about Bush administration officials who might be called to testify.**

"There is nothing they could say or do that would make me think anything positive about them," the woman said moments before she was excused from the jury pool by U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton.

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## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

### **19 Killed: “The Immigrants Kicked Walls, Clawed At Insulation, Broke Out Taillights And Screamed For Help”**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes:  
**MEANWHILE, BUSH SENDS 20,000 TROOPS TO DIE IN IRAQ AND  
CORPORATIONS CONTINUE TO MAKE BILLIONS OFF OF THE SWEAT, BLOOD,  
AND TEARS OF THE UNDOCUMENTED.]**

Jan 18 By JUAN A. LOZANO, Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON - A truck driver was spared the death penalty and sentenced to life in prison Thursday for his role in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt — a journey that ended in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants crammed in a sweltering tractor-trailer.

Tyrone Williams, 36, was convicted last month on 58 counts of conspiracy, harboring and transporting immigrants. A jury deliberated for a little more than 5 days before deciding to send Williams to prison without the possibility of parole for each of the immigrants who died from dehydration, overheating and suffocation during the 2003 trip from South Texas to Houston.

In May 2003, his tractor-trailer was packed with more than 70 immigrants from Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic. As temperatures skyrocketed inside the airtight refrigerator truck, the immigrants kicked walls, clawed at insulation, broke out taillights and screamed for help.

#### **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))**

## Received:

# Somalia And Oil - Comment

From: JM  
To: GI Special  
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2007 11:17 PM  
Subject: Somalia and oil - Comment

I realised early oil was the reason for Bush's desire to bestow his, very lethal, brand of help upon poor Somalia. Something else has just hit me - China. Did you realise how much aid China is now directing into Africa. It's busily signing pacts that will help the impoverished countries develop their resources.

China gains because it will be supplying not only most of the money but also large numbers of workers. It also gets markets for its exports. The African country gains because it gets the recourse developed without needing to agree to big business taking most of the future profit. The Chinese are trying to get a partnership with the Africans that will be to the benefit of both.

I have a lot of information on this happening. It has been readily available but Bush and co have only recently started waking up to the implications. I don't think China has reached Somalia yet. It has probably been waiting for the government to stabilise.

What I'm trying to say is - fear Chinese expansion may have prompted the desire to help the war lords regain control. The war lords and Bush buddies can get rich on the oil and the citizens can do what colonialism expect of them. Africa has had enough experience of the brutal greed of colonialism. I wait development and I'm with the Islamic courts.

### **GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

<http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://gi-special.iraq-news.de>;

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/); <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=6&l=e>;

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

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