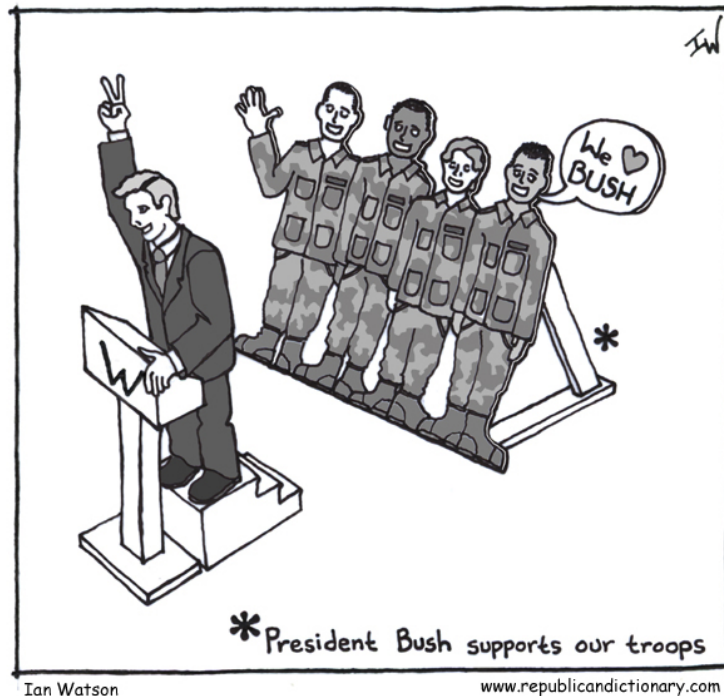


## GI SPECIAL 5A6:



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

# The Traitor Bush Defies Congress And The Law: Says He Will Break Law Against Opening Citizens' Mail Without A Warrant Whenever He Pleases

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

January 4, 2007 BY JAMES GORDON MEEK, DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON: President Bush has quietly claimed sweeping new powers to open Americans' mail without a judge's warrant, the Daily News has learned.

**The President asserted his new authority when he signed a postal reform bill into law on Dec. 20.**

**Bush then issued a "signing statement" that declared his right to open people's mail under emergency conditions.**

**That claim is contrary to existing law and contradicted the bill he had just signed, say experts who have reviewed it.**

Bush's move came during the winter congressional recess and a year after his secret domestic electronic eavesdropping program was first revealed. It caught Capitol Hill by surprise.

"Despite the President's statement that he may be able to circumvent a basic privacy protection, the new postal law continues to prohibit the government from snooping into people's mail without a warrant," said Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), the incoming House Government Reform Committee chairman, who co-sponsored the bill.

Experts said the new powers could be easily abused and used to vacuum up large amounts of mail.

"The signing statement claims authority to open domestic mail without a warrant, and that would be new and quite alarming," said Kate Martin, director of the Center for National Security Studies in Washington.

"The danger is they're reading Americans' mail," she said.

"You have to be concerned," agreed a career senior U.S. official who reviewed the legal underpinnings of Bush's claim.

**"It takes Executive Branch authority beyond anything we've ever known."**

A top Senate Intelligence Committee aide promised, "It's something we're going to look into."

**Most of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act deals with mundane reform measures.**

**But it also explicitly reinforced protections of first-class mail from searches without a court's approval.**

**Yet in his statement Bush said he will "construe" an exception, "which provides for opening of an item of a class of mail otherwise sealed against inspection in a manner consistent ... with the need to conduct searches in exigent circumstances."**

Bush cited as examples the need to "protect human life and safety against hazardous materials and the need for physical searches specifically authorized by law for foreign intelligence collection."

White House spokeswoman Emily Lawrimore denied Bush was claiming any new authority.

"In certain circumstances - such as with the proverbial 'ticking bomb' - the Constitution does not require warrants for reasonable searches," she said.

Bush, however, cited "exigent circumstances" which could refer to an imminent danger or a longstanding state of emergency.

Critics point out the administration could quickly get a warrant from a criminal court or a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court judge to search targeted mail, and the Postal Service could block delivery in the meantime.

But the Bush White House appears to be taking no chances on a judge saying no while a terror attack is looming, national security experts agreed.

Martin said that Bush is "using the same legal reasoning to justify warrantless opening of domestic mail" as he did with warrantless eavesdropping.

**TRAITOR  
CRIMINAL  
DOMESTIC ENEMY:  
UNFIT FOR COMMAND;  
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE  
ENEMY OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS**



(AFP/File/Jim Watson)

---

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

# 2006 Was Deadliest Year For U.S. Troops In Iraq

January 05, 2007 By Gordon Lubold, Army Times Staff writer

The year 2006 proved to be the bloodiest year of the Iraq war for U.S. troops, and December was the third deadliest month, according to new Pentagon data.

There were 703 hostile deaths among U.S. troops in 2006, up from 673 in 2005 and 675 in 2004, according to data obtained by Military Times but not yet released by the Defense Manpower Data Center.

Likewise, violence claimed the lives of 111 U.S. troops in December — the third highest monthly tally since the invasion of Iraq in March 2003. The highest was 137 in November 2004, followed by 135 in April 2004.

---

## Aunt Writes Tribute To Slain Wisconsin Marine

Dec 28, 2006 (AP) LOYAL, Wis.

The Pentagon confirmed Thursday that a Loyal area resident was one of two Marines killed in combat operations this week in Iraq's Al Anbar province.

Corporal Joshua Schmitz, a 21-year-old a graduate of Loyal High School, died Tuesday.

Flags are being displayed on light posts along Main Street in Loyal in honor of Schmitz.

Mayor Randy Anderson says the flag at City Hall will continue to be flown at half-staff to mark the deaths of Schmitz and former President Gerald Ford.

Schmitz's aunt, Debra May of Wausau, says she last saw her nephew in July at his going-away party ... and she got to hug him and tell him she loved him. She wrote the following tribute for her nephew:

"On December 25th, 2006, as my family was celebrating the most joyous time of the year, singing and hugging each other, my beloved nephew, Joshua Mark Schmitz, was killed by a suicide bomber in Iraq.

"As his mother sits holding his picture, telling me that this cannot be true, that any minute he's going to come walking through the door, what can I say? Knowing what a wonderful

person he was and knowing how much he was loved makes it so much more difficult to try to ease a mother's pain.

"Josh, we love you and we will miss you dearly.  
"Love you forever, Aunt Debbie"

She said he had planned to attend college and possibly start his own business after completing his enlistment next September.

**Schmitz was one of three Wisconsin military personnel who died within nine days in Iraq.**

---

## **“It’s All Wrong Now. And We’re Losing Our Boys, I Feel, For Nothing” Cattaraugus Soldier Makes Ultimate Sacrifice In Iraq**



December 27, 2006 WIVB

Christmas Day brought heartbreak to a Southern Tier family. News 4's Luke Moretti reports that Army Sergeant Jason Denfrund of Cattaraugus is among the latest local casualties of the war in Iraq.

Diane Wienk, Denfrund's mother, said, "He wished us a Merry Christmas, and to tell us he'd been thinking about us, loved us and missed us."

Diane Wienk is talking about the last phone call home her son made. That was last Wednesday.

On Christmas Day, 24-year-old Sergeant Jason Denfrund died in Iraq after an improvised explosive device detonated.

Randy Wienk, Denfrund's father, said, "He was proud to be there, and serve his country. We're proud of him for that. He's just a hero."

Jason Denfrund grew up in the Village of Cattaraugus. He was outgoing and self-confident, his family says of him, the kind of guy people looked up to.

Randy Wienk said, "He was a leader. Everybody looked up to Jason as a hero. I mean, not just from the Army, but all through life."

After graduating high school, Jason attended college at Brockport, where he played football.

Later, he joined the Army, and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), based at Fort Drum.

He was five months into his second tour in Iraq.

Diane Wienk said, "We need to get out of there."

Diane Wienk says she was never a big supporter of the Iraq war, but especially now.

Diane Wienk said, "It's all wrong now. I mean, what we went over there for, it's not the issue anymore. And we're losing our boys, I feel, for nothing."

Randy Wienk says no parent likes the thought of their child in harm's way, but he says the Army is where Jason wanted to be -- proud of the uniform, and proud of his country.

Randy Wienk said, "They changed him for the good. They made a man out of him. Respectful. Responsible."

Sergeant Jason Denfrund leaves behind a wife and a seven-month-old baby. The family says funeral arrangements are still pending.

---

## **Family, Friends Share Memories Of Fallen Soldier**

December 27, 2006 By Israel Saenz, Caller-Times

He was more than a son, brother and husband.

He was a star baseball player at Flour Bluff High School who mentored teammates. He was sometimes a perfectionist. And he was a natural competitor who confided to a friend months ago that he was scared to travel to Iraq.

Army Spc. John Paul Barta's family and friends came together Tuesday to share memories of the 25-year-old, who died Saturday in northern Iraq as a result of wounds

suffered in a mortar attack, his brother said. Barta was a 2000 Flour Bluff High School graduate.

"He was the most humble and most competitive person you'd ever meet," said Billy Ray Barta, 24. "He was the best brother anybody could ask for."

The Department of Defense confirmed Barta's death Tuesday. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. He was killed in Buhriz, Iraq, about 30 miles north of Baghdad, during combat operations.

Family members said military officials informed them Sunday of Barta's death. A second soldier from the same unit was wounded in the attack and taken to a medical facility.

The weekend casualties lifted the American death toll there to 2,978, five more than the number of people killed in the Sept. 11 attacks, according to a count by The Associated Press.

But Barta was not just a number. Kyle Christensen, who went to high school with Barta, said the last time he saw him was in September, at a children's pool party for a friend of Christensen's niece. Barta was a lifeguard at the party.

"I talked to him for two hours," Christensen said. "He said he was scared to death, but at the same time was proud to be one of the people serving his country."

Barta, who was stationed at Fort Hood in Killeen, deployed to Iraq in October.

"He was one of those guys you could always turn to when you were having trouble," Christensen said.

Stephen Herndon said he did not have to seek out Barta for help. Barta came to him when, as a senior playing for the Flour Bluff High School baseball team, Herndon questioned his role on the squad.

Barta was a star athlete on the team as an outfielder, pitcher and shortstop who received valuable player honors at the Flour Bluff Invitational and all-tournament honors at the Uvalde Kiwanis Tournament in the late 1990s. Barta was a Caller-Times All-Metro player in baseball and an All-South Texas player in both baseball and football.

"I didn't play a whole lot," Herndon said. "He would always try to reinforce to me that they needed me there. Coming from him that meant a whole lot."

Barta's wife, Eun Ji, of Killeen, traveled Tuesday to Corpus Christi to be with Barta's family. The couple did not have children. Other survivors include his mother, Laurie Barta, his other brother Josh Barta and grandparents Adolph Barta, of Corpus Christi, and Jackie and Larry Blake of Milton, Fla.

Family members on Tuesday had not received information on when Barta's body would arrive home. Funeral arrangements and a candlelight vigil were pending, Billy Ray Barta said.

Barta's personal page on myspace.com was lined Tuesday with at least 30 postings from friends and family members expressing grief and affection for him.

"It makes me feel a lot better seeing that," Billy Ray Barta said. "He was a stand-up guy."

---

## Former Fairview, Watonga Pupil Wounded In Iraq

January 03, 2007 By Jeff Mullin Senior Writer, The Enid News & Eagle

When Drew Ashby was deployed to Iraq in October, his grandfather, Dennis Ashby, of Canton, worried about him.

"I thought about him all the time," said Dennis Ashby. "I was afraid something like that might happen."

"Something like that" happened to Army Spc. Drew Ashby Dec. 20, just two days after his 24th birthday.

Drew, a member of 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, was wounded in action that day in Jurf Assukhr, Iraq.

Ashby's squad was investigating an explosion when a mortar round blew up three feet behind him. Shrapnel penetrated his bulletproof vest, leaving Ashby with several wounds, including a chipped bone in his arm.

Drew was sent to Elmendorf 3rd Medical Group Hospital near Anchorage, Alaska, Dec. 28. He currently is recuperating at home at Fort Richardson, also in Anchorage.

"He doesn't have complete control of his legs," said Dennis Ashby. "He can walk with a cane, but not very well. I hope this is not permanent."

Dennis talks to his grandson nearly every day and says he "sounds good, but he is in a lot of pain."

During his junior year of high school, Drew Ashby played both offense and defense on the 1999 Fairview Yellowjackets state championship football team. Because he wanted to wrestle, Ashby transferred to Watonga High School, but "he got in a little bit of trouble his senior year," his grandfather said, "and got an alternative education degree."

"Since then, he has done great," said Dennis Ashby. "He has walked a straight line and not been in any more trouble."

Growing up, Drew Ashby spent time in Canton with his grandparents, Dennis and Ofelia. When he was about 3, he would curl up in the floorboard of his grandfather's truck while he was working and take a nap.



“Even when he got in trouble I knew there was good in there, and it just needed to be brought back out,” said Dennis Ashby.

Despite his injuries, Dennis Ashby knows how fortunate his grandson is.

Another soldier in Drew’s squad was severely wounded and was in a coma in intensive care, while another soldier sent to check on Ashby’s squad was killed about an hour after Drew was injured.

“He is lucky to be alive,” said Dennis Ashby.

Drew Ashby and his wife, Melissa, formerly of Watonga, have three children, Landyn, 6 months; Jaiden, 6; and Bobbie, 5.

Drew Ashby’s father, James, lives in Oklahoma City.

---

## **American Civilian Contractor Captured Near Basra**

05 Jan 2007 Reuters

An American civilian contractor of Iraqi origin and two Iraqi translators were taken hostage near the southern city of Basra on Friday, the city governor and police said. The U.S. embassy said it was checking the report.

---

### **UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



A US soldier during a raid on Baquba in December 2006. (AFP/File/Patrick Fort)

---

## **TROOP NEWS**

# **Military Family Members Condemn War, The Public Approves: "Honking And Waving From Drive-By Demonstrators Shouting Encouragement And Support"**

January 5, 2007 By LAWRENCE AARON, RECORD COLUMNIST, North Jersey Media Group Inc. [Excerpts]

You'd expect a fairly routine speech after two-and-a-half years of Wednesday evening peace demonstrations at the Teaneck Armory. But no, Paula Rogovin speaks with a full heart.

Her voice cracked as she addressed her "troops," urging them to push for more accountability from local elected officials in Washington.

"We've got to make them listen to us," she said earnestly, amid the honking and waving from drive-by demonstrators shouting encouragement and support. No more money should be allocated for the war, and Congress should not vote to approve spending legislation that ultimately prolongs the American military presence in Iraq.

Rogovin of Teaneck is like a general leading the ragtag army of war protesters.

Normally the protesters number about a dozen. This Wednesday was special.

The number grew beyond 100 because of distressing developments in the Iraq war -- 3,005 dead American soldiers, no clear signs of establishing an independent democratic nation, and the prospect of 20,000 more American men and women being sent to the front.

"Afghanistan I can understand, but we shouldn't have been in Iraq," said John Gross.

**His 21-year-old nephew is with a unit near Baghdad. "Not a day goes by that I don't cry," he said.**

**Facing him in the crowd was Barbara O'Connor, 71, whose sign read simply "3,000. Why?"**

**At 44, her son is a career military man who dodged bullets in a unit that returned from Iraq with heavy losses. Even though she's worried that he will be redeployed, O'Connor handed each demonstrator a badge she'd painstakingly created signifying the number of Americans killed.**

John Fenton of Little Ferry joined ranks with the protesters after his Marine sergeant son's fatal encounter with a roadside bomb.

"Three thousand dead since the war started, and I certainly didn't expect Matthew, my son, to be one of them," said Fenton.

He spoke of people challenging his opposition to the war. "Don't you think your son would have died in vain" if troops were to be withdrawn now, they ask, questioning his desire to see a pullback of troops.

"Losing more lives is not going to get you anywhere," he said.

**The prospect of adding troops hits Rogovin close to home. Her 24-year-old son in the Marine Corps could be sent next month.**

"My kid could be next. I'm terrified for my friends whose kids are there," said Rogovin. "I'm terrified for all of the Iraqi parents -- their deaths are in the hundred thousands."

**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**

**Dead Soldier's Fiancée, Also A  
Serving Soldier In Iraq, Says  
"Tony Blair Is A Liar"  
"He's Lying About What Is Going On Out  
There"  
"Army Technician Defied Army Bosses  
To Speak Out"**



Graham Hesketh and Rebecca Barnes

**[Thanks to NB who sent this in. He writes: I believe that none of the present crop of US and UK politicians are fit to stand in the presence of this lady - let alone shake her hand!]**

**"The conditions there are terrible. "They never have a day off, not even at Christmas. They don't have any sleep. I just want our boys home."**

02.01.07 Associated Newspapers Limited [UK]

**The grief-stricken fiancée of a soldier killed in Iraq angrily accused Tony Blair of lying about the bloody conflict.**

**Rebecca Barnes, also a serving soldier in Iraq who recently shook hands with the Prime Minister on a visit to British troops, broke ranks to speak out about Tony Blair's deceit after her fiancée, Sergeant Graham Hesketh died in a roadside bomb.**

Just two days earlier, the sergeant had been looking forward to the couple's forthcoming wedding, when he scribbled a love letter to Miss Barnes in the back of his armoured vehicle with the simple heartfelt words: "I want us to be together 'til the day I die".

Last night his devastated fiancée sobbed as she said that Mr Blair was to blame.

"Tony Blair has taken everything. I just want to die", she said.

**"I shook his hand. I wish to God I hadn't. "It's a disgrace. He's lying about what is going on out there.**

**"I can't believe he's sunning it up at that Bee Gees' home in Miami. It makes me sick.**

**"It was Graham who set the camp up for him - the podium he was standing on."**

**The 25-year-old army technician defied army bosses to speak out after her husband-to-be became the 127th British soldier to die in Iraq just three days after Christmas.**

Sergeant Hesketh, 35, from the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment was killed when he was hit by a roadside bomb after leaving in a hurry to go on patrol without being able to say goodbye to his fiancée.

**Ironically, that day Miss Barnes had stayed behind on base to fix Sergeant Hesketh's tank after it was hit in a previous attack days earlier, when he escaped uninjured.**

Wearing his clothes as a sign of her love, she told the Daily Mirror: "It just doesn't seem fair, I feel cheated. Why him?"

"He used to say 'I'm the happiest man in the world', we were going to get married this time next year.

"I just can't believe he's gone. He was everything to me.

"I just wish he'd taken me with him. I've nothing to live for any more."

Clutching his last letter, Miss Barnes wept as she re-read her fiancée's note to his "soulmate".

He wrote: "I'm just sat in the back of a Warrior waiting to come back to see you.

"I really love you and am missing you like mad and it's you babe, I never want to be away from you again.

"I want to spend the rest of my life with you. I so want us to be together until the day I die."

Miss Barnes, who served in the same regiment, last saw her fiancée on Boxing Day.

The couple, who had been in Iraq for eight weeks, had been planning a late homecoming Christmas party when they were due to return to the UK in March.

Last night her mother Ruby, 52, told the Mail: "She is absolutely distraught. She has not eaten, she has not slept. We are all exhausted with crying. He was like a son to me. I loved him.

"She stayed behind to fix Graham's tank and on the day he died he bought her a cup as a gift for her because he didn't get to say goodbye.

"I also got a letter from Graham the day he died. He told me to put the tree up and get some bubbly in for the homecoming. Then I had Rebecca on the phone screaming 'Graham's dead, they've killed my Graham'."

Now Miss Barnes, who was sent home to Fairburn, West Yorkshire on compassionate leave on Saturday, is preparing to travel to RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire where his body will be flown back on Wednesday.

The couple met in Catterick where both were stationed and got engaged shortly before being sent to Iraq a few months ago.

The sergeant, who has children, Georgia, seven, and Ben, three, from a previous relationship, had planned to buy a house with Miss Barnes before their wedding.

On his fifth visit to British troops on December 17, Tony Blair told them: "Sometimes maybe you don't realise how much people appreciate what you do."

**But yesterday Miss Barnes remained critical of conditions for soldiers: "The conditions there are terrible.**

**"They never have a day off, not even at Christmas. They don't have any sleep. I just want our boys home."**

---

# **Thousands Of Military Families Cut Off TRICARE Prescription Drug Coverage; "My Wife Has About Four Heart Pills Left"**

Jan. 04, 2007 By Gene Rector, TELEGRAPH STAFF WRITER

As a Navy retiree, Jack Grimsley is familiar with the phrase "between the devil and the deep blue sea." He just never thought it would apply to his wife Evelyn's prescription drug coverage.

The Grimsleys' drug needs have been met by the military's TRICARE for Life program, at least until he recently tried to fill a prescription for his wife at a local pharmacy.

TRICARE for Life is a regionally managed program covering active duty and retired members. The contractually administered system combines military health care with a network of civilian providers, including commercial pharmacies.

**"The pharmacy told me TRICARE wouldn't pay it," Grimsley said. "She needs her heart medication, and I can't get it until I get this squared away."**

What Grimsley learned was that his wife had been involuntarily enrolled in Medicare's new Part D drug plan, setting off a bureaucratic chain reaction: Medicare notified the Defense Department data system, which in turn triggered a message informing TRICARE that she had alternative drug coverage.

His status was not affected, but hers - as the Macon resident described it - "was totally screwed up."

**Grimsley doesn't know why his wife was enrolled in a plan that is supposed to be voluntary, although he said a recent Fleet Reserve Association bulletin indicated thousands of military retirees might be similarly affected.**

**"We didn't have anything to do with enrolling my wife in Part D, but we have to work our butt off to get disenrolled and get back on TRICARE," he said.**

Grimsley is anxious because the military coverage is significantly less expensive than Part D and much easier to navigate.

The Fleet Reserve Association bulletin said the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services "took it upon themselves" to enroll a large number of military retirees in the Medicare plan to ensure that "people too old and infirm to jump on the opportunity would not be left out."

The Fleet Reserve Association's national office in Alexandria, Va., did not return phone calls Wednesday, but a TRICARE spokesman in Washington, D.C., confirmed that several thousand military retirees across the country have been impacted by involuntary Part D enrollment. He said there was little that TRICARE could do.

**"Unfortunately, it's Medicare's process, not ours," the spokesman said. "Once you're enrolled, you have to go through Medicare to get it undone."**

TRICARE will act as a second payer for Part D enrollees, he emphasized. "So we'll still end up covering the co-pays. People are not completely out in the cold, but we can't take them off Part D. Only Medicare can do that."

Lee Millman, a spokeswoman in Health and Human Services' Atlanta office, said Wednesday she was unaware of the problem.

"But I will get this to a case worker so it can be worked individually with the Grimsleys," she said.

Grimsley has canceled his wife's Part D coverage. That happened Nov. 30, leaving her with no prescription coverage until all the administrative steps have been completed.

Medicare still has not issued a letter notifying the Defense Department of Evelyn Grimsley's disenrollment, which means TRICARE has not been notified to reinstate her.

"I hope I'm able to get this squared away by the end of January," Grimsley said hopefully, "but I don't know what I'm going to do until then."

He believes that someone at Medicare may have acted with the best of intentions. "But they didn't know what in the hell they were doing," he lamented.

"My wife has about four heart pills left, and I never like it to get that low before I get it refilled."

**MORE:**

## **“How Can People Be Automatically Enrolled In A Voluntary System?”**

### **“How Can They Be Forced To Incur Fees Until They Clear Up The Problem Themselves?”**

January 08, 2007 Editorial, Army Times

The Medicare prescription drug program launched Jan. 1, 2006, to great fanfare, promising coverage for all Medicare beneficiaries regardless of income, health status or prescription drug use.

It was a voluntary program, and people were urged to sign up for the plan of their choice, beginning Nov. 15, 2005.

But for reasons that remain unclear, officials with the Department of Health and Human Services took it upon themselves to sign up large numbers of Medicare patients — perhaps in the interest of ensuring that people too old and infirm to jump on the opportunity would not be left out.

Nice thought, but there were unintended consequences. At the push of a button, thousands of military retirees already enrolled in Tricare for Life suddenly were also enrolled in Medicare Part D, the prescription drug program.

All this was done without their knowledge.

For many, the first they heard of this was when they were standing in line at their pharmacy.

**The fallout is enormous.**



**It means unnecessary costs for many Tricare patients. And though they may get reimbursed for some of those costs through Tricare, this could require still more paperwork.**

HHS officials say there's no easy remedy, and Tricare beneficiaries must disenroll themselves.

The Military Officers Association of America is lobbying Medicare and the Pentagon to make canceling Medicare Part D enrollment and notifying the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment System of the change as painless as possible.

But there's word that HHS and the Pentagon are being prickly with each other, slowing the process.

They need to get over it.

Congress needs to hold a hearing on this.

**How can people be automatically enrolled in a voluntary system?**

**How can they be forced to incur fees until they clear up the problem themselves?**

**How can this happen without anyone thinking, "Hey, maybe we should let them know what we're doing?"**

---

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

## **Assorted Resistance Action**

04 Jan 2007 Reuters & 05 Jan 2007 Reuters & Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

Guerrillas killed Akrem al-Zubaidi, a member of the Kerbala city council, and three of his guards on the main road between Najaf and Kerbala, 110 km (68 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police check point killed an Iraqi soldier and wounded four in the town of Iskandariya, 40 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

A police colonel and a former colonel were killed in Mosul.

A roadside bomb detonated near an Iraqi army patrol, killing a captain and wounding four soldiers in the oil refinery city of Baiji, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, army sources said.

Guerrillas attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint killing four soldiers and wounding two in the northern part of Dhuluiya, 70 km (45 miles) north of Baghdad.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded two policemen, including a major who was in serious condition, in the northern oil city of Kirkuk, police said.

KHALIS, Iraq: Soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army, were wounded when they were targeted by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in Khalis, Iraq, Jan. 3.

Small-arms fire followed the VBIED attack resulting in injuries to six IA soldiers.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
---

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

### **Exactly**

1.

**When the leaders speak of peace  
The common folk know  
That war is coming.**

**When the leaders curse war  
The mobilization order is already written.**

-- Bertolt Brecht, 1898-1956, Poet and playwright

2.

**If you don't know your rights you don't have any. The Second Amendment is in place in case the politicians ignore the others.** January 04, 2007, Michael J Doser, Gulf War Combat Vets

---

# **Question About This Utter and Complete Failure In Iraq: “WHY Is America NOT Up In Arms And WHY Is This Guy NOT FIRED YET???”**

January 04, 2007 By Bugs, Via VETERANS-FOR-CHANGE [Excerpts]

**Bush waited until AFTER the election to tell us that we were "NOT WINNING' aka LOOSING in Iraq. That makes me wonder a few things...**

**Would that have been any DIFFERENT if the neocons had WON?**

**I mean, was politics important enough to throw the lives of the people in Iraq and our troops into the fire JUST to win an election?**

This should have been said LONG ago.

And this 'shrug of the shoulders' 'oh well that is the way it is' kind of nonchalance....wtf is that about? Since WHEN is incompetence of THAT magnitude shrugged off in this manor?

SO what, we kill 650,000 Iraqi civilians, bring home 3000 body bags with US military personnel inside them and put 30,000 other Americans on the permanently disabled list...NOT counting all the ones who won't be functioning because of PTSD...spend \$400,000,000,000, most of which went to the war profiteers Carlyle an Halliburten...and then NO ONE IS HELD RESPONSIBLE?

This is at the least criminal incompetence.

And what about the war that never should have been? This is the same story, "The intelligence was bad". AND???

So we fucked up the intelligence and no heads rolled....we fucked up the ground war and no heads rolled...we fucked up the national debt and STILL no heads rolled....and we just go on our MERRY WAY???

**And of EVERYONE, who gained?**

**The ultra wealthy for tax breaks, Halliburten got the no-bid contracts and padded the expenses, and Bush's pals in Saudi Arabia and the US oil corps made crazy fortunes.**

Oh, and Bush was placed in the Oval Office for 8 years.

Same thing with the 911 commission. Blatant incompetency. Same thing with New Orleans... Bush claiming no one told him and it was too late. PS...New Orleans is STILL a disaster.

Here is my question: WHY is America NOT up in arms and WHY is this guy NOT FIRED YET???

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 to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

## OCCUPATION REPORT

### Same Old Same Old

Jan 6, 2007 By Alastair Macdonald, BAGHDAD (Reuters)

Iraq's prime minister on Saturday announced a major crackdown on both Shi'ite militias and Sunni insurgents in Baghdad to stem the rise of killings that are now running at hundreds a week.

But there was no sign of the crackdown on the streets of the capital.

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

### DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

**Bush Has Dropped The “Generals-Know-Best” Line:  
“The Commanders To Be Replaced Have Voiced Skepticism**

# About An Increase In Troop Numbers”

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

Jan. 4, 2007 By MICHAEL DUFFY, Time Magazine

For years now, George W. Bush has told Americans that he would increase the number of troops in Iraq only if the commanders on the ground asked him to do so. It was not a throwaway line: Bush said it from the very first days of the war, when he and Pentagon boss Donald Rumsfeld were criticized for going to war with too few troops.

He said it right up until last summer, stressing at a news conference in Chicago that Iraq commander General George Casey "will make the decisions as to how many troops we have there."

Seasoned military people suspected that the line was a dodge -- that the civilians who ran the Pentagon were testing their personal theory that war can be fought on the cheap and the brass simply knew better than to ask for more.

In any case, the President repeated the mantra to dismiss any suggestion that the war was going badly.

Who, after all, knew better than the generals on the ground?

Now, as the war nears the end of its fourth year and the number of Americans killed has surpassed 3,000, Bush has dropped the generals-know-best line.

Sometime next week the President is expected to propose a surge in the number of U.S. forces in Iraq for a period of up to two years. A senior official said reinforcements numbering "about 20,000 troops," and maybe more, could be in place within months. The surge would be achieved by extending the stay of some forces already in Iraq and accelerating the deployment of others.

A dismayed Administration official who has generally been an optimist about Iraq described the process as chaotic. "None of this," he predicted of the surge and its coming rollout, "is going to work."

**The commanders to be replaced - General George Casey in Iraq and General John Abizaid at CENTCOM - have voiced skepticism about an increase in troop numbers, instead wanting to focus on training Iraqi forces.**

**FOR MONTHS THE GENERALS OPPOSED increasing troop strength, chiefly because they calculated that as long as the American footprint was growing, Iraqis would never take responsibility for their own security.**

---

# **GEORGE BUSH: POLITICAL GENIUS**

## **The Commander-in-Chief Speaks**

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

Jan. 04, 2007 By RON HUTCHESON and WARREN P. STROBEL, McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON - President Bush is preparing to shake up his national security team and bring new faces to the United Nations, the military, the State Department and the U.S. embassy in Iraq, administration officials said Thursday.

**"My thinking is taking shape," Bush said.**

---

## **Imperial Democrat Leaders Tell Bush More Dead U.S. Troops And Dead Iraqis Are Just Fine With Them; They Say Withdraw Some But "The Remaining Force" Can Stay And "Battle Terrorism"**

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in. He writes:

**["Why don't the wusses just tell him that they won't fund continued military operations in Iraq? They control the spending."]**

**[Reply: Because they're in favor of continued military operations in Iraq. T]**

January 5, 2007 WASHINGTON (CNN)

The new leaders of Congress on Friday urged President Bush not to pour more U.S. troops into the war in Iraq, calling the idea "a strategy that you have already tried and that has already failed."

The letter from Reid, D-Nevada, and Pelosi, D-California, urged Bush to begin withdrawing U.S. troops within six months and shift the mission of the remaining force toward training and supporting Iraqi troops and battling terrorism.

---

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# **New Orleans: 7 Killer Cops Indicted For Executing Two Unarmed Civilians During Hurricane Katrina**

Jan 2, 2007 The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS - Seven policemen charged in a deadly bridge shooting in the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina turned themselves in Tuesday at the city jail, where more than 200 emotional supporters met them in a show of solidarity.

Each of the indicted men faces at least one charge of murder or attempted murder in the Sept. 4, 2005, shootings on the Danziger Bridge less than a week after the hurricane hit New Orleans. Two people died, and four people were wounded.

Sgts. Kenneth Bowen and Robert Gisevius, officer Anthony Villavaso and former officer Robert Faulcon were charged with first-degree murder. Officers Robert Barrios and Mike Hunter were charged with attempted first-degree murder, and Ignatius Hills was charged with attempted second-degree murder.

**Police say the officers were responding to a report of other officers down, and that they thought one of the men, Ronald Madison, was reaching for a gun. Madison, a 40-year-old mentally retarded man, and James Brissette, 19, were killed on the bridge.**

**The coroner said Madison was shot seven times, with five wounds in the back.**

Madison's brother Lance, who was also on the bridge and was cleared of attempted murder charges, denies he or his brother was armed.

He said they were running from a group of teens who had opened fire on the bridge when seven men jumped out of a rental truck and also shot at them without warning.

**MORE:**

# **“Katrina Survivors Were, In The Eyes Of The Masters Of The City, Dangerous Criminals Because They Had The Audacity To Still Be In The City That They Called Home”**

January 02, 2007 By M Howells, NOLA C3 Discussion

The prosecution of police for the killings on the Danzinger Bridge puts a spotlight on the spike in police brutality in New Orleans that followed the evacuation of the Convention Center and the Superdome in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The mandatory evacuation ordered by Mayor Nagin effectively criminalized all people who were still in New Orleans following the storm.

Media coverage demonizing everyone in the city at that time as looters and worse no doubt helped reinforce the tendency of law enforcement to assume that Katrina survivors in the city were by definition dangerous criminals.

**And let's not forget that just two days after the killings of the two men on the Danzinger Bridge Mayor Nagin authorized law enforcement to use force to drive out Katrina survivors who remained in Orleans Parish.**

Still in the city at the time of the killings, I noticed a distinct change for the worst after authorities completed the evacuation of those people who sought refuge at the Convention Center and the Superdome. After this development law enforcement stepped up intimidation against people who refused to evacuate.

**In the days that followed civilian police and National Guardsmen threatened me with arrest virtually everytime I ventured outside my home in the French Quarter.**

I have friends and workmates who were forced to leave their homes under threat of arrest or worse.

The National Guard and other law enforcement repeatedly told me that I would have to evacuate if I wanted to receive food and water. No relief centers were opened to aid inhabitants in the unflooded neighborhoods.

The message to Katrina survivors in New Orleans from Nagin, Blanco and Bush was clear enough...leave or starve.

**Under such conditions, the police killings of the two men on the Danzinger Bridge should surprise no one.**



These Katrina survivors were, in the eyes of the masters of the city, dangerous criminals because they had the audacity to still be in the city that they called home.

## **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))

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

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

The following have posted issues; there may be others:

<http://www.williambowles.info/qispecial/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/maqalat/english/qi-special.htm>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: [www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml) for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

**If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.**