

GI SPECIAL 5B1:

NO MORE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



US soldiers from the 5-20 Infantry division carry a comrade onto a stretcher after he was wounded in a mortar blast on the outskirts of Baghdad. (AFP/David Furst)

“His Mother Blamed President Bush For His Death”

**“He Needs To Show Up At Our Son’s
Funeral Service And Everyone Else’s
So He Would Know How He Is
Hurting Families”**



Pfc. Darrell Wayne Shipp

01/26/2007 Jesse Bogan, Rio Grande Valley Bureau, San Antonio Express-News

HARLINGEN – Army Pfc. Darrell Wayne Shipp, 25, had high octane in his blood and was the proud parent of one baby – his car.

He drag raced at the San Antonio Speedway and on public roads, most recently in his beloved 2000 black Ford Mustang. He rocked in a punk band at Sam's Burger Joint and the White Rabbit.

When heavy rain turned the Iraqi ground to mud, he relished pounding through the rough terrain in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and when it was broken down, a Humvee. Shipp was in a Humvee when a roadside bomb ended his exciting run on life Wednesday in Baghdad, casting a pall of grief and short bouts of anger among friends and relatives in San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley.

His mother Regina, who works at a K-Mart, said from the family's home here that she blamed President Bush for his death and "for everybody that has been killed."

"He needs to show up at our son's funeral service and everyone else's so he would know how he is hurting families," continued his father, Doyle, a mechanic. Shipp was their only son.

His experiences and interests were on display around their home, including a racing trophy and a clock beside the computer in the living room that had a little sign next to it: "Iraq Time."

His parents frequently corresponded with him by internet and Webcam. "I was on the computer every night talking to him. I'd be up until four," said his mother. "If he wasn't online, I'd be waiting for him to be online."

Shipp grew up in and around the Alamo City, attending school in Marion and at Roosevelt High School before finishing in Harlingen in 2000. After graduation he moved back to San Antonio, worked as a used car salesman and managed the meat department at an Albertson's grocery store.

Before he joined the Army in 2005, he was a waiter at an Olive Garden restaurant off U.S. 281.

"He thrived under stress. He would laugh at it and had fun," said Jimmy Smith, 24, one of Shipp's best friends in San Antonio and fellow band member of the group Celebrate Tuesday.

It's unclear why he signed up for the military, but one of his four sisters, Donna Rosales, who is in the Army Reserve and may go overseas soon, said it changed him for the better.

"I think it did him some good," said Rosales, 23. "He grew up a lot, thinking about his life, thinking about his future."

Apparently he had plans to continue racing. A high performance clutch arrived in the mail earlier this week that he had ordered off the Internet from Iraq and was still sitting in a box on the living room floor of his parents' home. Scheduled for leave in a couple of months, he wanted to supercharge the engine.

"He thought there was nothing better than scaring the crap out of someone," said Smith, who trusted Shipp as a driver and described him as "one in a million, not because he was my best friend, but because he was."

The two used to race the turnaround at Loop 1604 and Nacogdoches. Family and friends said he rarely lost, except for one race with the Harlingen police shortly before he deployed in October. Smith, who was in the car that night, said a Trans Am pulled up beside them and the driver wanted to run. They screamed to a start and then to a stop repeatedly for about eight traffic lights.

"The brakes were smoking, and the clutch was smoking, but we won," he said. When a patrol car emerged, "we thought we got away from them, but they radioed to someone else," Smith said.

Shipp spent the night in jail. Shortly after, on his birthday, he was hugging his family goodbye as he left for Iraq.

His father recalled that moment Thursday night, standing near his kitchen counter covered with photographs and a brief casualty report that only gave a few details about the death.

"I just remember him right here," he said, reflecting on that last hug, eyes welling. "I didn't think he was ever gonna turn loose. He just kept hugging and hugging and crying, and then I started to cry."

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Two Soldiers And Marine Killed In Anbar

01/31/07 AP

Two soldiers and one Marine assigned to Multi-National Force — West died Tuesday of wounds sustained due to enemy action in Anbar, according to a statement.

One Soldier Killed, One Wounded In Salah Ad Din Province

01/31/07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

A Task Force Lightning Soldier was killed Wednesday as a result of injuries sustained while conducting combat operations in Salah ad Din Province. A second Soldier was wounded.

Catalina High School Alumnus Dies In Iraq: Leaves Wife, Daughter



Russell Borea

01.24.2007 By Carol Ann Alaimo, Arizona Daily Star

The Army took Sgt. 1st Class Russell Borea away from Tucson. Now he's coming home to rest after being killed in action in Iraq.

Borea, a 1986 graduate of Catalina High School, is the city's latest war casualty, felled Friday in Mosul when an improvised explosive device detonated during combat operations.

He is the 24th person with ties to Southern Arizona to be claimed by the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Borea, 38, had been in Iraq since November with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Bliss, Texas, a Defense Department news release said.

His wife, Maria, and 10-year-old daughter were staying in Tucson with the wife's family during his deployment. They got word of his death Friday night when two soldiers from Fort Huachuca knocked on the door of Maria Borea's parents' home.

Maria Borea, 37, is a 1989 graduate of Sahuaro High School. At the time, she went by her middle and maiden names and was known as Nikki Watts.

"We are getting along as well as can be expected," said James Watts, the fallen soldier's father-in-law, in an interview on Tuesday. His daughter declined to be interviewed.

"We're a military family, so we know the necessity of the job and what dangers he was expected to face," said Watts, a retired soldier himself.

Russell Borea was born in Connecticut to a family that moved to Tucson when he was young, Watts said. His father is deceased, and his mother now lives in Las Vegas, he said.

After high school, Russell Borea spent several years in civilian jobs, including a stint as manager of a local Shakey's Pizza Parlor. He met his future wife in Tucson and joined the Army shortly before the couple wed in 1995, Watts said.

"He wanted to make something of his life," Watts said.

The couple's only child, Marialena, was born in Germany while Russell Borea was stationed there in 1996. He also had served in Bosnia. This was his first tour in Iraq.

Russell and Maria Borea had a home in El Paso near Fort Bliss. The Times report quoted the couple's Texas neighbors saying they appeared to be a loving family.

Russell Borea "seemed like a very nice guy. He liked being a father," said a neighbor identified as Ken Wade. "You could tell he was a good man by the way he was with his daughter."

Watts described his son-in-law as "a very soft-spoken, gentle person. He was a very calm man and a very humble individual."

Another NMI Soldier Killed



February 01, 2007 By Marconi Calindas, Reporter, Saipan Tribune

The ongoing war in Iraq has claimed the life of another CNMI soldier.

Adam Quitugua, who was supposed to celebrate his 21st birthday this March, was reportedly killed in action. He was from Tanapag.

Military Veterans Affairs director Ruth Coleman confirmed yesterday that Quitugua was killed in Iraq on Jan. 29. She said she learned about the incident only yesterday. She said Quitugua is with the U.S. Army, but she does not know his specific rank.

She said Adam's remains would be interred at the newly completed NMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

"I am proud that a soldier killed on mission will have his final resting place in our new cemetery," she said, adding that she would do her best to help and provide the victim's family the best memorial service that Adam deserves. "We will give him the full military burial service."

Adam's aunt, Bernie Q. Saralu, could not help but lament the passing of her nephew, whom she said she treated as one of her sons. She said she took care of Adam when his mother moved to Washington.

"He called me mama as well," she said in an interview with Saipan Tribune yesterday afternoon.

Saralu said his nephew would have turned 21 this coming March. She said Adam was a straight A student.

Although it broke her heart when her nephew left for Washington in 2003, she knew it was Adam's choice. She said he didn't join the military until after he graduated high school in Washington.

Adam lived with his mom, Angelina, throughout his schooling. He then joined the military in September 2006 and was immediately deployed in Iraq.

Just before his scheduled deployment, Saralu received a call from Adam informing her of his mission. "I wish he didn't have to," she said.

"Adam told me he'd be back in March together with his mom, my sister. 'I'm coming back in March,'" Saralu said, adding that she told Adam to take extra care during his deployment.

Saralu said their family here on Saipan received a call from her daughter who also lives in Washington at 8:30am yesterday (3pm in Washington Jan. 29). "I feel bad. He is a very good boy."

She said there were no details given to the family yet, except that her nephew is already dead and his body is still in Iraq. Saralu said more detailed information about the incident and the shipment of his remains have been promised to the family within today.

Adam is survived by his brothers, Frank and Christopher, and parents, Angelina Quitugua and Wen Emul.

The family started a nightly rosary at the Tanapag church yesterday. They will continue the rosary until Adam's remains reach the CNMI up to his interment, said Saralu.

Alaska Staff Sgt. Killed



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jamie D. Wilson, 34, was killed Jan. 22, 2007, by small arms fire while on guard duty at his base near Fallujah, Iraq. Wilson joined the Army in 1990, and was assigned to Alaska in 2005. (AP Photo/U.S. Army Alaska)

Richmond Man's Death In Iraq Leaves Five Fatherless

January 23, 2007 Daily Press

Daryl Booker called his father in Surry County just before Christmas last year and told him not to worry.

Booker, an Army National Guardsman who grew up in Richmond, had been in Iraq since October.

He'd survived a couple close calls, Earnest Hardy Sr. said.

"I figured if he was there in harm's way and was telling me not to worry, then I probably shouldn't," Hardy said. But "You can't help but to worry."

Booker, a 38-year-old father of five, was one of 12 troops killed Saturday when the Black Hawk helicopter they were flying in crashed just outside of Baghdad.

While military officials have said the crash is still under investigation, the Los Angeles Times reported Monday that Iraqi sources said it had been shot down.

A witness claimed to have seen the ground fire that brought down the helicopter, and an insurgent group claimed responsibility via the Internet.

Soldiers notified Booker's mother, who lives in Richmond, on Saturday, Hardy said.

"She tried calling me seven times. When I called her back, all she could say was, 'We lost Daryl.' "

Troops from Fort Eustis notified Hardy officially of his son's death on Monday. He then had the grim task of spreading the news among the dozens of cousins and aunts and uncles living in Smithfield and Surry County.

Booker joined the Army when he turned 18. After several years on active duty, Hardy said, Booker became a member of the Virginia National Guard and was attached to a unit near Richmond. "In the last five or six years, he went on a bunch of tours," Hardy said. "He was a member of a peace-keeping force."

Booker was proud to be a soldier, Hardy said.

"He made a choice and made the best of his choice."

Booker is to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Funeral services will be held in Richmond.

Loss Of 'Fuzzy' Devastates Little Sister, Girlfriend

January 23, 2007 By JENNIFER WILSON, THE GAZETTE

Friends called him Fuzzy because of his spiky hair. He loved partying, video games and rock music — especially Led Zeppelin and Queen.

When Pfc. Allen B. Jaynes' family and friends learned he'd been killed in combat, they were devastated.

"I will miss you big brother. I love you," wrote his sister, Stephanie, on his MySpace.com page.

Allen Jaynes, 21, died Saturday in Iraq when a bomb exploded near his vehicle, the Department of Defense said. He was a member of Fort Carson's 2nd Brigade Combat Team. The Army did not say where the attack happened.

Jaynes was from Murchison, Texas, and graduated from nearby Brownsboro High School in 2005. He joined the Army the following July and was assigned to the 2nd BCT several months later.

Jaynes went to Iraq on Oct. 6. He was a scout.

Jaynes' MySpace page shows pictures of a young man "chillin by da pool" and standing alongside "my lil sis, my lil bro, & my mom" for a family photo, his arm slung around his sister's shoulder.

On her own MySpace page, Stephanie shared the devastating news in an entry dated Sunday.

"Officers showed up at my door this morning," Stephanie wrote.

"Allen was killed in combat yesterday. His body won't be back home for another 10 days."

Jaynes' girlfriend, Ashley Raiford, also wrote about her grief online.

"I've loved him for longer than I can say," she wrote. "I'll continue loving him for the rest of my life. He was my world."

Raiford met Jaynes in high school theater class, she said in a phone interview Monday night from Texas. They clicked immediately.

"When he left for boot camp I couldn't take it anymore, so I wrote him a letter and told him how I felt," Raiford said.

The couple planned to get married, she said. Jaynes was going to pop the question in February during a two-week leave in Colorado Springs.

"He was supposed to come home and propose next month," Raiford said.

On his Web page, Jaynes said he was currently "chilling in Iraq."

In his last blog entry, dated Jan. 12, he complained about the rain and said rainwater was flooding his room.

Jaynes also talked about how time seemed to fly.

"Soon it'll already be the end of the year and I'll be home and I'll be able to finally break in my new (now old) snowboard," he wrote.

Jaynes is the 184th Fort Carson soldier and the 79th from the 2nd BCT to die in fighting in Iraq since the U.S. occupation began in 2003.

Wyoming Soldier Killed In Iraq

January 23, 2007 By The Associated Press

FORT RICHARDSON, Alaska - A paratrooper from Casper, Wyo., has been killed in Iraq, the Army said.

Spc. Jason J. Corbett, 23, died Jan. 15 of injuries he suffered when his mounted patrol encountered enemy small-arms fire in Karmah, officials said Sunday.

Corbett was assigned to the 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, at Fort Richardson.

Corbett, formerly known as Jason Vantrease, graduated from Kelly Walsh High School in Casper in 2001, according to a statement released by the Wyoming Army National Guard.

"Jason was proud to serve his country," his mother, Megan Schafer, said in the Guard statement. "He was such a strong person and a hard worker. It didn't matter what the task was, if it needed to be done and Jason was the one who had to do it, he did whatever he had to do to make it happen. Jason was admired and respected by his commanding officers and the soldiers in his company, some of whom remarked that he always had a smile on his face."

Schafer said her son loved sports and was on the track team at Kelly Walsh.

He also loved animals, the outdoors and studied biology at Casper College before joining the U.S. Army in 2004, according to the statement.

An avid fisherman, Corbett enjoyed fishing for salmon, biking snowboarding, hunting, and hiking while living in Anchorage, Alaska, where he had been stationed since November 2004, it said.

He was engaged and planned to marry after his return from Iraq, according to the Guard.

Services at First Christian Church in Casper are pending.

Michigan Soldier Injured In Baghdad Mine Explosion

01/31/07 AP

A soldier from Menominee County will be flown to a U-S Army hospital after suffering serious injuries in Baghdad.

National Guardsman Derek Gagne is in stable condition in a Germany hospital after losing a leg, toes on his other leg and suffering facial injuries.

A mine exploded under his Humvee on Monday.

The 19-year-old was serving a military police battalion. He'll be flown tomorrow to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

Dinwiddie Resident Severely Injured In Iraq

01/30/2007 BY T. DEVON ROBINSON, STAFF WRITER, The Progress-Index

DINWIDDIE — A county resident was severely injured while fighting in Iraq Jan. 18.

Matthew Bradford, 20, was serving in the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines in Haditha, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device exploded.

“He and his company were on patrol on foot when an IED (explosive device) went off,” said Matthew’s father, David, on a Web site created to keep track of Matthew’s condition.

“Matt was sent to the Iraq field hospital for immediate surgery then the next day on to Germany for overnight stay and more emergency surgery then, on Sunday, Jan. 21, flown to Bethesda Naval Hospital, Maryland.”

Matthew has had both legs amputated, has damage to his small intestine, has a ruptured bladder, shrapnel in his left elbow and right wrist, broken bones in his right hand, has lost his left eye and has a small piece of shrapnel in his right eye that may cause vision loss.

He also has another small piece of shrapnel lodged in his brain had has been gradually taken out of a medically-induced coma he was placed in during the week of Jan. 21, Bradford said.

There is no word on how long Matthew will remain in the hospital. He has several more surgeries to undergo.

“He has a long fight ahead of him,” said Teri Sadler, a family friend.

Matthew was a 2005 graduate of Dinwiddie High School. Barbara Pittman, principal of the high school, said that he played tennis and football for the school. “He was a nice, personable, well-mannered young man,” Pittman said.

She said that it was obviously that he wanted to join the military even when he was a sophomore. He told his father that as well and joined the Marines under delayed enlistment before graduating. “He was proud to serve his country and proud to be a Marine,” Sadler said.

On Matthew’s MySpace page and on the site his father set up, friends, relatives and complete strangers have left numerous thoughts, prayers and words of encouragement.

As of early Monday evening, there were over 150 messages in the online guest book on his father’s site and over 1,700 visitors. “One of our goals is for him to see the prayers left for him on the Web site,” Sadler said.

Elma Grad Injured In Baghdad

January 27, 2007 By Anne Radford, Daily World Writer

A 19-year-old Elma graduate was injured while he was on patrol in Iraq on Thursday and is receiving treatment at a German hospital.

Pvt. 1st Class Colin Lightfoot, who now lives in Fort Hood, Texas, with his wife, Kimberly, is a medic with the U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Division. He was patrolling with his scout team in an area of Baghdad when there was an explosion, said Colin's father, Daniel, who is a Montesano resident.

Daniel was not told the details of the explosion.

Colin was evacuated to a German hospital and is in serious but stable condition in the hospital's trauma center, his father said.

He sustained trauma to his neck, face and leg, but the details of the injuries aren't fully clear yet, Daniel said. It seems Colin's leg was hit by shrapnel and he received lacerations to his face and neck, he said.

Some minor complications have arisen from the neck wound he received and doctors are considering a tracheotomy, because his larynx was damaged in the explosion, Daniel said Saturday.

Colin was expected to be transported to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., as early as today, but after the complications arose, his doctors have decided to keep him in Germany.

"It's not safe for him to travel yet," Daniel said. "He won't be transferred here for a while. We're just waiting to hear. His status seems to change every eight hours. We're hopeful."

Kimberly is joining him in Germany today. Daniel and Colin's mother will join him there sometime this week.

Daniel has been in contact with the hospital spokesperson, and although Colin is unable to speak because he is on a ventilator, Kimberly was able to say a few words to him and a nurse read her a note Colin had written for her.

"We knew that it was dangerous over there, but we never assumed it would be him," Daniel said. "I spoke to him last Saturday and he told me they were on continuous patrol. This is what happens, I guess."

Daniel said Colin chose to join the Army after he graduated. He has been in the Army for a year and has been in Iraq for three months.

"He seems to have liked what he was doing," Daniel said. "He told me he liked being a medic and wanted to go on in that type of work."

Colin's father describes him as a loving kid.

"He's just a very kind and a very gentle young man," he said. "I think he's a hero. He's a brave kid ... He worked very hard at being a soldier. He is just a joy to have around."

Greenfield Soldier Wounded In Iraq



Justin Fletcher

Jan 27, 2007 David MacAnally, Eyewitness News

Greenfield - A soldier from Greenfield serving in Iraq was wounded this week. Army PFC Justin Fletcher suffered injuries to his face after an improvised explosive device went off near his vehicle while he was on patrol.

"He broke his nose," says his mother Judi Peper. "Fractures to his face. Some shrapnel in his head."

Wednesday started as a routine Baghdad patrol for the 20-year-old soldier.

"Then they went over what he would consider a pot hole. But inside the hole was a bomb and they detonated it," says his mother. "Truck went up and flipped over, completely over."

The truck landed back on its wheels, but the drama on that Baghdad day was not over. His unit commander was down and another soldier got on the radio and called for help because they were still taking fire.

Those calls brought a STRIKER vehicle to rescue the soldiers. An NBC crew at the hospital got video of PFC Fletcher and his wounded comrades.

From the hospital Fletcher was able to call his mother in Greenfield, warn her that the video could be on the news and assure her that he was all right.

"He's doing really well; he's in good spirits," Peper said.

Since kindergarten, Fletcher wanted to be a soldier. He wants to grow his military career even as concern grows back home over US goals and the danger grows for our troops.

PFC Fletcher could be back on patrol next week. His mother hopes he's home by summer.

He received the Purple Heart from an Army General this week and two company commendations.

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



A US Marine stands as local residents wait to have a Fallujah resident badge issued at coalition badging office in Fallujah Nov. 14, 2006. (AP Photo/David Furst, Pool)

TROOP NEWS

**Mother Interrupts Hearing To Tell
Pro-War Senator Hatch:
“Don’t Send My Son Back Please”**

“My Son Is Broken, He Cannot Go For A Third Time And Come Back”

[Hatch was busy moaning about how "we must also consider the message that we are sending to our troops" if the Senate opposes the "surge."

[The message traitors like Hatch send is that they want even more troops dead in Iraq. It's about time somebody jammed that point up their ass with a sharp stick.]

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

January 31st, 2007 KWTX-TV

Tina Richards, the mother of a US Marine who has already done two tours in Iraq interrupted a Senate hearing Tuesday to beg Senators not to send her son for a third tour.

As Senator Orrin Hatch, a strong supporter of the Bush Administration's policy in Iraq, was telling members of the Senate Judiciary Committee that when considering a resolution opposing the President's plan to send even more soldiers to Iraq, "we must also consider the message that we are sending to our troops," a woman in a tee shirt reading "Military Families Speak Out" interrupted him.

"Stop the surge," said Richards, who identified herself as the mother of a US Marine who after returning from his second tour in Iraq was now being recalled for yet another.

"Don't send my son back please," said Richards while Judiciary Committee chairman Senator Russell Feingold, D-Wisconsin, attempted to gavel the hearing to order.

"Bring the troops home please. My son is broken, he cannot go for a third time and come back"

Four or five women who were sitting behind the mother who interrupted stood up holding a banner reading "Stop the Backdoor Draft"

Some of them were also wearing "Military Families Speak Out" clothing as well.

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

While War Profiteers Rake In Billions, Iraq Troops Say Key Protective Equipment Still Missing; [How Many Killed By This Criminal Negligence?] [The DoD Didn't Report That]

[Thanks to Elaine Brower, Military Project, who sent this in.]

January 31, 2007 Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Hundreds of U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have experienced shortages of key protective equipment including armored vehicles, roadside-bomb countermeasures and communications gear, a Pentagon survey released Tuesday shows.

The Defense Department Inspector General's Office polled roughly 1,100 service members and found they weren't always adequately equipped for their missions.

The troops were interviewed in Iraq and Afghanistan last May and June.

Those surveyed reported shortcoming with vehicles outfitted with armor; "crew-served weapons," which are weapons it takes more than one person to handle, such as artillery or a large machine gun; electronic countermeasure devices, such as equipment designed to foil roadside bombs by interfering with cell-phone signals that may be used to detonate them; and communications equipment.

The survey found that those not getting needed gear include troops performing untraditional missions such as training, reconstruction, detainee operations and explosive ordnance disposal.

In some cases, they went ahead with the work anyway, used informal means to get what they needed or canceled or put off operations while waiting for equipment, the report summary said.

The report found the U.S. Central Command and the Army's internal equipment controls inadequate and recommends improvements.

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



The casket of Command Sgt. Maj. Marilyn Gabbard, Jan. 30, 2007, at a cemetery in Boone, Iowa. Gabbard, 46, of Polk City was a passenger on the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that crashed northeast of Baghdad. She was the first woman in the Iowa National Guard's history to be killed in combat. (AP Photo/Steve Pope)

**Researcher Publishes True
Number of Iraq Troop Injuries:
Hysterical Pentagon Scum Lie
About What She Wrote & Call Her
Boss To Get Her In Trouble;
*The Good News:***

All Concerned Tell Stupid Pentagon Assholes To Fuck Off

Jan. 30 Scott Jaschik, Inside Higher Ed [Excerpts]

Linda J. Bilmes, a lecturer in public policy at Harvard University, calls her latest paper “pretty dry.”

That hasn’t prevented it from riling high-ranking Pentagon officials — who called her and her dean to complain about her work.

When they questioned her sources of material, they ran into a bit of a problem: She did most of her research with data on federal Web sites.

So what did the Pentagon do? It changed the Web sites, and now continues to trash her research.

The story begins with a paper Bilmes wrote last year with Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Columbia University professor and Nobel laureate in economics. In their study, they found that the Bush administration has seriously underestimated the economic costs of the war in Iraq.

After the study was publicized, Bilmes was approached by some experts on veterans’ benefits who said that one cost of the war hadn’t received enough attention in their work (or from the government): the costs of caring for veterans injured in the conflict.

And that’s the question that led Bilmes to prepare a 21-page study that she presented this month in Chicago at the Allied Social Sciences Association meeting. The presentation of “Soldiers Returning From Iraq and Afghanistan: The Long-Term Costs of Providing Veterans Medical Care and Disability Benefits” went off without controversy and might have escaped Pentagon notice.

But Bilmes also published an op-ed version of her findings in the Los Angeles Times. The Pentagon did notice that piece.

What set off the Pentagon was Bilmes’ estimate for the current number of injured of 50,500.

William Winkenwender Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, called the Los Angeles Times, Bilmes, and David T. Ellwood — dean of Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government — to complain that the real figure is less than half that — just over 22,000.

When Bilmes was asked where she got her data, she pointed out that it came from the Department of Veterans Affairs, which in turn gets its data from the Pentagon.

The Pentagon investigated further and found that the VA “misunderstood” the Pentagon’s reports, according to Cynthia Smith, a Department of Defense spokeswoman.

She acknowledged that the VA had been using numbers consistent with what Bilmes reported, but said that once the Pentagon explained “the error,” the Veterans Affairs department changed its Web site so its injury numbers are consistent with those of the Pentagon.

Why the misunderstanding and the “error”?

The original figures from Veterans Affairs were for “non-mortal” injuries. But that doesn’t include only those who are shot at in combat. That includes people who get sick, people who are in accidents and so forth — a group of people that is as large as those injured in combat.

The Pentagon doesn’t want those people counted.

Bilmes points out that a soldier in an accident in Iraq is as entitled to health care as a soldier who is shot. And she points out that she wrote an economic analysis looking at the question of how much all of this care was going to cost.

Leaving out half of those injured would have resulted in seriously flawed numbers — when the whole point of her work in this area is to help people figure out how much money will be needed for the U.S. to meet obligations it has made to its soldiers.

Smith, the Pentagon spokeswoman, does not dispute Bilmes on the point that soldiers are entitled to health care regardless of how they are injured. “They are all cared for,” she said.

So if Bilmes is correct that she’s counting injured veterans who are entitled to health care and the source for her data is the U.S. government (before the Pentagon had the public data changed), why is Smith issuing statements saying that Bilmes is engaging in “gross distortion,” as she said in an e-mail?

And why is a top Pentagon official calling Harvard suggesting that numbers are erroneous when they are just not the numbers the Pentagon wants out?

When pressed that Bilmes was just using a more inclusive definition of injured, and not making any mistake or distortion, Smith suggested that she hadn’t revealed that she wasn’t using the only definition of injured possible, asking twice: “Does she say that in her study?”

Actually Bilmes says exactly that.

And she does so in her paper’s first footnote, in the introduction of her study.

In that footnote, she writes that the Pentagon tracks injuries in several ways, and that one count it uses covers only those wounded with bullets, shrapnel, etc. And Bilmes writes explicitly that this would result in a ratio of injured to killed of 8:1 (although she notes that even this ratio would be larger than that of any previous U.S. war).

To Bilmes, what’s infuriating is that the Pentagon is saying she is wrong on points of fact when they aren’t dealing with what she actually wrote.

“I have no problem with them calling me or anyone to talk about my paper,” she said. “But what I think is inappropriate is that they seem to be responding without having read my paper.”

While the Pentagon was entitled to its view of which figure of injured it wanted to focus on, she said, it was also unfair for it to object to others’ arguing that other numbers were worth examining.

“I think it is inappropriate for the Pentagon to put pressure on a junior faculty member doing a piece of scholarly research on the somewhat data-driven subject on disability costs just because they may want to have a different number in public.”

Harvard has been supportive, Bilmes said. The university is featuring her research on its home page.

While the Pentagon continues to attack, others in Washington are praising the paper.

Stephen L. Robinson, a Gulf War vet who is director of government relations for Veterans for America (formerly the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation), called her findings “incredibly valuable.”

The Iraq conflict is unusual, he said, in that so many soldiers are being injured out of combat. There are all kinds of reasons for that, he said, but it’s a reality.

“We think it’s reprehensible that the Pentagon would call Linda Bilmes and bitch her out over the phone and put pressure on the school” about this, Robinson said.

“I want to ask the Department of Defense, ‘Why aren’t you doing reports on why there are so many injured and on their care?’

“It’s ridiculous to be ignoring all of those (non-combat) injuries.

“Why are they attacking this research?”

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**“Not With The American Forces,
Absolutely Not. We Reject Their
Presence, Not Only In Sadr City But
All Over Iraq”**

January 30, 2007 Liz Sly, Chicago Tribune foreign correspondent

BAGHDAD -- Radical Shiite cleric [translation: somewhat radical nationalist politician] Moqtada Sadr has ordered his militia not to confront U.S. forces and has endorsed negotiations aimed at easing the deployment of American troops in his strongholds, according to Sadrist and other Shiite officials.

Ahead of a planned surge of 21,500 U.S. troops intended to secure Baghdad, Sadr has instructed his al-Mahdi Army, recently described by the Pentagon as the biggest single threat to a stable Iraq, to keep a low profile and stay off the streets, Sadr officials say.

It is still not certain the negotiations will succeed. The mayor of Sadr City's northern sector, Hassan Karim, a Sadrist appointee, said he supported al-Daraji's efforts to negotiate the entry of Iraqi security forces into Sadr City, but hoped he would not agree to the deployment of U.S. troops.

"Rahim al-Daraji is an official . . . of the city. He knows what he's doing, and we're not against him having negotiations," Karim said. But, he cautioned, "he does not represent the Sadrist tendency, and he doesn't represent all of Sadr City."

"If the government sends troops, police or army, they will be most welcome and there will be great cooperation by the people of the city with these forces," he said. "But not with the American forces, absolutely not. We reject their presence, not only in Sadr City but all over Iraq."

Assorted Resistance Action

30 Jan 2007 Reuters & 31 Jan 2007 Reuters & By BUSHRA JUHI, Associated Press
Writer

A truck bomber killed 16 police at the compound of a police rapid reaction force northwest of Ramadi, 110 km (68 miles) west of Baghdad, on Sunday, the U.S. military said.

A car bomb targeted a police patrol, killing two policemen and wounding two others in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, police said.

A bomber in a fuel truck rammed the main gate of an Iraqi army base in Miqdadiya, 90 km (50 miles) northeast of Baghdad, wounding nine soldiers, an Iraqi army source said.

The attacker apparently planned to drive the truck into the compound in Muqdadiah, but guards stopped him at the checkpoint about 100 yards away at about 9:15 a.m. He detonated his belt of explosives as he got out of the vehicle, causing it to explode as well, army Col. Ibrahim Hussein said.

A parked car bomb also struck a police patrol in the northern city of Mosul about 10:30 a.m., killing one policeman and wounding two others, Brig. Abdul Karim al-Jibouri said.

A police commander and two of his guards also were killed by guerrillas while they were on patrol protecting Ashoura processions in Aziziya, also south of Baghdad.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded six policemen in the refinery city of Baiji, 180 km (112 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. A policeman was also killed.

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

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

The Father Land

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel for writing this.

[So many blindly demand that Bush, Congresspeople, etc. etc. send their kids to Iraq. They never give a thought to what the kid may be thinking, hating, maybe hating the war, and the idea that any parent should have the power to force their child to go kill in Iraq is despicable. Not every son or daughter of some rich and powerful monster is also a monster. T]

From: Dennis Serdel
To: GI Special
Sent: January 31, 2007
Subject: The Father Land by Dennis

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

The Father Land

**Pig eyes, long nose
money like flowers grow
from the hole in his heart.
Too bad, that she knows
that he kills, tens of thousands
and looks down, at people
who he thinks, look up to him.
A rich man, she don't like him**

but she loves him, she hates him
she wishes, that he would stop
the killing, she knows he can.
She's all mixed up, about her father
but she knows, he loves her
like the Nazi's, loved their children
but it's no good, as the soldiers die
wondering when, it will end,
as she watches TV she cries,
because she don't know,
if she loves
her own country, anymore.
Like all good Americans
oil is the reason why
the children die, the soldiers
Iraqi's, Afghanistan's
who's blood flies, in all directions
all red, like the stripes
on the flag, she used to love
like her father, in a hallway
in the White House
she used to be
so proud of.

BRING JEFF HOME NOW



Jan. 27, 2007 Peace March around the Capitol
Diane Greene Lent, Photographer <http://dianelent.com/27jan1.htm>

“People Don’t Like Foreign Occupying Armies And Will Fight To Get Them Out”

January 25, 2007 By Carl Bloice, Black Commentator Editorial Board [Excerpt]

The problem for military strategists orchestrating foreign war is not the tactics of counterinsurgency. It is that counterinsurgency itself doesn’t work.

People don’t like foreign occupying armies and will fight to get them out.

"In the long run," says military historian Jack Radey, "There will be more natives of the country ready to die for it than foreigners."

It’s a lesson that should have been absorbed long ago but some people have trouble learning anything. The people of Iraq don’t want the occupation forces there and sooner or later the invaders will have to leave.

Mark Twain On Patriotism

“The Soul And Substance Of What Customarily Ranks As Patriotism Is Moral Cowardice And Always Has Been”

January 30, 2007 Via L C Wolf, [VFP-GA]

From Jim Zwick, ed., *Mark Twain's Weapons of Satire: Anti-Imperialist Writings on the Philippine-American War* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1992).

A Patriot is merely a rebel at the start.

In the beginning of a change the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot.

The soul and substance of what customarily ranks as patriotism is moral cowardice and always has been.

In any civic crisis of a great and dangerous sort the common herd is not privately anxious about the rights and wrongs of the matter, it is only anxious to be on the winning side.

In the North, before the war, the man who opposed slavery was despised and ostracised, and insulted. By the "patriots." Then, by and by, the "patriots" went over to his side, and thenceforth his attitude became patriotism.

There are two kinds of patriotism -- monarchical patriotism and republican patriotism.

In the one case the government and the king may rightfully furnish you their notions of patriotism; in the other, neither the government nor the entire nation is privileged to dictate to any individual what the form of his patriotism shall be.

The gospel of the monarchical patriotism is: "The King can do no wrong." We have adopted it with all its servility, with an unimportant change in the wording: "Our country, right or wrong!"

We have thrown away the most valuable asset we had:-- the individual's right to oppose both flag and country when he (just he, by himself) believed them to be in the wrong.

We have thrown it away; and with it all that was really respectable about that grotesque and laughable word, Patriotism.

Dishonorable Anniversary: February 1, 1968



General Nguyen Ngoc Loan executes Nguyen Van Lem, turning more Americans against the war in Vietnam

Peace History: Carl Bunin

General Nguyen Ngoc Loan executes Nguyen Van Lem a NLF officer.

Saigon police chief Nguyen Ngoc Loan summarily executed Nguyen Van Lem, suspected leader of a Viet Cong assassination platoon, with a pistol shot to the head on the street.

AP photojournalist Eddie Adams's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of the incident became one of the most famous, ubiquitous and lasting images of the war in Vietnam, affecting international and American public opinion regarding the war.

Honorable Anniversary: February 1, 1960 The Sit-Ins Against Segregation Begin



Peace History: Carl Bunin

Four black college students sat in at Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, where they'd been refused service, to protest segregation. Similar protests subsequently took place all over the South and in some northern communities.

By September 1961, more than 70,000 students, whites and blacks, had participated, and many were arrested, during sit-ins.

OCCUPATION REPORT

“So, NO We Don’t Kill Each Other, The Terrorists Who Kill Shiites Are The Same Who Kill Sunnites”

I have relatives married Shiites women\men, if that was true, that means my parents’ uncle should kill his wife ,my mom’s uncle should kill his wife, some of my parents’ cousins should kill their wives\husbands !!!!!!! and I should kill my two best friends, that is ridiculous...

January 18, 2007, Sunshine, Livesstrong.blogspot.com

Talk about daily life of a teenage girl in Iraq, and days of suffer and success. My nick name will be Sunshine.

I got a letter from a dear friend of mine telling me that the media says that the Sunnis kill the Shiites and the Shiites kill Sunnites in Iraq .. OOOHHHHH

Of course that is not true, Sunnites and Shiites have been living together for ages, they marry each other, I have relatives married Shiites women\men, if that was true, that means my parents’ uncle should kill his wife ,my mom’s uncle should kill his wife, some of my parents’ cousins should kill their wives\husbands !!!!!!! and I should kill my two best friends, that is ridiculous...

In my grandparents’ neighborhood, there are people from many religions there are Muslims (Sunnites, Shiites), Christians, Subba, & Armenians.. they are more than neighbors, like one family, when my eye problem happened (I had Deplopia) our Christian neighbors went to the church and lightened candles for me, and our Shiites neighbors went to Karbala, she traveled to another city, just to pray for me (Karbala is a religious place specially for Shiites), the examples are so many.

I’ve talked about that in many posts. and said that in many interviews, and I will keep saying that till the people in the world start to realize, that Iraqis (Sunnites and Shiites) live in Iraq for more than 1400 years, they are MUSLIMS and IRAQIS.

We go shopping together, if we need any help, we ask our neighbors to help us, because we are all Iraqis, no matter what are our religion, nor creeds, I didn’t know what are Shiites and Sunnites until I was 12 years old, and lately it appears that there are more creeds Shafee and hanafy !!!!! and other creeds, I don’t know which one I belong to, and I don’t even want to know, those names are not important, we all believe in the same god, and say the same prayers, no matter how do we stand and those formals if we put our hand together when we pray or not !!!!!, what’s important is what is there inside our hearts.

So, NO we don’t kill each other, the terrorists who kill Shiites are the same who kill Sunnites, it is impossible that Good Iraqis kill each other, no matter what is their religions nor creeds...

In my own big family, there are Arabs and Kurd, Sunnites and Shiites, Iraqis Americans , British, Turks, and Germans (my parent's uncle married a British lady, his daughter married a guy originally from Germany, and my dad's cousin has a Turkish wife, many of my relatives married Shiites), what a mixture !!....

From many nationalities and creeds. We are one big family..

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

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

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:. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.

**Bush Warns Iran Not To Be Helpful
On Iraq:**

Promises 'Swift Retribution' For Constructive Role

January 30, 2007 The Borowitz Report

Amid reports that Iran is prepared to offer Iraq help with reconstruction and other forms of economic aid, President George W. Bush warned Iran today that any helpfulness on its part would be met with "swift retribution" from the U.S.

Speaking from the White House, Mr. Bush warned Iran not to entertain any thoughts of being helpful, vowing, "No good deed will go unpunished."

The president also issued a stern ultimatum directly to Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, warning him against "future provocative offers of help."

"Iran can continue down this dangerous path of helpfulness, or it can resume its role as an international pariah," Mr. Bush said. "The choice is clear."

The president appeared bent on isolating Iran to punish it for its threatened acts of helpfulness, even naming it to what he called "The Axis of Constructiveness."

In Tehran, President Ahmadinejad seemed almost emboldened by Mr. Bush's remarks, even taunting the U.S. president with threats of his own: "Iran will continue to be as helpful as it wants to be, and no one can make us stop."

On Capitol Hill, congressional leaders worried that Mr. Bush's options for reining in Iran's recklessly constructive behavior may be limited.

"President Bush might like to threaten Iran with military action if they persist in being helpful," said Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del). "But with the U.S. military stretched thin in Iraq, Iran probably feels that it can be helpful with impunity."

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