

## GI SPECIAL 5B13:

# NO MORE! KEEP THEM HOME, NOW



Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division rest while waiting to depart for Iraq at a deployment center in Craig Gym at Fort Riley, Kan., Feb. 8, 2007. They are part of the 21,500 soldier increase sent by President Bush to Iraq. (AP Photo/Orlin Wagner)

# “Mr. Engel Said All Of The Soldiers He Talked With Believed It Was ‘Time To End This War’”

February 12, 2007 By BOB HERBERT, NY Times Op-Ed [Excerpts]

[Thanks to Katherine GY, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Ladies and gentlemen, there's a war on.

The public seems to understand this.

It was voters fed up with the war who snatched control of both houses of Congress from the Republicans in last November's elections. And they were the ones giving Senator Hillary Clinton a hard time in New Hampshire over the weekend.

President Bush responded to the antiwar sentiment in last November's election by escalating U.S. involvement in Iraq. Vice President Dick Cheney, lost in a zone of unreality, is blithely spreading the fantasy of "enormous progress." He may not have noticed that the last three months have been among the worst of the war.

**The Democrats who benefited from the antiwar vote reacted to the president's thumb in the eye of the voters with their usual timidity. They've put their hearts and souls into a marathon effort to pass a nonbinding resolution opposing the troop surge. Be still my heart.**

**The bottom line is that nothing has changed.**

The horror stories continue to spew out of Iraq: the helicopters being shot down, the mass killings in marketplaces, the steady stream of U.S. soldiers returning in body bags.

We need to stop pretending that there is something sane about continued U.S. involvement in this ruinous war. We keep sending troops into the combat zone and they keep sinking ever deeper into the ancient Middle East sand.

**To keep sending young people off to die in a war that everybody knows is pointless is criminal.**

On NBC's "Nightly News" last Friday the correspondent Richard Engel, traveling with a convoy of soldiers from the First Infantry Division, had a close call when a roadside bomb detonated several feet away. No one was hurt, and Staff Sgt. Chris Copley said into the camera, with a laugh and a hint of bravado, "It gets the adrenaline going a little bit, doesn't it?"

**But Mr. Engel noted that when the convoy returned to its patrol base, Sergeant Copley and other soldiers were openly wondering, "What are they doing out here?"**

It's a question that deserves a clear, straight answer, especially from their commander in chief and the politicians running for president.

**Sergeant Copley told Mr. Engel: "It's pretty much almost a lost cause. Nothing it seems that we do is doing any good."**

**Mr. Engel said all of the soldiers he talked with believed it was "time to end this war."**

He closed his piece by telling Brian Williams, "Earlier in the week some of the soldiers I was embedded with were hit by a larger I.E.D. That I.E.D. tore the door off the Humvee and the soldier inside had to have both of his legs amputated."

**MORE:**

## **53% In Army Times Poll Say Bush Escalation Of Iraq War "Too Little, Too Late"**

2.12.06 Army Times Poll

The U.S. Surge in Iraq:

President Bush has put in motion a controversial plan to deploy 21,500 more U.S. troops to Iraq, most of them to Baghdad, in an effort to quell the sectarian violence that continues to rage there. What do you think of this plan?

**It will turn the tide**



15.69 % (493)

**It's worth a try**



27.20 % (855)

**Too little, too late**



53.52 % (1682)

**No opinion**



3.60 % (113)

Total votes: 3143

**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**

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **California Sgt. Killed In Baghdad**



U.S. Army, Sgt. Robert B. Thrasher , 23, of Folsom, Calif., died Feb. 11, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his combat patrol came under small arms fire. Thrasher was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Bliss, Texas. (AP Photo/ U.S. Army)

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### **Soldier Dies In Non-Combat Related Incident**

12 February 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory  
RELEASE No. 20070212-01

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A Soldier assigned to Multi-National Corps-Iraq, died February 11, 2007 in a non-combat related incident.

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### **Two Soldiers Killed At Combat Outpost, Ramadi**

Feb 6 By Michelle Tan - Staff writer Army Times [Excerpt]

Camp Ramadi, Iraq — Spc. Alan Eugene McPeek was just days away from completing his 14-month tour in Iraq. Pvt. Matthew Thomas Zeimer had been at Combat Outpost Grant for less than two hours.

Close to 1 a.m. Friday, on what was supposed to be his last night at Combat Outpost Grant in central Ramadi, McPeek and his fellow soldiers came under attack. It was an intense and coordinated attack launched by insurgents from nearby buildings and streets.

McPeek, 20, and Zeimer, 18, ran together to the roof to fight back.

McPeek took Zeimer, a member of the 3rd Infantry Division unit set to replace the outgoing soldiers, under his wing. He coached him and stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the young private as they fought for their lives.

But a shot fired from what commanders believe was a recoilless rifle blasted through the reinforced concrete wall near McPeek and Zeimer. The impact killed them both.

McPeek, with Company A, 16th Engineer Battalion, was attached to Task Force 1-37 Armor while he was in Iraq. Zeimer belonged to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor.

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## ***His Son Wanted 'To Get The Hell Out Of Iraq'*** **Stop-Lossed In Bush' "Surge," Soldier Killed In Ramadi**



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

**“Most of you know that he had already served his required time there and should have been safe in Germany when this happened.”**

02.06.2007 BLAKE MORLOCK, Tucson Citizen

The Tucson area lost another soldier - another Mountain View High School 2004 graduate - during weekend fighting in Iraq.

Spc. Alan E. McPeek, 20, died Friday of injuries from small-arms fire during a battle in Ramadi, Iraq, a Department of Defense release said. Ramadi is in Anbar province, about 100 miles west of Baghdad, where Sunnis hostile to U.S. forces have holed up for three years.

McPeek had been scheduled to leave Iraq, but his unit, the 1st Armored Division, was kept there after Ramadi came under attack by insurgents.

A posting from McPeek's father on his son's MySpace page thanked friends for their condolences. His father could not be reached for comment.

**“You all are the reason he so wanted to get the hell out of Iraq,” the posting said. “Most of you know that he had already served his required time there and should have been safe in Germany when this happened.”**

Fellow Mountain View grad Michael Travers knew McPeek throughout high school and kept in touch with him. Travers called McPeek a “great guy with a really good heart and good spirit.”

“He was really outgoing,” Travers said. “He would just do crazy things.”

Mountain View grads are a closely knit group, Travers said, and McPeek was friends with Pfc. Sam Williams Huff and Navy Hospitalman Chadwick Thomas Kenyon. They all graduated in 2004, and all died in Iraq.

The word about McPeek spread fast through a network of old friends who keep losing buddies, Travers said.

“That's probably the first thing out of people's mouths after we talked about Alan is how all three of them passed away,” he said.

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## Barnwell Soldier Killed In Iraq

Feb 7, 2007 Reporter: Diane Cho, WRDW

BARNWELL, S.C.---A soldier from Barnwell has died in a helicopter crash in Iraq. Chief Warrant Officer Jason Defrenn was on his third tour there.

CWO Defrenn was supposed to come home next Friday to see the birth of his son. Now he's home for good, but it's not how his family had hoped. Jason Defrenn took his last breath on February 2, 2007 while serving his country.

The 34-year-old Barnwell native was killed in action after his Apache helicopter was shot down just north of Taji, Iraq.

Three days after Jason's death, his wife gave birth to a healthy eight-pound baby boy who breathed new life for his family.

Jason's father says he always knew his son was a warrior, even as a child. It's why he says Jason chose to become an Apache pilot.

"I believe in my heart he had a notion he wouldn't come back, but he was fearless."

But that day came sooner than he could've ever had imagined...and explaining to Jason's five-year-old son why his daddy wouldn't be coming back was even harder.

Jason leaves behind a wife, Jenni, and four children.

His body will come to Barnwell in the next few days, and they'll have his funeral within a week.

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## Layton Soldier Predicted Iraq Death



Eric Sieger

02/05/2007 By Michael N. Westley, The Salt Lake Tribune

Just five months after being deployed to Iraq, 18-year-old Eric Sieger was killed when the armored vehicle he was driving rolled from the road Thursday and into a ravine.

From their Layton home, Wolfgang and Krista Sieger recalled the struggles and triumphs they shared with the boy they adopted when he was 11 years old. The Siegers are proud to say they have 15 children - seven of whom are adopted and five of whom have served in the military.

Krista Sieger last spoke with her son a week ago today. The Austrian immigrant said she loved Eric's phone calls and this one in particular because they spent so much time laughing and joking with each other. His only request was photos of the family.

"He asked for an envelope of pictures so he could keep them and carry them around with him," said Krista Sieger.

Military officials have not yet said what caused the Bradley armored tank Eric Sieger was driving to roll into the ravine. The corporal was plucked from the wreckage and died later at the hospital. The wreck is being considered an accident, Wolfgang Sieger said.

The news of their son's death reached their home early Friday morning. As Wolfgang Sieger, a semi-retired software engineer, opened his front door to leave for work, he was greeted by military personnel. He said he knew immediately the visit was about Eric.

"It is shocking," Wolfgang Sieger said. "And then slowly it starts sinking in."

Eric Sieger was abandoned by his mother when he was 6 years old.

He bounced among foster homes for about five years until the Siegers reunited him with his three younger siblings and brought them to Layton.

"These children have gone through unspeakable things in their lives," Wolfgang Sieger said. "There were a lot of difficult times as a teenager, but he was dutiful in wanting to do what is right."

That duty led Eric to enlist in the armed forces. He left for Iraq in September, a month before his younger brother, James, left for basic training.

Before Eric left, he told his friends and family he did not believe they would see him again.

"He said he knew that he would be coming home in a casket," said his mother.

She admitted that she, too, had a bad feeling about him fighting in Iraq but "hoped against hope" for his safe return.

"I used to tell him that if a bullet comes at you, catch it and throw it back," Krista Sieger said. "And be careful. That's all you can really do."

The Siegers said Eric was good with his hands and was always trying to fix things - sometimes when they weren't broken. He enjoyed running and being with his friends, many of whom had posted messages on his myspace.com page saying goodbye Sunday night.

Though saddened by his death, Wolfgang Sieger is intensely proud of his son.

"Having beaten all the odds, he grew up and became a man - and a hero at that."

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**REALLY BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION;**



## **HOPELESS WAR: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Jan. 24, 2007: Makeshift barracks at an unfinished power plant occupied by the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry of the Tenth Mountain Division in Youssifiyah, 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Baghdad. The Youssifiyah power plant has served as an insurgent stronghold, and is now a makeshift base for 300 U.S. and Iraqi soldiers. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo, File)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **U.S. Command Admits Opening Artillery Fire On Pakistan**

Feb 11, 2007 By Robert Burns, The Associated Press

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Asserting a right to self-defense, American forces in eastern Afghanistan launched artillery rounds into Pakistan to strike Taliban fighters who attack remote U.S. outposts, the commander of U.S. forces in the region said Sunday.

The skirmishes are politically sensitive because Pakistan's government, regarded by the Bush administration as an important ally against Islamic extremists, has denied that it allows U.S. forces to strike inside its territory.

The Pakistani army's top spokesman said on Sunday that coalition forces operating in Afghanistan are not allowed to fire into Pakistani territory but acknowledged that artillery fire from the coalition had landed inside Pakistan in recent days.

Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan also said that Pakistan would seek clarification over the U.S. military official's statement.

"There is a clear understanding between us and the coalition authority about respecting the sanctity of international border," Sultan told the Associated Press by telephone. "And Pakistan would not allow any coalition forces to violate the international border."

[Army Col. John W. Nicholson, commander of the 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division] described the fighting along the border, particularly in Afghanistan's Paktika and Khost provinces, as intense.

In some cases, he said, the Taliban have crossed the border at night, using wire cutters to breach the perimeter of small U.S. outposts, "trying to get hand grenades into our bunkers."

**"I mean we're talking World War I type of stuff," Nicholson said. "These are some very sharp, intense fights" initiated by an enemy he described as resilient and undeterred by superior U.S. firepower.**

**"They'll keep coming back," he said.**

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## Troops Fire On Collaborator Convoy

February 12, 2007 CBC News

The Canadian Forces are investigating an incident in which one of their own shot and wounded an Afghan soldier Monday morning.

The shooting occurred when a Canadian convoy and a group of Afghan military vehicles crossed paths along a highway in Kandahar at about 7 a.m., the Canadian military said.

A Canadian vehicle had broken down and troops had set up a defensive perimeter around it. While repairs were being done, an Afghan National Army convoy approached.

"At that time, for whatever reason, it appears shots were fired by the Canadians at the ANA convoy," said Lt.-Cmdr. Kris Phillips.

"The vehicle was hit and the driver of that vehicle was injured," said Phillips, a spokesman for the International Security Force in Afghanistan.

Angry responses came from the Afghan soldiers, but "cooler heads prevailed" after interpreters helped the soldiers communicate, Phillips said.

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# Assorted Resistance Action

Feb 12 (KUNA) & Murray Brewster, Canadian Press

Six militants and four Afghan policemen were killed when Taliban ambushed a joint convoy of NATO troops and Afghan police in Uruzgan province last night.

NATO forces and Afghan police and soldiers battled suspected Taliban militants for five hours near the town of Tirin Kot late Sunday, said Qayum Qayumi, the provincial governor's spokesman.

Two police died and a third was wounded in Zabul province when suspected Taliban militants ambushed a police vehicle Sunday night, said Ghulam Jalali, a highway police commander. One policeman and one Taliban fighter were wounded in a gunbattle, he said.

In a separate incident, Taliban waylaid a private vehicle in Tarinkot, capital of the province, and dragged out two policemen from it. They were later shot dead, said security officials in the province.

One Afghan soldier suffered injuries as a vehicle overturned in a ravine.

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## TROOP NEWS

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



The casket containing the remains of Marine Cpl. Mark D. Kidd at a cemetery in Brighton, Michigan, February 3, 2007. Kidd was killed in Iraq by a sniper's bullet at a checkpoint. REUTERS/Rebecca Cook

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# **Thousands Of Army Humvees In Iraq Lack Armor Upgrade; Rolling Coffins Have No Protection Against Advanced IEDs; Dumbfuck Reporter Says “Only” 240 IED Attacks A Month Cause Casualties!**

**U.S. commanders have voiced frustration recently at the ability of enemy fighters in Iraq to change tactics to defeat U.S. protective gear.**

**“Equipment that was, we thought, pretty effective in protecting our troops just a matter of months ago is now being in fact challenged by some of the techniques and devices over there,” Adm. William J. Fallon, the new U.S. commander for the Middle East, said last month.**

[Thanks to Alan Stolzer, The Military Project, who sent this in.]

Feb 12, 2007 By Ann Scott Tyson, MSNBC [Excerpts]

**The Army is working to fill a shortfall in Iraq of thousands of advanced Humvee armor kits designed to reduce U.S. troop deaths from roadside bombs....**

The additional protection is needed for thousands of U.S. reinforcement troops flowing into Baghdad....

**U.S. Army units in Iraq and Afghanistan lack more than 4,000 of the latest Humvee armor kit, known as FRAG Kit 5, according to U.S. officials.**

The Army is supplying the life-saving kits “as quickly as we can,” said Army Brig. Gen. Charles Anderson, director of force development for the Army deputy chief of staff.

The Army declined to disclose details on the number of kits installed and where the shortages exist.

In the case of FRAG Kit 5, the Army quickly produced a bolt-on version in limited quantities, while the permanent version has taken longer than expected to develop, test, produce and install.

**Meanwhile, the unexpected deployment of five additional Army brigades into Baghdad has created an urgent need for 2,000 Humvees with the new armor.**

The penetrator [EFP], a heavy, metal projectile, is propelled by an explosive and strikes with enough speed and power to shatter the relatively brittle, "high hard" steel of up-armored Humvees, creating what experts call "behind armor debris (BAD)" -- essentially, turning pieces of the vehicle into shrapnel.

The new armor kit is designed with more flexible materials that slow down the projectile and contain the debris, limiting the damage to that caused directly by the EFP.

However, there is no guarantee that even the latest armor -- which reinforces the doors - - can prevent deaths from EFPs, defense officials have emphasized, and U.S. troops in Humvees outfitted with the new kit have been killed by EFPs.

The Pentagon does not release overall data on EFP strikes or their effectiveness, to prevent such information from being exploited by attackers. But reports from the military and family members on specific attacks indicate that since November, at least 11 U.S. soldiers and an interpreter have died in EFP strikes, all but one of them in Baghdad.

**"In November, there was all of a sudden a ridiculous surge in EFP activity. People were getting killed left and right," said one military officer who served recently in Iraq. While other roadside bombs often cause no casualties, EFPs "make everyone nervous," he said. "It's a catastrophic weapon."**

EFP attacks are a small percentage of the roughly 1,200 attacks against U.S. forces each month involving roadside bombs, according to the Pentagon's Joint IED Defeat Organization.

**About half the roadside bombs in Iraq are found and disabled, and only 20 percent cause U.S. casualties. [Only? That's 240 IED attacks a month causing casualties. Let's put this idiot reporter in a Humvee one of the 240 and see if it's still an "only" then. Hey, what's losing an arm or a leg if she gets the story, right?]**

**But EFPs "are far more lethal," Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said recently, adding, "They can take out an Abrams tank."**

**U.S. commanders have voiced frustration recently at the ability of enemy fighters in Iraq to change tactics to defeat U.S. protective gear.**

**"Equipment that was, we thought, pretty effective in protecting our troops just a matter of months ago is now being in fact challenged by some of the techniques and devices over there," Adm. William J. Fallon, the new U.S. commander for the Middle East, said last month.**

***Fewer than half the Army's roughly 14,500 up-armored Humvees in Iraq and Afghanistan have been outfitted with the bolt-on version of FRAG Kit 5.***

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# ***No Equipment To Keep You Alive? Not To Worry, The Pentagon Can Always Deploy Dolphins***

## **Headline: “Navy May Deploy Anti-Terrorism Dolphins”**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: WATCH OUT INSURGENTS, PRES. BUSH HAS DECLARED HE WILL SEND 20,000 DOLPHINS TO IRAQ!]

1.12.07 By THOMAS WATKINS, Associated Press Writer

Dozens of dolphins and sea lions trained to detect and apprehend waterborne attackers could be sent to patrol a military base in Washington state, the Navy said Monday. In a notice published in this week's Federal Register, the Navy said it needs to bolster security at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, on the Puget Sound close to Seattle.

The base is home to submarines, ships and laboratories and is potentially vulnerable to attack by terrorist swimmers and scuba divers, the notice states.

Several options are under consideration, but the preferred plan would be to send as many as 30 California sea lions and Atlantic Bottlenose dolphins from the Navy's Marine Mammal Program, based in San Diego.

“These animals have the capabilities for what needs to be done for this particular mission,” said Tom LaPuzza, a spokesman for the Marine Mammal Program.

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# **George National Guard Troops Trapped In Bush’s “Surge” Won’t Be Coming Home After All**

Feb 7, 2007 The Associated Press

About 170 Georgia Army National Guard soldiers with the First Battalion, 214th Field Artillery based in Toccoa will spend an extra four months in Iraq as part of President Bush's troop increase announced last month.

“They were originally scheduled to return home in April, but now they’ll probably come home in August,” said Jim Driscoll, director of communications for the Georgia Guard.

The unit is working with a National Guard brigade from Minnesota which replaced Georgia’s 48th Infantry Brigade at Tallil Air Base in southern Iraq in April 2006.

The 214th Field Artillery is based at Camp Cedar Two and has been operating as a security force.

**A spokesman for the 214th, Sgt. Gary Heffner said news of the extension came as a “little bit of a shock” for the Georgia soldiers. [Perhaps Bush would care to visit them, and find out just how “little bit” the shock was?]**

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## **Cadet Says “The People Of This Country Need To Lay Siege To The White House”**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: Feel free to publish. Last name removed obviously.]

We need to fight this tooth and nail.

I swear, the stupidity of this government is unrivalled.

**The people of this country need to lay siege to the White House until this ends. No one goes in, no one comes out, until the policies change.**

I was sitting in class today and my professor informed us that Russian military advisors were in Tehran over the weekend testing the surface-to-air missiles they just sold to the Iranian government.

They promised to fix an already broken Afghanistan, completed the fuck-up of Iraq, and now they want to destroy another country when they can't even rebuild the first two.

**Petitioning has gotten us nothing but the insult of a nonbinding resolution and isn't going to stop the warships on their way to the Persian Gulf.**

J

**[The News Story The Cadet Refers To:]**

Feb 11, 5:02 PM ET

White House officials are taunting Iran into an action the United States could use as an excuse for an attack, a former security official told Newsweek, the magazine reported.

“They intend to be as provocative as possible and make the Iranians do something (the United States) would be forced to retaliate for,” Hillary Mann, former director for Iran and Persian Gulf Affairs at the National Security Council, which reports to the White House, told the New York newsweekly.

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## Iowa City Rat “City Officials” Tormenting Family Of KIA Soldier

Feb 11, 2007 The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Patty Sourivong lost her soldier son to the war in Iraq last fall.

Now, she says all she has left of him are her memories. But the way she’s chosen to keep those memories close is posing a problem between the mother and city officials.

**That’s because Patty Sourivong has a camper parked next to her driveway as a reminder of her son, Sgt. Kampha Sourivong, who was shot twice and killed Sept. 30 in Iraq. She said the 20-year-old spent much of his youth spending time with friends in the camper.**

**She said she and her husband, Maliphone, a Vietnam War veteran, got a notice from city officials last week that said to move the camper to a graveled or concrete portion of the property by Monday. The couple is uncertain of their penalty if they violate the order.**

“We’ve already lost our son,” Patty Sourivong said. “Now they want to take away our memory.”

Joshua Tryon, whose property runs next to the camper, said his family doesn’t have any problem with it.

“It’s not hurting us at all,” he said.

Patty Sourivong said she called Gov. Chet Culver’s office and was told to ask Iowa City officials for a waiver. She has yet to receive one.

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## HOW DO YOU SAY “TIGERLAND” IN ARABIC?



# Candidates Tell The Army Thanks But No Thanks

[Thanks to Marc Liggin, who sent this in.]

(Feb. 9, 2007): Spiegel Online: International

The US Army in Germany is looking for 600 Arabic-speaking extras for its Iraq training exercises in Germany. Willing participants can earn \$117 a day -- their main task is to not understand US soldiers.

"Does anyone here have anything against working with Americans?" the gaunt German man asks the 29 Arab men and two women sitting in a bleak white-painted room in Berlin.

The extras will live for three weeks at the Combat Maneuver Training Center (CMTC) in Hohenfels, Bavaria, located between Nuremberg and Regensburg.

The 16,000-hectare training ground includes ten artificial villages. The extras are supposed to play "the role of an Arab in Iraq" for 24 hours a day, according to the casting agent in Berlin.

**They were interested in taking part in a film, but the idea of spending 21 days surrounded by smoke grenades, camouflaged Jeeps and Blackhawk helicopters, pretending to be shot with infra-red weapons, doesn't seem quite so attractive.**

The US military has been training with Muslim extras since 2003. "It's not so easy to find them in Germany," says Timothy L. Good, who is responsible for the "Civilians on the Battlefield" program at the CMTC.

**It's not just that the requirements from the amateur actors are too high, but also that reservations about the US are too large, he says.**

The casting session in Berlin makes that clear too.

**By the end of the morning, there are only four serious candidates left sitting in the bleak room**

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## IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

### Assorted Resistance Action

12 Feb 2007 Reuters

The bodies of five Iraqi soldiers were found in the small western town of Garma on Sunday, after they were captured by insurgents on Saturday, police said.

Police found the body of a policeman in Falahiya, south of Baghdad. The policeman had been captured last week, police said.

Insurgents killed one bodyguard for an Interior Ministry executive and wounded another when they attacked her vehicle in a drive-by shooting in eastern Baghdad's Zayouna neighbourhood, police sources said.

Guerrillas killed one policeman in the southern city of Samawa on Sunday, a police source said.

Six policemen were wounded after clashes between insurgents and police in Mosul, police sources said.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**YOU CAN'T SAVE YOUR ASS AND  
YOUR FACE AT THE SAME TIME**



From: Richard Hastie  
To: GI Special

Sent: February 10, 2007

**YOU CAN'T SAVE YOUR ASS AND YOUR FACE AT THE SAME TIME**

**IT MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO DIFFERENCE HOW MANY AMERICANS  
DISAPPROVE OF BUSH'S HANDLING OF THE IRAQ WAR.**

**IF THEY DON'T TAKE THEIR GUTS AND PUT IT ON THE STREET, IT DON'T MEAN  
SHIT.**

**FREEDOM FROM GEORGE BUSH  
IS NOT FREE.**

**Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran  
February 10, 2007**

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: ([hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

**“Let Me Tell You A Little Secret  
About The Plan To Parcel You Out  
In Small Groups And Isolate You  
In Iraqi Units”**

**“This Was Tried In Vietnam With  
Disastrous Results, With Adjectives  
Like Suicidal”**

I can tell you from experience that it's impossible to win any kind of guerilla war without the support of the population and while soldiering from a defensive position.

[Thanks to Linda Olson & Ron Jacobs, who sent this in.]

February 7, 2007 By TONY SWINDELL, [Vietnam Veteran] CounterPunch [Excerpts]

How many of you recognize the name of Army Warrant Officer Hugh Thompson, Jr.?

**I do because he and I stood on and flew over the same ground nearly 40 years ago.**

**Like him, I left a little blood and a lot of sweat in a Godforsaken place halfway around the world, earning four battle stars in 11 months. Plus some cheap tin and ribbon medals made even cheaper by the good friends who never came home with me.**

Thompson did, too.

**Hugh was a helicopter pilot who aimed his guns at American soldiers--members of my brigade -- to keep them from slaughtering civilians in the Vietnamese hamlet of My Lai 4.**

Spotting massacred civilians around My Lai, Thompson and his two-man crew landed beside wounded civilians to give medical help as the infantry company commander and others present kept shooting the wounded. Thompson ordered his crew to open fire if the slaughter continued. No more civilians were shot.

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After four years, why doesn't everyone have the equipment and armored vehicles needed?

**The most cynical thing our government can do is to send its soldiers into combat with defective weapons or lacking critical equipment.**

To me, actions speak a lot louder than words. Just ask the folks who lost everything to Hurricane Katrina down along the Gulf Coast.

Keep in mind that defense contractors like Halliburton are raking in billions, and the 100-grand-per-year hired guns and their employers certainly aren't lacking anything they need.

Take a close look at their equipment. Whether you realize it or not, these hired guns are making your job a lot harder by terrorizing and humiliating the Iraqi population, accountable to no one.

I've seen it all before, only with more humidity and less sand.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Let me tell you a little secret about the plan to parcel you out in small groups and isolate you in Iraqi units.**

**This was tried in Vietnam with disastrous results, with adjectives like suicidal. And that was before we had really gotten serious about killing people over there.**

How can you tell who the enemy is? Do you speak the Iraqi language and understand the culture? That friendly Iraqi kid or little girl in a burka may be taking reams of mental notes about your unit strength, equipment, and movement patterns to relay to their big

brothers with the IEDs, RPGs and AKs. They may even be humping bags of ammo or ordnance and running comms for insurgents.

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Count your fingers for the number of new insurgents every dead civilian creates. Rape a girl and murder her family to cover it up, and you'll need a computer.

Don't forget to factor in the damage from 50,000 armed-to-the-teeth mercenaries, many of whom not only don't speak Iraqi, they don't even speak English.

**Always remember that none of these people invited you there to blow their country apart.**

**I can tell you from experience that it's impossible to win any kind of guerilla war without the support of the population and while soldiering from a defensive position.**

**Have your missions turned from search and clear to search and avoid like ours did?**

**Make no mistake: the real reason for the "surge" into Baghdad is to reinforce security around the laptop warriors and bureaucrats in the Green Zone.**

\*\*\*\*\*

For those of you who come home wounded, it will take years to get a VA disability claim processed if you succeed at all.

**The bottom line is that you and your loved ones are suffering all the blood and material sacrifices while White House and Congressional cronies get unspeakably rich.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Our anger is directed at the people who have cynically exploited your patriotism and love of America, people who seem to owe their allegiance to another country, people who have been using our Constitution as toilet paper.

They count on your blind obedience to authority.

All of us were born free men and women, and it's time to once again begin living like we are. It's time to show the government where real strength of the American people lies.

The bottom line is, if you don't think an ordinary soldier like yourself can do anything about the situation, you're dead wrong.

**Remember the story of Hugh Thompson.**

**When the same dogs of war start barking, you start biting like he did.**

You don't give up your Constitutional rights when you put on the uniform, because the defense of the Constitution is at the core of your solemn oath to serve.

Anyone who orders you to give up your morality and humanity should be hung.

**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.

***Victory Is Not An Option***  
**The Mission Can't Be**  
**Accomplished:**  
**“Has Anybody Asked The Troops?**  
**Soldiers And Officers In Iraq Are**  
**Speaking Out Critically To Reporters**  
**On The Ground”**

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

February 11, 2007 By William E. Odom, Washington Post [Excerpts] William E. Odom, a retired Army lieutenant general, was head of Army intelligence and director of the National Security Agency under Ronald Reagan.

The new National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq starkly delineates the gulf that separates President Bush's illusions from the realities of the war.

Victory, as the president sees it, requires a stable liberal democracy in Iraq that is pro-American. The NIE describes a war that has no chance of producing that result.

**In this critical respect, the NIE, the consensus judgment of all the U.S. intelligence agencies, is a declaration of defeat.**

Its gloomy implications -- hedged, as intelligence agencies prefer, in rubbery language that cannot soften its impact -- put the intelligence community and the American public on the same page.

**The public awakened to the reality of failure in Iraq last year and turned the Republicans out of control of Congress to wake it up. But a majority of its members are still asleep, or only half-awake to their new writ to end the war soon.**

Perhaps this is not surprising. Americans do not warm to defeat or failure, and our politicians are famously reluctant to admit their own responsibility for anything resembling those un-American outcomes.

**So they beat around the bush, wringing hands and debating “nonbinding resolutions” that oppose the president’s plan to increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq.**

For the moment, the collision of the public’s clarity of mind, the president’s relentless pursuit of defeat and Congress’s anxiety has paralyzed us.

First of all, it will require, from Congress at least, public acknowledgment that the president’s policy is based on illusions, not realities.

**There never has been any right way to invade and transform Iraq.**

**Second, to expect any Iraqi leader who can hold his country together to be pro-American, or to share American goals, is to abandon common sense.**

**It took the United States more than a century to get over its hostility toward British occupation. (In 1914, a majority of the public favored supporting Germany against Britain.)**

**Every month of the U.S. occupation, polls have recorded Iraqis’ rising animosity toward the United States.**

Today the Iraqi government survives only because its senior members and their families live within the heavily guarded Green Zone, which houses the U.S. Embassy and military command.

**Too many lawmakers have fallen for the myths that are invoked to try to sell the president’s new war aims. Let us consider the most pernicious of them.**

**1) We must continue the war to prevent the terrible aftermath that will occur if our forces are withdrawn soon.**

**Reflect on the double-think of this formulation.**

**We are now fighting to prevent what our invasion made inevitable!**

Undoubtedly we will leave a mess -- the mess we created, which has become worse each year we have remained.

**Lawmakers gravely proclaim their opposition to the war, but in the next breath express fear that quitting it will leave a blood bath, a civil war, a terrorist haven, a “failed state,” or some other horror.**

***But this “aftermath” is already upon us; a prolonged U.S. occupation cannot prevent what already exists.***

**2) We must continue the war to prevent Iran’s influence from growing in Iraq.**

This is another absurd notion.

Why are so many members of Congress swallowing the claim that prolonging the war is now supposed to prevent precisely what starting the war inexorably and predictably caused?

**3) We must prevent the emergence of a new haven for al-Qaeda in Iraq.**

But it was the U.S. invasion that opened Iraq’s doors to al-Qaeda. The longer U.S. forces have remained there, the stronger al-Qaeda has become.

Meanwhile, continuing the war will not push al-Qaeda outside Iraq. On the contrary, the American presence is the glue that holds al-Qaeda there now.

**4) We must continue to fight in order to “support the troops.”**

This argument effectively paralyzes almost all members of Congress.

**Lawmakers proclaim in grave tones a litany of problems in Iraq sufficient to justify a rapid pullout.**

**Then they reject that logical conclusion, insisting we cannot do so because we must support the troops.**

**Has anybody asked the troops?**

**During their first tours, most may well have favored “staying the course” -- whatever that meant to them -- but now in their second, third and fourth tours, many are changing their minds.**

**We see evidence of that in the many news stories about unhappy troops being sent back to Iraq.**

**Veterans groups are beginning to make public the case for bringing them home.**

**Soldiers and officers in Iraq are speaking out critically to reporters on the ground.**

It is already too late to wait for some presidential candidate for 2008 to retrieve the situation.

**If Congress cannot act, it, too, will live in infamy.**



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# February 13, 1968: The Anniversary Of Five Honorable Soldiers Who Stood Up

Carl Bunin Peace History February 12-18

Five soldiers were arrested at a pray-in for peace in Vietnam at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

### IRAQI-LED TROOPS ARREST DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE IN WASHINGTON DC: [WELCOME TO THE “SOVEREIGN” USA]



A door with military boot prints at the Health Ministry in Baghdad. US-led troops have arrested the Iraq health ministry's second highest official. (AFP/Ali Al-Saadi)

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION**

**BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

## **“If Iraqis Don’t Want To Be In Iraq, Why Should U.S. Troops Be There?” 3 Iraqi Diplomats Seek Asylum In Australia**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier. He writes: I really can't blame them. If Iraqis don't want to be in Iraq, why should U.S. troops be there?]

February 7, 2007 The Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia

Three Iraqi diplomats and their families are seeking asylum in Australia after their government ordered them back to their embattled country, the government said Thursday. The three lost their diplomatic accreditation after Iraq closed the office of the military attache within the Iraqi embassy in the national capital Canberra on Dec. 15, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, or DFAT, said in a statement.

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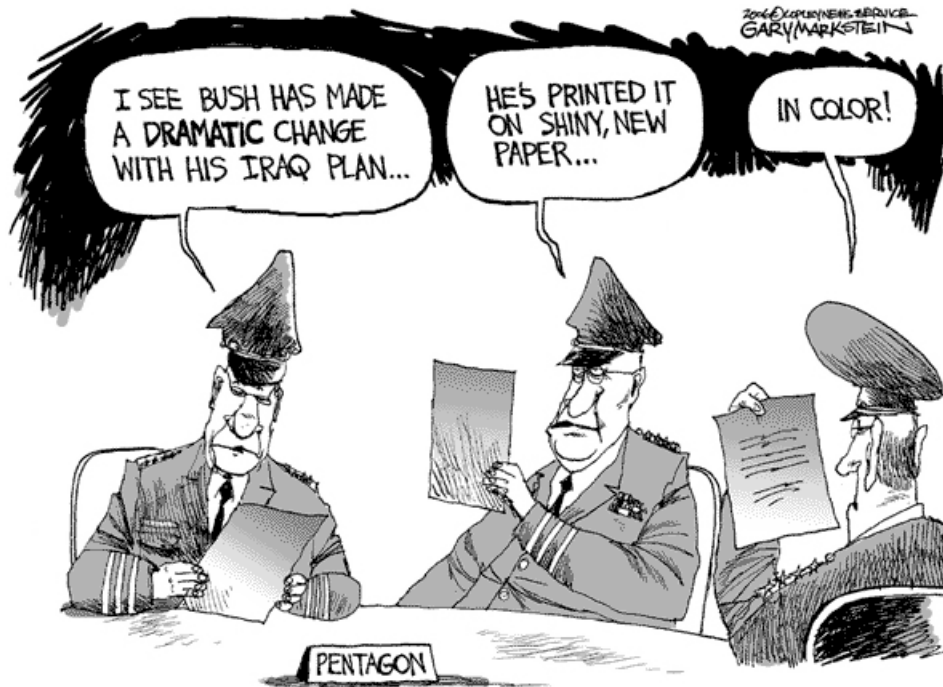
## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

### **Murtha Says Fine For Bush To Send More Troops To Die In Iraq Provided They Have “Adequate” Training And Equipment**

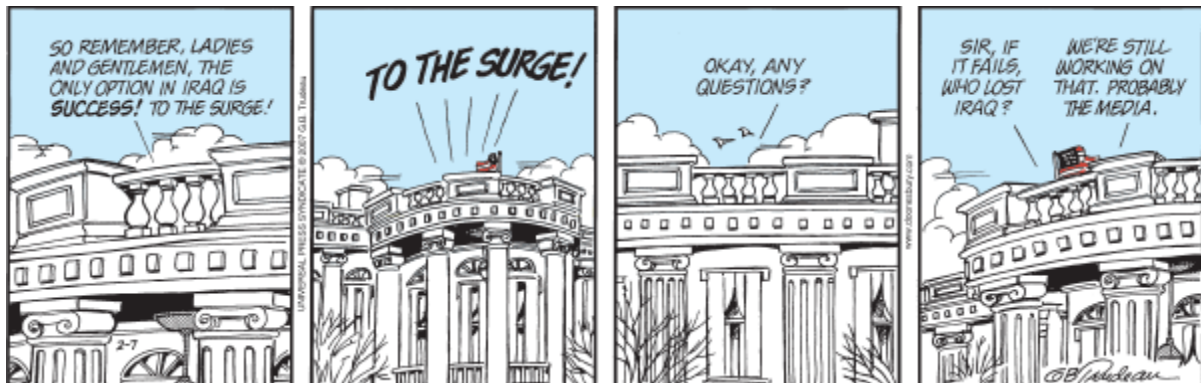
10 February 2007 By David Espo, The Associated Press

Rep. John Murtha, who heads a subcommittee with jurisdiction over defense spending, told reporters he hopes to add a provision to the bill that would forbid the Pentagon from sending additional troops “unless they have adequate training and unless they have adequate equipment.”

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



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

## **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:**

From: Linda O  
To: GI Special  
Sent: February 08, 2007

I'm not military, or even a relative of a military person, but always read your newsletter.

Please keep up the good work. I have grandchildren and great-grandchildren I worry about.

And I remember the endless Vietnam quagmire.

Thanks for what you do.

Linda  
Santa Cruz, CA

## **REPLY:**

A newsletter means nothing without people who help get it around to those serving in the armed forces, and civilians who want to stop the war. So the thanks go to you, and all the other people who send in the news that makes it possible. T

### **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://qi-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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