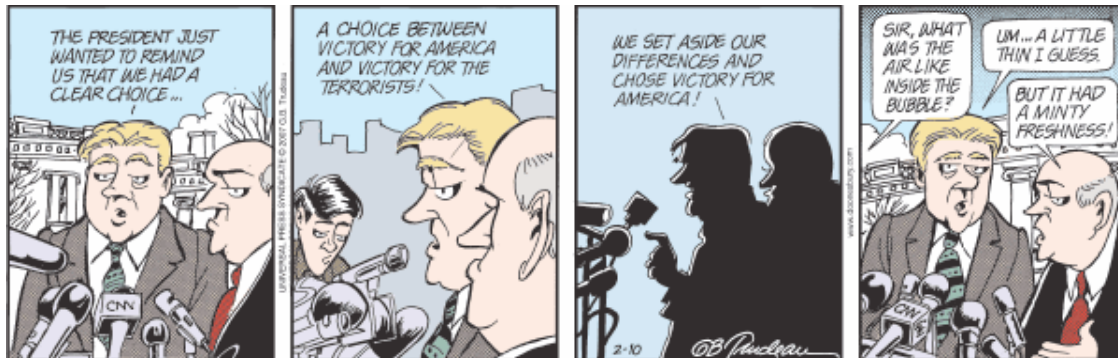


## GI SPECIAL 5B14:



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

# Stop-Lossed National Guard Families Face Financial And Personal Hardship, Thanks To Bush's "Surge"

**"He Doesn't Seem To Have Any Idea Of What He's Asking Of These People."**

**"In Many Cases, The Guard Salary Is Less Than What The Soldiers Receive In Their Civilian Jobs In The United States"**

February 13, 2007 By REBECCA SANTANA, ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER  
[Excerpts]

VINELAND, N.J. -- Daphne Chaniz-Rico had picked out her dress, put down a deposit on a country club for her reception, and reserved a photographer. All she was lacking for her July wedding was one groom.

But now the 20-year-old is scrambling to reschedule what was supposed to be the happiest day of her life after her fiance, Michael Barreca - a member of the New Jersey Army National Guard - was told that his unit would have to stay in Iraq an extra four months as part of President Bush's push for more troops in the region.

"We were just expecting to see him, to hold him, to kiss him, and for him to be here," said Chaniz-Rico, holding back tears. "It just means that we have to pray for him a little more, and he'll be home soon."

**She and other spouses of National Guardsmen in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, are grappling with a host of difficulties created by an extension of their loved ones' tour of duty.**

The troops are part of a Minnesota-based unit that also draws soldiers from Guard units in Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska and New Jersey.

**The roughly 4,000 soldiers left for training in Mississippi in September 2005, shipped out for Iraq the following spring, and were expected home in late March or early April.**

**But now they won't be coming home until late July or August, almost two years after they left.**

Family members back home described missed weddings, college classes delayed, small businesses in jeopardy, farmland needing tending - all on top of the general strain of missing a loved one for four more months.

In a small farming community in Minnesota near the Iowa line, Jody Kramer is taking care of six children, helping run her family farm, and, as a certified public accountant, preparing for the tax season.

She had been expecting her husband, Don, a captain who is helping protect a base in southern Iraq, home in late March. Her brother-in-law, who helps Don on the farm, had already bought corn and soybean seed to begin planting as soon as Don returned.

Instead, they will have to hire workers to help plant the fields. And that will cut into their profit.

**"I'm stretched about as far as I can go," said Jody Kramer, during a quiet break while her 4-month-old baby was sleeping. "It's very frustrating because I thought that day would be soon, and it's not. And I'm tired. I'm exhausted."**

When Guardsmen are deployed, their families do not have to pay federal taxes on their salaries and receive free military health care.

**But in many cases, the Guard salary is less than what the soldiers receive in their civilian jobs in the United States, and spouses back home are left alone to juggle work and child care, which often means higher daycare costs.**

**Rosa Cabezas, 32, who lives in Union, found out she was pregnant two days before her husband, Carlos, was called to duty in 2005. She suffered diabetes during her pregnancy, then had to quit working after giving birth because day care was too expensive.**

“It was really just hard to think that he's over there, and I'm over here struggling with my own war,” she said.

**Last year, after she racked up a gas bill of about \$900, the utility threatened to cut off service. She managed to pay the bill through a combination of money from family and a grant from the state.**

One problem that repeats itself through many military families: How do you tell the kids that Mom or Dad isn't coming home as planned?

Many children get mad at their parents, saying they lied to them. Others become depressed.

“The questions are really, ' Where's Daddy? I really miss Daddy,“ said Atiya Spellman, 25, of Seabrook, who has three children, including 6-year-old Tariq, whose father left when he was just starting kindergarten.

“As the days go on, it's getting harder. I see it in him. He says, 'I just want my dad. Where's my dad?’“

Unlike families of active-duty troops, Guard families are often scattered around each state, meaning they are far from a base where they would find the type of support and help that active-duty families usually have. And there is the sense that people in their civilian communities often don't know what they are going through.

“My kids are the only kids at school who have a deployed father,” said Jody Kramer. “So it's hard to find people who identify with that.”

**For some, the extension was greeted with anger over how the war was being waged and over what they considered to be an unfair price asked of their families.**

Amanda Engels, 31, is taking care of four children in her home in the Minnesota countryside outside of Minneota while her husband, John, serves in Iraq. Back in Minneota, John's law practice has suffered.

**After supporting President Bush in both elections, her patience - and support - has run out: “He doesn't seem to have any idea of what he's asking of these people.”**

**MORE:**

***The Problem:***  
**Deployed Reservists And National  
Guard Members Frequently Go To  
The Poor House;**  
***Not The Solution:***  
**This Bullshit Bill “Encouraging”  
Greedy Corporations To Solve The  
Problem By Giving Up Profits**

Comment: T

**Bullshit on top of bullshit.**

**In addition to reporting on a half-stepping Senator’s plan to beg private corporations to forget about their profits and hand their employees more money when they get called up, this story also reports that the Pentagon is absolutely opposed to giving any help at all to government workers who are called up and lose their civilian incomes.**

**It’s bad enough the Pentagon assholes hand out billions to war profiteers while begrudging deployed troops a few more dollars.**

**But next, the nameless Pentagon officials go on to tell a world class stupid lie as they try to avoid shelling out these few dollars to the troops.**

**The twisted DoD freaks go on tell you that active duty troops will feel jealous of the deployed reservists and Guard members if they get financial help so they don’t suffer financially by going active duty. Read it for yourself below.**

**According to the DoD argument to Congress, Jerry Jones, 1<sup>st</sup> ID, will say, “How dare they help this National Guard or Reserve troop? Why, fuck them. They’ll be making more money than I do.”**

**That’s because DoD is making the argument to brain dead people in Congress. If they told the truth, they’d be reporting Jerry Jones, 1<sup>st</sup> ID, saying, “Well now, when I get out, I’ll still have all those reserve years ahead, and hey, if the assholes call me up for active duty, at least my family won’t end up living on the streets. Good deal. About time.”**

No, DoD likes to tell Congress that active duty troops are stupid drones who can't think straight, and will be all jealous like some 3<sup>rd</sup> grade kid.

Below the story is a Petition, front and back pages, drafted by an Iraq Veteran, and member of the New York National Guard that demands Congress solve the problem for everybody.

Check it out.

\*\*\*\*\*

February 12, 2007 By Rick Maze, Army Times Staff writer [Excerpts]

A bipartisan bill has been introduced that tries to take some of the financial pain out of National Guard and reserve mobilization for both employees and employers.

**The goal, said Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., the bill's chief sponsor in the Senate, is to *encourage* employers make up any difference in pay for employees whose incomes drop when they are mobilized and to partly cover the cost of hiring temporary replacement workers.**

**The bill proposes a 50 percent business credit for companies that make up pay gaps for their mobilized workers.**

**The plan includes a controversial provision ordering the federal government to make up any difference in pay for mobilized federal workers whose civilian salaries are higher than their military wages, along with tax credits for private-sector employers to keep mobilized employees on the payroll in their absence, and to help cover the cost of temporary replacements.**

“One survey found that only 173 of the Fortune 500 companies make up the pay gap” between military and civilian pay, Landrieu said. “If the wealthiest companies cannot afford to help their active-duty employees, imagine how difficult this is for smaller companies. **[Landrieu is another lying piece of shit. Fortune 500 companies' owners certainly can “afford” to help. But being capitalist scum, they choose to keep their profits for their own pockets. Fuck the troops. They can eat MREs, and so can their kids. Can't pay the mortgage after being called up? Quit whining: they got homeless shelters and cardboard boxes to sleep in.]**

<p><b>The Pentagon has long encouraged private-sector businesses to do this, but objected to having the federal government do the same out of concern it would hurt morale if full-time active-duty members perceived that Guard and reserve members were being paid more by the government to do the same job.</b></p>
---

**Under the bill, federal workers mobilized for 90 or more days whose income would otherwise decline while in uniform would get their full military pay plus an additional payment up to the level of their civilian salaries. [Why just federal workers? Every man or woman called up should have this as of right. See the petition below.]**

***“When guardsmen and reservists are deployed, families often lose the main bread winner,” Landrieu said. “They may have trouble paying bills, the rent, the mortgage or buying medicine for their children.”***

Heavy use of reservists is starting to take a toll, she said. The top reasons cited in a military survey for leaving service in the reserve components are family stress, frequency and length of deployments, income loss and problems with civilian employment.

The new legislation, Landrieu said, recognizes that mobilized reservists who worry about whether their families back home can pay the bills are “not focusing on the mission at hand” and are unlikely to re-enlist. **[Fucking liar. That’s only true, according to her bill, for federal employees. But she’s too busy taking the big money from the corporations and stuffing it in her bank accounts to make it apply to the precious corporations that pay for her the tricks she does for them.]**

**MORE:**

# **A Petition For Redress Of Grievances**

**We, the undersigned members of the National Guard and Reserves of the armed forces of the United States of America, do now lawfully petition Congress for redress of our grievances:**

**We call on the Congress of the United States to insure that when any member of the National Guard or Reserves is called to active duty, and their employer cuts off their pay, and they are forced to subsist only on the pay received from the armed forces, that the Congress, acting on behalf of the people, shall make financially whole those called to active duty, and they and their families shall suffer no decrease in income, and their present sufferings in that regard shall end forthwith.**

<b><i>Name (Last, First)</i></b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Branch Of Service</b>


***This petition is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.***

**You have the right to petition a member of Congress when you have a complaint: DoD Directive 1325.6. You are not allowed to distribute copies of literature or possess more than one copy when on base. When you are not activated, and not engaged in Guard or Reserve meeting or drill, you may do what you see fit.**

**Mail To: The Petition; Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

**[OVER: TO BACK PAGE OF PETITION:]**

**Cause:**  
**Harsh Eligibility Rules Cut Most Guard And Reserve Members Out Of Financial Help**

August 21, 2006 By Gordon Lubold, Army Times Staff writer, August 14, 2006 [Excerpts]

Some reservists called up for lengthy or repeated mobilizations could get extra pay under a new Defense Department program that kicks in this month.

But the eligibility rules are narrowly written and the program is not retroactive. Under those constraints, defense officials estimate the program will apply to only about 2,000 people in its current configuration.

**Eligibility for the reserve income replacement program is complicated. To qualify, Guard and reserve members must be on involuntary active duty and must have:**

- Completed at least 18 months of continuous involuntary active service.**

- Completed 24 cumulative months of involuntary active duty during any 60-month period since Aug. 1, 2001.

- Been involuntarily mobilized for 180 days or more within six months of a previous involuntary period of active duty of 180 days or more.

Officials stress the program does not kick in automatically; troops must apply for the income replacement by completing the new form DD Form 2919 and submitting it to their servicing personnel office.

## **Effect:**

**When members of the National Guard or Reserves are called up to serve in active duty, in addition to facing the prospect of death or maiming for life, many of us also suffer terrible financial hardship.**

**Too many, unable to subsist on military pay, have been unable to make mortgage payments and have lost their homes; seen their children forced to drop out of colleges, universities or other schools where they were enrolled, lacking tuition money; been unable to keep up payments for elderly parents and/or other family members receiving full time health care from nursing homes or other caregivers; and have been unable to make other customary and necessary payments that were possible on our civilians incomes.**

**This inflicts great suffering on members of our families, and destroys our peace of mind and sense of security.**

**It is intolerable that when we respond to the call to serve, we must not only face battle overseas, but witness ourselves and our family members driven into financial misery as we do so.**

[End Petition]

### **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.**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**



# **“He Was Supposed To Have Been Out Of There Jan. 1. If He Wouldn’t Have Gotten Extended....” Local Soldier Badly Hurt**

Feb. 13, 2007 By Pete Bosak, Centre Daily

**BELLEFONTE -- Bellefonte native and U.S. Marine Cpl. David Emery should have been home by now from the battlefields of Iraq.**

**Emery, who writes in every letter home about the impending birth of his baby girl, was scheduled to leave Iraq on Jan. 1, but his tour was extended to Feb. 20.**

He feared he would be extended again and not make it home to be with his wife for the birth of their first baby in May, a little girl already named Carlee.

Now his wife just hopes that he makes it home at all.

Emery, 21, is clinging to life in a military hospital in Germany after a suicide-bomb attack in insurgency stronghold Anbar province last week. His left arm and leg were shattered, as was his right leg, his mother said. The 2003 Bellefonte Area High School graduate also suffered a severe abdominal wound.

"I'm just trying to get by," said Emery's wife, Leslie Shivery, on Monday. "I'm pregnant, and all of this stress. ... It's just so hard right now."

The family initially was told by the military that they would not be flown to Germany unless the prospects for Emery's recovery became bleak.

That happened Monday morning.

"Now he has pneumonia and he's on a respirator," said Connie Emery, the Marine's mother. "And he's on kidney dialysis because his kidneys don't work. They said we need to get there. Right now he's hour to hour."

"I just know that with him getting pneumonia, that's the downfall," Connie Emery said, crying.

Connie Emery and her daughter-in-law were scrambling Monday to get passports to make the flight to Germany arranged by the U.S. military. Leslie Shivery, who is seven months pregnant, was trying to get permission from her doctor to fly.

**"I just want to be there with him right now," Shivery said. "It's just so hard being here. I feel so helpless. He was supposed to have been out of there Jan. 1. If he wouldn't have gotten extended....."**

The corporal was serving his second tour in Iraq as an active-duty Marine, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif., when he was wounded. During his first tour, Emery kept in touch via e-mail with one of his Bellefonte Area High School teachers, who in turn shared his experiences with her students.

Emery and his wife were married in March. The couple are planning to settle back in their hometown in June, when Emery's service in the Marines comes to an end, his wife said.

While she knows how dire her husband's condition is, she finds comfort in what friends and family have been telling her, that the baby she is carrying is reason for her husband to fight to survive.

"People keep saying that if it wasn't for the baby, they don't know what his mindset would be," Shivery said. "Every letter home, he always writes about the baby."

The military had hoped to fly Emery to a Maryland Naval hospital today if his condition had stabilized. If his condition improves, Emery could be flown stateside by the end of the week.

"So we're looking for Friday," his wife said.

---

## Ohio Marine Sgt. Killed In Anbar



U.S. Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Joseph J. Ellis, 40, of Ashland, Ohio, killed by a bomber, had planned to retire in North Carolina this summer after volunteering for three tours in Iraq, his daughter said. Ellis died Feb. 7, 2007, in Iraq's Anbar province west of Baghdad. (AP Photo/U.S. Marine Corps via Times-Gazette)

---

# Carson Marine Killed In Iraq

February 7, 2007 By Shirley Hsu, STAFF WRITER, Breeze.Com

A 22-year-old Marine sergeant from Carson, who often came back to his high school alma mater to encourage students to stay in school, has been killed in combat in Iraq.

Marine Sgt. Alejandro Carrillo, a Carson High School graduate, died Jan. 30 while conducting combat operations in Anbar. He was a driver with a combat logistics battalion.

Carrillo, whose brother was killed by police two years to the day before Carrillo died, was a promising leader, said his Junior ROTC instructor, Master Sgt. Phillip Zamora, who knew him all four years of high school.

"He would come back to the school and talk to the kids, and tell them, 'Hey, you need to get a good education; there's more to life than the streets and drugs and gang banging,'" said Zamora, who became a close mentor to the teenager over the years.

When Carrillo told him he was joining the Marines, Zamora sat down with him for a heart-to-heart.

"I spoke to him. I told him, 'Hey, you know what's going on over there.' He said, 'I'm very well-aware of that. But I'd rather die serving my country than die in the streets for no cause, for no reason,'" Zamora said.

The 12th local member of the armed services to die in Iraq or Afghanistan, Carrillo was deployed to Iraq for his first seven-month tour soon after finishing boot camp. He was scheduled to return from his second tour of duty this month, said his wife, Maria Carrillo, who also participated in the JROTC.

"He was planning to go back to school, maybe be a psychology major," Maria said. Between his two tours, he had a chance to spend a little time with his son, Alejandro Jr., now 3.

Maria said her husband took a lot of pride in his work, but he relaxed and showed his softer side at home.

"At work he was one person, at home he was another. He was very fun-loving, very outgoing," she said.

Zamora said he wasn't surprised when he heard that Carrillo had been promoted to sergeant. He was motivated, disciplined, a quick learner -- and meticulous about his uniform, Zamora recalled.

"I really knew that he would move up," he said. "I knew he was going to impress a lot of people."

Carrillo attended Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Wilmington, said his wife.

He is survived by his wife and son; his parents, Daniel Carrillo and Luisa Bravo; three brothers, Juan, Luis and Allan; and a sister, Dayana.

Maria Carrillo said the family is devastated by the loss of a second son.

**His brother was killed exactly two years earlier after a police chase.**

**Marvin Vasquez, 25, was shot at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 30, 2005, after deputies responded to a domestic disturbance call regarding Vasquez and his girlfriend, Maria Contreras.**

**Vasquez's family claims he was unarmed at the time and have filed a wrongful death lawsuit alleging that deputies killed him without legal cause and fabricated a story about Vasquez "having a knife and stick."**

In the guest book of Carrillo's online obituary, people from across the country, including some who never met him, posted messages offering condolences for the family.

"My heart breaks again as I sign yet another guest book of another courageous young soldier who gave their life so selflessly," wrote a Pennsylvania couple who lost their son to the war.

Zamora, too, is grieving over the loss of one of his best students, who he said was like a son.

He says he can't help but feel somehow responsible for the death, but he knows the JROTC program has encouraged many students to stay off the streets.

"I always worry about all of the kids, but mostly the ones joining Marines because they are in the thick of things," he said.

"So many of them have gone on to have successful careers.

"But when you hear something like this, it's just devastating."

A vigil service for Carrillo will be at 7 p.m. Friday at the Green Hills Mortuary Chapel, Rancho Palos Verdes.

A viewing will begin at 6 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 am. Saturday at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Wilmington.

---

## **British C130 Blown Up While Landing In Maysan; Two Wounded**

February 13, 2007 The Associated Press

LONDON: A British Hercules aircraft was damaged while landing in southeastern Iraq and was destroyed by coalition forces because of the risk of mounting a recovery operation, the Defense Ministry said Tuesday.

**The C-130 had just touched down at an airstrip in Maysan province when it was damaged by an explosion, said a ministry spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with department policy.**

Two people suffered minor injuries in the incident Monday night, the ministry said.

Another C-130 in the area quickly landed at the same strip and rescued the crew, the spokesman said.

“The site was secured and, after a thorough assessment of the damage, it was concluded that the aircraft could not be recovered without exposing our personnel to undue risk,” the spokesman said.

“There was also a potential risk that anti-Iraqi forces might obtain information on specialist equipment. [Evidently the reporter is seriously confused. The anti-Iraq forces were operating the aircraft, and were already in possession of both the information and the specialist equipment.]

“The aircraft was therefore safely destroyed by multinational forces.” [Translation: by the few British troops still in the area.]

---

## **17 Helicopters A Month Hit By Resistance Fire As Helicopter Use Skyrockets “Because Of Roadside Ambushes”**

**Because of roadside ambushes, U.S. helicopter usage in Iraq rose from 240,000 flying hours in 2005 to 334,000 in 2006, Simmons said. This year, pilots are expected to fly more than 400,000 hours.**

February 12, 2007 By Tina Susman, L.A. Times Staff Writer [Excerpts]

**BAGHDAD — An Army pilot said Sunday that enemy fire hit at least 17 U.S. helicopters a month in Iraq but that flying time for troops was growing because of the risks of road travel.**

Maj. Gen. Jim Simmons, briefing reporters after a spate of helicopter crashes blamed on hostile fire, said pilots were dealing with a “knowledgeable, thinking enemy” and that

investigators were looking into the possibility that two recent helicopter shoot-downs were the work of the same group.

Simmons said investigators suspected that at least two of the recent shoot-downs, on Jan. 20 and Feb. 2, were linked because in both cases multiple firearms were used in the attacks and roads leading to the crash sites were lined with explosives to deter rescuers. Fourteen troops died in those incidents.

Though there is no indication attackers are using more advanced weaponry to hit helicopters, Simmons said the strikes showed they were closely watching U.S. strategies and adapting their methods to increase the chances of deadly hits.

“We are engaged with a thinking enemy. This enemy understands we're in the process of instituting new plans,” he said, a reference to increased helicopter usage.

**Because of roadside ambushes, U.S. helicopter usage in Iraq rose from 240,000 flying hours in 2005 to 334,000 in 2006, Simmons said. This year, pilots are expected to fly more than 400,000 hours.**

**Army pilots alone are involved in about 100 incidents per month of enemy fire, with about 17 resulting in direct hits on aircraft, Simmons said.**

Since the war began, he said, the Army has lost 29 helicopters, all to enemy fire. He did not have figures for the other branches of the military.

Despite the clear danger, he said, there were no plans to scale back flights.

“It's the safest way I know to get around here,” Simmons said.

**MORE:**

## **After Closing Down Road Travel, Resistance Opens Offensive Against Helicopters: “Holding Back On This Strategy Was Intentional, So That The Ramp-Up Would Do The Most Damage To Morale”**

Feb 13, 2007 By Iason Athanasiadis, Asia Times [Excerpts]

US helicopters patrol the Iraqi capital day and night, purposely flying over the Euphrates River to put some dead ground between themselves and any Iraqi fighters wanting to take advantage of the blind spot immediately beneath the flying machines.

So ubiquitous is their presence that they keep Iraqis from sleeping and prompted US military spokesman Brigadier-General Mark Kimmitt, some time ago, to remind an interviewer that “the noise they hear is the sound of freedom”.

Hundreds of Black Hawks fly into the Green Zone every day, banking steeply over Saddam Hussein's former presidential palace - today the temporary US Embassy - before landing at the adjoining helodrome dubbed the “Washington LZ” (landing zone).

As the helicopters career over the city's dirt-gray, rubbish-strewn dun, they often discharge flares to head off incoming missiles.

**With Iraq's roads laced with a web of well-disguised roadside bombs, flying has been the preferred mode of transport between the wide network of US and British bases.**

But the fragile perception of the helicopters' invulnerability has been shattered over the past three weeks as five US helicopters went down around Iraq.

The flurry of aerial destruction indicates that the insurgents have attained a new tactical plateau and may be using more advanced weapons systems to target the US occupation. Analysts are asking whether the insurgents are suddenly accessing greater numbers of man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS) and from where. These shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles typically use infra-red guidance and can shoot down low-flying aircraft and helicopters.

**“There is no question that advanced MANPADS are being used against US helos and that holding back on this strategy was intentional, so that the ramp-up would do the most damage to morale,” said Don Weadon, a Washington-based international lawyer and Middle East authority.**

**“It is a battle of wills, and against superior firepower one has to be cagey to the max.”**

The US military ordered changes in flight operations early last week but it was not enough to avoid the downing of a fifth helicopter on Wednesday.

**Whatever their provenance may be, the introduction of advanced MANPADS into Iraq presents an unsettling echo from a previous occupation and a telling indication of where the current conflict may be headed.**

**In 1980s Afghanistan, the invading Soviet army was similarly incapable of establishing its authority outside Kabul, forcing it to rely on its air force for transport.**

Washington took advantage of this and supplied its mujahideen allies with US-made FIM-92 Stinger anti-aircraft missile systems with which to target its Cold War enemy.

The mujahideen yielded the Stingers with unnerving accuracy and vastly increased Soviet losses.

**It was the single development that contributed the most to the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.**

---

## **“When The Americans Arrived Saturday It Took Less Than 20 Minutes For Militants To Begin Attacking Them”**

February 13, 2007 By MARC SANTORA, New York Times [Excerpts]

SAMARRA, Iraq, Feb. 11 — It has been a year since Sunni insurgents ripped a hole in the glorious dome here of one of Iraq’s most sacred Shiite shrines, shattering its 72,000 golden tiles and unleashing a tide of national sectarian bloodletting. Not a single brick of the mosque has been moved since.

Symbols of political paralysis are everywhere in this country. But few have the potency of the blown-up Mosque of the Golden Dome, site of the graves of two of the figures most revered by Shiites, the 10th and 11th imams in a line of direct descendants of the Prophet Muhammad.

The Iraqi police have started constructing a sniper’s post on a roof across the street.

When the Americans arrived Saturday to check up on the effort, it took less than 20 minutes for militants to begin attacking them. Bullets whizzed over the mosque and the American position.

The fight was brief, less than half an hour, with the militants finally scurrying away with the Americans in pursuit.

The Americans, who try not to patrol too near the mosque, keep one base in the city. They acknowledge that if they leave any time soon, the militants will seize the city again.

The roads running south to Baghdad and north to Tikrit remain plagued by attacks, mostly with roadside bombs.

---

## ***Operation Iraqi Fuckup***



# Sweep Hunts Car Bomb Factories; Soldiers Find A Few Kalashnikov Rifles, Eight Grenades And Wire.



A soldier from C. Co., 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division is seen after applying a sticker to a wall in eastern Baghdad, Iraq following a useless search operation Feb. 11, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

**“We're told this new surge is going to be more intelligence-based instead of just hitting random sites,” said Staff Sgt. Jamie Slagle, 31, of Morrisville, Mo., as he flipped through a stack of unused stickers. “But that's what seems to me to still be going on.”**

February 12, 2007 By Ryan Lenz, Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Soldiers spearheading the increase in U.S. forces in Baghdad are papering car windows and storefronts with purple stickers listing telephone numbers and an e-mail address where Iraqis can send intelligence tips to help stop the violence.

But if a recent sweep in search of car bomb makers is an indication, they have a long way to go to improve intelligence.

**Soldiers from the Army's 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment converged this week on a religiously mixed north Baghdad neighborhood of auto parts stores and “chop shops” that Iraqi commanders thought was used to rig deadly car bombs.**

Moving door to door, Iraqi and U.S. soldiers smashed padlocks with sledge hammers, clipped through wire gates and rifled through hundreds of buildings as Iraqi mechanics, their hands slick with grease and motor oil, peered from nearby shops.

**Instead of discovering a network of clandestine car bomb factories, the soldiers instead found only a few Kalashnikov rifles, eight grenades and wire.**

**“We're told this new surge is going to be more intelligence-based instead of just hitting random sites,” said Staff Sgt. Jamie Slagle, 31, of Morrisville, Mo., as he flipped through a stack of unused stickers.**

**“But that’s what seems to me to still be going on.”**

What still seems lacking, soldiers say, is good intelligence - and cooperation from Iraqis themselves.

“It’s like a 50-50 game. Fifty percent is good intelligence and 50 percent is just plain bull,” said Spc. Brett Rochon, 22, of Ansonia, Conn.

---

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO  
COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS  
EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS  
TIME, EXCEPT THAT A TRAITOR WHO LIVES  
IN THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS YOU THERE  
That is not a good enough reason**



A U.S. army soldier provides cover fire for a fellow serviceman during a raid in Buhriz, north of Baghdad Feb. 11, 2007. (AP Photo/Talal M. al-Dean)

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# Rocket Attack On Occupation Airbase At Kandahar

February 12, 2007 By MURRAY BREWSTER, CP

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -- The long period of calm at Kandahar Airfield was shattered last night when two rockets slammed into the base.

One NATO soldier was hurt.

The force of the explosion sprayed gravel into the face of the injured man, causing minor lacerations, said Capt. Andre Salloum, a spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force.

"He was treated for minor injuries at the ISAF medical facility," he said.

Lt-Commander Kris Phillips, a spokesman for the Canadian Forces, said the injured soldier was not a Canadian.

Salloum says the rockets fired last night were of the 107-millimetre variety - either Chinese or Russian-made. They are a favourite weapon of the Taliban because they are plentiful on the black market, easy to carry and have an effective range of 10 km.

Originally meant to be fired from a launcher on the back of a truck, insurgents have modified the weapons, propping them up against a pile of rocks and setting them on a timer. When the rockets blast off, the rebels may be kilometres away.

---

## TROOP NEWS

### **63% Of Americans Want All Troops Home By End Of '08**

2.13.07 USA Today

Americans overwhelmingly support congressional action to cap the number of U.S. troops in Iraq and 63% want to bring them home by the end of next year, a USA Today/Gallup Poll found — tougher action than the non-binding resolution the House is to begin debating today.

**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

Helpful Advice from Past War Presidents



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

---

## **Chairman Of The Joint Chiefs Refuses To Lie For The Bush Regime; General Pace Flatly Contradicts White House Bullshit About Iran**

[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in. He writes: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs refuses to lie for the Bush regime.]

February 13, 2007 Associated Press & Army Times & By Karen DeYoung, The Washington Post & New York Times Editorial

**JAKARTA, Indonesia - The top U.S. military officer said Tuesday the discovery that roadside bombs in Iraq contained material made in Iran does not necessarily mean the Iranian government was involved in supplying insurgents.**

**White House spokesman Tony Snow said Monday he was confident the weaponry was coming with the approval of the Iranian government.**

**In an interview with Voice of America, Marine General Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said he did not agree with military leaders in Baghdad, who told reporters on Sunday that the government of Iran is providing roadside bombs to Iraqi insurgents.**

The comments by Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called into question assertions by three senior U.S. military officials in Baghdad on Sunday who said the highest levels of Iranian government were responsible for arming Shiite militants in Iraq with the bombs, blamed for the deaths of more than 170 troops in the U.S.-led coalition.

Pace told reporters in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, that U.S. forces hunting militant networks in Iraq that produced roadside bombs had arrested Iranians and some of the materials used in the devices were made in Iran.

***"That does not translate that the Iranian government per se, for sure, is directly involved in doing this," Pace said.***

***On Monday, Pace said he had no firm knowledge that the Iranian government had sanctioned the arming of the insurgents.***

**"It is clear that Iranians are involved, and it's clear that materials from Iran are involved, but I would not say by what I know that the Iranian government clearly knows or is complicit," Pace told the Voice of America.**

Pace's comments came a day after U.S. military officials in Baghdad alleged that the "highest levels" of the Iranian government have directed use of weapons that are killing U.S. troops in Iraq.

**No information was provided to substantiate the charge.**

**Administration officials yesterday deflected requests for more details, even as they repeatedly implied Tehran's involvement.**

White House spokesman Tony Snow offered similar responses.

Pressed repeatedly, Snow answered, "Look, the Department of Defense is doing this. What I'm telling you is, you guys want to get those questions answered, you need to go to the Pentagon."

A call to the Defense Intelligence Agency brought a referral to the main Pentagon press office.

That office referred a caller to the Washington office of the Multi-National Force-Iraq, which responded with an e-mailed copy of Sunday's briefing slides - containing no mention of the "highest levels" allegation and a request for questions in writing.

Written questions brought no response.

Consider last weekend's supersecret briefing in Baghdad by a group of American military officials whose names could not be revealed to the voters who are paying for this war with their taxes and their children's blood.

The briefers tried to prove the White House's case that Iran is shipping deadly weapons, including armor-piercing explosives, to Shiite militias in Iraq.

But the officials offered no evidence to support their charge that "the highest levels of the Iranian government" had authorized smuggling these weapons into Iraq for use against American forces.

Nor could they adequately explain why they had been sitting on this urgent evidence since 2004.

*The only thing that was not surprising was the refusal of any of the briefers to allow their names to be published.*

*Mr. Powell is probably wondering why he didn't insist on the same deal.*

---

# **5 SHORT ONE-ACTS DEPICTING THE EFFECT OF THE WARS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ ON OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

## **PLAY READING**

**Friday, February 16, 2007, 7-9 pm  
Manhattan Plaza  
400 W. 43<sup>rd</sup> St.  
The Ellington Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)**

**Written by  
Alan Stolzer**

**Directed by  
Martin Treat\***

## **PLAYS:**

### **SISTERS OF A SORT**

Read by: Margaret Montgomery, Ellen Martin  
& Sally Davidson

### **PROSTHESIS**

Read by: Gina Musumeci & Sam Masotto

### **ISSUES OF A SERGEANT**

Read by: Ellen Martin & Martin Treat

### **EGGCRACKER**

Read by: Gina Musumeci & Sally Davidson

### **HOMEFOLKS**

Read by: Gina Musumeci, Martin Treat & Sam Masotto

---

# **Russian Soldiers Beaten Into Prostitution: Senior Officer Pimps Get The Money; “I Was Tortured With Electric Shocks”**

[Thanks to JM and Jason Y, who sent this in.]

February 14, 2007 By Luke Harding in Moscow, The Guardian & February 13, 2007 By  
Tom Zeller Jr., The New York Times

**Russia's scandal-prone military was gripped by allegations yesterday that cash-strapped senior officers had forced young conscripts to work as male prostitutes.**

**According to the rights group Union of the Committees of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia, conscripts at an army base in St Petersburg were compelled to perform sexual services for influential middle-aged clients, among whom was a former general in the FSB intelligence agency.**

Clients were said to arrive at night outside the military base, next to the Hermitage museum, and the soldiers would be forced to get into clients' cars.

**One conscript, who had raised the alarm, told Russia's Gazeta newspaper yesterday that older soldiers humiliated the others. "Sometimes they made us mop the floors all night ... The officers would beat us on the arms and legs. We were sent out to the park to earn money ... I was tortured with electric shocks."**

Another conscript added: "At least 10 out of 35 of us would not spend the nights at the military base."

The allegations involving St Petersburg's unit of 3,727 personnel follow cases of abuse of conscripts.

Russian media reports claim soldiers at the St Petersburg unit passed a "client list" on to successors, and conscripts were paid about 1,000 roubles (\$40) for sex.

Human rights groups are concerned about what they call systemic bullying in the army, still made up overwhelmingly of conscripts.

Valentina Melnikova, of the soldiers' mothers committees, said: "The reason these cases are so hard to prove is that everybody stays silent in the army."

It is the latest in a string of scandals that have plagued the Russian military, this one brought to light by the Soldiers' Mothers group, a human rights organization dedicated to exposing abuses in the military.

According to The Associated Press, a member of the group in St. Petersburg, Lyubov Yezheleva, learned about allegations of sexual abuse from a 20-year-old conscript:

"He said he was forced into male prostitution by fellow soldiers who beat him and demanded that he earn money for them," Yezheleva said. She said the conscript was serving with the interior troops unit No. 3727, in the center of St. Petersburg near the renowned Hermitage art museum.

She refused to name him out of fear for his safety.

"Regrettably, it's not the only case of soldiers being forced into male prostitution that we are aware of," Yezheleva said.

Soldiers' Mothers head Valentina Melnikova said the claims were "not at all unusual."

**BBC News today notes that the case follows last year's scandalous case of Andrei Sychev, an Army private whose torturous abuse highlighted a system of military bullying in Russia that had gone wildly out of control.**



**From the BBC: (Private) Sychev was forced to squat for several hours by fellow soldiers and then tied to a chair and brutally beaten up last year.**

**As a result he developed gangrene in his legs and genitals, which had to be amputated.**

Now permanently disabled, Private Sychev has just announced that he is to write a book about his ordeal.

Such cases have highlighted the appalling conditions suffered by some Russian service personnel at a time when Russia is seeking a greater role on the world stage.

As The A.P. notes, “all Russian men between the ages of 18 and 27 are required by law to serve in the 1.2 million-member military, but only about 9 percent typically are drafted.

**The rest avoid the feared conscription by signing up for college, being excused for health reasons — often falsified — or by simply paying bribes.”**

---

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Remember When The Bush Regime Bragged About How They Had Eliminated The Resistance In Fallujah?**



**A torn Iraqi police uniform is examined at the site of a bomb attack, which targeted a police patrol, in Falluja, February 13, 2007. Four policemen were killed in the attack, witnesses in the area said.**

**MORE:**



A resident sifts through the rubble of a destroyed house after a bomb attack in Falluja, February 12, 2007. A policeman for the occupation who lived in the house was captured by insurgents before they set off the bomb, family members said. REUTERS/Mohanned Faisal

---

## Fuck With Them At Your Own Risk



Iraqis protesting in Basra Feb. 13, 2007. About 500 people launched a sit-in strike in front of the British Consulate in Basra in protest against the arrest of the

Assistant Director of the Southern Power Distribution Department engineer Ziyad Rashed that was conducted by British troops Tuesday morning. (AP Photo/Nabil al-Jurani)

---

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

# U.S. DINOSAUR ECONOMY



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: February 12, 2007

### U.S. DINOSAUR ECONOMY:

The Only Thing The Rich Have Ever Wanted...Is Everything.  
- Michael Parenti

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)



# IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR

## BENEFIT HAPPY HOUR

Come support your local chapter of IVAW and hear about the amazing work we are doing to bring the troops home now!

### ★ WHEN

**Sunday, February 18th 5pm~Midnight**  
(President's Day Weekend)

### ★ WHERE

**Rocky Sullivan's at 129 Lexington. 212-725-3871**  
Between 28th & 29th St., a block away from the 6 train.

### ★ ADMISSION

**Donation of \$15** at the door includes happy hour prices all night.

### ★ PROGRAM

- Special appearance by **Cindy Sheehan**
- **John McDonagh** Host of **Radio Free Eirean** and periodic veterans program on **WBAI**.
- **Iraq veterans** speak out.
- Iraqi testimonial read by a member of **Adalah-NY Middle East Crisis Committee**.
- Political comedy - **Randy Credico** and others.
- **Music** at 8pm featuring: **Ray Gerber, Seanchai,** and **Son of Nun**.



---

## Sound Familiar?

From: Mark Shapiro  
To: GI Special  
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2007

On Jan 6 1943, Goebbels complained about the inefficient war propaganda:

"The propaganda has, since the beginning of the war, developed in the following erroneous way:

“Year one of the War - We have won.  
Year two of the War - We will win.  
Year three of the War - We must win.  
Year four of the War - We can not be defeated”

---

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

### **Lesson Learned: Rice Is An Idiot**

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: **RICE IS AN IDIOT. THE LESSON OF N. KOREA IS: BUILD NUKES, UNCLE SAM DOESN'T ATTACK.**]

#### **Rice Says Iran Should See North Korea As Example**

Feb 13 (Reuters)

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Tuesday that a deal with North Korea over its nuclear program should serve as a message to Iran that international diplomacy could achieve results.

"Why should it not be seen as a message to Iran that the international community is able to bring together its resources, particularly when regionally affected states work together and that the strong diplomacy ... has finally achieved results?" Rice told a news conference.

---

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

---

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