

## GI SPECIAL 5B2:



STATE OF THE UNION

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

**Navy Petty Officer  
Jonathan Hutto Says  
“An Imperialist War, A  
War For Profit, Not For  
People”**

# Marine Sgt. Liam Madden “Pointed Out That ‘Women Didn’t Win The Right To Vote By Voting And African Americans Didn’t Win Civil Rights By Voting’”



Navy Petty Officer Jonathan Hutto and Marine Sgt. Liam Madden.  
[Workers World photo: John Catalinotto]

Jan 30, 2007 By John Catalinotto, Workers World [Excerpts]

Washington, D.C.

Anti-war forces poured into the U.S. capital on Jan. 27. It was the first national anti-war action since the elections in November showed that a large majority of the people oppose the occupation of Iraq. Demonstrations were also held in other cities around the country.

Galvanizing opposition today was Bush’s “surge” of 21,000 more troops to Iraq. More Iraqis were dying, more U.S. troops were getting shot out of their helicopters and more blood was being shed on the streets of Baghdad and Najaf even as the demonstrators made their way from the Mall to the Capitol.

Aware of all this, the crowd cheered loudly at any insult to Bush, Cheney or their cronies and any appeal to “Impeach Bush.” One hand-made sign said simply: “Bush, go surge yourself.”

**The presence of many Iraq War veterans and active-duty GIs made it clear that this growing sector of the anti-war movement can play a big role in ending the occupation.**

Unions that mobilized included Hospital Workers SEIU Local 1199 and the Professional Staff Congress from New York, many locals of the Communication Workers (CWA), the United Federation of Teachers, District Council 37 and United Auto Workers and Teamsters from Detroit.

Slogans throughout the march indicated there was near unanimity about what the U.S. should do regarding Iraq: get out and bring the troops home.

**Active-duty troops, recent Iraq veterans, families of troops and veterans of prior U.S. wars held an honored place at the front of the march. They were even stronger with the demand to end the occupation now and bring the troops home.**

**Families of GIs in Iraq and those who lost a child there, veterans of the Iraq War, relatives of resisters and current active-duty GIs crowded the stage, bringing a fresh breath of resistance to the movement.**

**A new lift to the movement came from Navy Petty Officer Jonathan Hutto and Marine Sgt. Liam Madden, the active-duty organizers of the "Appeal for Redress." This anti-war statement had been signed by over 1,200 active-duty GIs, National Guard and reservists as of Jan. 29. ([www.appealforredress.org](http://www.appealforredress.org))**

**Hutto led the crowd, chanting "No justice! No war! More death, no peace! More imperialism, no peace!" and said, "We come here today on behalf of 1,223 active-duty members of the United States military, reserve members, National Guard members who are using their constitutional rights to speak out against this war, an imperialist war, a war for profit, not for people, a war for death, not for people, a war against the working class, not for justice."**

**Madden pointed out that "women didn't win the right to vote by voting and African Americans didn't win civil rights by voting."**

**He went on to urge the people to stay in the streets.**

**The contribution of the active-duty GIs was a shot in the arm to the march.**

**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**

# U.S. Soldier Killed In Anbar

01 Feb 2007 CBS

The U.S. military said that a soldier died Thursday of wounds sustained in fighting in Anbar province. The soldier assigned to Multi National Force — West was killed after being wounded in fighting on Tuesday, the military said in a statement. The soldier was not identified pending notification of relatives.

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## Army Sergeant Loved Country, Planned To Wed

1.23.07 BY JENNIFER MOONEY PIEDRA, Miami Herald

When Army Sgt. Phillip McNeill returned to South Florida after basic training, his friend Heather Smause surprised him with a cake and a box of S'mores Pop Tarts.

In September, just before McNeill left for his second tour of duty in Iraq, Smause surprised him again -- this time with a handmade dark-blue comforter to keep him warm.

She didn't expect it would be the last time they'd see each other.

"I wanted to give him something he'd have forever," said Smause, of Coral Springs, whose husband befriended McNeill at Taravella High. "I thought he'd be coming home soon."

But on Saturday, McNeill, a combat medic who lived in Sunrise, was killed when a roadside bomb detonated near his Humvee in Karmah, Iraq. He was 22. Seven other paratroopers also died that day in two incidents, the U.S. Department of Defense said.

**McNeill is the second Broward serviceman to die in recent weeks. U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Timothy Weiner, 35, of Lauderhill, was killed Jan. 7 when a car bomb exploded in Baghdad.**

McNeill enlisted in 2003, and was based at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

He was among several men in his family who joined the military, including his 24-year-old brother, Christopher, a Marine veteran, and his late grandfather, Air Force Col. Jesse McNeill. "He wanted to be over there in Iraq," said his stepfather, Jeff Fiely, an Army reservist. "He thought it was the right thing to do."

McNeill grew up in Lexington, Ky., and Cincinnati before moving to South Florida as a teenager.

He lived with his father, David McNeill, in Coral Springs and graduated from Taravella High. His mother, Angela Fiely, lives in a suburb of Cincinnati.

He planned to marry Cassandra Burress, a fellow Taravella High grad, when he returned to South Florida. "He was going to introduce me to his parents when he came back," said Burress, 21, of Coral Springs.

Burress recalls meeting McNeill when she was 15.

"I knew I loved him since I saw him," she said through tears. "I have never connected with someone so deeply. He was my best friend."

He will also be missed by close friend Jennifer Hartman, 21, who has fond memories of McNeill's high school days, including times when they would trick-or-treat in Coral Springs and hang out at friends' houses.

"Phil was always making everyone laugh," said Hartman, who lives in Texas. "He was always cracking jokes."

McNeill was among a tight-knit group of friends from high school who kept in touch, Hartman said. They looked forward to planning a reunion after McNeill returned from Iraq.

"Now we won't ever get to see him again," Hartman said.

For his grandmother, Lillian McNeill, her feelings of sadness are overcome by feelings of great pride. "He loved his country, so much that he had to die for it," she said. "But I'm sure he died with honor." When McNeill was a child, he regularly visited his grandmother in Owingsville, Ky.

A lover of the outdoors, McNeill was always fascinated by the rural setting -- especially the large pine tree on the side of his grandmother's house. McNeill loved climbing the tree and snacking on peanut butter sandwiches while sitting on its branches, his grandmother said.

He also loved wading through a nearby creek in search of snakes.

"He wanted to be a herpetologist at one time," his grandmother said. "He just loved snakes."

McNeill called his grandmother every other week from Iraq. The last time she spoke to him was about two weeks ago.

He said he wouldn't be able to call for a few months.

"I didn't ask any questions," she said. "I told him I'd wait for him to call as soon as he could."

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## **Texas Guard Flier Died In Black Hawk Crash**

01/24/2007 Sig Christenson, Express-News Military Writer

A Texas National Guard member was among a dozen soldiers killed last weekend when the UH-60 Black Hawk he was piloting went down outside Baghdad, Iraq.

Military officials in Washington and Baghdad said little about the incident. But the wife of the pilot, Capt. Sean Edward Lyerly, and retired Army Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey said Wednesday night that hostile fire brought down the copter.

A graduate of Stratford High School in Houston and Texas A&M University, Lyerly, 31, of Pflugerville is the first Texas Guard aviator killed in Iraq.

He deployed there last summer.

**With Lyerly's death, the total number of Texas Guard troops killed in Iraq stands at 10. In all, 446 National Guard troops are among 3,050 GIs to die in Iraq.**

Lyerly joined the guard as a private two years after high school graduation but enrolled in Texas A&M's ROTC course. He earned a horticulture degree, became an officer in 2005 and graduated from the Army's basic aviation course that year.

Ironically, Lyerly feared heights, but his instructor pilot praised him as one of his best students. Before long, he was flying supplies and dignitaries into New Orleans and East Texas after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. When the call came to serve in Iraq, he was ready.

"He had few doubts. He had a few concerns but he was very faithful," said his wife, who will turn 25 next Wednesday.

A father of a 3-year-old boy, Zackary, Lyerly was a fly fishing and motorcycle enthusiast. In eight years as a couple, she said, they never argued.

"Our marriage was a fairy tale," Lyerly's wife said. "I woke up every day thinking my life was too good to be true."

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## Grayling Marine Wounded In Iraq

02/01/07 by Dan Sanderson-Staff Writer, Crawford County Avalanche

Grayling High School graduate Joe Zelek is having bittersweet feelings about being home for the start of 2007 since he would rather be with his fellow Marines serving on the battlefield in Iraq.

Lance Cpl. Zelek, a member of the 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment - Bravo Co., which is based out of Saginaw, was wounded in Iraq on Dec. 28.

**Zelek was stationed on an observation post while fellow Marines were checking an area in the City for Fallujah for suspected snipers. As the Marines were**

**returning, a sniper fired on their position, killing three Marines and wounding another.**

Other gunmen fired upon the Marines in an attempt to disguise the location of the sniper, who was killed.

"I wanted to run down there and carry them away so they would not be getting shot at anymore," Zelek said. "It seemed like the whole world was shooting at us."

Zelek noticed blood on his uniform, after he dove for cover on the roof on the building where he was located. He thought he had been hit by a piece of debris from the building, but was shot in the right leg.

Zelek underwent two surgeries, one to remove the bullet and check the extent of the damage. His tibia was damaged by the bullet. A second surgery was done to check for infection and reexamine the wound.

Zelek was treated at military hospitals in northern Iraq and in Germany, before flying back to the United States on Jan. 2.

Zelek, who is a team leader in his unit, was deployed to Iraq on Sept. 24. His unit was in charge of patrolling Fallujah, doing security patrols, raids on suspected terrorist locations and manning entry points to the city. The Marines also served with the Iraqi Army, helping those forces get established in the area.

Zelek said his unit had a relatively calm first couple of weeks in Iraq, especially while they remained at their base.

"You almost forget you're in Iraq sometimes, until you go outside and see nothing but desert," he said.

The unit took their first casualties on Oct. 23, when an improvised explosive device exploded under a convoy of Humvees the Marines were traveling in. Zelek, who was traveling in the first Humvee, helped pull Sgt. Joshua Thomas, who was trapped under the vehicle with a wounded hand and arm, from the wreckage, and checked on three other wounded Marines. The driver and a rear passenger were killed in the blast.

"It was tough at first because we were a really tight group," Zelek said.

Zelek said Thomas has recommended that he receive a medal for his actions, but he does not believe he deserves the extra recognition.

"I was just doing what anybody else would have done," he said.

Zelek returned to Grayling on Jan. 17 and is on a 30-day convalescent leave.

Returning home has allowed him to reunite with his wife, Angeanette, who is also a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. The couple celebrated their first anniversary on Saturday.

The couple will leave for Camp Pendleton, a Marine base located in San Diego, in the next couple of weeks. Zelek will be stationed there until his unit returns in April. He believes he could have stayed in Iraq, but doctors said the physical activity would not have allowed his wounds to properly heal.

"I would go back in a heartbeat if I could," Zelek said. "The bond you get with those other men - it's brotherhood forced through combat. They will always be in my heart and in my mind."

Zelek said he appreciates the heroes welcome he has received from friends, family and the community, but his thoughts remain with his comrades.

"All my friends and fellow Marines are still over there - fighting the fight every day," he said. "Obviously, I didn't want to get wounded and have had gone through everything so I could come home. I would have rather stayed in Iraq and came home with everybody else."

Zelek, a 2004 graduate from Grayling High School, is the son of Debbie and Mark Zelek.

Zelek, who enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, plans to join the active Marines, making it a career in the military.

Zelek, whose grandfather, Dennis Dostine, served in the Marines during the Korean War, said it was always his goal to wear the Marine Corps uniform since childhood.

"I didn't play army when we were kids. I played Marines," Zelek said.

Zelek, who played all four years on the Grayling High Basketball Team, will be recognized by Coach Butch Hayes at the team's home game on Friday, Feb. 2.

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## Guttenberg Soldier Wounded In Iraq Dies



U.S. Army Reserve Spc. Stephen Shannon: SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER



February 1, 2007 WILLIAM PETROSKI, REGISTER STAFF WRITER

U.S. Army Reserve Spc. Stephen D. Shannon of Guttenberg, a much-loved young man who was known in his northeast Iowa hometown as a "All-American boy," has died of wounds suffered in Iraq.

Shannon's family had been notified by the Army this week that he had been wounded while on duty. Then on Wednesday morning, two soldiers arrived at his parents' home and informed them he had gone into shock and had died, said officials at Clayton Ridge High School, where Shannon had graduated in 2003.

He was serving in Iraq with the U.S. Army Reserve's 397th Engineer Battalion of Wausau, Wis., Army Reserve officials said Thursday. Details of his death had not been confirmed by late Thursday afternoon by the U.S. Defense Department.

Shannon, 21, had been the junior class president at Clayton Ridge in Guttenberg, where he had been a member of the football and wrestling teams, and had played in the school band. He was the second oldest of five children of Dan and Joan Shannon, who operate the town's pharmacy.

Word of the young soldier's death has stunned residents of Guttenberg, a community of about 2,000 on the Mississippi River, just across the border from Wisconsin. The students and staff at the high school were so upset after hearing the news on Wednesday morning that plans for students to take basic academic skills tests were delayed, said Bruce Bryant, a language arts teacher at the high school.

"People are in shock. The war has come home," said Bryant, who coached Shannon in a soccer club and had him as a student. "We are trying to figure out what we can do to honor this young man because he was such a wonderful kid."

James Whalen, the principal at Clayton Ridge High School and the next-door neighbor of Shannon's family, said the young man's death is a big loss for Guttenberg.

"He was like a Norman Rockwell painting of an All-American boy," Whalen said. "He was honest, clean-cut, polite and courteous. He never got in trouble. Everybody would have liked to have had him as their son. It is sad such things happen to such nice people."

After high school, Shannon had attended the University of Northern Iowa, where he had joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He initially studied pre-medicine, then switched to a law enforcement major before enlisting in the Army. He had left for duty in Iraq last fall.

The high school wrestling team plans to honor the Guttenberg soldier by sewing his initials onto their uniforms. The team also plans to observe a moment of silence before its meet with Elkader Central High School next week.

"He was a great kid," Bryant said. "He was a bigger kid, but a gentle young man. He would do anything you asked him to do. He would run through a brick wall for you."

**Shannon was the 51st person with Iowa ties to have died in Iraq or Afghanistan since March 2003.**

Funeral arrangements are pending with Tuecke-Allyn Funeral Home in Guttenberg.

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## **“It’s Hostile Territory” “People Think It’s Bad, But That We Control The City. They Control It, And They Let Us Drive Around”**

Feb. 01, 2007 By Tom Lasseter, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts: Sprinkles of truth excerpted from a lot of silly lies and shameless propoganda, not much short of claiming that al-Sadr eats small children for dinner, that otherwise reads like it was written in the U.S. Command press office]

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The U.S. military drive to train and equip Iraq's security forces has unwittingly strengthened anti-American Shiite Muslim cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia...

U.S. Army commanders and enlisted men who are patrolling east Baghdad..... said al-Sadr's militias had heavily infiltrated the Iraqi police and army units that they've trained and armed.

**"Half of them are JAM. They'll wave at us during the day and shoot at us during the night," said 1st Lt. Dan Quinn, a platoon leader in the Army's 1st Infantry Division, using the initials of the militia's Arabic name, Jaish al Mahdi.**

**"People (in America) think it's bad, but that we control the city. That's not the way it is. They control it, and they let us drive around. It's hostile territory."**

Al-Sadr's success in infiltrating Iraqi security forces says much about the continued inability of American commanders in Iraq to counter the classic insurgent tactic of using popular support to trump superior military firepower.

In hindsight, many American officers said there was too much pressure to give Iraqi army units their own areas of operation, a process that left Iraqi soldiers outmanned, outgunned and easy targets for infiltration and coercion.

Iraqi soldiers, for example, often were pushed into the field by Iraqi commanders who didn't give them adequate food, clothing or shelter, said [1st Lt. Alain] Etienne, a 1st Infantry Division platoon leader.

**Etienne was on patrol one day when he saw Iraqi soldiers eating fresh vegetables and meat. The afternoon before, the same soldiers had complained that they had only scraps of food left. Who'd brought them their meal? It had come courtesy of Muqtada al-Sadr.**

"Who's feeding the Iraqi army? Nobody. So JAM will come around and give them food and water," Etienne said.

"We try to capture hearts and minds, well, JAM has done that. They're further along than us."

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**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. soldier walks past destroyed cars after a car bomb attack in Baghdad, November 16, 2006. (Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud/Reuters)

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## **TROOP NEWS**

**NOT ANOTHER DEATH!  
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR!**

# NOT ANOTHER DAY! GET THE MESSAGE?



Geoff Millard marches with 'Iraq Veterans Against the War', a group of Iraqi war veterans demanding immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq, as anti-war protesters march around the U.S. Capitol in Washington, January 27, 2007. (Joshua Roberts/Reuters)

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## **“My Son Leaves For Iraq Between Now And The Beginning Of March. We Had A Phone Conversation The Other Night About His Funeral”**

January 23, 2007 Via BpVETforPEACE

By Cindy Sheehan. [Excerpts] Cindy Sheehan is the mother of Spc. Casey Sheehan who was killed in Bush's war of terror on 04/04/04.

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**Ms. Sheehan,**

**I couldnt even get through your whole post here.**

**My son leaves for Iraq between now and the beginning of March. We had a phone conversation the other night about his funeral. HIS FUNERAL. Yeah, I had to go over paperwork with him on the phone to plan a funeral in case..**

I cant sleep, I am a mess, I dont want to leave the house and I am going to wind up getting fired from my job and losing my home because I cannot pay the rent due to not being able to work. On top of all of this, I have an autoimmune disease that flares terribly when I am stressed. Can you say Stress in this situation.

I will be in Washington DC next weekend if I have to walk there.

No, I don't have a car and I havent a penny but I will get there somehow to stop this Bloody mess we are into.

I am so afraid. I have never been so terrified and depressed in my whole life and I dont know what to do.

I cannot even find a local support group for families that have children in the military.

Why isnt this low life of a president getting impeached, I dont understand it.

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I received this message from a distraught mother after she tried to read my article: The Price of Freedom: 24. We have since then been working on transportation for her to the march in DC this weekend and I referred her to Military Families Speak Out for some support.

In my article The Price of Freedom: 24, I again pointed out that there are very few House Reps or Senators who can even approach the agony of this mother, because only a scant few have had a child serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

**George Bush has not been impeached and no courageous or authentic appeal has been made in Congress to stop Bloody George because no child of the elite members of our government has ever had to call his/her mother to plan a funeral.**

**No member of Congress has had to worry about losing his/her job because of bottomless worry and depression.**

**No member of Congress has had his/her health compromised by the high crimes and misdemeanors of the Bush Regime.**

Every member of Congress needs to read this desperate message from this desperate mother. Sit-in at your Congress person's office like patriotic constituents in Sacramento are doing in Rep. Doris Matsui's (D-Ca) office.

This is the reason we need to re-double, re-triple, re-quadruple our efforts for peace.

For this mom and her son and for the tens of thousands of others in the same position.

For the innocent Iraqis whose lives have been made desolate by the Bloody Bush regime.

For our grandchildren who are already in danger because of Bloody George's war OF terror.

**For once and all --- impeach, indict, imprison --- bring our troops home!**

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



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

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

**Bush “Will Get Out Of Iraq”  
“For Neither The Iraqi People Want  
Him There, Nor The American  
People”**

**“I Pray To God To Defeat Him, And To Make Victorious The Will Of The People Who Love Life, Freedom, And Peace”**

**“If It Were Really A Government Wanted By The Iraqis, Then It Is Not Necessary For The Occupation To Remain; Let The Occupation Withdraw”**

I always hear the question: what will happen to Iraq if the armies withdraw from it?

And the answer, which I heard from most Iraqis, and made me smile: when the occupation leaves, all the mercenary agents will leave with it, for no one will protect them...And Iraq will go back to its people, those who love Iraq and want what is best for it...

January 21st, 2007 posted by Faiza Al-Arji, [afamilyinbaghdad.blogspot.com](http://afamilyinbaghdad.blogspot.com) [Excerpts]

Peace be upon you...

What does it mean for a human being to live in a state of waiting?

What does it mean when his whole life is restless, unstable, and hanging from a thread?

This is how I feel, and so are the feelings of millions of Iraqis inside Iraq and abroad, since the American invasion of Iraq in 2003, until now...

**At the beginning, we used to wait for services to get better, for the emergence of a new government; one that would think in a new way and act with a democratic mentality, an advanced professional mentality that would improve the infrastructure of the country: the water services, the electricity, the communication systems, the schools, hospitals, etc..., to make the Iraqi person feel more comfortable, secure, and happy, to make him enjoy the wealth of his country, which all the world envies him about, in a fair way...**

Iraq has oil, water, fertile lands, and precious metals. Iraq is the of land of resources since ancient times, and the Iraqis, like all other nations in the world, dream of living a secure, and settled life...

Since the war in 2003, we have listened to President Bush's promises that he will liberate us, and make us the happiest, most free, and democratic nation in the Middle East...

And we are waiting...

But in reality, everything in Iraq is deteriorating towards bad, and worst...

And we are waiting...

**I mean; we have been waiting since 2003 to see something positive achieved on the ground of reality, but we in truth are harvesting the fruits of the mistakes and the stupidity of the American policy; the policy of a vicious occupier.**

**And always, Bush blames Al-Qaida'a and the terrorists because they destroyed Iraq?**

**Who entered Iraq first?**

**The occupation or Al-Qaida'a?**

**Who carried out the stupid policies, destroyed the economy, robbed the wealth, disbanded the army, spread chaos, and shed blood?**

**The occupation or Al-Qaida'a?**

I am not defending Al-Qaida'a, but I see that the occupation opened up the borders, spread chaos, and smoothed every way for them to enter Iraq, and to cause more conflict and bloodshed...

Why should foreigners enter my homeland to kill my people and neighbors?

**The occupation, Al-Qaida'a, or other foreigners- we do not want them to remain in Iraq...**

**As for the national Iraqi resistance; it existed since the first months of the occupation...**

**And this is a story that Bush wants to deny its existence on the ground of reality; the story of the existence of a nationalistic Iraqi resistance that rejects the occupation, while he claims his remaining in Iraq to crush Al-Qaida'a?**

**If the occupation goes out of Iraq, then the Iraqis will know how to crush Al-Qaida'a...**

**But fabricating explosions that kill innocent Iraqis, plotted by unknown people; this gives a justification for Bush to remain, under the pretext of achieving security in Iraq.**

As for the Iraqi symbols who returned to Iraq under the protection of the occupation, those who used to call themselves - the opposition, who allied themselves with Bush to realize his project in Iraq; those symbols, about whom we are certain now, after these barren years, that they came only to monopolize authority and plunder the wealth of the country.



Those symbols do not want the world to hear the word - national Iraqi resistance...

That word hurts their feelings, or rather, provokes them and makes them angry... because those symbols want to convince the world that all the Iraqis support Bush and his men in Iraq. And whoever objects is a Saddamist, Ba'athi criminal...

And so, this resistance is a bunch of Saddamists, Ba'athies and criminals; or so they were trying to convince the world and the Iraqi people on the first months after the occupation... they attributed the charge of the trapped cars and the daily random killings as an act of the Iraqi resistance.

**But the random arrests and mass punishments against innocent civilians, led by the occupation forces joined by the Iraqi Interior and Defense Ministries, made people resentful against the occupation and those who collaborate with it...**

**The Iraqis began to see themselves as the victims of the occupation and the collaborators...**

The Iraqis live daily through human rights violations, and the insulting of human dignity, and no one protects them, defends them, respects them, or cares about their sufferings...

**These stupid and aggressive acts against the Iraqis made a big number of them change their minds, and respect anything concerning the national resistance.**

**A lot of people started looking at the resistance with an appreciative and respectful eye, that they aren't a bunch of Ba'athis or foreign people from beyond the borders, and this angers the weak Iraqi government, which possess no popularity or support on the ground of reality.**

**This government is supported only by the occupation, and even the congress criticizes it; being a weak government in need of constant American support...**

In the former security plans until now, the government doesn't eliminate the gangs and the militias who kill innocent civilians; but they are rather busy chasing the resistance, joined by the occupation soldiers. This is a priority to them.

As to the daily shedding of the innocent Iraqi blood; no one cares about it and no one stops it, neither the occupation nor the government...

**Of course, this is the truth that corresponds to the lie Bush usually spreads: this is a legitimate elected government, supported by the Iraqis...**

**If it were a government loved by the people, why would they need an occupation force to support them?**

**If it were really a government wanted by the Iraqis, then it is not necessary for the occupation to remain; let the occupation withdraw, and the people along with the government will cooperate to eliminate that bunch of rebellious rioters...**

**But the actual fact is that this government is isolated, not trusted by the Iraqis.**

This is a government which the Iraqis feel regretful for having elected, after its credibility has fallen in front of them, after its stupidity, partiality, sectarianism and foolish acts became evident to the people, its slackness in defending the Iraqis and protecting them, its surrender and submission to Bush's decisions and instructions...

If the elections were to be repeated now, the Iraqis would not choose those faces again. They destroyed our lives; they lied to us, and did not fulfill any of the things they promised... they spread chaos, hatred, segregation and injustice among people...

**This government didn't provide the minimum level of security and protection to the Iraqis... every Iraqi house is a target to them; meaning- they are ready to storm any Iraqi house, to arrest any Iraqis citizen, to torture any citizen, or kill him...whatever...**

The important thing is; they should take over the authority and remain there- that would be enough, even over the dead bodies and the skulls of the innocent Iraqis?

This is what is happening daily...

**There are news from Baghdad about endless random arrests, about bombarding civilian residential areas under the pretext of the existence of terrorists among them...**

And they cover up the details of the bombarding and the number of the victims who fell...

**They accuse any innocent person they hunt from the street of being a terrorist... like the story of bombarding Haifa Street last week, arresting Sudanese and Syrian terrorists... while the truth is, they are innocent citizens who lived in Iraq since the 1980s with their families, and some were political refugees in Iraq, and the government of their original countries wouldn't allow them to go back...**

How many people I met in Amman; former detainees or prisoners in the prisons of the occupation or the Iraqi Interior Ministry, all without a charge. They were arrested randomly, insulted and tortured, and then they were released after months or years, after being presented to a judge who dismissed them as innocent...

Of course, the detainees in Iraq are thrown in prisons for months or years without seeing a lawyer or a judge. Some would die under torture, commit suicide, or they might decide to set him free only to be followed and assassinated after a short time...

**These are not fantasy-spun tales; these are testimonies we listened to from detainees. I know their names, their faces and addresses. And there will come the time for them to speak up in front of the whole world, for the world to see what Bush has done, his crimes against humanity in Iraq....**

**And; President Bush is sending more troops...**

**Are they supposed to empty Iraq of its people, and send more American soldiers?**

Iraq will be all right, when the decision goes back into the hands of its men and women, not those who obey the orders of Bush and his administration, but those who carry the love of Iraq, its independence and dignity, in their hearts....

Who carry love for its people, its history and civilization...

Who believe they are one people, with one past, and one future...

Those are the ones who will achieve settlement and justice for Iraq...

They do exist; waiting for the chance to save the country from the catastrophes that has befallen it...

**I always hear the question: what will happen to Iraq if the armies withdraw from it?**

**And the answer, which I heard from most Iraqis, and made me smile: when the occupation leaves, all the mercenary agents will leave with it, for no one will protect them...**

**And Iraq will go back to its people, those who love Iraq and want what is best for it...**

**Bush knows this, and that is why he insists upon remaining in Iraq by flimsy excuses, because, if he withdraws his army, his dream and project will be smashed immediately, at once...**

**But he will get out of Iraq...**

**He will get out, in spite of his nose...**

**For neither the Iraqi people want him there, nor the American people...**

**I pray to God to defeat him, and to make victorious the will of the people who love life, freedom, and peace....**

**Amen....**

<p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

01 Feb 2007 Reuters & VOI & AP

The governor of Tikrit escaped death when a bomber blew himself up near his car at the College of Law, wounding four people, including two students, in Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Resistance fighters killed two policemen in the southern city of Diwaniya on Wednesday evening and wounded a third, police sources said.

A car bomb targeting an Iraqi army and police patrol in the town of Qaem, near the Syrian border, kills three soldiers and wounds six, police say.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **Happy Anniversary: February 2, 1989 Russia Withdraws From Afghanistan In Defeat**



Peace History: Carl Bunin

Russian participation in the war in Afghanistan ended as Red Army troops withdrew from the capital city of Kabul. They left behind many of their arms.

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **More Iraq War Profiteer Fraud: “20 Trailers For Important Visitors And An Olympic-Size Swimming Pool”**

(Thanks to NB and Phil G, who sent this in.)

**Another example cited in the report is \$36.4m spent by US officials on armoured vehicles, body armour and communications equipment that cannot be accounted for because invoices were vague and there was no back-up documentation.**

2007/01/31 BBC NEWS

Millions of dollars in US rebuilding funds have been wasted in Iraq, US auditors say in a report which warns corruption in the country is rife.

A never-used camp in Baghdad for police trainers with an Olympic-size swimming pool is one of the examples highlighted in the quarterly audit.

The report comes as President Bush is urging Congress to approve \$1.2bn (£600m) in further reconstruction aid.

One case involved a payment by the US State Department of \$43.8m to a contractor, DynCorp International, for a residential camp for police trainers outside the Adnan Palace grounds in Baghdad. The camp has never been used.

The Iraqi Interior Ministry ordered \$4.2m of work there, never authorised by the State Department, that included 20 trailers for important visitors and an Olympic-size swimming pool.

**Another example cited in the report is \$36.4m spent by US officials on armoured vehicles, body armour and communications equipment that cannot be accounted for because invoices were vague and there was no back-up documentation.**

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

**OCCUPATION PALESTINE**

**The Master Race On The March:**

# “Prevent Palestinian Freedom Of Movement”

24/01/2007 By Amira Hass, Haaretz [Israel]

Anyone who wants to become acquainted with Israeli society should go to the checkpoints.

Not for a quarter of an hour, under the guidance of commanders who will glory in the pavilion they built for the people waiting in line and will explain that the upgrading and the expansion of the checkpoint are intended to benefit the locals.

Those who really want to know the checkpoints should rather dwell here for hours, during several days.

When you observe the soldiers, you will discover many Israeli characteristics among them, characteristics in which we have always taken pride.

Comradeship, for example.

The comradeship is so strong that there are those who feel they can even deviate from the norms that have been created at the checkpoint, which are perverted in any case.

At the Taysir checkpoint, for example, in two cases documented during the past two weeks, a soldier urinated in public, and in the presence of women. Perhaps it was the same soldier both times, or perhaps two different soldiers.

**This was but an extreme manifestation of the scorn the soldiers at the checkpoint demonstrate for the people who are at their mercy and must pass through there - teachers, farmers, merchants, schoolchildren, workers at the settlements.**

But this is also an expression of the soldiers' self-confidence, of the knowledge that none of their comrades will prevent them from doing things they would not do in Binyamina or Bnei Brak.

**The willingness to help is also an Israeli trait.**

The very same soldier helped a policeman ensconced in his jeep at this remote checkpoint, located at the end of the Jordan Valley.

**On Tuesday last week, this soldier collected the identity cards of a number of drivers, gave them to the policeman in the jeep and returned to the drivers with the ID cards and with traffic violation tickets and a payment of a fine of NIS 100 each, which they would have to pay for the benefit of the state treasury, for not wearing seat belts.**

**And incidentally, they were wearing seat belts, although their cars had already been waiting for half an hour or more.**

### **Inventiveness is another blessed Israeli trait.**

A military order prohibits all Palestinians from entering and sojourning in the Jordan Valley, except for those who live there and work for the most part at Jewish settlements.

In recent weeks, the soldiers at the Taysir checkpoint have told inhabitants of the Jordan Valley who "dared" to spend the night outside the valley and return to it in the morning that "this is forbidden."

A year and a half ago they decided that it was "forbidden" for farmers to bring their produce through this checkpoint - as a result, these farmers had to make a detour of about 30 kilometers and pass through a different checkpoint.

**When it was made clear to the soldiers that there was no such order, they found a method to keep drivers away from the checkpoint: They obligated those who transport vegetables into the West Bank to unload all crates before the checkpoint, supposedly for inspection, and to reload them.**

Tenacity is also considered to be an admirable trait, especially in the army.

**Brigade commanders come and go, soldiers are replaced and yet, during the past two years, the reports about the distant Taysir checkpoint have remained the same: soldiers who invent harassments, waiting times way beyond what is justified, on various false excuses (one time it is construction work at the checkpoint, another time forged documents and yet another time a security warning), and reports of people who were made to pass through a different checkpoint.**

**It is easy to claim that Taysir is exceptional. It is a fact that the reported behavior of that particular soldier was seen by his commanders as very grave, and he was suspended from his position.**

**The brigade also denied the veracity of reports by inhabitants that the specific soldier was present and "served" at the checkpoint even after he was suspended for about two hours on one day and three hours on another.**

Brigade officials stressed that the suspension of this soldier is still in force, with the same assertiveness as those people who said they had seen him again at the checkpoint.

In any case, in the past, too, after this kind of information was brought to the attention of the commanders, the situation at the checkpoint improved for several days and the waiting time was shorter, and then everything returned to the status quo ante.

Each of the many dozens of checkpoints has developed its own methods of harassment over the years.

**They derive from the implicit order behind the existence of every checkpoint: Prevent Palestinian freedom of movement for the sake of the welfare of the Jewish settlements; that is to say - Israel.**

One gets sick of reading about the checkpoints.

One gets even sicker of writing about them.

And the most sickening thing of all is to pass through them. But because the Palestinians have no alternative but to continue to pass through them, these checkpoints will continue to be the representatives of Israeli society.



by Carlos Latuff

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **Bush Gets It Right: He Sends Surge Of 20,000 Democratic Presidential Candidates To Iraq**

January 30, 2007 The Borowitz Report

Showing his determination to increase the U.S. military presence in Iraq, President George W. Bush said today that he would send 20,000 Democratic presidential candidates surging into Baghdad.



In recent days, Congress has balked at Mr. Bush's request for more troops, but by dispatching the Democratic presidential hopefuls the president appears to have circumvented his critics.

"A lot of these candidates seem to think they can do a better job in Iraq," Mr. Bush chuckled. "This is their chance to prove it."

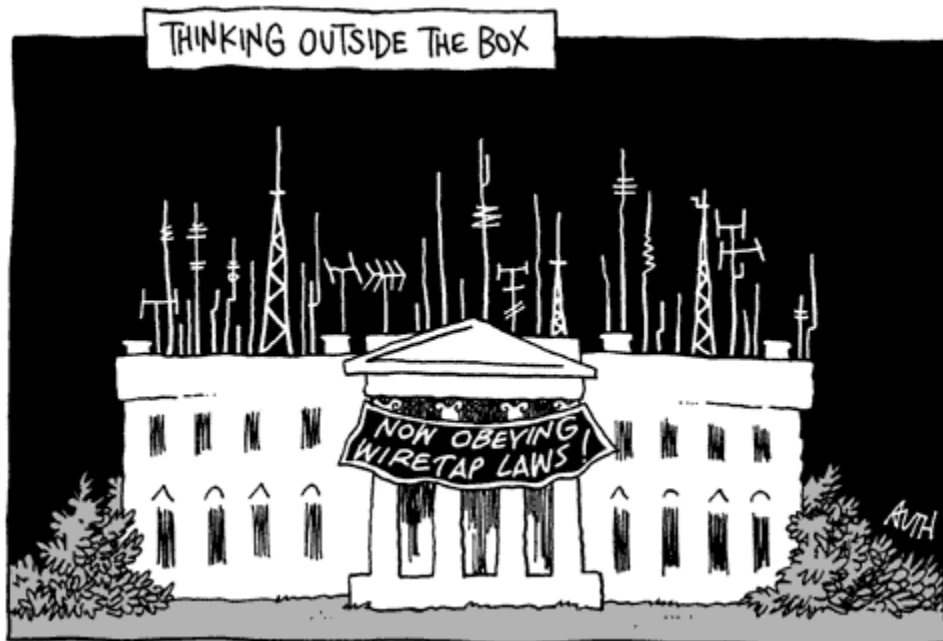
The president said that Army transport planes would arrive in Iowa later in the day to transport Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-New York), Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), and 19,998 other Democratic candidates to Baghdad.

"This really is a win-win," White House spokesman Tony Snow told reporters. "I think I speak for everyone at the White House when I say that we can't wait until these folks board those planes for Iraq."

But even as Mr. Snow praised the president's decision to dispatch thousands of presidential hopefuls to Baghdad, he fielded a question from a reporter who asked if the so-called surge would stretch the nation's supply of Democratic candidates too thin.

"By our count, even after we send the 20,000, there will be more than 40,000 Democratic presidential candidates in reserve," Mr. Snow said. "That's more than enough in case war breaks out in Iran or North Korea."

Elsewhere, wrapping up a weekend visit to urban areas in the U.S., Britain's Prince Charles said he felt he had "much in common" with many of the Americans he met: "I, too, have no job."



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

**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.

## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# **The Empire Turns Its Killers Loose On The Citizenry: Your Local Police Force Has Been Militarized And Is Butchering Civilians Wholesale**

[In addition to all the other good reasons, we need our troops home to protect us against these official U.S. government funded and supplied death squads that are so busy butchering U.S. citizens. The priority for our troops is putting these bad guys down before worrying about death squads half way across the world. T]

In a high percentage of the cases, the SWAT teams forcefully enter the wrong address, resulting in death, injury, and trauma to perfectly innocent people. Occasionally, highly keyed-up police kill one another in the confusion caused by their stun grenades.

January 24, 2007 By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS, CounterPunch [Excerpts]

**In recent years American police forces have called out SWAT teams 40,000 or more times annually. Last year did you read in your newspaper or hear on TV news of 110 hostage or terrorist events each day? No.**

**What then were the SWAT teams doing? They were serving routine warrants to people who posed no danger to the police or to the public.**

SWAT teams (Special Weapons and Tactics) were once rare and used only for very dangerous situations, often involving hostages held by armed criminals.

Today SWAT teams are deployed for routine police duties. In the US today, 75-80% of SWAT deployments are for warrant service.

**In a high percentage of the cases, the SWAT teams forcefully enter the wrong address, resulting in death, injury, and trauma to perfectly innocent people. Occasionally, highly keyed-up police kill one another in the confusion caused by their stun grenades.**

In 1988 Congress ordered the National Guard into the domestic drug war. In 1994 the Department of Defense issued a memorandum authorizing the transfer of military equipment and technology to state and local police, and Congress created a program "to facilitate handing military gear over to civilian police agencies."

**Today 17,000 local police forces are equipped with such military equipment as Blackhawk helicopters, machine guns, grenade launchers, battering rams, explosives, chemical sprays, body armor, night vision, rappelling gear and armored vehicles. Some have tanks.**

In 1999, the New York Times reported that a retired police chief in New Haven, Connecticut, told the newspaper, "I was offered tanks, bazookas, anything I wanted." Balko reports that in 1997, for example, police departments received 1.2 million pieces of military equipment.

With local police forces now armed beyond the standard of US heavy infantry, police forces have been retrained "to vaporize, not Mirandize," to use a phrase from Reagan administration defense official Lawrence Korb.

**This leaves the public at the mercy of brutal actions based on bad police information from paid informers.**

SWAT team deployments received a huge boost from the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program, which gave states federal money for drug enforcement. Balko explains that "the states then disbursed the money to local police departments on the basis of each department's number of drug arrests."

With financial incentives to maximize drug arrests and with idle SWAT teams due to a paucity of hostage or other dangerous situations, local police chiefs threw their SWAT teams into drug enforcement. In practice, this has meant using SWAT teams to serve warrants on drug users.

**SWAT teams serve warrants by breaking into homes and apartments at night while people are sleeping, often using stun grenades and other devices to disorient the occupants.**

**As much of the police's drug information comes from professional informers known as "snitches" who tip off police for cash rewards, dropped charges, and reduced sentences, names and addresses are often pulled out of a hat. Balko provides details for 135 tragic cases of mistaken addresses.**

SWAT teams are not held accountable for their tragic mistakes and gratuitous brutality.

**Police killings got so bad in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for example, that the city hired criminologist Sam Walker to conduct an investigation of police tactics. Killings by police were "off the charts," Walker found, because the SWAT team "had an organizational culture that led them to escalate situations upward rather than de-escalating."**

The mind-set of militarized SWAT teams is geared to "taking out" or killing the suspect--thus, the many deaths from SWAT team utilization.

**Many innocent people are killed in night time SWAT team entries, because they don't realize that it is the police who have broken into their homes. They believe they are confronted by dangerous criminals, and when they try to defend themselves they are shot down by the police.**

As Lawrence Stratton and I have reported, one of many corrupting influences on the criminal justice (sic) system is the practice of paying "snitches" to generate suspects. In 1995 the Boston Globe profiled people who lived entirely off the fees that they were paid as police informants.

Snitches create suspects by selling a small amount of marijuana to a person who they then report to the police as being in possession of drugs. Balko reports that "an overwhelming number of mistaken raids take place because police relied on information from confidential informants." In Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, 87% of drug raids originated in tips from snitches. Many police informers are themselves drug dealers who avoid arrest and knock off competitors by serving as police snitches.

**Surveying the deplorable situation, the National Law Journal concluded: "Criminals have been turned into instruments of law enforcement, while law enforcement officers have become criminal co-conspirators."**

Balko believes the problem could be reduced if judges scrutinized unreliable information before issuing warrants. If judges would actually do their jobs, there would be fewer innocent victims of SWAT brutality.

**However, as long as the war on drugs persists and as long as it produces financial rewards to police departments, local police forces, saturated with military weapons and war imagery, will continue to terrorize American citizens.**

**MORE:**

## **“This Nationwide Epidemic Of Police Brutality And Murder, Directed Primarily At Young People Of Color, Continues And Intensifies**

January 24, 2007 NYC-Justice [Excerpts]

November 25: Sean Bell, 23, unarmed and executed in a hail of 50 bullets fired by cops in Queens hours before his wedding.

November 26: Juanita Young, anti-police brutality activist and mother of police murder victim Malcolm Ferguson, arrested in her own home, beaten and held by the NYPD for four days shackled to the hospital bed then given a Desk Appearance Ticket (DAT)

December 13: Timur Person, 19, murdered by NYPD in the South Bronx, shot as he tried to surrender

December 16: Anatoly Dmitriev, 62, mentally ill Russian immigrant, shot and killed by cops on his fire escape on the same day that thousands marched down Fifth Avenue demanding justice for Sean Bell

January 8: Blondel Lassegue, 38, emotionally disturbed Queens man killed by Taser gun jolts.

And in between: three to four non-fatal shootings by the NYPD, and this is just in a few weeks, and only in NYC!

This nationwide epidemic of police brutality and murder, directed primarily at young people of color, continues and intensifies.

### **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))**

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