

## GI SPECIAL 5D6:

**“HE GRITS HIS TEETH  
“HE SNARLS THAT LOSING IS NOT AN OPTION  
“HE DOES NOT CARE HOW MANY SOLDIERS  
DIE”**



The traitor Bush speaks in Washington, DC, 03 April 2007. (AFP/Tim Sloan)

# Swastika Stars

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: April 03, 2007 10:33 AM  
Subject: Swastika Stars

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

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## **Swastika Stars**

**Bush still will not budge  
he is surging straight ahead  
he has his Fox TV, talk radio  
propaganda war machine  
spinning at full speed too.  
All the Democrats do  
is just follow with one arm  
saluting like a canon to the sky  
Americans now know  
how the German people felt  
when Hitler rose to power  
he is out of control by anyone  
Just replace the SS  
with Blackwater like mercenaries  
they will kill anybody for money  
Replace the Jews with Muslims  
so ironic  
But Bush is just like Hitler  
he will not listen to his Generals  
when they tell him  
we are losing the war  
His face turns red, he grits his teeth  
he snarls that losing is not an option  
with a swastika tattooed between his eyes  
like Charles Manson  
He does not care how many Soldiers die  
or how many wounded  
we must fight this war until we win  
He scrapes his fingernails  
across a map of Iraq  
and throws Afghanistan on the floor  
The flag has swastikas  
where there used to be stars  
on the red white and blue  
His Nazis want to grab all the oil  
grab the whole wide world  
in their hands and shake it real hard  
tell all the countries big and small  
that America is the Empire now**

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**IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

## **“Died As A Result Of Friendly Fire”**



Pvt. Matthew Zeimer, of Glendive, Mont., was killed Feb. 2, 2007, in Ramadi, Iraq. The U.S. Army says Zeimer may have died as a result of friendly fire, not by fire from Iraqi insurgents as their families were told initially. (AP Photo/Billings Gazette)

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## **Staff Sgt. Killed In Baghdad**



Paratrooper Staff Sgt. Shane Becker, 35, died April 3, 2007, in Baghdad. Becker was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

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# U.S. Soldier Killed In Kirkuk; Another Wounded

06 April 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 2007406-23

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Task Force Lightning Soldier was killed by gunfire Thursday in Kirkuk Province.

One other Soldier was also wounded in the incident and was taken to a Coalition Forces' medical treatment facility.

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## A Young Wife Mourns A Queens G.I. Hero



Queens Army Spec. Brian Ritzberg kisses his beloved wife, Clara, also a soldier stationed in Fort Riley, Kan. Brian Ritzberg died Monday after a blast in Kirkuk, Iraq, leaving behind his wife.

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

Apr 4 By MICHAEL DALY, N.Y. DAILY NEWS COLUMNIST

The next time you get distracted by how many times one presidential candidate has been married or how much money another one has raised or who is where in the polls, look at the photo of a kissing couple on the MySpace Web page for New Sensation1713.

"I love my husband!" read the words beneath.

You will notice that the man in the photo is wearing an Army combat uniform. He is 24-year-old Army Spec. Brian Ritzberg.

The woman is wearing civilian clothes, but she is also a soldier. She is 20-year-old Army Spec. Clara Ritzberg.

He is presently being shipped home to Queens from Iraq in a coffin. She will be flying in from Fort Riley, Kan.

“For the funeral,” she said yesterday.

The two met in 2004 while serving in the Army Reserves in New York. He was a graduate of Thomas A. Edison Vocational and Technical High School in Queens who hoped to become a police officer after the Army. She was a graduate of Richmond Hill High School with plans to go on to college and start her own business. They were in the meantime serving their country and ready to do more.

“It wasn’t love at first sight, but it grew strong pretty fast,” she recalled. “We decided to get married and go active,” she said.

Get married they did, on March 31, 2005, just seven months after they met. They went on active duty and settled down in Fort Riley.

Even when Brian Ritzberg was deployed to Iraq in January, they told themselves that the separation would be only for a few months.

“I was supposed to go in June or July,” Clara Ritzberg said.

She posted that photo on MySpace along with the declaration, “I love my husband!” An added message was posted on Feb. 22.

“Smiles and tears, giggles and laughs, late-night calls and cute photographs. I’ll be there for you ‘til the day of my death; best friends forever. ‘Til my very last breath.”

The photo of the kiss is also on his MySpace page, Soldier X. It is joined by a snapshot of Brian Ritzberg standing with his wife, his right arm protectively around her, her face snug against his chest.

“ABOUT ME: To me, family is the most important thing life has to offer,” reads the message above the photos.

On Saturday, Brian and Clara Ritzberg marked their second anniversary, what they hoped would be their last one apart. He managed to call her on Sunday and say the best words she could hear.

“He told me he loved me,” she recalled.

He added that the area where she would be joining him was relatively quiet.

“He said he was safe, there was nothing to worry about,” she remembered. “He said he was waiting for me to go over there so he we could see each other.”

The moment came when he had to hang up, but they remained one in their hearts. She was not even remotely prepared when the very next day became a date that will forever shadow their wedding anniversary.

“The day he died,” she said.

All their hopes for a future together were ended by a bomber who drove a bomb-laden truck into the area that had seemed so safe. She sounded on the phone from Fort Riley yesterday morning as if part of her had died with him, speaking just above a whisper of how quiet he had been.

“He was very quiet, but he was very nice to people,” she said.

She continued, her words as simple as true love: “He had a strong heart. He loved his family.”

She seemed as if she were feeling stronger in the early evening, now sounding as if part of him lives on in her. Her voice came over the line much as it must have during the call five days ago that neither of them imagined could be their last.

They leave us on this shadowed Holy Week with a truly holy photo of a kiss, a photo that should remind us among other things of one paramount question to consider about these presidential candidates: Exactly what does each one say or not say about this war?

The one blessing is the Army will no longer be deploying Spec. Clara Ritzberg to Iraq.

“They’re not going to send me because that’s where my husband died,” she explained.

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## Samoan Soldier Killed In Iraq

March 21, 2007 By Fili Sagapolutele in Pago Pago, Pacific Magazine

A Hawaii-based soldier of Samoan ancestry, is the latest casualty of the Iraq war.

Sgt. Nimo Westhill M. Tauala, 29, of Honolulu, Hawaii, died March 17 in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, of a non-combat related injury, the U.S. Defense Department announced Tuesday.

Family members in American Samoa are preparing to travel to Honolulu for his funeral service.

**Tauala, the 11th person of Samoan ancestry to died in Iraq, was assigned to the 209th Aviation Support Battalion, Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.**

He joined the Army in January 2000 and was assigned to Schofield Barracks in February 2004, the Army says, adding that the family has requested that their privacy be respecting during this difficult time.

Tauala's aunt in American Samoa, Sami Tupuola is quoted by KHJ News as saying that the family was informed Saturday of the death.

Tauala's body has been taken to Maryland and will be brought to Honolulu by the end of this week.

According to the Army, Tauala had been awarded several medals, including the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and NATO Medal.

He also received other commendations including the Presidential Unit Citation and the Army Service Ribbon.

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## Fighting In Iraq Kills Lewisburg Marine

03/30/07 By TURNER HUTCHENS, The Tennessean

MURFREESBORO — “We are warriors,” Marine Sgt. Marcus “Marc” Golczynski wrote in a recent e-mail to his family. “And as warriors have before us, we joined ... and are following orders because we believe what we are doing is right. Many of us volunteered to do this a second time due to our deep desire to finish the job we started. We fight and sometimes die, so our families don't have to.”

Golczynski, 30, was to come home by Easter. He died Tuesday after he was shot while on patrol in Fallujah, a hot spot of insurgent activity.

Also known as “Sergeant Ski,” Golczynski was assigned to Marine Forces Reserve's 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, based in Nashville.

The official military account says he was shot in the abdomen by enemy forces while conducting a dismounted patrol in the Al Anbar province.

He was taken to Fallujah Surgical for treatment, where he died. The report said Golczynski was wearing body armor and a Kevlar helmet when he was shot.

He is the son of Elaine Huffines of Lewisburg and Henry Golczynski of Murfreesboro. Fay and Henry Golczynski, owners of Franklin Printworks in Murfreesboro, received the news late Tuesday.

Sgt. Golczynski had an 8-year-old son who lives with his mother in Maryland.

“He was truly a family man,” said John Weatherspoon, who works at Franklin Printworks. “He loved his son, his family and his friends.”

Weatherspoon spoke with the Marine a week ago. He said Golczynski was in good spirits and was eager to come home. “But we also talked about how, even if he didn't make it, he knew he was doing the right thing,” Weatherspoon said. “He didn't have any regrets.”

Marilyn Shelton, who also works at Franklin Printworks, said he was a “gung-ho Marine” and a patriot but also someone who made the workday easier for those around him.

“He made the day light,” Shelton said. “Everything was fun with Marc.”

Diane Borella, who worked with Golczynski at a Ruby Tuesday restaurant in Smyrna, where he was a manager, said he was a joy to be around and always had a smile on his face. When he came home from Iraq after his first tour, he wanted to return to continue the fight, she said. “He said it was like (when you) don’t finish your shift here at Ruby Tuesday’s, because your work was not done yet,” Borella said.

**Golczynski is the fifth Rutherford County resident killed in the war and the 70th Tennessean service member.**

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## ***How Do You Know Your War Is Lost? When The Reuters News Service Runs This Headline: “U.S. Forces Battle To Win Back Iraq City”***

April 06, 2007 Reuters

IRAQI and US forces clashed with Shiite militia loyal to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr as they launched a major operation at dawn today to return the volatile city of Diwaniya to government control.

An Iraqi security source said Iraqi and US troops fought militiamen in districts in southeast Diwaniya, a stronghold of Sadr’s Mehdi Army. A local hospital said at least one person had been killed and 15 wounded.

The Iraqi security source told Reuters that all police in Diwaniya, who are suspected of being infiltrated by Mehdi Army militia, had been ordered to stay at home.

“There were clear instructions for local police not to report to work today. The security forces are from outside the city,” the source told Reuters.

Residents said a curfew had been imposed and that troops were blocking streets and conducting house-to-house searches.

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**GUESS WHO’S WORRIED**



**GUESS WHO ISN'T  
GUESS WHY:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



3.31.07: A US soldier with the 4-9 Cavalry 2BCT 1st Cavalry Division B-troop, patrols an area in Baghdad's neighbourhood of al-Allawi. (AFP/Patrick Baz)

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**AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**“Sometimes I Feel That We’re The  
Lost Platoon”**

**“There Is About One Soldier For  
Every 2 1/2 Square Miles”**

**“The Taliban Also Learn. They Also  
Change Their Tactics, Like I Change My  
Underwear”**

There are some 47,000 foreign soldiers here, a quarter the size of the U.S.-led force in Iraq, a country a third smaller than Afghanistan. More than 40,000 peacekeepers were sent to Kosovo, one-sixtieth Afghanistan's size with a tenth of its population.

**“I can go to any place in this district, but I can’t own it,” said 1st Lt. Jason Cunningham, a platoon commander in Zabul’s volatile Daychopan district.**

Apr 4 By DENIS D. GRAY, Associated Press Writer

As his snipers watched the Taliban fighters from hilltop hideouts, the sergeant had a flashback: He was in the Alps, dressed in an Afghan turban and vest, cradling an AK-47 and impersonating the very insurgents his unit was about to confront.

Staff Sgt. Lukas Hearn could slide easily into shoes of the Taliban in Afghanistan, picturing that when the shooting started they would flee their stronghold, veer up a narrow pass and vanish into the mountains.

In a conflict waged on unfamiliar terrain, Hearn’s unit — the U.S. Army’s 1st Battalion, 4th Regiment — enjoys an edge. Since 1990, soldiers from the battalion have acted as “OPFOR” — Opposition Forces — in war games staged in Germany against U.S. and NATO units. And in the German Alps, they played the part of the Taliban.

“Except for our light skin, short haircut and combat boots, we looked exactly like Afghan insurgents, and sometimes they let us wear our hair long. They even gave us glue-on beards,” said Hearn, of Moore, Okla.

Now his unit is deployed in Afghanistan’s Zabul province, a vital staging post for insurgents in southern Afghanistan, and the role-playing experience has paid dividends.

Recounting a recent clash, Hearn said his unit rushed in a blocking force to cut off the valley that was the site of the Taliban stronghold. Mortars were targeted on the expected escape route and airstrikes readied before fighting erupted.

“They (the militants) did exactly what we would have done if we were acting as OPFOR,” Hearn said. The Taliban fighters were trapped, and a number were killed, he said.

But while the soldiers may be better able to predict how the Taliban will act, the battalion’s tactical insight may not be enough.

The “Men in Black” — who get their name from their earlier roles as black-uniformed Soviet bloc troops — suffer from the problem faced by other U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan: They’re too few in too large a place.

**There are some 47,000 foreign soldiers here, a quarter the size of the U.S.-led force in Iraq, a country a third smaller than Afghanistan. More than 40,000 peacekeepers were sent to Kosovo, one-sixtieth Afghanistan’s size with a tenth of its population.**

**“I can go to any place in this district, but I can’t own it,” said 1st Lt. Jason Cunningham, a platoon commander in Zabul’s volatile Daychopan district.**

**Cunningham’s 50 soldiers are trying to secure a destitute, largely isolated, mountainous area. There is about one soldier for every 2 1/2 square miles.**

**“Sometimes I feel that we’re the lost platoon,” said Staff Sgt. Keith Bellamy, a squad leader from Myrtle Beach, S.C.**

The unit, with furry dogs Frances and Smoky and several bearded dragon lizards as pets, is holed up in a rectangular fort built of dried mud, straw and logs that seems a throwback to the Indian wars that the 4th Regiment once fought in the American West. The small base at Baylough is set in a bowl ringed by treeless hills and distant snowcapped mountains.

It’s at the end of the U.S. Army supply line. Foul weather may halt helicopter flights and most supplies are hauled from the provincial capital of Qalat on rickety, Soviet-era “jingle trucks” that the soldiers say “run on pure hope.”

**“On a good day if the mountain passes aren’t cut, you can ford the rivers and nobody is shooting at you, you can make it in seven hours,” said Cunningham, 25, of San Francisco. Other times it takes days.**

Almost daily, soldiers trudge out of wind-swept Forward Operating Base Baylough on high altitude operations to hold the 46-square-mile bowl, to destroy or disrupt the Taliban elsewhere and to woo villagers who have yet to see any real benefits from the Kabul government.

“They’re horrible shots and they plan absurd ambushes where they face each other,” Cunningham said of the Taliban.

**“But they’ve got the usual insurgents’ perks — they know the terrain, they move faster than we do and they can blend in with the population.”**

The Daychopan district is important to the insurgents. After infiltrating from Pakistan, Taliban and foreign Islamic fighters use the district’s mountain ranges and villages as havens en route to the southern provinces of Kandahar and Helmand where most of the heavy fighting is now occurring.

“This is their strategic rear, the backyard of their strongholds in the south,” Cunningham said. “This is where they refit, rest and recuperate and get ready to move south. Our job is to make their vacations as uncomfortable as possible. If I can even raise their heartbeats, it will make my day.” In the three months since his platoon’s arrival, it has killed at least eight insurgents and maybe more. It has not suffered any casualties. “We could spend all our time hunting the Taliban. We’d do a good job and it would be fun. But it wouldn’t win us the war,” Cunningham said.

Bellamy said the only way to win is to keep the villagers more or less on their side. It’s something the soldiers learned while playing the opposition.

“We’re just 50 Americans. If the locals in this bowl turn against us we’re gone. The locals are vital to our survival,” the sergeant said.

It’s a struggle. The Taliban circulate stories among the deeply conservative people of the foreign infidels raping women and stealing property.

**And five years after the fall of the Taliban regime, the central government in Kabul has had little impact in the district, which has no school or medical clinic and a minor Afghan army presence — sometimes as few as 10 soldiers.**

The U.S. platoon responds with humanitarian gestures. Cunningham is pleased with the \$25,000 he just received to improve roads and hopes to get more for a school. Recently, the unit evacuated a severely burned boy from a village and provided follow-up care. “Small gestures like this can win a whole village to our side,” Cunningham said.

In the fall of 2003, a brigade of the 10th Mountain Division was air-dropped in to clear Daychopan of insurgents. But the soldiers later pulled out and the insurgents moved back in. Now, the “Men in Black” make do, trying to apply lessons learned in Germany about roadside bombs, ambushes and insurgent cells.

“It’s saved lives. When you’re out on patrol spotting possible ambush sites, you can say to yourself, ‘If I were them I’d be out here, I’d be out there,’” said Spc. Daniel Bogota of Toms River, N.J.

**“But the Taliban also learn. They also change their tactics, like I change my underwear.”**

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The casket of Army Sgt. Michael Peek, who was killed in Iraq on March 3, 2007, during a burial service at Arlington National Cemetery March 20, 2007, in Arlington, Va. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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# From Shock And Awe To “Shock And Horror”



Blast injury from exploding ordnance: The New England Journal of Medicine

[Thanks to Al Jaccoma, The Military Project and Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

Apr 5 By Tom Brown, Reuters [Excerpts]

Army Lt. Col. Donald Robinson is no stranger to bloodshed. As a civilian he served as a trauma surgeon at Cooper Hospital in Camden, New Jersey, a city so violent he says doctors call it the “Knife and Gun Club.”

Nothing in Camden could fully prepare him for what he saw as chief of surgical and critical care at the U.S. Army’s premier medical facility in Iraq, however. He put in long hours there from December 2004 through July 2005.

Improved body armor and medical care mean more soldiers survive war injuries in Iraq than in past conflicts, and Robinson said well-trained army medics are making a big difference.

But Robinson said the injuries caused by Iraq's dreaded improvised explosive devices are unlike anything seen in combat before, posing constant challenges for army field surgery specialists in a conflict that has been dubbed the "Superbowl of Trauma."

Robinson says he can't remember how many amputations he performed as chief of trauma and director of the intensive care unit at the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad.

"They were too numerous to count," he said.

Now as head of the Army Trauma Training Center at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital and the University of Miami, Robinson's job is to prepare other army medics bound for Iraq for what he calls the "shock and horror" of a conflict in which more than 3,250 American troops have been killed and over 24,000 wounded since the U.S. invasion four years ago.

But Robinson puts a premium on speed and ensuring that medical team members are able to cope with the grim reality of what they're seeing.

Part of that involves overcoming what the military refers to as "compassion fatigue," the post-traumatic stress disorder that can affect medical personnel who treat severe wounds, said Robinson.

"I've seen people freeze, standing across the table from me going 'holy shit!' I've seen it," he said.

"I think the only way you can get over that is to be trained to understand that, yes, it's devastating, but you sort of have to disassociate yourself or distance yourself away from what you're looking at."

Robinson declined to comment when asked about the recent scandal over shoddy conditions and bureaucratic delays for wounded troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the flagship U.S. military hospital.

**The revelations have compounded a deepening public disquiet with the war in Iraq.**

**"I have my own thoughts about that. But in all honesty, we were told by our bosses that's out of our lane and we don't have an opinion," he said.**

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**“There Is No Argument Of  
Whether The US Army Is  
Rapidly Unraveling”**

# **“We’re Running Out Of Army Units For The Mission”**

## **“The Army Is About To Be ‘Broken,’ He Says”**

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

April 4, 2007 By Gordon Lubold, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

When some 4,500 soldiers heard over the weekend that they’d be deploying to Iraq earlier than expected, many saw it as yet another inconvenience that military personnel must endure.

But to some in Washington, the announcement is a glaring sign that the Army really is straining and that its well of rested, trained, and equipped soldiers is running dry.

**The Pentagon’s announcement Monday that it is sending two units back to Iraq early means it will renege on its objective to give soldiers at least 12 months at home between deployments.**

While the Defense Department has extended the deployment of troops in combat, this is only the second time it has had to deprive soldiers from a major unit of a year-long rest.

The fact that the Pentagon felt compelled to make the call-up seems to validate what many retired generals and former Pentagon officials have warned: that repeated deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan are wearing out military personnel and equipment to a worrisome point.

**“We’re running out of Army units for the mission,” says Robert Scales, a retired Army two-star general.**

**The Army is about to be “broken,” he says.**

Mr. Scales, a former commander of the Army War College, has warned that there aren’t enough Army brigades to sustain the mission in Iraq.

**To give soldiers the kind of training and rest they need, the nation would need as many as 99 Army and Marine Corps brigades, but it has only half that many.**

**“All you have to do is the math,” he says.**

The deployment means that about 1,000 soldiers from the division headquarters of the Texas-based 4th Infantry Division will leave for Iraq in August, 81 days prior to what would be their 12-month “dwell time” at home. Another 3,500 soldiers from the 1st Brigade of the 10th Mountain Division, based in Fort Drum, N.Y., will also leave early, by about 45 days.

The only other major unit to be sent early to combat is the Georgia-based 3rd Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division, according to Col. Daniel Baggio, an Army spokesman. That unit deployed earlier this year.

Under the operational scenarios used currently for most active-duty forces, a unit should deploy for a period of time – one year for soldiers and seven months for marines – and return home for dwell time for at least that amount of time.

Sustaining this level of effort in Iraq without requiring more extensions or early departures would be a challenge, said Air Force Gen. Lance Smith, the commander of US Joint Forces Command, the unit that provides forces to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“It would be very difficult,” he told defense reporters last week. “We can sustain that for a while.”

It’s all a sign of trouble, says Barry McCaffrey, a retired Army four-star general who recently returned from another fact-finding trip to Iraq.

The Defense Department’s readiness ratings, which are classified, are starting to decline, he says, and ground combat equipment “is shot” in both the active and reserve components, he asserts.

Recruiting challenges are mounting, as the Army is having to recruit individuals they wouldn’t allow otherwise.

The US is at the “knee of the curve,” Mr. McCaffrey says.

**“There is no argument of whether the US Army is rapidly unraveling.”**

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## **Lt. Gen. Blum Says Americans Will Die At Home Because Iraq War Burnt Up National Guard Equipment: Current Rate Of Deployments “Is Not Sustainable”**

March 28, 2007 By Adam Schreck, L.A. Times Staff Writer [Excerpts]



WASHINGTON — The head of the National Guard warned Tuesday that units nationwide have less than half the equipment they need to deal with natural disasters, terrorist attacks and other threats at home.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum told members of the House armed services subcommittee on readiness that guardsmen being deployed to Iraq and other foreign hot spots are adequately equipped but that Army National Guard units stateside have, on average, just 40% of their required equipment on hand.

That deficit cuts into the Guard's ability to respond to national emergencies and keep its "citizen soldiers" adequately trained for rapid deployment, he said.

**"To respond here at home, you have to have people fully manned, fully trained and fully equipped," Blum testified.**

**"If we don't have the equipment we need, the reaction time is slow, and time equals lives lost. Those lives are American lives."**

Blum's comments came on the heels of a report this month that found that increased reliance on the Guard at home and abroad was straining units and was likely to hurt recruitment efforts.

**The report, by an independent congressionally mandated commission, said the current rate of deployments "is not sustainable."**

Lt. Col. Jon Siepman, a spokesman for California's National Guard, said the state has about half of the equipment it needs overall but must contend with significantly smaller proportions of certain items, such as light and medium trucks, modern M4 carbine rifles and night-vision goggles.

**That means troops have to borrow equipment for training and in some cases go without until just before deploying.**

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**Pentagon Traitors Sending  
Unready Forces Into Combat  
And Lying About It:  
"Nobody Is Going To Give You A  
Truthful Account"  
"The Entire CONUS Army Is In The  
Crapper"**

# “How Much Truth Has Been Heard On The Military Side Since The Start Of The War?”

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

**Macgregor says it is silly to think US military units can upgrade their readiness from C-3 or C-4 to C-2 or C-1 levels after only a couple or few additional weeks of training in Kuwait before arriving in Iraq.**

**All combat brigades (including both army and reserve) in the United States, even those next to deploy, are unready.”**

Apr 4, 2007 By David Isenberg, Asia Times [Excerpts]

One of the newest and unreported signs of unreadiness involves something called C-ratings.

Historically, readiness of US military forces at the unit level has been measured using the Status of Resources and Training System. Under SORTS, units report their overall readiness status as well as the status of four resource areas (personnel, equipment and supplies on hand, equipment condition, and training).

These are readiness indicators based on the comparison of the resources that units have with the levels prescribed for wartime.

The lower the number, the higher the state of readiness.

The readiness status of a unit is reported by assigning capability, or “C”, ratings as follows:

C-1 Unit can undertake the full wartime missions for which it is organized or designed.

C-2 Unit can undertake the bulk of its wartime missions.

C-3 Unit can undertake major portions of its wartime missions.

C-4 Unit requires additional resources and/or training to undertake its wartime missions, but if the situation dictates, it may be required to undertake portions of the missions with resources on hand.

C-5 Unit is undergoing a service-directed resource change and is not prepared to undertake its wartime missions.

**It has not been widely publicized that US units being deployed to Iraq that are rated at C-3/4 levels are being elevated to C-1/2 after only a couple of weeks in Kuwait, the functional equivalent of a military miracle.**

Last December, CQ Weekly reported that US Army planning assumes that 37 of its 70 combat brigades are ready for deployment under its C-1-to-C-5 rating system.

**But the article noted, “A recent army document showed that all combat brigades (including both army and reserve) in the United States, even those next to deploy, are unready.”**

**According to a briefing chart, 19 brigades that were next to be deployed were assumed to be at a C-1 or C-2 level, when they were actually C-3 or C-4.**

It should take several months for a low-readiness unit to become ready for any combat. According to Winslow Wheeler, director of the Straus Military Reform Project at the Center for Defense Information in Washington, “The entire CONUS (Continental US) Army is in the crapper.”

**It is no great secret why US military units are increasingly unready. All their problems are the consequence of overuse.**

Last month the Center for American Progress in Washington released a report detailing that overuse.

**It found that of the army’s 44 combat brigades, all but the one permanently based in South Korea have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan.**

**Of those 43 brigades, 12 have been deployed once; 20 have been deployed twice; nine have been deployed three times; and two have been deployed four times.**

It also found that army readiness doctrine mandates that after a unit is deployed for one year, it should receive one year of recuperation followed by a year of training before being redeployed to theater.

**Because of the US administration’s mismanagement, the army has been forced to ignore its own guidelines.**

**Of the 43 brigades deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, nine have been deployed one year or less at home and 25 have been deployed with less than two years at home.**

On Monday, the Pentagon announced additional major units scheduled to deploy to Iraq. These include the XVIII Airborne Corps Headquarters, 1st Armored Division Headquarters, 4th Infantry Division Headquarters, and the 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division.

**The last has already been deployed three times to Iraq or Afghanistan. It has also, contrary to army policy, been deployed with less than two years at home since its previous tour.**

Last June the army tacitly confirmed the readiness problem, when a memorandum circulated on Capitol Hill by the House Armed Services Subcommittee chairman, Republican Congressman Joel Hefley, suggested the army has already deployed units to Iraq and Afghanistan officially rated at the lowest levels of readiness.

**According to retired army Colonel Doug Macgregor, “Nobody is going to give you a truthful account. Many of the returning units have soldiers who are psychologically traumatized, previously wounded, or newly recruited. And many**

**of those recruited are of a quality that would not have been taken back before 2003.”**

**Macgregor says it is silly to think US military units can upgrade their readiness from C-3 or C-4 to C-2 or C-1 levels after only a couple or few additional weeks of training in Kuwait before arriving in Iraq.**

According to Macgregor, a decorated combat veteran and now an independent businessman, “We are at an all-time low in soldier and unit readiness in the army.”

**Why isn’t this a topic of discussion?**

**He thinks the reason is that there is enormous pressure on generals to say things are going well.**

**“How much truth has been heard on the military side since the start of the war? There is no real accountability on the military side.”**

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## **Most Americans Think Military & Media Lying About Iraq; [Most Americans Aren’t Idiots]**

**[This is disrespectfully dedicated to all the smug, pompous assholes out there who keep writing those disgusting elitist articles about how stupid most Americans are, and congratulating themselves on their own superior wisdom. There are too many of them spreading their filth around the anti-war movement. A big fuck you to them all. T]**

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

Apr 5 AFP

Most Americans have little or no confidence in the information they receive from the military or the media about the situation in Iraq, according to a poll released Thursday.

The survey by the Washington-based Pew Research Center for the People and the Press found that 52 percent have little or no faith in the military’s portrayal of the four-year war, compared with 60 percent who feel the same way about the press reports of the conflict.

The figures are a far cry from the overwhelming confidence Americans had in the military and the media at the outset of the war in March 2003.

At the time, fully 85 percent said they had at least a fair amount of confidence in military information and 81 percent were confident the press was giving an accurate picture of the war.

“People are questioning whether they are getting good information about how things are going and it’s affecting the public’s confidence in the government and military as well as the press,” Dimock told AFP.

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## **Illinois Anti-War Students Facing Jail On Bogus Charges By War Lovers Need Our Help**

**The administration has reportedly offered to drop charges if Barrios and Larson promised not pursue a civil rights lawsuit against the university. However, the Chief Clerk of the Placement Office, Robin Wagner, who filed the bogus complaint of “simple battery,” refused to withdraw charges. The State’s Attorney downgraded the battery charge against Barrios, but, as Socialist Worker went to press, all charges remained in place.**

4.6.07 Socialist Worker

CHICAGO--The struggle for free speech at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) continues.

Campus disciplinary charges have been filed against two members of the Campus Antiwar Network (CAN) and NEIU Socialist Club.

On February 28, two members of the Socialist Club were arrested for taking part in a CAN protest of a campus CIA recruitment event. Ken Barrios and Matt Larson were erroneously charged with “disruption” and “simple battery.”

Some members of the Student Government Association (SGA) seized the opportunity to go on witch-hunt against the Socialist Club--but backed down in the face of an overwhelming outpouring of support.

Activists then turned their attention to the pending court case against Barrios and Larson. On March 28, 40 people attended a CAN press conference on campus to demand the charges be dropped. Later that day, 20 supporters packed the court hearing in downtown Chicago.

**The administration has reportedly offered to drop charges if Barrios and Larson promised not pursue a civil rights lawsuit against the university. However, the Chief Clerk of the Placement Office, Robin Wagner, who filed the bogus complaint of “simple battery,” refused to withdraw charges. The State’s Attorney downgraded the battery charge against Barrios, but, as Socialist Worker went to press, all charges remained in place.**

A disciplinary complaint was filed against Larson and Barrios on March 27 by Dean Kelly. A hearing will be held on April 9 at 10 a.m.

Outrageously, if Larson and Barrios invoke their Fifth Amendment rights, they could be suspended on the spot--even though they face an ongoing trial.

**This ham-fisted intimidation is obviously meant to intimidate student activists into backing down, but students are vowing to fight. A protest is being organized by CAN on April 9 to demand all criminal and campus charges be dropped.**

**What you can do to help:**

**Attend the protest at NEIU on April 9 at 9 a.m., in the NEIU Quad, 5500 N. St. Louis. Call Dean Kelly's office at 773-442-4610 and ask them to drop all charges now.**

**Come to the next court hearing on April 24 at 1:30 p.m., at 555 W. Harrison.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Happy Iraqis Celebrate: Four British Soldiers Killed By IED West Of Basra**



Iraqis hold a dead British soldier's helmet as they cheer the roadside bomb  
5th April 2007 Daily Express

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

April 06, 2007 Reuters

A car bomb hit a police checkpoint Friday in western Ramadi, killing at least two policemen, and wounding as many as 20.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi police patrol exploded in Hawija, 70 km (43 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, injuring four policemen, police said.

A truck bomb exploded and released chlorine gas into the air in the Iraqi city of Ramadi on Friday. Three police officers said five people were killed and 15 were wounded.

Guerrillas opened fire on an Iraqi national police patrol, wounding three policemen in Doura district in southern Baghdad, police said.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**"If one can't disobey an order, he'll never amount to much as a leader."  
Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff 1939-45. Via David Honish,  
Veteran**

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.**

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **Iraq To Become Petraeus' Private Prison: Planning To Hold 40,000 Iraqis In Occupation Concentration Camps**

April 6, 2007 By Gordon Lubold, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor [Excerpt]

For the past several years, the United States itself has held about 13,000 individuals captive and now holds about 18,000 captives.

But as the Baghdad security plan also known as Fard Al Kanoon moves forward, Petraeus is planning for the possibility of holding as many as 40,000 captives.

Most are being held at two facilities, one at Camp Cropper in Baghdad and another at Camp Bucca, south of the city.

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## **60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: Big Surprise**



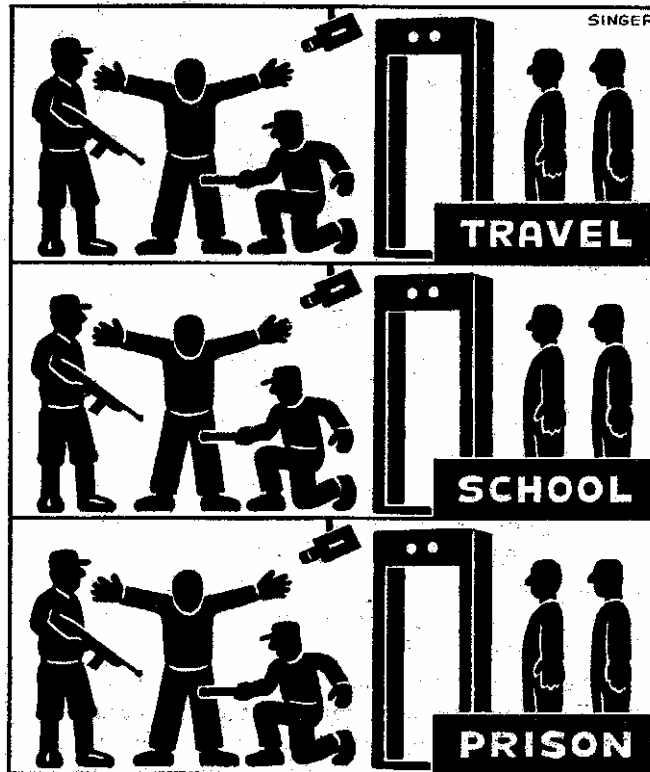
Foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. search the bodies of Iraqi citizens after stopping their car at gunpoint during a patrol in Baghdad, March 22, 2007. (Fabrizio Bensch/Reuters)

**[U.S. sponsored polls reported recently that 60% of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops. Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They're right to resist. T]**

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



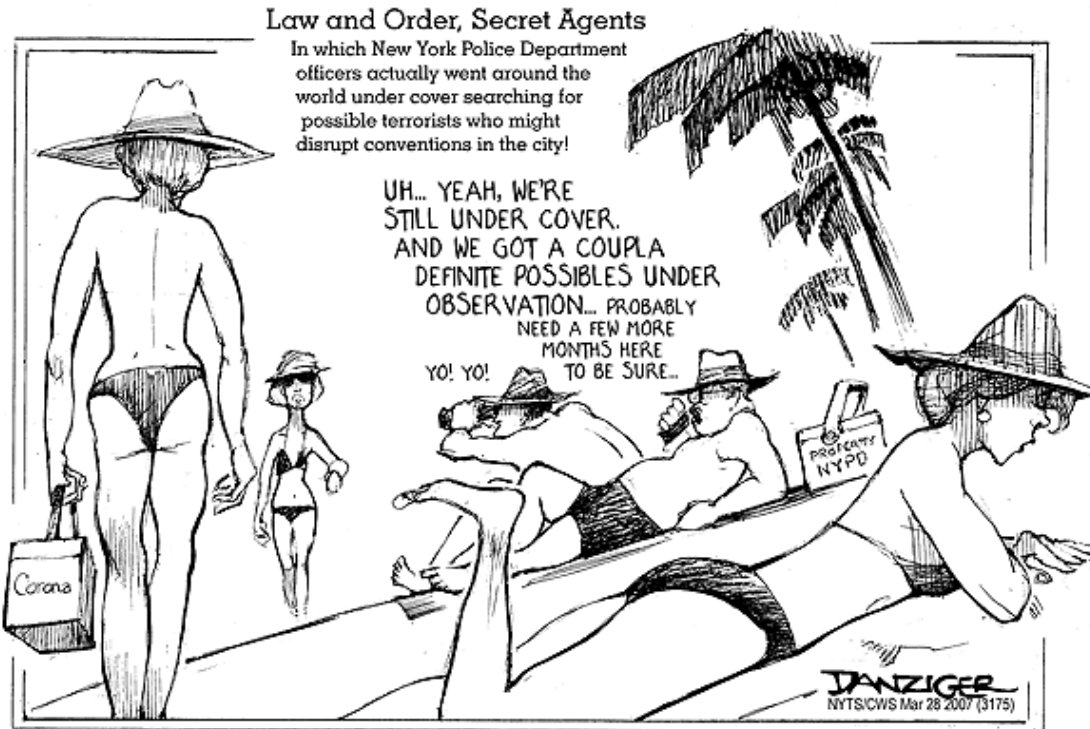
# SAME OLD SAME OLD



A U.S. soldier walks in a classroom security check inside a school in Baghdad's northwest neighborhood of Ghazaliyah March 25, 2007. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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

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## **Cheney Proving He's Still A Paranoid Delusional Lying Freak Of Nature; [And Pentagon Report Nails Him As A Really Stupid Liar]**

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

2007-04-06 AP

WASHINGTON: - Vice President Dick Cheney repeated his assertions of al-Qaida links to Saddam Hussein 's Iraq on Thursday as the Defense Department released a report citing more evidence that the prewar government did not cooperate with the terrorist group.

Cheney contended that al-Qaida was operating in Iraq before the March 2003 invasion led by U.S. forces and that terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was leading the Iraqi branch of al-Qaida. Others in al-Qaida planned the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

However, a declassified Pentagon report released Thursday said that interrogations of the deposed Iraqi leader and two of his former aides as well as seized Iraqi documents confirmed that the terrorist organization and the Saddam government were not working together before the invasion.

The Sept. 11 Commission's 2004 report also found no evidence of a collaborative relationship between Saddam and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network during that period.

## **Enemy Combatant: Crazy As A Shit-House Rat**



REUTERS/Will Burgess (AUSTRALIA)

**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, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

## **CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# “All Of The Gains In Income In 2005 Went To Households In The Wealthiest 10 Percent”

April 6, 2007 AFL-CIO Working Families [Excerpt]

“According to the Economic Policy Institute’s weekly economic snapshot, all of the gains in income in 2005 went to households in the wealthiest 10 percent, with the richest 1 percent seeing even more growth.

In the top 10 percent, households gained at least 2.2 percent and as much as 16 percent.

“Meanwhile, income of the remaining 90 percent of American households fell by 0.6 percent on average.

## **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.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))**

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

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

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

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<http://imagineaworldof.blogspot.com/>; <http://qi-special.iraq-news.de>;

[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/); <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=-6&l=e>;

<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/qi-special.htm>

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