

**GI SPECIAL 5E16:**

**“We Need Your Help”  
Iraq Veterans Against The War  
Will Visit 21 East Coast Military  
Bases Next Month**



**IRAQ VETS LEADING MARCH ON PENTAGON 3.17.07**

Photo by Jeff Paterson, Courage to Resist ([jeff@paterson.net](mailto:jeff@paterson.net)) [Indybay.org](http://Indybay.org)

Dear Iraq Veterans Against the War Supporter,

The only way it can happen is one at a time.

One at a time, American soldiers are putting down their weapons and refusing to fight the bloody war in Iraq.

One at a time, service members are experiencing a revolution in consciousness.

This is how it will end.

Iraq Veterans Against the War remains the only organization uniquely qualified and actively engaged in reaching out to the active duty troops who struggle with their role in the illegal occupation of Iraq.

IVAW continues its strategic campaigns to end the carnage and profiteering in Iraq — one soldier at a time.

But we need your help.

It is the generosity of donors like you that has brought us to this critical point.

**IVAW launches its “Bring the War Home” bus tour next month.**

**11 veterans will visit 21 east coast military bases to recruit new members, inform service members about their rights and ability to oppose the Iraq war, and gain community support for our message that this war is not — will never be — winnable, moral, or justified.**

**Veterans will host an informal BBQ at each stop, designed to draw active duty soldiers off-base. It is in the same spirit that many of the IVAW veterans came to oppose the war themselves.**

**We need to raise close to \$25,000.**

**Here's how you can help:**

- A \$10 donation will buy our napkins
- A \$25 donation will help buy hamburgers or hotdogs for a BBQ
- A \$50 donation will pay for a motel room for two veterans
- A \$100 donation will pay for 1,000 copies of our crucial informational pamphlets
- A \$200 donation will pay for gas for one day of the tour
- A \$300 donation will pay for all the tolls on the trip
- A \$1,500 donation will purchase the bus for future projects

The “Bring the War Home” bus tour is only one arm of IVAW's strategy to accomplish it's mission of immediate withdrawal from Iraq, including a truth-in-recruiting campaign in schools and college campuses and a commitment to put themselves on the line for active duty brave soldiers of conscience who, one at a time, put their weapons down and refuse to deploy to Iraq.

**All contributions put us closer to our goal.**

**Please make a tax-deductible donation to support this summer's bus tour.**

You can donate online at [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org) by checking the box IVAW Bus Tour, or you can make your check out to: IVAW Bus Tour P.O. Box 8296 Philadelphia, Pa 19101.

Sincerely,  
Liam Madden  
Iraq Veterans Against the War Strategy Team  
President, IVAW Boston Chapter

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

## IRAQ WAR REPORTS

### **TWO U.S. SOLDIERS KILLED, FOUR WOUNDED SOUTHEAST OF BAGHDAD**

5/14/2007 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Casualty Reports 07-01-03C

Two Soldiers were killed and four wounded when their dismounted patrol came under small arms fire southeast of Baghdad today.

---

### **U.S. Soldier Killed, Four Wounded By Northern Baghdad Bomb**

May 14, 2007 The Associated Press

A soldier from the Multi-National Division-Baghdad, was killed when his patrol in northern Baghdad was hit by a bomb, the military said. Four others were wounded in that attack, the military said.

---

### **Marine Killed In Anbar**

May 14, 2007 The Associated Press

A Marine assigned to Multi National Force-West was killed while conducting combat operations in Anbar province, an insurgent stronghold west of Baghdad.

---

## Texas Soldier Killed In Tahrir



Spc. Dan H. Nguyen, 24, of Sugar Land, Texas, died May 8, 2007, in Tahrir, Iraq, of wounds suffered from small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. (AP Photo/U.S. Army at Fort Hood)

---

## Texas Soldier Killed In Diwaniyah



Pfc. Roy L. Jones III, 21, of Houston, died May 10, 2007, in Diwaniyah, Iraq, of wounds suffered from small arms fire. Jones was assigned to the 984th Military Police Company, 759th Military Police Battalion, Fort Carson, Colo. (AP Photo/U.S. Army, Fort Carson)

---

## **Airman Killed, Three Wounded By IED In Southern Baghdad**

May 14, 2007 The Associated Press

In a third attack, an airman was killed and three others wounded by an improvised explosive device at approximately 3:55 p.m. May 14 in southern Baghdad.

---

## ***Happy Iraqis Celebrate:* Danish Soldier Killed, Five More Wounded In Al Hartha Ambush**



Iraqis celebrate at the site of a burning Danish military armored vehicle after an ambush in Basra May 14, 2007. A Danish soldier was killed and five other soldiers and one interpreter were wounded in an ambush in Al Hartha. REUTERS/Atef Hassan May 13, 2007 Reuters

One Danish soldier was killed in an ambush north of Basra, 550 km (340 miles) southeast of Baghdad, the Danish military said.

The patrol was hit by a roadside bomb and small arms fire. Five other soldiers and an interpreter were wounded.

---

## Family Reports West Michigan Soldier Killed In Iraq

05/14/07 Michigan Live

VERMONTVILLE -- A West Michigan soldier was among those killed in an ambush in Iraq, family sources say.

Army Pfc. Daniel Courneya, 19, was killed in an ambush south of Baghdad, an attack that killed three other soldiers and left three missing.

Courneya, of Vermontville, about 50 miles southeast of Grand Rapids, was a 2005 graduate of Maple Valley High School, a rural district in Eaton County. He was remembered by English teacher Cindy Gatewood as a "very wonderful man."

---

## U.S. Soldier Dies Of Non-Battle-Related Cause

May 14, 2007 The Associated Press

Another U.S. soldier died of non-battle-related causes about 5 a.m. Monday, the military said, providing no other details.

---

## Montgomerian Killed In Iraq



Spc. Matthew T. Bolar

May 4, 2007 By Lisa Horn, The Advertiser

A Montgomery soldier who volunteered for a second tour of duty in Iraq died Thursday when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit.

Army Spc. Matthew T. Bolar, 24, was serving with the 1st Battalion of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division based at Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska.

According to a Department of Defense news release, Bolar is the son of Anne and Vernon Adkins of Montgomery and Gordon and Elly Bolar of Kalamazoo, Mich. In addition to his parents, Bolar is survived by his sister, Emma, 19, who graduated from St. James School in Montgomery and now attends the University of Alabama.

Bolar graduated as valedictorian of Canterbury High School in 2002.

The Adkins family declined to be interviewed, but family friend Bob Thurber spoke on their behalf. Thurber, who works with Anne Adkins at Raycom Media, has known the family for about 10 years. He spoke with Bolar when he was home between his tours of duty.

"He told me he was going house-to-house in search of insurgents," Thurber said. "I think he knew what the dangers were."

The family was notified of Bolar's death about 9:30 p.m. Thursday by casualty assistance officers and a chaplain.

"A lot of people are suffering these days because of what is going on over there," Thurber said. "Annie lived in fear that this day would come."

Funeral arrangements are pending the return of Bolar's body to the United States.

---

## **Soldier Killed 2 Weeks After Godfather's Death**

May 04, 2007 By Ann McGlynn, The Quad-City Times

As a baby, Katie Soenksen became Bob Bixby's goddaughter.

As a child, Katie went to Bob's house after school for cookies.

As a soldier serving in Iraq, Katie was the lucky recipient of packages Bob sent with care.

He died April 21 at the age of 81.

She died May 2 at the age of 19, the result of an explosion in Iraq.



"I know he could not have stood this," Bixby's daughter, Jeanne Rader, of Newton, Iowa, said Friday. "This would have killed him." Jeanne believes her father died first to prepare the way for Katie in heaven.

'An amazing person'

Bob, a World War II Navy veteran, nearly lost his life when his ship sank in 1943.

He returned to Iowa, married and went to work as a salesman for Illinois Wholesale Foods. He then worked part-time at Home Hardware in Davenport after his retirement.

Mary Ann Soenksen, who is Katie's mother and the daughter of the store's owners, hired him.

"He was an amazing person," Mary Ann said, noting his work with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Quad-Cities. "Bob always pushed, to all of the kids he dealt with, respect. That was his big word. They just loved him like a grandfather."

Katie and Bob spent time together nearly every day when she came home on leave from the Middle East in February.

"He talked about her every time I talked to him," Jeanne said.

Bob fell ill in April from a virus that soon took his life.

Katie was not allowed by the Army to return home for his funeral, despite a request to do so that she made through the Red Cross, her mother said.

The reason? He was not a blood relative.

But, really, they were closer than blood sometimes is.

Katie wrote a post on his online obituary at the Halligan-McCabe-DeVries Funeral Home's Web site for her "S.O.B.," or Sweet Old Bob.

"Bob was the best man I ever knew. He was the best friend anyone could ask for. I will miss him very deeply. Every memory I have has him in it. He was the best godfather I could ask for. I was lucky enough to go back to Iowa in February for leave from Iraq to see him. I will miss him gratefully. There will not be a day that goes by that I don't think of him. I love you my S.O.B. You will never be forgotten in my heart!"

She signed it: "Sincerely, Katie, Baghdad, Iraq."

They will rest together

The Soenksen family continued Friday to put together plans for Katie's funeral and burial. They expect her body will arrive in the Quad-Cities sometime next week.



The Davenport police volunteered their help for the services, as did the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit Katie belonged to, the choir she sang in and others from Davenport North High School, from which she graduated in 2005, Mary Ann said.

Jeanne will be returning to the Quad-Cities for Katie's funeral, about two weeks after she was in town for her father's services.

Katie will be buried in the National Cemetery on Arsenal Island with full military honors.

Her gravesite will be near Bob's.

---

## **Guam Son Killed In Action; Soldier Leaves Behind Wife, 18-Month- Old Child**



John D. Flores 1986-2007

May 7, 2007 By Lacey A.C. Martinez, Pacific Daily News

Army Pfc. John D. Flores, 21, of Barrigada was one of two American soldiers killed Thursday when their unit came under attack by enemy forces using small arms fire in Baghdad, the U.S. Defense Department confirmed.

The other casualty is Army Sgt. Felix G. Gonzalez-Iraheta, 25, of Sun Valley, Calif.

Both were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

Flores is survived by his wife Charlene and their 18-month-old daughter Chloe. Mass and rosary for the fallen soldier began last night.

Flores had joined the Army to eventually relocate his young family and purchase a home in the States, his mother-in-law Cindy Kazuo said.

"Their daughter Chloe, she's just a baby," Kazuo said. "He told us he joined the Army to support his family. We were proud to support him."

The young couple celebrated their first wedding anniversary in January, she added.

Extended family members gathered Friday night at his grandmother-in-law's home in Dededo to receive the news of his death.

"All of my family was there and we all just broke down in tears," said his cousin-in-law Ken Kuper.

"It as one of the saddest days of my life because he was like a brother to me," he said.

Kuper said he's still in shock with the loss of his friend and cousin-in-law who would never hesitate to assist anyone in need.

"There will be no nicer person than John Flores," Kuper said.

"He was the most respectful, the most generous, appreciative person that I personally have ever known."

Kazuo echoed the same sentiments.

"I'm very proud to say that he was very respectful to myself and my family. You don't really find that a lot in a son-in-law," she said. "He will be very, very missed."

---

## Insurgents Blow Bridge Next To U.S. Base At Taji



U.S. soldiers fix a bridge blasted on Friday just outside of a military base in Taji May 14, 2007. REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz (IRAQ)

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

**ONLY 20 MILLION IRAQIS TO GO:  
FUTILE EXERCISE:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



Foreign occupation soldiers from the US Delta Co., 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, stop and search an Iraqi citizen who was walking down the street in northern Mosul, Iraq Sunday, April 29, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **One U.S. Soldier Killed, Four Wounded In Teri Mangal Ambush**

May 14, 2007 (AP) & (KUNA)

Militants opened fire Monday on a convoy carrying U.S. and Pakistani military officials near the Afghan border, killing one American and a Pakistani soldier, the Pakistani army spokesman said.

Four Americans and four Pakistani soldiers were wounded.

According to local officials, a Jirga (assembly of elders) delegation had gone to the Pakistani area to arrange ceasefire between the Pakistani and Afghan troops.

Maj. Gen. Waheed Arshad said unidentified “miscreants” — a word usually used by Pakistani officials to describe Islamic militants — fired at the convoy carrying military officials who attended a meeting in the northwestern town of Teri Mangal.

Rahmatullah Rahmat, governor of the Afghan border province of Paktia, said he, U.S. military advisers and Afghan army leaders traveled by helicopter to Pakistan for the meeting.

He said that after the meeting ended, gunmen opened fire as the group headed toward their helicopters. Rahmat said two Americans died and two were wounded.

He said American soldiers returned fire.

---

## **Afghan Rebels Wage War On Collaborators**

May 13, 2007 Chicago Tribune,

Insurgents hope to silence government allies. Afghan insurgents are waging a second war, this one conducted against religious leaders, teachers, government employees and reconstruction workers, all accused of links to the Occupation and the U.S.-controlled government.

---

## **Assorted Resistance Action**

May 12, 2007 Rahim Faiez, Associated Press & AFP

A roadside bombing on the outskirts of the southern city of Kandahar killed eight policemen on Saturday, said the provincial police chief Esmatullah Alizai, who blamed the Taliban. He provided no evidence to back up his claim.

The remotely detonated bomb went off in the insurgency-hit southern province of Helmand, near Zhari district which saw major battles against the Taliban last year, provincial police chief Esmatullah Alizai told AFP.

---

**TROOP NEWS**

# Shit Eating Rats In Command Block MySpace, YouTube From Troops Using DoD Network; Non-DoD Channels Still Open

May 14, 2007 Lolita C. Baldor, AP

WASHINGTON – Lt. Daniel Zimmerman, an infantry platoon leader in Iraq, puts a blog on the Internet every now and then “to basically keep my friends and family up to date” back home.

It just got tougher to do that for Zimmerman and a lot of other U.S. soldiers. No more using the military’s computer system to socialize and trade videos on MySpace, YouTube and nine other websites, the Pentagon says.

Citing security concerns and technological limits, the Pentagon has cut off access to those sites for personnel using the U.S. Defense Department’s computer network. The change limits use of the popular outlets for service members on the front lines, who regularly post videos and journals.

“I put my blog on there and my family reads it,” said Zimmerman, 29, a platoon leader with B Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment. “It scares the crap out of them sometimes,” he said.

“I keep it as vague as possible,” he said. “I’m pretty responsible about it. It’s just basically to tell a little bit about my life over here” he said.

He’s regularly at a base where he doesn’t have Defense Department access to the Internet, but he has used it when he goes to bigger bases.

**He’ll have to rely on a private account all the time now.**

Memos about the change went out in February, and it took effect last week.

**It does not affect the Internet cafes that soldiers in Iraq use that are not connected to the Defense Department’s network. The cafe sites are run by a private vendor, FUBI (For US By Iraqis).**

**Also, the ban also does not affect other sites, such as Yahoo, and does not prevent soldiers from sending messages and photos to their families by email.**

Internet use has become a troublesome issue for the military as it struggles to balance security concerns with privacy rights. As blogs and video-sharing become more common, the military has voiced increasing concern about service members revealing

details about military operations or other information about equipment or procedures that will aid the enemy.

At the same time, service members have used the websites to chronicle their time in battle, posting videos and writing journals that provide a powerful, personal glimpse into their days at war.

“These actions were taken to enhance and increase network security and protect the use of the bandwidth,” said Col. Gary Keck, a Pentagon spokesman.

**“The U.S. Army's not going to pay the bill for you to get on MySpace and YouTube,” said Maj. Bruce Mumford, of Chester, Neb., who is serving as the brigade communications officer for the 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, in Iraq. “Soldiers need to know what they can and cannot do, but we shouldn't be facilitating it.”**

If the restrictions are intended to prevent soldiers from giving or receiving bad news, they could also prevent them from providing positive reports from the field, said Noah Shachtman, who runs a national security blog for Wired Magazine.

“This is as much an information war as it is bombs and bullets,” he said. “And they are muzzling their best voices.”

**The sites covered by the ban are the video-sharing sites YouTube, Metacafe, IFilm, StupidVideos and FileCabi; social networking sites MySpace, BlackPlanet and Hi5; music sites Pandora, MTV, 1.fm and live365, and the photo-sharing site Photobucket.**

---

## “Why Shouldn't Soldiers Speak Out?”

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
April 23, 2007

In one of the letters under the headline, “The firestorm surrounding Walter Reed” (March 19), one reader's response seemed to say that the soldiers should suck it up and rally around the leadership.

### **Why shouldn't soldiers speak out?**

**The “don't tell the boss the bad stuff” mentality is exactly how this happened — nobody wanted to tell their boss there was a problem.**

There are lots more issues within the Army that should be addressed, but they won't be addressed until they get national media attention.

It seems that a lot of officers in today's Army are more concerned with not rocking the boat than telling the boss the true picture. Walter Reed is a perfect example.

The "rally around" idea is no way to address an obvious shortcoming in leadership and oversight.

**Those who support this concept would not so readily do so if they were the ones suffering.**

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Johnny Tedder  
Fort Irwin, Calif.

---



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

---

## **A Deputy Undersecretary Of Defense Accused Of Stalinism**

May 14, 2007 Washington Post,

Paul Brinkley, a deputy undersecretary of defense, has been called a Stalinist by U.S. diplomats in Iraq. One has accused him of helping insurgents build better bombs. The State Department has even taken the unusual step of enlisting the CIA to dispute the validity of Brinkley's work.

His transgression? To begin reopening dozens of government-owned factories in Iraq. Brinkley and his colleagues at the Pentagon believe that rehabilitating shuttered, state-



run enterprises could reduce violence by employing tens of thousands of Iraqis. Officials at State counter that the initiative is antithetical to free-market reforms the United States should promote in Iraq.

---

## **“Someone” Has Been Firing On Idaho National Guard Tanks And Armor: “Officials Do Not Believe Hunters Are Mistaking Tanks For Squirrels”**

April 23, 2007 Army Times

The Associated Press reports that someone in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area is disobeying a ban on rifles and pistols in the 68,000-acre wildlife area and has been taking potshots at Idaho National Guard tanks and armored vehicles.

Troops have reported regularly hearing slugs pinging off their vehicles.

A Guard spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Stephanie Dowling, said the military supports a federal Bureau of Land Management plan to expand the no-weapons zone in hope that it will keep armed sportsmen away from military maneuvers. “Not everybody uses good safety precautions,” she said.

Squirrel hunting, though illegal, appears to be the impetus for most of the shooting, the report says.

But officials do not believe hunters are mistaking tanks for squirrels.

“There’s a segment of the shooting community that will shoot at anything that moves,” BLM official John Sullivan noted.

---

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Assorted Resistance Action**

May 13, 2007 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & Reuters & 5.14 AP & Reuters

A translator working for multinational forces was shot and killed at Suwayra near Madaen, 45 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

One of the patrol vehicles coming back to its base inside the Basra International Airport was a target of a roadside bomb, having some damage and superficial injuries.

On Saturday afternoon (4 p.m.), guerrillas opened fire on a car which was driven by one of Riyadh's municipality board members near Tal Al-abid village (west Kirkuk), seriously injuring his wife while the member survived the assassination attack.

In the Diyala capital of Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, guerrillas in two cars opened fire on a police checkpoint, killing three policemen. Two policemen and four civilians were wounded in the 9:30 a.m. attack, which ended when the assailants fled the scene, police said.

A parked car bomb exploded near a police patrol in Palestine Street, a commercial area in eastern Baghdad, killing two policemen and wounding three.

The body of a policeman was found shot in Mosul on Sunday, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol wounded four policemen, in Zaafaraniya district of southern Baghdad, police said.

---

## GET THE MESSAGE?



Iraqis burn an effigy as they rally in Karbala, 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Baghdad, Iraq, May 9, 2007. They gathered to protest against the Occupation and Vice President Cheney's visit to Iraq. (AP Photo/Emad Sadoon)

---

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852**

### **“Patriotism”**



May 13, 2007 By Sgt. Kevin Benderman, Choice America Network

*Sgt. Kevin Benderman is a US Army veteran who served a combat tour in Iraq and who was recently released from prison after serving over one year for his outspoken opposition to this and all wars of choice. Please visit [www.BendermanDefense.org](http://www.BendermanDefense.org) to learn more.*

*Kevin may be reached at [info@BendermansBridge.org](mailto:info@BendermansBridge.org)*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Why are you a patriot only if you believe we need to have war to determine our national identity?**

**We have allowed a group of people who want to use our military and economic resources on an ill-begotten war of choice to convince a lot of us that we are not patriotic if we do not believe everything they say about this war.**

**I want you to read the following mission statement and then take a good look at the names below this statement.**

\*\*\*\*\*

June 3, 1997

*"American foreign and defense policy is adrift. Conservatives have criticized the incoherent policies of the Clinton Administration. They have also resisted isolationist impulses from within their own ranks. But conservatives have not confidently advanced a strategic vision of America's role in the world. They have not set forth guiding principles for American foreign policy. They have allowed differences over tactics to obscure potential agreement on strategic objectives. And they have not fought for a defense budget that would maintain American security and advance American interests in the new century.*

*We aim to change this. We aim to make the case and rally support for American global leadership. As the 20th century draws to a close, the United States stands as the world's preeminent power. Having led the West to victory in the Cold War, America faces an opportunity and a challenge: Does the United States have the vision to build upon the achievements of past decades? Does the United States have the resolve to shape a new century favorable to American principles and interests? We are in danger of squandering the opportunity and failing the challenge. We are living off the capital -- both the military investments and the foreign policy achievements -- built up by past administrations. Cuts in foreign affairs and defense spending, inattention to the tools of statecraft, and inconstant leadership are making it increasingly difficult to sustain American influence around the world. And the promise of short-term commercial benefits threatens to override strategic considerations. As a consequence, we are jeopardizing the nation's ability to meet present threats and to deal with potentially greater challenges that lie ahead.*

*We seem to have forgotten the essential elements of the Reagan Administration's success: a military that is strong and ready to meet both present and future challenges; a foreign policy that boldly and purposefully promotes American principles abroad; and national leadership that accepts the United States' global responsibilities. Of course, the United States must be prudent in how it exercises its power. But we cannot safely avoid the responsibilities of global leadership or the costs that are associated with its exercise. America has a vital role in maintaining peace and security in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. If we shirk our responsibilities, we invite challenges to our fundamental interests. The history of the 20th century should have taught us that it is important to shape circumstances before crises emerge, and to meet threats before they become dire. The history of this century should have taught us to embrace the cause of American leadership. Our aim is to remind Americans of these lessons and to draw their consequences for today. Here are four consequences:*

- we need to increase defense spending significantly if we are to carry out our global responsibilities today and modernize our armed forces for the future;*
- we need to strengthen our ties to democratic allies and to challenge regimes hostile to our interests and values;*
- we need to promote the cause of political and economic freedom abroad;*
- we need to accept responsibility for America's unique role in preserving and extending an international order friendly to our security, our prosperity and our principles.*

Such a Reaganite policy of military strength and moral clarity may not be fashionable today. But it is necessary if the United States is to build on the successes of this past century and to ensure our security and our greatness in the next.

### Persian Gulf

*In the decade since the end of the Cold War, the Persian Gulf and the surrounding region has witnessed a geometric increase in the presence of U.S. armed forces, peaking above 500,000 troops during Operation Desert Storm, but rarely falling below 20,000 in the intervening years. In Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other neighboring states, roughly 5,000 airmen and a large and varied Fleet of Air Force aircraft patrol the skies of Operation Southern Watch, often complemented by Navy aircraft from carriers in the Gulf and, during the strikes reacting to Saddam Hussein's periodic provocations, cruise missiles from Navy surface vessels and submarines. Flights from Turkey under Northern Watch also involve substantial forces, and indeed more often result in Combat actions. After eight years of no-fly-zone operations, there is little reason to anticipate that the U.S. air presence in the region should diminish significantly as long as Saddam Hussein remains in power. Although Saudi domestic sensibilities demand that the forces based in the Kingdom nominally remain rotational forces, it has become apparent that this is now a semi-permanent mission. From an American perspective, the value of such bases would endure even should Saddam pass from the scene. Over the long term, Iran may well prove as large a threat to U.S. interests in the Gulf as Iraq has. And even should U.S.-Iranian relations improve, retaining forward-based forces in the region would still be an essential element in U.S. security strategy given the longstanding American interests in the region."*

*Elliott Abrams; Gary Bauer; William J. Bennett; Jeb Bush; Dick Cheney; Eliot A. Cohen; Midge Decter; Paula Dobriansky; Steve Forbes; Aaron Friedberg; Francis Fukuyama; Frank Gaffney; Fred C. Ikle; Donald Kagan; Zalmay Khalilzad; I. Lewis Libby; Norman Podhoretz; Dan Quayle; Peter W. Rodman; Stephen P. Rosen; Henry S. Row; Donald Rumsfeld; Vin Weber; George Weigel; Paul Wolfowitz.*

*(Project for the New American Century - PNAC)*

\*\*\*\*\*

Both of these statements should give you a clearer picture of just what these people are up to.

**These people, in their desire to rule the world, are getting good Americans killed who have served this country to defend it.**

I have to ask; is this the way we want to handle ourselves as Americans? Is this what we really want for our nation?

**When I enlisted in the military it was to defend the ideals of the Constitution and country from attack by anyone who would attempt to violate our constitutional rights and our home.**

**This current administration has done more to undermine the foundation of our country than any made-up terrorists ever could.**

The American people need to realize they have the authority to run this country and the government workers, to include the president and congress, are the employees of the citizenry of the United States.

This authority is given to them by the United States Constitution;

Amendment 9 - Construction of Constitution. Ratified December 15, 1791. The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment 10 - Powers of the States and People. Ratified December 15, 1791. Note: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

The federal and state governments are, by the law of this land, subservient to the people of the United States.

**The people we hire to manage our business have managed to make most of us believe they are the ones who know better than the rest of us and that we should let them guide us “lesser beings” because they know what is good for us.**

**I challenge Americans to stand up and take back their responsibility for running this country from the career politicians and demand they run the country within the laws of the United States Constitution.**

**If we stand by and let these people pervert our country then we have no right to complain about what they are doing.**

It is a sad day in America when more people vote for the contestants of American Idol than in the last presidential election. Everyone seems to want to have all the benefits of being American and none of the responsibility. Well, I say you cannot have it both ways, either you accept the responsibility or you should not expect any of the rights.

**There seems to be a large segment of our nation who is afraid to do the right thing and I do not understand this about the people of our nation, who have descended from the pioneers who had to face much harder living conditions than we now do.**

**There are people here who have descended from the slaves and we all know that the slaves had to endure much more harsh conditions than we now do and yet they fought with all of their being to be free of the madness they were faced with.**

**Are you asking me to believe that modern Americans with all of their conveniences cannot pull themselves up enough to stand up for what is right? Are we so spoiled and out of touch with what is going on around us that we cannot see when we are being lied to outright?**

**Are we going to create another committee to talk about what is wrong or are we going to find it within ourselves to stand up and be counted for what we believe?**

I, for one, have a much better vision of what we should be in this country and it is nothing like we have allowed ourselves to become in recent history.

I am going to continue to try and prevent our country from getting any worse than it is now. I may not be able to affect a large scale change, but I am going to do what I can.

How about you, want to help?



## OCCUPATION REPORT

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

[U.S. sponsored polls reported recently that 60% of Iraqis favor killing U.S. troops. After reading this, it would take a drooling idiot not to understand why. 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 are right to resist. T]

May. 13, 2007 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers

Around 4.45 a.m., an American plane used its machine gun on one of the roofs of Sadr city neighborhood, killing a woman and a child while a man was injured, all of them from one family who were sleeping on the roof escaping the hot weather indoors, having no power supply in the whole neighborhood.



U.S. spokesman Lt. Col. Chris Garver said he didn't have specific information about the civilian deaths in Sadr City.

"We've got operations going on all over the place," he said.

"We'll continue to take as much caution as we can when we're conducting operations."

---

## **U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS**



An Iraqi family watches foreign occupation soldiers from Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team search their home in the neighborhood of Ameriyah in Baghdad April 25, 2007. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

**[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.**

**[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]**

**“My sons and wife were very terrified,” complained Muhannad Mihbas, 30, who said his brother and six cousins were taken in the sweeps. “Does the security plan mean arresting innocent people and scaring civilians at night?” BRIAN MURPHY, AP, Feb. 27, 2007**

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

## ***So Much For That Sovereign Iraq Bullshit: U.S. Military Harasses 5 Iraqi Members Of Parliament***

May 14, 2007 The Associated Press

U.S. soldiers on Monday stopped five lawmakers loyal to anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr as they were walking to a parking lot inside Baghdad's fortified Green Zone, one of the lawmakers said.

An Associated Press reporter witnessed the encounter.

He said the soldiers drove up in an SUV marked “police” and stopped the lawmakers, who included two women, just outside the building where they attended a session of the 275-seat parliament.

The soldiers asked the three male lawmakers to hand over the passes giving them access to the Green Zone, home to Iraq's parliament as well as its government offices and the U.S. and British embassies.

The lawmakers obliged, but an argument broke out.

The Americans cleared the area as the argument was in progress but one of the lawmakers later told the AP that the argument lasted about 30 minutes and ended with the soldiers giving back the passes.

“You can call (top U.S. commander in Iraq) General (David) Petraeus on the phone and demand an apology,” one lawmaker, Saleh al-Aujaili, quoted a soldier as saying.

“I told him that the Sadrist bloc has no wish to speak with the American occupiers,” he said.

---

# **Bush's Military Dictatorship Sending 2,000 Iraqis Monthly To Concentration Camps**

May 21, 2007 Newsweek

The number of Iraqis detained nationwide from the end of January until the end of March — a period that includes the first six weeks of the new Baghdad security plan — jumped by approximately 7,000 to 37,641.

**U.S. forces swept up 2,000 prisoners a month in March and April, almost twice the average from the second half of last year. Iraqi arrest numbers are roughly equivalent.**

**Some of these detainees are falling into a kind of legal limbo, held for weeks without a hearing. Others are allegedly suffering even worse fates.**

---

## **Inside Sadr City: “If The Americans Had Any Sensibility, They Would Have Left Iraq”**

May 10, 2007 By Pepe Escobar, Asia Times [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD - This is the 24-square-kilometer theater where a great part of Iraq's future is already being played out; a vital element in US President George W Bush's surge; the place Pentagon generals dream of smashing into submission; one of the largest and arguably most notorious slums in the world: Sadr (formerly Saddam) City.

Sadr City is also, along with Gaza and the West Bank, the theater of the already evolving 21st-century war, pitting the high-tech Western haves against the slum-dwelling Third World have-nots. If the Bush administration had any intention of conquering any hearts and minds in Iraq, this is where it would be trying the hardest. Reality spells otherwise.

Sadr City is an immense grid in eastern Baghdad of ramshackle one-story buildings covered with dust - not unlike slums in North Africa or Pakistan. Main streets such as Boulevard Gouarder are lined with Iraqi, not partisan, flags. A few black flags denote houses of descendents of the Prophet Mohammed's family.

There are photos of the late ayatollah Muhammad Baqr al-Sadr - killed by Saddam Hussein's goons - even in billboards advertising mobile phones.

Muqtada al-Sadr's office is a modest building near the main crossroads - not far from the street market that was hit by a horrific bombing in January that killed 250 people and wounded more than 400. There are plenty of sidewalk funeral tents - as is the custom in Iraq. Residents who fall victim to the carnage in Baghdad can be counted by the dozens on certain days.

Vans or pickup trucks carrying coffins pass by (in other parts of Baghdad, usually in the morning, pickup trucks carrying bodies or body parts pass by, severed legs and hands dangling). The radio station of choice is Peace 106 FM. Kids in Argentine soccer jerseys play in the streets alongside women in full chador (no chance of seeing any woman unveiled). Gasoline on the black market - promoted by kids by the curbside waving plastic containers - is extremely expensive: 80 US cents a liter. But there is no shortage of battered vehicles in the streets; the local buses look like rolling cadavers.

People have only one hour of electricity every six hours; sometimes nothing for two or three days.

The majority cannot afford big generators (one ampere costs 9,000 dinars, almost US\$8). So the answer is the cheap made-in-Korea Astra portable fuel generator, selling for \$200 a piece. There is no phone service; virtually everybody carries a mobile phone.

**Hussein al-Motery is the general administrator of the municipality of Sadr City, the man ultimately responsible for the well-being of almost 3 million people, more than half the population of Baghdad.**

Every day, after sunset prayers, rows of people come to his modest house to ask for favors or jobs ("I'm always in contact with the people").

Unemployment in Iraq is usually estimated at a whopping 60%. Hussein has no figures, but in Sadr City it may be even higher ("Even people with university degrees have no jobs"). Hussein admits, "I was lucky, I graduated, I have the chance to own a house." Eleven people per house - usually sleeping in the same room - is a fact of life all over Sadr City.

Sadr City is a giant dormitory.

**Hussein says, "Baghdad would become a ghost city if people from Sadr City would not go there to work."**

He adds, "Sadr City has become the symbol of stability for Baghdad and Iraq. Many merchants in Baghdad come from Sadr City." Community life is indeed stable; this is a peaceful, harmonious dormitory. Residents confirm they feel secure inside Sadr City, but never outside.

Take Hussein Maheidel, from Amara in Shi'ite southern Iraq, who has been living in Sadr City for the past 30 years. He was a construction worker, but has been handicapped for the past 12 years because of a nerve problem in his back. All the best Iraqi doctors have left the country, so an operation might not be successful.

He has no pension to support his family of nine children. So he's being helped by the office of Muqtada, who pays his monthly rent of \$100, a figure considered low in Sadr City. The average monthly rental for a house in the neighborhood is \$750.

The Maheidel family lives in bleak poverty and sleeps in the same small room. But the head of the household is not complaining. He hopes his children "will not be workers, like myself". They are all in school; the unfortunate exception is his six-year-old daughter, who spends the day caring for her father (he walks on crutches). There are polite smiles in Sadr City - but the impression is they are directed to the foreign visitor.

Maheidel believes Muqtada "is a good leader".

He says, "The Americans came to our house at night, walking; they didn't search the house, but they were ready to attack."

Security in his district is provided by tribal guards, and not by Muqtada's Mehdi Army. Everyone in the district seems to agree Sadr City is the most peaceful place in Iraq.

Hussein tries somewhat to be lenient with the government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki: "The problem is Parliament did not allot money for Sadr City according to our necessities." Because of its reputation as a safe neighborhood, Hussein says a lot of people from other parts of Iraq are moving into Sadr City.

Each district has two schools. Sheikh Ali Hasan, elegant in his brown robe, responsible for one of Sadr City's districts, says there are more than 100 schools in the neighborhood, but as Hussein points out, "The number of students exceeds the places we have available."

There are plans to build a university. The municipality already has the land, 300 hectares; they also want to build a medical center and a park. But they need help. And no help is coming from the Maliki government.

According to Hussein and Hasan, there are also not enough health services in Sadr City. Caring for almost 3 million people, there are only two general hospitals (one of them for children), one women's hospital and a few clinics. "Our doctors have united and have taken some initiatives. But we lack everything. Especially with this government, they are not stable."

**Hussein remembers, "After the fall of Saddam, there were a lot of good expectations. But the Americans came here with no architects or machines. They think they have the right to do anything they want."**

**He refers to the recent million-people march from Kufa to Najaf called by Muqtada: "If the Americans had any sensibility, they would have left Iraq."**

**Hussein and Hasan confirm that the Americans usually "come at night, sometimes by day, always protected by helicopters". They "sometimes bomb houses, sometimes arrest people, sometimes throw missiles".**

Three months ago "they surrounded Sadr City. They keep doing it sometimes, for a few hours."

Hussein is adamant: "This is not a dangerous place. You can walk around anywhere. Even Sunnis live here. Our director of finance, he lives in Adhamiyah, he comes to work here. Many women officials too. The other way around, it would not be possible."

It has been a long time since Muqtada himself has been to Sadr City. Every resident says something to the effect that "he is in our hearts". Hussein stresses, "I am an Iraqi first, but also a Sadrist. Muqtada is always with us. We even listen to his whispers. He is the only musician in our country; the orchestra is playing other things.

**"He is the only leader who has called for the unity of Iraq."**

**Muqtada's recent speech, in which he accused Bush of building "non-national and non-Islamic walls of political and sectarian division", has struck an extremely powerful chord in Sadr City.**

**Were the Pentagon tempted to wall Sadr City, the feeling is that nearly 3 million people would instantly be up in arms. There have been rumors that Muqtada has directed the Mehdi Army to attack any trucks in Baghdad transporting concrete blocks. But no one in Sadr City confirms it.**

Hussein sees the Mehdi Army as a question of sovereignty and emphasizes its social role as "spontaneously helping people and trying to solve their practical problems".

**The Pentagon is now spinning murky stories of "secret cells" in Sadr City loaded with EFPs (explosively formed penetrators), bombs made in Iran used in most attacks by the Mehdi Army against the US in Sadr City.**

**Residents angrily deny it: they say the Americans are attacking the neighborhood, not the other way around, and they have nothing to do "with the Iranians".**

As for America, there's no way the US will conquer any hearts and minds among more than half the population of Baghdad.

And should the Pentagon go for the much-feared "battle of Sadr City", there will be only one way to yell "mission accomplished": by perpetrating a mass genocide.

#### **Troops Invited:**

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to 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.**

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



© The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Dist. by UFS Inc.

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

## CLASS WAR REPORTS



5/2

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



