

## **GI SPECIAL 5E20:**

### **NO MORE BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



Medics clean the emergency room after trying to revive a gravely-wounded U.S. soldier at the Ibn Sina Hospital Baghdad, May 6 2007. Since the U.S. security crackdown in Baghdad, medics are seeing an increase in the number and severity of wounded American soldiers. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

# **“WTF?”**

From: SSGT X  
To: GI Special  
Sent: May 16, 2007  
Subject: WTF?

**I thought you would like this one.**

**Okay so the way I interpret this is that I can no longer contact my Representatives, without DOD approval. Read it and see what you think. [See news item below. T]**

**Now of course, I already raised a stink with my two Senators, and the Staff Members appeared to be very upset about this.**

I appeared before [xxxxx] on [xxxxxx] leave, and I really laid it all out there.

I guess it could be my fault.....lol.

Well I thought I would put this out there and see what you thought.

Thanks again,  
SSG X

[This is the news item:]

***Pentagon Restricting Testimony In Congress  
Blocks Staff Of Lower Rank***

*May 10, 2007 By Bryan Bender, Boston Globe Staff [Excerpt]*

*WASHINGTON -- The Pentagon has placed unprecedented restrictions on who can testify before Congress, reserving the right to bar lower-ranking officers, enlisted soldiers, and career bureaucrats from appearing before oversight committees or having their remarks transcribed, according to Defense Department documents.*

*The guidelines, described in an April 19 memo to the staff director of the House Armed Services Committee, adds that all field-level officers and enlisted personnel must be "deemed appropriate" by the Department of Defense before they can participate in personal briefings for members of Congress or their staffs; in addition, according to the memo, the proceedings must not be recorded.*

**REPLY:**

Anyone who has served in combat in the armed forces of the United States has the right to say anything anytime to anybody, no exceptions whatsoever. Someday, we will make that so again, as it used to be.

The soldiers who served in 1776 elected their officers and did not hold their tongues. Of course, that was a revolutionary army fighting an army of occupation.

Which is, among other reasons, why we won.

The Pentagon idiots who came up with this one really know how to take an indefensible position in order to insure their opponents counterattack with redoubled ferocity.

Gee, that sounds like Bush and Rumsfeld designing Iraq.

FYI, the publication does not print a comment or letter without taking off the writers IDs, if the writer is serving in the armed services that is, unless the writer wants to be publicly known.

That's to insure there is no harassment whatsoever for writing in.

Respect for your service,

T

**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**

### **Three U.S. Soldiers Killed In Diyala**

5.18.07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070518-12

TIKRIT, Iraq – Three Task Force Lightning Soldiers were killed in Diyala Province, Friday when an explosion occurred near their vehicle.

---

### **Two U.S. Soldiers Killed, 9 Wounded In Southern Baghdad “Separate Attacks” [Whatever That Means]**

May 18, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070518-06

BAGHDAD — While conducting combat operations two MND-B Soldiers were killed and nine others were wounded in separate attacks in the southern section of the Iraqi capital May 17. Three Soldiers have been returned to duty.

---

### **Three U.S. Soldiers Killed, One Wounded By IED South Of Baghdad**

May 17, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070517-07

BAGHDAD – Three Soldiers were killed and one was wounded when their patrol was struck by a roadside bomb south of Baghdad May 17.

---

## **Sgt. Anthony J. Schober, 23, Of Reno, Nev., Identified By DNA Testing**

May 18, 2007 Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Army officials have identified the fourth soldier killed Saturday in an ambush in Iraq in which three other soldiers are believed to have been captured, a newspaper reported.

Sgt. Anthony J. Schober, 23, of Reno, Nev., was identified by DNA testing, the soldier's relatives told the Reno Gazette Journal. Three other soldiers killed in the ambush had previously been identified.

"We don't want to talk about it right now," Schober's grandfather, Robert Asper, said from Rohnert Park, Calif. "We just found out about it. As far as we know, it's true."

Three other members of the unit, part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division, are believed to have been captured. An al-Qaida front group — the Islamic State of Iraq — has claimed it is holding them.

Schober, who was on his third tour of duty in Iraq, was leading a squad trying to prevent insurgents from laying roadside bombs when they were ambushed near Youssifiyah, 12 miles south of Baghdad.

Schober is survived by his mother, adoptive father and two sisters.

---

## **Yelm Soldier Dies In Attack**

May 05, 2007 Michael Gilbert, The News Tribune

Growing up in Yelm, Jerome Potter liked to sneak onto Fort Lewis and secretly watch up close as the troops trained in the woods.

One time, he got too close. There was an explosion, and he got his bell rung so hard his ears bled.

"They brought him home and said don't ever come back unless you're going to join up," recalled his mom, Holly Burson.

Six years later, he did. And from then on Burson of Tacoma, said she always worried she would one day have to hear the worst news a soldier's mom can imagine.

That day came Thursday, when the Army said that Jerome had died in Iraq.

Casualty notification officers told her that Pfc. Jerome Potter, 24, died in a roadside bomb blast Thursday while on patrol in Baghdad with the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment from the 1st Cavalry Division.

Potter, based at Fort Hood, Texas, went to Iraq in October.

The Department of Defense has not yet announced his death.

Burson said she had to hide her fears the day her son came to her a couple summers ago and said he was joining up. They both knew the risks, she said.

"I just decided, don't fight it, support him. ... I could never tell him 'this is killing me.' All the while he's been in Iraq, it's just been tearing me up.

But Potter wanted to become a soldier from an early age.

"He was very adamant," said his sister Amber. "He said 'I know there's this chance, but I'm going to do it.' It was what he really loved and what he wanted to do."

His family said he grew up in Yelm and Olympia, and attended Yelm High School before joining the Job Corps, where he got his GED. He worked a couple years as a forestry firefighter.

When he finished his enlistment he aspired to use his G.I. Bill money to become a park ranger.

**The last time she spoke with her son, about four weeks ago, he told her things were getting tough in Baghdad. He said his unit was getting pushed into new areas.**

**"He said it was getting pretty brutal, and that he didn't think he was coming home.**

"I told him 'you're coming home, you're coming home. Don't talk like that.' "

His mom and sisters Amber and Bobbi Jo have made T-shirts with his picture and a banner that they're going to put up on an Interstate 5 overpass at Fort Lewis.

The shirts bear the words, "I fought for you. Remember me."

The family said funeral arrangements will be worked out after Potter's remains are returned.

"He was a spectacular kid," his mom said. "He had a lot of challenges in his life, a difficult childhood, but he overcame them. He had his whole life mapped out and he was following it to a T."

---

## West Lafayette Soldier Killed In Iraq

May 5, 2007 By Kevin O'Neal, Star

A soldier from West Lafayette was killed by a roadside bomb this week in Iraq.

Army Spc. Andrew R. Weiss, 28, was one of four soldiers in a military vehicle on patrol in Baghdad that was attacked by what the military calls an improvised explosive device. He died May 3, according to the Department of Defense.

"It was his second tour," Weiss' mother, Judith Weiss, West Lafayette, said Friday night. "He was a building construction major, and jobs weren't too hot."

**Weiss was the 85th soldier with Indiana ties to die in Iraq since the start of hostilities.**

He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas.

"He thought that the cavalry was right for him. He was an excellent soldier, quite the hero," his mother said.

Weiss' wife and children live near the base in Texas, but the rest of his family resides in the West Lafayette area.

Margaret Weiss, the soldier's wife, is from Oxford. The two met while they worked at a supermarket, according to Judith Weiss. They have two children: Lillian, 3, and Jacob, 1.

After attending West Lafayette High School and Vincennes University, Weiss joined the Army in 2001, just before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

He re-enlisted this year and was in the early part of his second tour of duty in Iraq. The last time his family in the West Lafayette area saw him was in August, his mother said. "To be told he'll never walk in the door again is surreal," she said.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

---

## **Hometown Sets Salute For Its First Loss In Iraq**

05/11/07 By Jeffry Scott, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

In his hometown, American flags were lowered to half-staff Thursday as the city of Cleveland awaited the return of Army Sgt. Jason Robert Harkins, 25, the first soldier from White County to die in Iraq.

Harkins was one of six American servicemen killed Sunday during combat operations in Baqubah when an improvised explosive device exploded near their vehicle.

Harkins, a 1999 graduate of Habersham Central High School, was serving with the Striker Brigade, secondary infantry based in Fort Lewis, Wash.

First deployed to Iraq in October 2004, he began his second tour there last June and was scheduled to return next month, said his aunt, Gail Nix, of Cleveland.

"His father is retired Army, and he always dreamed of following in his footsteps," Nix said. "When he was a little boy, he would run around with a play gun and a sword down the back of his shirt."

Three weeks before he was killed, Harkins had a close brush with death when his squad he was fired upon and his helmet stopped a bullet, said Nix.

In January 2006 he married Emily Renee Cook of Gadsden, Ala. The couple lived in Washington, where Emily is a ninth-grade teacher. They planned to start a family when he returned from Iraq.

His family said it is unclear when his body will be returned, but probably Sunday or early next week, Nix said.

Judy Walker, president of the White County Chamber of Commerce, said the city plans to organize a gathering along the procession route when Harkins' body passes through Cleveland.

"People will be waving flags and saluting his sacrifice," she said.

**Harkins is the first soldier from White County to die in the four-year-old war, and the 98th war fatality from Georgia.**

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Barrett Funeral Home in Cleveland. The family is asking for donations in his name to a scholarship and Christian mission fund at United Community Bank in Cleveland.

---

## **Resistance Attack In Force Tests U.S. Baqouba Base Defenses**

May 18, 2007 Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) - About 50 suspected insurgents attacked a U.S. base in the center of a city north of the capital Friday, sparking a battle with U.S. soldiers.

At 7 a.m. Friday, the day of rest in mostly Muslim Iraq, about 50 suspected insurgents opened fire on a U.S.-Iraqi base in downtown Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, wounding two Iraqi soldiers, an Iraqi army officer said.

U.S. forces and helicopters responded at 7:30 a.m.

Residents said the fighting sent smoke billowing up from neighborhoods in the area.

One resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals from militants, said he heard heavy machine gun fire and then men shouting "Allahu Akbar," or God is great in Arabic. Others said they saw U.S. tanks and armored vehicles driving through the street, while aircraft flew overhead.

The base was set up two months ago in a three-story city office building that was abandoned because of the violence in the area, the Iraqi officer said.

---

# ***Great Moments In U.S. Military History: The Siege And Collective Punishment Of The Citizens Of Samarra; Dead Babies? So What? Dishonorable Filth In Command Of U.S. Troops Halt Aid Deliveries As Food, Water And Medicine Run Out***

18 May 2007 BBC NEWS

**Food and fuel supplies are reportedly running out in the central Iraqi city of Samarra because of a curfew imposed after an insurgent attack 12 days ago.**

**Four babies are said to have died in the city's hospital because of a lack of fuel to power their incubators. Two elderly patients have also died.**

Residents have called on US and Iraqi troops to end the restrictions and allow humanitarian aid into the city.

**But only some aid deliveries have been allowed through after intense searches.**

**One Iraqi Red Crescent worker from the nearby town of Tikrit said that three of his organisation's trucks had been turned away.**

**"The humanitarian situation in Samarra is terrible," he said.**



The restrictions began on 6 May after a bomb attack killed 12 police officers, including the police chief, Abd al-Jalil al-Dulaimi.

US and Iraqi forces responded by encircling the mainly Sunni Arab city, blocking off entrances with concrete slabs and sand bags.

They then extended the hours of a curfew for the 300,000 residents and imposed very strict restrictions on the movement of people and goods into the city.

**The problems caused by dwindling supplies of food and medicine were further exacerbated by the failure of the city's power grid and main water supply, which were both damaged by the bombing.**

An Iraqi humanitarian group, Doctors for Iraq, said it was gravely concerned by the situation in Samarra.

"Doctors for Iraq condemns in the strongest terms any activities that prevent civilians from accessing healthcare or humanitarian assistance by all actors engaged in the conflict," it said in a statement on Wednesday.

**The group called for an immediate lifting of the access restrictions, which it said amounted to "an act of collective punishment", and for local NGOs and health workers to be allowed into the city as soon as possible.**

---

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



Iraqi citizens looking at a U.S. armoured vehicle on patrol in Baghdad January 27, 2007.  
REUTERS/Erik de Castro

---

## **Occupation Convoy Attacked In Central Falluja; Casualties Not Yet Announced**

May 18, (VOI)

An attacker detonated a car bomb this afternoon near a U.S. military convoy in al-Dubbat neighborhood in central Falluja," the source, who asked not to be named, told the independent news agency Voices of Iraq (VOI).

"The blast destroyed a U.S. vehicle," he added.

The source voiced belief that the explosion left casualties among U.S. troops. No word was available from the U.S. army on the incident

---

## **Resistance “Artillery” Attack Hits 10 [Or 16] Helicopters At U.S. Taji Base; “The First Time Since Invasion For The U.S. Army To Announce Destruction Of Helicopters By Artillery”**



U.S. soldiers fix a helicopter at the military base in Taji May 17, 2007. REUTERS/  
Eduardo Munoz (IRAQ)

May 17 (VOI) & AP

A U.S. helicopter was destroyed in an artillery attack on Sunday on the Taji Camp, north of Baghdad, a source close to the Multi-National Force in Iraq (MNF) said.

An Iraqi civilian who works at the base said he saw about 16 damaged helicopters, some of them set on fire by the attack. The worker spoke on condition of anonymity, because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

"The ten helicopters were landed at the camp," the source, who requested his name not be mentioned, told the independent news agency Voices of Iraq (VOI) today.

According to the source, an official spokesman for the U.S. defense department confirmed the attack today. However, the source did not indicate whether any casualties arose from the attack, or refer to the group behind it.

**This is the first time for the U.S. army to announce the destruction of some of its helicopters, which were landed at one of its bases, as a result of a missile or artillery attack since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003**

A mortar shell landed inside the heavily fortified Green Zone, headquarters of the Iraqi government and U.S. forces, in central Baghdad on Thursday for the third day in a row.

---

### **Notes From A Hopeless Disaster:**

# **Resistance Implements “A New Tactic To Destroy Road Links Around The Iraqi Capital” The Good News: 2,000 Of 143,000 Collaborator Troops Now Have New Rifles**

18 May 2007 By James Shaw, BBC [Excerpts]

The convoy of four armoured Humvees and two black 4x4s rumbles down the highway heading north out of Baghdad.

Blue lights flash, sirens wail, the soldiers manning the turrets on top of the Humvees swing their machine-guns from side to side.

If a truck driver fails to pull over, the soldier in the vehicle ahead of us produces a handgun and points it directly at him.

This is how the US military in Iraq travels from the safety of the Green Zone in the centre of Baghdad to Camp Taji, a vast training and logistics base just north of the city.

Then close to Taji our convoy is forced off the road by a traffic jam. The Humvees lurch down a steep incline.

The poles attached to their front bumpers to detect roadside bombs scrape into the sand and the convoy trundles through the scrub at the edge of the road until we've cleared the traffic jam.

**Climbing back onto the carriageway, we head up onto an overpass and discover the reason for the congestion. One side of the road has been rendered unusable by a hole big enough to lose a car in. Torn steel rods hang from the concrete around the rim.**

**The damage was done by an insurgent bomb just a few days ago, apparently part of a new tactic to destroy road links around the Iraqi capital.**

We've come to Camp Taji to see Iraqi soldiers being issued with new weapons to replace their ageing Kalashnikovs.

We find them outside a warehouse ripping open cardboard boxes and tearing the plastic wrapping off brand-new M16 carbines.

**So far, fewer than 2,000 have been given M16s. The official strength of the Iraqi Army at the moment is more than 143,000.**

---

**The Noose Tightens:**

**50 To 60 % Of All Truck  
Convoys In Iraq Coming Under  
Attack:**

**“There Is A Definite Spike”  
“Drivers Face Almost Constant  
Attacks From Insurgents”**

**He said that by late 2006 truck drivers and their Marine convoy escorts were finding 20 to 30 roadside bombs on each convoy trip through Anbar, the restive Sunni heartland.**

**“The number of I.E.D.’s got worse, and the size and damage got worse, progressively, over time,” he said.**

May 18 By JOHN M. BRODER and JAMES RISEN, The New York Times Company  
[Excerpts]

**A top security industry official said he was told recently by American military and contracting officials that 50 to 60 percent of all truck convoys in Iraq were coming under attack.**

Previously, he said, only about 10 percent had been hit.

**“There is a definite spike in convoy attacks,” said the official, who would speak only on condition of anonymity because the information was confidential.**

**Gordon Dreher, 48, who drove a fuel truck supplying American troops in Iraq, said he and other drivers faced almost constant attacks from insurgents.**

**“I’ve been shot at, had my truck blown out from under me, had an I.E.D. hit about six feet away from me, and lost part of my hearing,” he said, referring to an improvised explosive device. “I’m used to getting shot at now, having tracer rounds hit off my truck. I got ambushed twice on one convoy run.”**

Mr. Dreher broke his back in January from driving

Mr. Dreher broke his back in January from driving fast on rough roads, and is back home in Brick, N.J., awaiting surgery. “When they do a surge, they need more fuel for choppers and tanks,” he said. “My buddies who are still there tell me that they have been getting spanked pretty good lately.”

Mark Griffin, a 53-year-old truck driver from Georgia who left Iraq last November, said even then attacks were accelerating. “It got progressively worse pretty much every month I was there.”

He worked for KBR driving trucks in Anbar Province to supply Marine bases with ammunition, water and other essentials.

**He said that by late 2006 truck drivers and their Marine convoy escorts were finding 20 to 30 roadside bombs on each convoy trip through Anbar, the restive Sunni heartland.**

**“The number of I.E.D.’s got worse, and the size and damage got worse, progressively, over time,” he said.**

Conditions in Iraq are harsh, and many civilians who arrive there, drawn by patriotism, a sense of adventure or the lure of money, are overwhelmed by the environment. If they raise questions about the 12-hour workdays, the lack of armor plating on trucks or the periodic shelling of bases, supervisors often tell them to pack up and go home.

Cynthia I. Morgan, a Tennessee trucker who spent more than a year in Iraq as a convoy commander, said that the common answer from her bosses to such complaints was, "Aisle or window, chicken or pasta" — meaning "Get on the next plane out of here."

---

## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Occupation Patrol Attacked; Casualties Not Yet Announced**

5.17.07: By NOOR KHAN, The Associated Press

In Helmand province, insurgents attacked a joint NATO and Afghan police patrol, causing an unknown number of casualties, officials said.

The insurgents fired a rocket at the NATO vehicle and engaged in a gunbattle.

Sangin district police chief Ghulam Wali said the joint NATO-Afghan forces were patrolling on foot, and he believed only the driver was in the NATO vehicle when it was hit. The gunbattle continued Thursday evening.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force confirmed that there was an incident with casualties in Helmand province but did not immediately have further details.

---

### **Collaborator Information Minister Wounded; Mercenaries Killed**

May 17 (AFP) & By NOOR KHAN, The Associated Press & By Ismail Sameem, Reuters

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

Three bombs struck Afghanistan's tense southern city of Kandahar Thursday.

The national minister of information, Abdul Karim Khoram, suffered facial injuries in one of the blasts -- a car bombing that struck the armoured vehicle of the governor of the province of Kandahar, and slightly wounded his chief deputy in Kandahar province. Both men were riding in one of the armored vehicles.

A roadside bomb was detonated to hit the vehicle of a private security firm. The blast flung the bodies of four men out of the flaming vehicle, an AFP reporter at the scene said.

As the provincial security chief arrived to investigate, a second bomb exploded. Six more officers were killed and a cameraman for the Arabic Al Jazeera television network was among the wounded.

The security chief was wounded, as were four more police.

A police officer at the blast site earlier had said 10 police died in the blasts.

After the second blast went off in Kandahar, bloodied police officers shouted and carried away bodies in the chaos, according to an Associated Press reporter at the site.

Qari Yousef Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman, said the attack was planned to target police responding to the blast.

"First we set off a remote control explosion on a police vehicle, then we were waiting for the police to arrive on the scene, then we did a second blast," Ahmadi said by satellite phone from an undisclosed location.

In the usually quiet north, where militant violence is rare, a roadside bomb hit the car of the Badakhshan provincial police chief as he was going to work in Faizabad, killing one of his bodyguards and wounding the chief and three other guards, said deputy governor Sham-sul Rahman.

---

## **Assorted Resistance Action**

May. 15 2007 Associated Press & (Reuters)

A roadside bomb killed seven Afghan soldiers in the eastern province of Nuristan on Monday, the defence ministry said. Four soldiers were missing after the blast.

In eastern Paktika province, insurgents ambushed a police patrol early Tuesday, and the ensuing two-hour clash left two policemen and a suspected militant dead, said Ghamai Khan, a spokesman for the governor.

---

## **SOMALIA WAR REPORTS**

### **“A Roadside Bomb Targeted The Prime Minister's Convoy”**

5.18.07 Reuters

A roadside bomb targeted the Somali [collaborator] prime minister's convoy in Mogadishu but no one was hurt, a day after four Ugandan peacekeepers died in a similar attack by rebels vowing an Iraq-style insurgency.

---

## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The body of Lance Corporal Jesse D. Delatorre, 29, at his funeral in Aurora, Illinois, April 26, 2007. Delatorre died April 16 the while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. REUTERS/John Gress

---

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **200 Insurgents “Carried Out A Sophisticated Attack” In Mosul**

May 17, 2007, International Herald Tribune

In the northern city of Mosul, more than 200 insurgents carried out a sophisticated attack on several targets using car bombers, rocket-propelled grenades, assault rifles and



improvised bombs, said Major General Watheq al-Hamdani, the top police commander in Mosul.

Four police officers died in the fighting, while 14 others were wounded.

The attack began at dusk when resistance soldiers stormed the main provincial jail. When police forces responded, the insurgents attacked them with six car bombs, and 14 bombs planted on surrounding roads exploded.

As the police and insurgents fought near the prison, guerrillas also attacked the houses of Hamdani and Khasro Goran, deputy governor of Mosul Province and one of the senior members of a leading Kurdish political party, the police commander said. Neither man was wounded.

Insurgents used two car bombs to destroy a bridge in Badush, about 15 miles west of the city, and five prisoners facing terrorism charges escaped from the jail there, killing two prison guards in the process, according to Brigadier General Mohammad al-Waga.

---

## **Open War In Southern Cities Between Collaborator And Nationalist Forces; “The Provincial Governor Moved His Family To Safety In Iran**

May 17, 2007, International Herald Tribune

In the southern city of Diwaniya, scores of militiamen loyal to the nationalist anti-Occupation political leader Mokatada al-Sadr fought street battles against Iraqi government soldiers.

At least 11 people — eight civilians, two police officers and one soldier — were wounded in the fighting, which raged for seven hours and by some official estimates involved as many as 200 militia members, police and army commanders said.

As the clashes worsened, the provincial [collaborator] governor moved his family to safety in Iran, a police commander said.

According to local government officials, the fighting was triggered by the recent arrests of several members of Sadr's militia, the Mahdi Army, in Diwaniya, which is about 110 miles south of the capital.

But the fighting tapped into a longtime power struggle between Sadr's loyalists [translation: anti-Occupation] and supporters of a rival Shiite party, the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council [loyal to Bush and the Occupation], which controls the government of Diwaniya Province and its police force. That party, formerly called the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, changed its name last week.

Mahdi Army fighters have occasionally battled members of the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council's armed wing, the Badr Organization [translation: Badr Terrorist Death Squads, which murder Iraqis opposed to the Occupation].

But provincial and tribal officials said the fighting on Wednesday was mostly between Mahdi soldiers and members of the Iraqi Army's Eighth Division, which is not considered to be a pawn of the provincial leadership or the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council [translation: which is a pawn of the U.S. occupation].

News agencies reported that similar clashes, pitting the Iraqi police against Mahdi militiamen angry about the arrest of two of their members, broke out late Tuesday in Nasiriya, about 120 miles southeast of Diwaniya, and continued into the early morning hours on Wednesday. At least nine Iraqis were killed and 75 wounded in the fighting, The Associated Press reported.

---

## **Fighting In Nasiriya Damages Power Facilities**

BAGHDAD, May 17 (KUNA) -- A day after armed clashes in Nasiriya, southern Iraq, Iraqi police were deployed to the streets on Thursday and militants have retreated.

Clashes between the Mahdi militias and police broke out at dawn after a Mahdi supporter was arrested in the southern part of Nasiriya city

Several buildings and power facilities were also damaged, causing power outages in areas across the province.

---

## **Assorted Resistance Action**

May 17, 2007, International Herald Tribune & Reuters & Baku Today & By Laith Hammoudi, McClatchy Newspapers & 18 May 2007 Reuters & Independent Online & KUNA & By Ned Parker, Times Staff Writer

A bomber blew up his vehicle at an Iraqi police checkpoint in the town of Mussayab, south of Baghdad, killing three policemen and wounding four.

In Riyadh, a town in western Kirkuk Province, two top provincial officials were killed by a bomb planted in the roadway, Captain Saad Abdullah of the Iraqi police said.

A military supply truck hauling concrete between Kirkuk and Baghdad was stopped by insurgents, who killed three occupants and captured two, according to Brig. Sarhad Kader, the spokesman for the Kirkuk police.

A policeman was killed and three of his family were wounded when a militant hurled a hand grenade at his home in Hilla, 100 km (60 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

Guerrillas killed a police major along with his son in the southern Iraqi port city of Basra, police said.

Guerrillas killed Major Kadhum Mutashar , the inspector in the ministry of interior affairs and his two sons in Al Zubair district west of Basra city yesterday evening. The guerrillas killed the inspector near his house injuring one of his neighbors.

Three guards working with Shirqat town police commander were injured when an IED exploded targeting the commander convoy. The IED exploded near Al Siniyah district west Biji yesterday evening when the convoy of lieutenant colonel Dawood Mahmoud Al Sahan causing the injury of his guards.

Source in the combined coordination center said that an Iraqi police officer from Biji police directorate was killed by guerrillas when they shot him dead near the south check point of Biji town north of Tikrit. Another checkpoint attack near the city of Kirkuk killed an Iraqi army soldier.

Two policemen were killed and 1 was wounded when guerrillas opened fire targeting their patrol in Bob Al Sham district north east Baghdad around 6,40 pm.

An official source in the local administration of Baladroz east of Baquba said that a police man was killed and another one was injured when a hand grenade exploded near the house Baladroz police commander.

Diyala Province: A medical source said that guerrillas from what is called (Iraq Islamic State) shot dead a security member working for the health establishment protection unit.

Three Iraqi police officers were killed and two others wounded on Friday in an attack south of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, a police source said.

A bomber driving a car bomb blew himself up near a police checkpoint in Jarf al-Sakhr village, 60 kilometres south of Baghdad, the source added.

An Iraqi policeman was killed in a shooting in Kirkuk. Unidentified armed men opened fire on 1st lieutenant Ako Shokr Sabir in his head and chest in north Kirkuk, the Iraqi police source told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), noting that investigation was underway into the shooting.

Clashes erupted between police commandos and guerrillas on Baghdad's airport road, leaving one officer dead, police said.

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

## GET THE MESSAGE?



Residents rally in protest against the U.S. military occupation in the Shaab neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq, May 17, 2007. Iraqis protested against U.S. military raids in their neighborhood. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

---

## OCCUPATION REPORT

**Resistance Capture Of Three Soldiers  
Succeeding Brilliantly In Tricking  
Stupid U.S. Command To Use Tactics  
That Recruit Countless More Iraqis  
To Kill U.S. Troops:  
700 Citizens Arrested, Endless  
Harassment Of Families & Repeated  
Home Invasions Increase Hatred Of  
Occupation**

May 17, 2007 By Damien Cave Published, International Herald Tribune [Excerpts]

YUSUFIYA, Iraq: The tip was urgent. An Iraqi informer said the three missing Americans could be found near the Caveman Canal outside the village of Cargouli.

Sergeant First Class Phitsidane Panpradith gathered up about 15 men and set out on a grueling 19-kilometer, or 12-mile, march through fields and orchards in the baking afternoon sun. His unit had been the first to arrive early Saturday morning at the scene of the ambush that left four American soldiers and Iraqi soldier dead.

After taking some time to cope, they desperately wanted to feel useful. But after searching for several hours, the men found nothing.

"It was dry," Panpradith said on Thursday, at a combat outpost on the same road where the attack occurred. "That's just like everything else out here - it's just sifting through it all and trying to find what we can."

**Even before the ambush Saturday, support for attacking Americans ran high.**

**Craters from roadside bombs appear every meter or so on the area's most traveled roads. Children often stand in front of their homes and pretend to fire guns at passing American convoys.**

**It is into this environment that 4,000 American soldiers have come, hungry for clues that will lead them to their missing comrades.**

Commanders are offering a \$200,000 reward for information that leads to their recovery, dropping thousands of leaflets from helicopters to reach especially rural areas.

**And the tips are coming in, by the dozen. As of Wednesday at noon, the unit responsible for the area - Second Brigade, 10th Mountain Division - said it had received more than 140 tips, in addition to intelligence gleaned from the more than 700 detainees arrested since the search started.**

In interviews at several combat outposts in the area, American soldiers said the constant false alarms were beginning to take a toll.

**In many areas, soldiers have gone back to the same houses three and four times because they believed residents had information that they just were not passing on, or because the Iraqis' initial account failed to check out.**

Panpradith, of Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, Second Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, said the Iraqis seemed to be intentionally passing on incorrect information, trying to hide involvement or trying to use tips to ingratiate themselves with American officers.

**The mutual distrust between the Americans and the Iraqis seemed to ensure an endless circle of suspicious glares and accusations.**

"The Iraqis think we want to take over their country," Panpradith said.

At the same time, he said, "we have to keep going back to them."

"They know something," he added. "A lot of them know something."

At Patrol Base Shanghai a few kilometers away, the home of the 4th Battalion's Alpha company, Private Jason Caudilo, 25, made the same conclusion. "Some of them know something," he said.

[Right. Like Panpradith said, they do "know something."

[They know the U.S. Imperial government wants to take over their country. They know that the only hope of defeating the U.S. Imperial government is by force of arms, which is why they fight the foreign Occupation army. They know that people who help the Occupation army with information are traitors, to be killed. They know how to confuse the enemy by turning in countless false leads. The Iraqis know what Americans knew in 1776 and are doing what Americans did in 1776. And that's a lot more than "something." T]

---

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



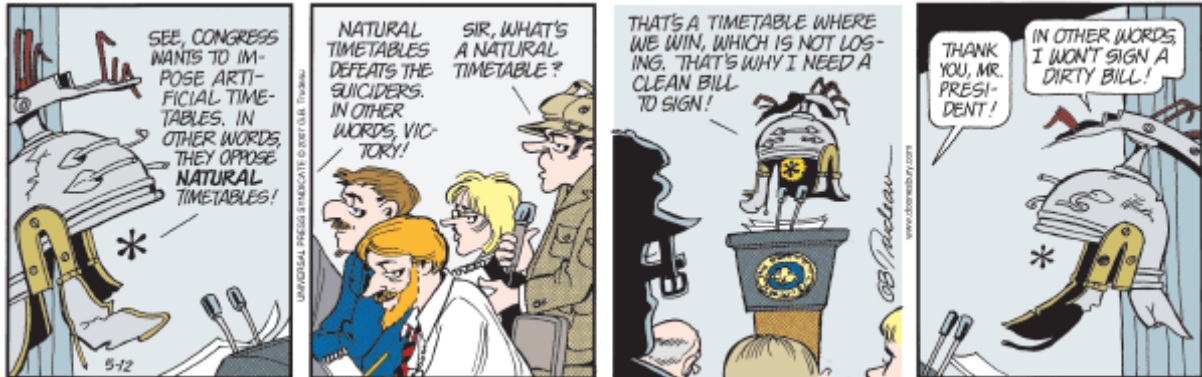
Iraqi citizens living in the al-Obaidy neighborhood in eastern Baghdad trying to clean up the wreckage of their home following military raid by foreign occupation soldiers from the USA, May 16, 2007. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

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.

[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 are right to resist.]

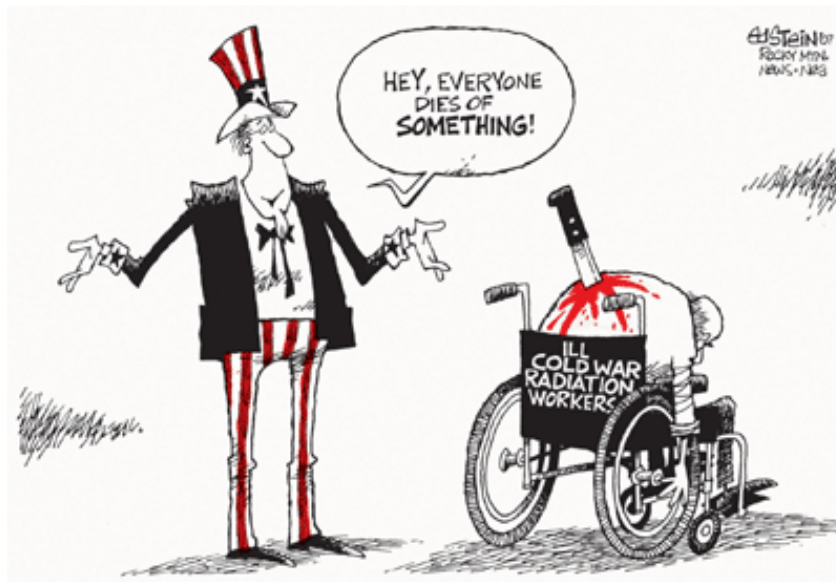
---

## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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

---

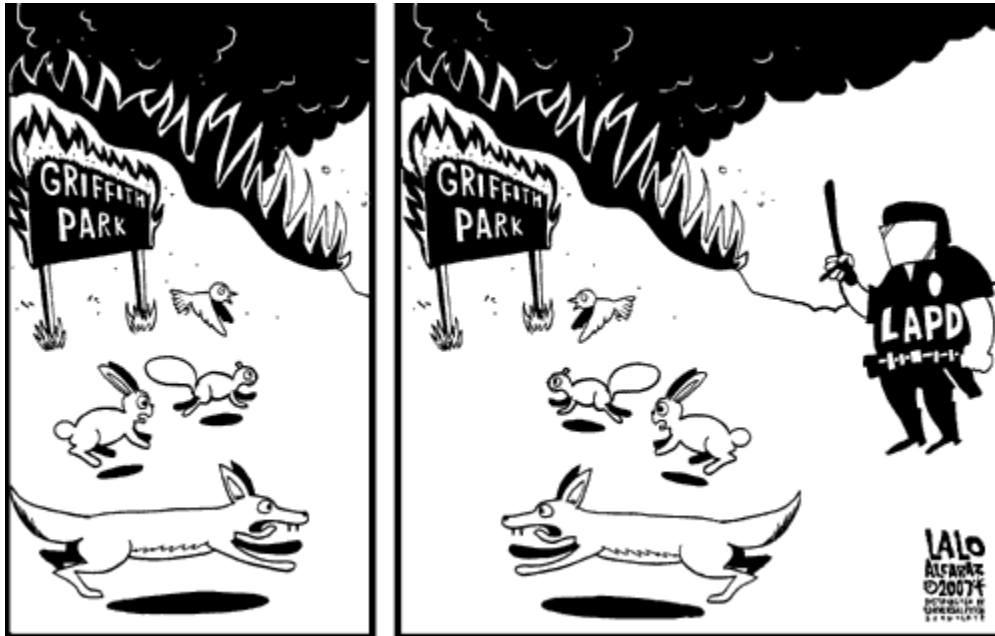


© The Rocky Mountain News. Dist. by NEA, Inc.

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

---

# ***Armed Domestic Enemy Combatants On The Loose: The May 1, 2007 Los Angeles Police Riot***



5/10

**[In addition to all the other reasons to bring all our troops home immediately from Bush's Imperial wars, not least is the simple fact that we need them here to defend us against domestic enemies like these rat cowards wearing Los Angeles police uniforms. They're real brave when attacking unarmed women, children, old homeless men and hot dog vendors. We'll see how brave they are when facing our brothers and sisters in uniform ready for combat. T]**

May 17, 2007 Thehollytree.blogspot.com

(From Dick Platkin) Here is a first-hand account of the police response to the peaceful demonstration on May 1 in MacArthur Park in Los Angeles. It is written by Jennifer Snow. She is Associate Director of Progressive Christians Uniting, a very effective ecumenical social justice consortium on whose Board I have been for 10 years. She has a PhD in Religious Studies, is in her late 20s and describes herself as five feet tall and completely unarmed. Read it and weep. --

\*\*\*\*\*

May 1: Violence in MacArthur Park



This is what happened.

**The march ended at Wilshire and Alvarado, and the last organization in the march was a Native American drumming and dancing troupe. They stopped in the street to dance, and a huge circle, mostly of families with small children, gathered around them to watch, cheer, and clap. It was peaceful and jubilant, a celebration, not a protest.**

The police were there, but no one was paying any attention to them.

**Suddenly there were sirens, very loud and close. Police motorcycles drove into the crowd around the dancers.**

**There was no announcement - or if there was, no one could hear it over the sirens.**

Imagine the deafening noise of many sirens only a few feet from you, the motorcycle driving towards you, pushing you forward. Imagine the panic of women with small children in strollers.

People tried to get away from the motorcycles, but the police would not allow you to walk through them.

When I tried, I was pushed roughly back in front of the motorcycles.

I saw three middle school girls standing hugging each other in front of a motorcycle, the wheel pushing against their feet and legs, the sirens blasting in their ears, the policeman screaming at them.

I saw people being pushed off their feet.

**When I saw the police start striking someone, I ran over to try to put myself between them. I saw people dragging their friends away from the police. Eventually they pushed us back onto the sidewalk. No one knew why they were doing this or what was happening.**

A line of police in riot gear faced us as we crowded on the sidewalk, bewildered and bruised and angry.

**We hadn't been doing anything wrong.**

**They hadn't asked us to move, or tried to communicate with us in any way other than violence.**

The noise was deafening, terrifying, disorienting. Teenagers with piercings yelled at the police. I pointed at the ground, trying to tell the police, look, I'm on the sidewalk. The police yelled at us. You had to yell to be heard. But the tension faded.

**The National Lawyers Guild passed the word along that as long as we stayed on the sidewalk, there would be no problems. Most of the teenagers had calmed down. There was nothing to see - just the people lined up on the sidewalk, the police in the street.**

People were a little bewildered. Why were the police here? What were they doing? Why were there so many of them? Why did they have guns and canisters? But no one was doing anything.

We just stood there, talking, laughing, drinking water, eating corn, taking pictures.

We wondered what on earth there were so many police for.

**And then suddenly the kids - the same teenagers that had been yelling at the police - ran along the sidewalk, yelling get back, get back, they've declared unlawful assembly, they're going to arrest everyone.**

**We heard shots.**

Within the park, from the corner of Alvarado and 7th, I saw people running. I ran towards them. I wanted to make sure that people were not responding violently to the police, that no one was being hurt. No one was violent, but people were indeed being hurt.

**Keep in mind that there had been no announcement - or at least, no effective announcement.**

**I had been in the front the entire time, less than two feet from the police. Surely I would have heard an announcement if there was one.**

The only announcement had been rumor. Later on, I would hear a completely unintelligible announcement from a helicopter. I could tell that it was in English. Even if I had been able to understand it, many in the crowd would not have.

**There were no requests to disperse.**

**There was no warning to the crowd. There was no explanation. There was no effort to communicate.**

**The police entered the park shooting gas or smoke canisters.**

**People panicked, running in all directions.**

I saw a couple, bewildered, start walking in the wrong direction. I held up my hands and said to the police, I'm going to get those people, I am going to help those people there, and went down to them, guiding them in front of the line and towards the exit. They didn't speak much English.

I continued to walk slowly in front of the police. Suddenly I saw a homeless man, sleeping under a tree. The police line approached, screaming at him. He woke up, confused.

Someone with a camera tried to help him, but was beaten off. He tottered to his feet, trying to grab his suitcase and blanket. The police screamed at him. He held out his hands to them. Perhaps that seemed threatening.

**I saw two policemen start hitting him with their batons, one to his legs, one to his chest. I started back towards him, thinking I could put myself between him and the police, but that's all I saw, because then the police had me.**

**I was thrown to the ground. A policeman screamed move! move!, pushing me and hitting me with the baton. Every time I tried to stand, I fell back down - he was dragging me, I couldn't get to my feet.**

**A girl, one of the teenagers, came over, tried to help me up, and the policeman started hitting her with the baton as well.**

Even with everything I had seen, something in me instinctively turned to the police to help. Surely they would stop those people from beating the homeless man.

I kept saying to the policeman dragging me, look, they're beating that man, reaching back towards him. The last I saw of the homeless man, they were putting plastic handcuffs on him.

I later heard that one "demonstrator" was arrested. Maybe that was him.

When I got to my feet, I continued to walk slowly in front of the police, my hands raised, very slowly.

They were shooting on my left side. There seemed no point in trying to get out from in front of them, or running. I felt sure that my only safety was to be slow, calm, and clearly unarmed. I walked slowly across Wilshire in front of the police line, hands up. We came to the corner of Wilshire and Alvarado, where Wilshire runs through the park.

**We approached a hot dog vendor and his wife and daughters, sitting behind their carts on the low stone wall. The vendor had the hopeful, friendly smile of someone who has no idea what is going on. He had brought his family to keep him company while he sold hot dogs.**

**I tried to get his daughters to move, but it wasn't fast enough. The police were on us. One of them grabbed the vendor by his t-shirt and screamed "Move! Move!" while striking him the chest with his baton over and over again.**

**The policeman was standing between the vendor and any hope of his moving - the vendor was trapped between the cart, the wall, his family, and the policeman.**

I stood with his daughters, my arm around one of them, all of us frozen.

Eventually the policeman must have realized that the man was not able to move, and he left. The vendor was still smiling, as though to say, I mean no trouble, do not hurt me, I'm just a hot dog vendor.

We were all in shock.

The police were still coming, still screaming.

I helped the family move their carts across the street, and they started walking up Wilshire, away from that corner.

**I could see, though, that the police had already strung a line across Wilshire. Although they were screaming to people to get out, they were beginning to block all the exits.**

By now the helicopter was hovering. It was complete pandemonium. There was a deafening message from the helicopter, but no one could understand it.

Someone was trying to speak from the rally stage. People were crowding around the news vans, as though they would be safe there.

**The police were entering the park, shooting.**

**Women ran with their strollers and their babies and their children, trying to get away. Men sat on picnic tables or wandered in groups, not knowing where it was safe to go.**

**I ran out at the corner of 6th and Alvarado. The police were starting to block the corner, yelling at people who ran towards them. I ran, a woman running beside me with her three children, running away from the police.**

In the parking lot of a store on Maryland and Alvarado, I passed a young woman cradling an infant wrapped in a blanket, sitting on the curb, dazed, hiding behind a van.

Are you OK? I asked. Yes, she said, and we nodded at each other, and I kept walking.

My courage was gone. I was glad to get out. I was glad to get out because I had no doubt that, if the police had had real bullets instead of rubber ones, they would have used them.

For no reason at all.

As we were walking earlier in the march, my friend said, "This is why I am proud to be an American."

We saw peaceful people, laughing, singing, dancing, holding banners. We were protesting, but we were also celebrating. We were celebrating our constitutional right to come together in popular assembly, to make our needs and concerns known to our government.

"I was surrounded by people who believe in America, in being here, in becoming citizens.

"What prouder thing can you say of your country that people the world over want to be one of us, to join our community, to have the rights and privileges and safety and trust in our institutions that we do? This is what democracy is.

**As I walked in front of the police line, my hands held up, I thought about being an American, about being free.**

**I am five feet tall. I was completely unarmed.**

**I had made no hostile move towards anyone.**

**I could have been shot at any time.**

**It was unreal.**

**It was not America, and yet it was.**

The hot dog vendor smiled at the police, hopeful, friendly.

This is what happened.

Jennifer Snow Associate Director,  
Progressive Christians Uniting

**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.**

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

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

---

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