

## GI SPECIAL 5G15:



**“He Said That ‘We Have  
All Decided That It’s  
Time For Us To Go  
Home’”**

**I Said, ‘You Mean Go Home And  
Rest?’**

**And He Said, ‘I Mean Go Home  
And Not Go Back’**



Beth Pyritz, an Army wife in Virginia, has joined an antiwar group. Steve Ruark for The New York Times

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

July 15, 2007 By IAN URBINA, New York Times

**FORT EUSTIS, Va., July 11 — Cpl. April Ponce De Leon describes herself and her husband as “gung-ho marines,” and in two weeks she deploys to Iraq, where her husband has been fighting since March.**

But she says she stopped believing in the war last month after a telephone conversation with him.

“He started telling me that he doesn’t want me to go and do the things he has been doing,” said Corporal Ponce De Leon, 22, speaking by telephone as she boxed up her belongings in their apartment near Camp Lejeune, N.C.

**“He said that ‘we have all decided that it’s time for us to go home.’**

**I said, ‘You mean go home and rest?’**

**And he said, ‘I mean go home and not go back.’**

**“This is from someone who has been training for the past nine years to go to combat and who has spent his whole life wanting to be a marine,” she continued.**

**“That’s when I realized I couldn’t support the war anymore, even though I will follow my orders.”**

In voicing her shifting view on the war in Iraq, Corporal Ponce De Leon is not alone.

In the past few weeks, President Bush has faced defections within his own party over his handling of the war by Republicans who have cited a growing weariness among military families as having played a central role in changing their opinions.

At a news conference last week, Senator Pete V. Domenici, Republican of New Mexico, who had been a staunch supporter of the president's handling of the war, said he had sensed a shift among some military families.

He recounted how a father he spoke to recently said his son was proud to serve.

"But then this man said, 'I'm asking you if you couldn't do a little extra to get our troops back,' " Mr. Domenici said, recalling the conversation. "I heard nothing like that a couple years ago."

Experts cite three causes of eroding morale among military families: longer and multiple deployments, the continued chaos in Baghdad, and the growing death toll — April, May and June were the deadliest three months for American troops since the invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

**Among military members and their immediate families who responded to a national New York Times/CBS News poll in May, two-thirds said things were going badly, compared with just over half, about 53 percent, a year ago.**

**Fewer than half of the families and military members said the United States did the right thing in invading Iraq.**

A year ago more than half held that view, according to the a similar poll taken last July. The May poll had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 7 percentage points.

Recruiting efforts are also suffering. Despite granting more waivers for recruits with criminal backgrounds, offering larger cash bonuses, loosening age and weight restrictions, and accepting more high school dropouts, the Army said it had missed its recruiting targets in May and June.

Pentagon officials say resistance from families is a major recruiting obstacle. Membership is also increasing among antiwar groups that represent the active military and veterans. Military Families Speak Out, one such group, which was started in the fall of 2002, now has about 3,500 member families. About 500 of them have joined since January.

**Nancy Lessin, a founder of the group, said it was noteworthy that about a hundred military wives living on bases had joined in the last three months. Wives living on bases, she said, are more reluctant than parents of soldiers to speak out.**

For Beth Pyritz, 27, who recently joined the group, the turning point came last month when her husband, an Army specialist, left for Iraq for his third deployment.

"I voted for Bush twice," said Ms. Pyritz, seated with her five children in their home at Fort Eustis near Virginia Beach.

**"I backed this war from the beginning, but I don't think I can look my kids in the eyes anymore, if my husband comes home in a wooden box, and tell them he died for a good reason."**

She said her views began changing late last year as the administration seemed slow to release information about the chaos unfolding in Baghdad and crystallized when military deployments were extended to 15 months from 12 months.

Paul Jones, 51, a social worker who for three years has been counseling members of the National Guard and Army Reserve, said he had seen a growing number of troops who were angry and on edge, which is fueling dissent within military families.

“The soldiers have come home from a war zone with a whole different perception of how things are,” said Mr. Jones, 51, who did not want to divulge the base where he works to protect the soldiers’ confidentiality.

Penny Preszler, 46, a furniture refurbisher in Phoenix, said she had stopped wearing red on Fridays as she had done for the past year to honor the war effort.

**“It was when my son started saying he wished he could be injured so he could come home,” Ms. Preszler said.**

**“There was no pride left in his voice, just this robotic sense of despair,” she said, describing a telephone conversation with her son, Skyler, 24, an infantryman on his second tour of duty in Iraq.**

**“Mom, we killed women on the street today. We killed kids on bikes. We had no choice,” she recounted his saying.**

The same week, she said, her son told her he thought he had seen the worst when he had to pick up the body parts of his dead buddy, but then he saw an Iraqi boy picking up what was left of his dead father.

Jaine Darwin, a psychologist and a director of Strategic Outreach to Families of All Reservists, said many families she counseled said they felt trapped.

**“Some of them say they fear we can’t leave Iraq because the job isn’t done,” said Ms. Darwin, whose organization, which is apolitical, offers free mental health therapy to military families. “But they still feel like it’s time to get out.”**

Their frustrations have led some soldiers to take drastic steps.

**Iraq Veterans Against the War, started in July 2004, has grown to 500 members, with 100 joining in the past two months.**

**The Appeal for Redress Project, which since last September has been advising active duty military members and reservists on how to write to their representatives in Congress expressing their opposition to the war, has about 2,000 members, almost half of whom have joined in the past six months.**

**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**

### **West Baghdad IED Kills Two U.S. Soldiers**

July 18, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory, RELEASE No. 20070718-02

BAGHDAD – Two MNC-I Soldiers were killed when an improvised explosive device detonated next to their vehicle during combat operations in western Baghdad Tuesday.

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### **Baghdad IED Kills One U.S. Soldier, Four Wounded**

July 18, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory, RELEASE No. 20070718-08

BAGHDAD —One Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldier was killed and four others wounded when an improvised explosive device detonated near their patrol during combat operations in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital July 17.

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### **Marine Dies In Non-Combat Incident In Anbar**

7.17.07 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

A Marine assigned to Multi National Force-West died July 16 in a non-combat related incident in Al Anbar Province.

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### **Navy Chief Petty Officer Pat Wade From Manawa Killed In Iraq**

July 18, 2007 By Dan Wilson, Post-Crescent staff writer

Friends and high school classmates of Manawa native Chief Petty Officer Pat Wade, who was killed Tuesday in Iraq, remember Wade as a fun-loving guy who had looked forward to joining the military.

The mother of the 38-year-old Navy explosives technician said a roadside bomb killed her son.

“They were just on a convoy. They were going to take care of some explosives and their vehicle was hit by a very deep charge,” Shirley Wade said. “He was a very outgoing young man. He enjoyed the service and his family. I just really can’t talk about that.”

Wade was deployed to Iraq about two months ago, the 70-year-old woman said.

Wade graduated in 1987 from Little Wolf High School. He then joined the Navy.

“We both went into the service together,” said Eric Krainik, Wade’s best friend in high school. “He shipped out to San Diego and I shipped out to Great Lakes. He had a great sense of humor. I remember he was a pretty small guy so he got into body building in his last year of high school and we both played the trombone together in the high school band.”

Wade has a wife, Kari, a California native and two children, ages 10 months and 3, according to his sister-in-law, Ann Wade of Royalton, married to Pat’s brother, Gary.

Pat Wade and his wife had just bought a house in Oak Harbor, Wash., she said, just before he was shipped out to Iraq in April.

“His wife was not home when she got the word and she had to fly home and I guess they are sending his remains to Germany and then to Dover, Delaware,” Ann Wade said.

Kevin Bartel said Wade was a bit of a class clown.

“And he was big on the military back then already,” Bartel said. “We played in the band together and I remember we used to go over to his house by Bear Lake after games and do all those kind of things that high school kids like to do.”

Bartel was a drummer.

“He was just hoping to get out of high school and join the military,” said Bartel. “The last time I saw his was at the five-year reunion and he flew up on leave from Florida and he was in a whole lot better shape than I was.”

Krainik, Wade and Molly Conroy hung out together. Conroy, now Molly Joosten said trips to the principal’s office for their little gang were not unknown.

“He was quite the prankster,” said Joosten. “And he enjoyed his own jokes. Homecoming was always a riot with him.”

Much of their time was spent swimming and boating on Bear Lake.

"I remember we had two rowboats with old engines on them and Pat came up with the idea of putting both motors on one boat to see what would happen," she said. "So on the count of three we started up both engines and the boat went straight up into the air and down to the bottom of the lake. At least no one got hurt."

"He was just a good guy," said Tamara Arndt who also graduated in 1987. "We were in the band together and we rode the bus together. He was just a good person."

Wade comes from a family that has seen several generations serve in the military, said Ann Wade.

"His mother was in the military and he had two brothers who were in the service, Gary, and a half-brother who was killed in Japan," she said. His half-brother was killed in a helicopter accident in the early 1980s.

Ann Wade said funeral services still are being planned. She said that Wade had a standing request that he be cremated.

**Wade is the 76th member of the armed forces from Wisconsin killed in Iraq.**

Deb Watry, superintendent of Little Wolf High School in Manawa where Wade graduated, said Wade has a nephew still attending the school.

News of Wade's death saddened residents in the central Wisconsin community of about 1,350 people, Watry said. "It is our first loss in a very small community. It impacts a lot of people."

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## Polish Soldier Dies In Diwanija

07/18/07 Wiadomosci

39-letni polski żołnierz zasłabł i zmarł w Iraku. Pełnił służbę w ramach IX zmiany Polskiego Kontyngentu Wojskowego - poinformował rzecznik MON Jarosław Rybak.

Żołnierz przebywał na terenie bazy Diwanija. Nagle zasłabł i zmarł pomimo natychmiastowej akcji reanimacyjnej. Przyczyny zgonu wyjaśni sekcja zwłok.

39-letni major Jarosław Posadzy służył w 25. Brygadzie Kawalerii Powietrznej w Tomaszowie Mazowieckim. W Iraku był szefem samodzielnej grupy powietrzno-szturmowej.

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## Christopher N. Rutherford Dies Of Wounds Suffered When An Improvised

# Explosive Device Detonated Near His Vehicle

July 05, 2007 Marietta Times

The second Washington County man to be killed in the war in Iraq is someone friends will remember for his huge smile, big brown eyes and ability to always be positive.

Newport native Chris Rutherford, 25, a 2000 graduate of Frontier High School and 2003 graduate of Marietta College was killed Monday while serving in the U.S. Army in Iraq.

Rutherford is the son of Penny and Gary Rutherford, of Newport, and older brother to Brandon Rutherford.

Rutherford is the second Washington County soldier to die during the war. The first was Marietta resident Allen Nolan, 38, who died Sept. 30, 2004 after being injured on duty.

Rutherford had been back in Washington County visiting friends and family only last month after his first stint in Iraq, with signs all over the community welcoming him home.

"He was just home three weeks ago, and brought stuff from Iraq for everybody," said Nicholas Mackey, 24, Rutherford's first cousin.

"He was excited about going back to get it over with," he said of Rutherford's return to Iraq last month.

"Until we turned 18 we might just as well have been brothers," Mackey said. "Growing up as kids we spent a lot of time at my grandparents. And Chris never quit smiling. I think he's smiling in every picture I've seen him in. "But it seemed like he was always in a hurry to get things done. Maybe there was a reason for that. Our family believes in God, and we believe things happen for a reason," he said. "He died protecting us."

Rutherford's childhood friend Josh Martin, 25, now lives in North Carolina. He said his father saw Rutherford when he was in town.

"He said he looked extremely good — big and strong," Martin said. "He was always a skinny kid, and he wasn't a kid anymore."

Rutherford was a former Marietta Times sports reporter who won an Ohio Associated Press Award for "Best Game Story" for his 2004 article on the Monroe Central softball team's championship win. His bachelor's degree from Marietta College was in journalism.

He was also an athlete, playing both basketball and football during his years at Frontier High School. "He was just a super young man," said Frontier football Coach Russ Morris. "He had the kind of personality where you just loved to have him around. He was definitely someone his parents can be proud of."



Friend Eric Reed, 25, said he couldn't begin to count the hours he spent in Rutherford's driveway playing basketball growing up.

The two were friends since before kindergarten and graduated from Frontier together.

"We were best friends our entire childhood," Reed said. "Chris had more zest for life than anyone I've ever been around. He was willing to do anything, he was always upbeat and so resilient. If something went wrong, he just decided to go in another direction."

Just about the only word that Rutherford's friends can't use to describe him is shy.

"He was given the nickname 'Wild Thing' once in high school," said Reed. "We had this motivational speaker and we were in an assembly and he (Rutherford) got up and sang 'Wild Thing' in front of the whole school. He brought the house down."

Rutherford's always-sunny attitude even extended to his tours in Iraq, said Reed.

"You would think going to war he would show some fear or negativity," he said. "But he was unbelievable. It was just another experience for him."

Reed said word has been spreading fast in the community about Rutherford's death. He got the news from another high school classmate while pumping gas.

"It still doesn't seem real," he said. "I'm just wishing it wasn't real."

The news has impacted more than just the soldier's friends and family.

Nancy Matheny, whose son has been in Iraq and is awaiting another deployment, said it hits home for those who have loved ones overseas.

"We pray every day that something like this doesn't happen," she said. "Unfortunately it always happens to someone's family, and it's every family's nightmare. With my son's first deployment, every time I would hear a car door at night I would think, 'This is it.'"

Matheny has been working with the Washington County Chapter of the American Red Cross to provide support to military families. She said the group will do everything it can for the Rutherfords.

"Hopefully we can reach out and meet any needs they have," she said.

Martin said Tuesday that he, like many of Rutherford's loved ones, still remained shell-shocked.

"This couldn't have happen to a more undeserving person," he said. "Chris's sense of humor could be a little brash, but I can't even think of a time when he did something wrong or gave you a reason to be upset with him. He was a really fun, really great kid."

Rutherford also seemed to have adjusted well to military life, Martin said.

"I think he really liked what he was doing," he said. "He never felt like he'd made a bad decision."

Paul Morton was Rutherford's pastor at Valley View Baptist Church in Reno. "Chris Rutherford was an exceptional young man, and his death is devastating for the church and this community," he said. "He was just a fine young man.

"Chris was a huge NASCAR fan, and that's what drew him into sports journalism," Morton said. "But he made the decision to make the Army his career; it was something he wanted to do."

He said Rutherford had opened his Christmas presents while he was home last month, and the family celebrated his June birthday a little early just before he returned to Iraq.

"He didn't go back with any trepidation," Morton said. "He had no fear. His quote was always, 'It's not that bad.'"

The pastor called the Rutherford family "a vital part of our church, and we take care of each other. That's just what Christians are supposed to do."

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## Funeral For Local Iraq Casualty

July 11, 2007 BY STEPHANIE HEINATZ, Daily Press

YORK COUNTY -- A funeral service for Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Robert McRill will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at the Yorkminster Baptist Church on Hampton Highway in York. An interment with full military honors will follow at the Peninsula Memorial Park.

McRill's family - which included his wife of 14 years and three children in York County - will receive friends Thursday evening from 7 to 8 p.m. at the W.J. Smith & Son Funeral Home.

The 42-year-old combat photographer was one of three sailors from Virginia Beach's Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek killed Friday when a roadside bomb detonated near their Humvee in Baghdad. It marked the deadliest day for local troops since 2005 when six Navy SEALs were killed in Afghanistan.

In an obituary that ran in the Daily Press, McRill's family wrote that "not only was he good at what he did, he often served as a mentor to young sailors." McRill was in the Navy for 16 years and while serving as a combat photographer saw his pictures published in magazines and books.

He was an active member of the Yorkminster Baptist Church and "could often be found spending time catching fish, helping others, cooking his famous ribs on the grill or just enjoying time with his family and many friends."

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**REALLY BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION;**

## HOPELESS WAR: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



BAQUBA, Iraq, June 25: Moving through the streets of Baquba on Sunday, American soldiers in a tank had to be wary of bombs buried in the roads, but troops moving house to house on foot encountered buildings rigged to explode by retreating insurgents. Scott Nelson/World Picture Network, for the New York Times

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## San Jose Native Dies In Iraq

07/10/2007 Julia Prodis Sulek, Mercury News

The last time Roberto Causor Jr. came home on leave from fighting in Iraq, he had a laptop full of photos and videos. But the San Jose soldier didn't want to show the disturbing war images to his 15-year-old cousin, Maggie.

"Why? I'm old enough," Maggie Lozano said she argued.

"I guess he always wanted to protect me," she said.

Causor's March visit was a sobering one for his tightknit family of cousins, aunts and uncles who live in East San Jose.

Maggie took a peek at the photos. And for the first time, reality set in that the 21-year-old they called "Junior" might not make it home again.

On Saturday, Causor - a paratrooper rifleman with the 82nd Airborne Division - was killed when a homemade bomb exploded near his patrol in Samarra, in central Iraq. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

While his parents and three younger sisters who live in New Mexico made plans to return to San Jose for a pending funeral, Causor's extended family gathered at one of their homes off White Road on Monday afternoon to remember a young man who made his cousins laugh with funny faces. For several years, Causor (pronounced COW-sore) and various members of his immediate family lived in a one-room bungalow in the back yard of his cousins, the Lozanos.

The son of Mexican parents, Causor was born in San Jose and spent many of his childhood and teen years here. He was proud of his roots and his family's adopted country, where several relatives started their own construction and electrical businesses, said his uncle Francisco Causor.

By joining the military when he graduated in 2004 from Overfelt High School, "in a way that was kind of a payback, in gratitude," for the success and freedom many of his relatives enjoyed in the United States, Francisco Causor said.

And he always liked playing with toy guns - more than basketball, more than soccer. So no one was really surprised when he joined the ROTC program in high school and told his family he planned to join the Army. They tried to talk him out of it.

"Why not apply for a job in construction?" his uncle asked him then. "But he believed strongly in it. He had it in his heart."

Maggie remembers cruising with him on previous leaves home. He'd give dirty looks to the teenage boys eyeing his young cousin. She'd giggle every time. In his father's burgundy Suburban, Causor would roll down the windows and crank up the stereo when songs about soldiers played. When Beyonce` sang the lyric, "I need a soldier," Maggie said, "he'd be like, 'I'm here! I'm here!'"

He would jump out of the truck and dance.

She likes to remember him that way.

When he came home for the last time in March, they saw a change in him. If he heard a noise in the middle of the night, he would bolt up in bed. "He was always on alert," his uncle Francisco Causor said.

He told them that members of his crew were killed in a Humvee, a vehicle he was supposed to be on that day. He told them of a wounded insurgent who fell to the ground, looked up at him and said, "I'm sorry."

Many of the photos he brought home showed him posing with guns, wrestling with his fellow paratroopers and celebrating his 21st birthday in February. But several were stark: a video of Iraqi homes he was ordered to clear out, a dead insurgent lying on the ground.

But still, he was committed to returning. It was his responsibility, and he was eager to fulfill it, his uncle said.

Just before he returned to Iraq in early April, the family gathered one last time at his aunt's house. He talked about his girlfriend in Texas - the first girlfriend his cousin Maggie ever approved of, a woman who became pregnant with his child during that trip. Using his grandmother's recipe, his aunt made Causor's favorite enchiladas.

And they all prayed at the table that night, prayed for his safe return.

"I saw peace in him when he left," his uncle said. "He had peace in his heart."

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Saturday Funeral Planned For Heroic Soldier**



July 12, 2007 Middlesboro Daily News

A Michigan man with Bell County ties died Thursday, July 5, in Afghanistan. Pfc. Joseph A. Miracle, 22, of Ortonville, died of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire and indirect fire in the Watapor Valley of Kunar Province in Afghanistan.

Miracle was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade, Vicenza, Italy. His unit, which was deployed to Afghanistan in April, was patrolling in a village Thursday when it was attacked. Miracle had been in Afghanistan just 35 days.

According to local family members, his parents have been told by others in the platoon, had it not been for their son's action many of them would not have survived the attack.

“His family has been told that his actions probably saved his platoon,” said Bobbie Sue Miracle, his great-aunt. “They were told that as soon as he saw them (hostile forces) coming over the hill, he held his position, firing at them, so that the rest of his platoon could take cover. At least 35-40 men wouldn’t have survived (the attack) had it not been for him.

In honor of Miracle’s heroism, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm has ordered flags throughout the state and on Michigan waters to be lowered to half-staff Friday. Military officials also told Miracle’s family that he would receive several posthumous awards, including a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and a NATO medal.

Miracle is the son of son of Glenn and Judy Miracle, and the grandson of the late Glenn and Gertrude (Cornelius) Miracle of Bell County, and Roger and Mary Weeks of Ariz. He is also the great-nephew of Russell, Dempsey, and Helton Miracle, Virgie Calloway, and the late Matt Cornelius of Bell County, and Harvey Cornelius of Pathfork. He also has many local cousins and other family members.

Funeral Mass for Pfc. Miracle will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church in Waterford, Mich., and visitation will be from noon to 9 p.m. Friday at Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home in Clarkston. Condolences can also be posted on the funeral home’s online guest book [www.wintfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintfuneralhome.com) Interment will be in All Saints Cemetery.

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## Assorted Resistance Action

July 16, 2007 The Associated Press & July 17, 2007 The Associated Press & Jul 18, 2007 (Reuters) & AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

A bomber targeted a supply convoy for NATO-led troops in southern Afghanistan on Monday, killing a local guard and wounding four others.

The bomber attacked the supply convoy in Gereshk district in Helmand province, said Mohammad Hussein, the provincial police chief. An Afghan guard was killed and four others were hurt.

A bomber hit a Turkish diplomatic convoy near the Afghan capital on Wednesday. After the blast in Kabul, shots were fired at a damaged armored vehicle in the convoy, wounding one Turkish guard, a Turkish embassy official said.

**Wednesday’s shooting after the attack on the convoy was the first of its kind in the capital.**

It also came hours after three rockets exploded in a field inside the city, police said. There were no casualties or damage from the rockets.

Hours after the attack, another bomber blew himself up inside the main police station in the southeastern town of Khost, police and residents said, and killed at least three police. A second bomber who then ran into the police headquarters was shot and killed, said Mohammad Wali Shah, the provincial police chief.

There was no immediate report of any casualties from the second attack, but ambulances were seen entering the compound.

Suspected Taliban militants ambushed a convoy of Afghan police officers driving through a dangerous section of the country's major highway Wednesday, killing six, an official said.

The ambush came along the Kabul-Kandahar highway, a ribbon of road that connects Afghanistan's two major cities.

Long stretches of Highway 1 run through areas controlled by Taliban militants.

Six police were killed and five wounded in the ambush in the southern Zabul province, said Gen. Yaqoob Khan, the provincial police chief. Two vehicles in the convoy were damaged, he said.

Taliban militants ambushed two police officers riding a bicycle in Zhari district in southern Kandahar province Tuesday, killing both, said Sayed Agha Saqib, the provincial police chief.

An attack on a road construction crew in Paktia province killed one Filipino and wounded three guards, said Ghulam Dastager, the province's deputy police chief.

An Afghan guard was killed in ambush in the southeastern province of Paktia, provincial police officials said.

Afghan troops clashed with suspected militants in eastern Afghanistan, just across the border from Pakistan, leaving 10 Afghan soldiers wounded, a Defense Ministry statement said Tuesday.

Near Bermel district of Paktika province, the wounded Afghan soldiers were evacuated to a nearby medical facility where they were listed in stable condition, the statement said.

In neighboring Helmand province, a roadside bomb attack against a vehicle carrying Afghan soldiers in Gereshk district on Monday killed three troops and wounded two, said Mohammad Hussein, the provincial police chief.

Taliban fighters also ambushed police in Logar province, killing six officers and liberating two police trucks.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **Drowned Rat Says There's A Sea Change In Iraq: [More Lies From The Traitor Pace]**



The retiring chair of the JCS, General Peter Pace [communities.canada.com]

17 Jul 2007 By ROBERT H. REID (AP)

Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, hailed the progress achieved in Ramadi, where violence was once commonplace, saying "what I'm hearing now is a sea change that is taking place in many places here."

**MORE:**

# **Drowned Rat Says There's A Sea Change In Afghanistan: [More Lies From The Traitor Pace]**



The retiring chair of the JCS, General Peter Pace [communities.canada.com]

July 18, 2007 AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

Meanwhile, the top U.S. general visited Afghanistan on Wednesday and told troops he had seen a "sea change" that made him optimistic.



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***Enemy Officers In Command  
Betray Iraq Veterans:  
Thousands Denied Benefits And  
Kicked Out Of The Army Using  
Fake “Personality Disorder”  
Label:  
“It’s Done Maliciously Or As Some  
Sort Of A Policy”  
“They Just Slapped Me With That  
Label To Get Me Out Quicker” “If I  
Didn’t Have Family, I’d Be Living On  
The Sidewalk”***

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,509th time, there is no enemy in Iraq. Iraqis and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started this war of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: this war was about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. Bring the war home now. T]

**“Schmidt’s mother, Patrice Semtner-Myers, said. “They threw him away. They’re done with him. He’s no use to them anymore so they say, ‘We’re done. & Thanks for nothing.’”**

**In practical terms, this diagnosis means the personality disorder existed before military service, and therefore medical care and disability payments are not the military’s responsibility.**

July 12, 2007 By BOB WOODRUFF, JAMES HILL, JAIME HENNESSEY and JOSHUA KORS, ABC News

Army Spc. Jonathan Town is back home in Ohio now, but still very much at war.

“When you see bits and pieces of actual people or people bleeding to death or anything, it’s very unsettling. It’s something you’ll never be able to forget. Period,” Town told ABC News’ Bob Woodruff.

Since his discharge in 2006, Town has not only dealt with the emotional scars of war, but he has also found himself at the center of a national debate on mental health care for veterans as a crowd as diverse as singer Dave Matthews and members of Congress has questioned how 22,000 veterans were diagnosed and discharged since 2001.

In Town’s case, the discharge came two years after he was injured in an attack. In the fall of 2004, a 107 mm rocket ripped through his unit’s headquarters in Ramadi, exploding two feet above Town’s head and knocking him unconscious.

**The rocket blast left Town with hearing loss, headaches, memory problems, anxiety and insomnia. For his wounds, he was awarded the Purple Heart.**

**But when he returned to the states seeking treatment for those very wounds, the Army quickly discharged him, asserting his problems had been caused not by the war but by a personality disorder that predated his military career.**

It is known as a “Chapter 5-13” - “separation because of personality disorder.” The Army defines it as a pre-existing “maladaptive pattern of behavior of long duration” that interferes with the soldier’s ability to perform his duties.

**In practical terms, this diagnosis means the personality disorder existed before military service, and therefore medical care and disability payments are not the military’s responsibility.**

But some veterans and veterans’ advocates have been vocal in their belief that personality disorder is being misdiagnosed in combat veterans.

**“A significant percentage of the ones who are discharged with personality disorder truly have it, but there is another percentage that are put out simply to eliminate them from military service. & It’s done maliciously or as some sort of a policy,” said Russell K. Terry, founder of the veterans’ advocacy organization, Iraq War Veterans Organization.**

Since 2001, more than 22,000 servicemen and women from all branches of the military have been separated under the personality disorder discharge, according to figures provided by the Department of Defense.

Servicemen and women undergo mental and physical screenings when they enter the military and again before they deploy. “Either the military didn’t see it or they ignored it,” Terry said.

**Donald Louis Schmidt of Chillicothe, Ill., was being treated for posttraumatic stress disorder after his second combat tour in Iraq. His commanders at Fort**

**Carson later decided he was no longer mentally fit and discharged him with personality disorder.**

**“They just slapped me with that label to get me out quicker,” Schmidt said. He said superiors told him “‘Everything will be great. Peachy keen.’ Well, it’s not.”**

**The discharge left Schmidt ineligible for disability pay and benefits. He was also required to return more than \$10,000 of his \$15,000 reenlistment bonus, but he said no one explained that to him until it was too late.**

**“If I didn’t have family, I’d be living on the sidewalk,” Schmidt said.**

**“It’s not right that they would do this to him after him going to war for us,” Schmidt’s mother, Patrice Semtner-Myers, said. “They threw him away. They’re done with him. He’s no use to them anymore so they say, ‘We’re done. & Thanks for nothing.’”**

**Schmidt and Town say Army doctors misled them about the consequences of the personality disorder discharge. Town said he was told he would receive his benefits and it would be like a medical discharge, only quicker.**

**In the course of reporting this story, ABC News spoke with 20 Iraq War veterans who believe they were misdiagnosed with personality disorder.**

**A Marine who preferred not to be named said, “Most docs won’t diagnose you with PTSD because the military has to treat you for the rest of your life.”**

**After confrontations with his commander, Pfc. David Vann said a psychologist met with him for “10 minutes and said, ‘I think you’re lying about PTSD. & I think you have (personality disorder).’”**

**“If they cared about my well-being, they would have tried to fix it. The Army would rather & (sever) all the ties,” Army Spc. William Wooldridge said.**

**On the day he was discharged in the fall, Town met with Jeff Peskoff, a civilian employee in the personnel office at Fort Carson in Colorado, and learned he owed the Army \$3,000 to repay his enlistment bonus.**

**“At some points it looked like he wanted to cry and at some point he looked like he wanted to rip my head off,” Peskoff said.**

**Peskoff, who served 10 years in the Army, including a tour of Iraq, recently quit his job in disgust and is now speaking publicly for the first time.**

**“If you have a combat tour and you are getting labeled as a personality disorder, there is something wrong. It’s a lie,” Peskoff said. “It’s a quick way to get rid of that body and bring in another body. And it’s a quick way to save money.”**

In the span of several months, Peskoff said he processed the personality disorder discharges of Schmidt, Town and hundreds of other combat veterans he believed were actually suffering physical and psychological trauma because of the war.

“They are basically washing their hands of them,” Peskoff said.

At home in central Illinois, Donald Schmidt is waiting.

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**“A New Uniform Isn’t Going To  
Send My Son To School”  
“All The Work Going Into This Uniform  
Program Could Be Better Used In  
Improving Family Advocacy, Morale,  
Welfare And Recreation, Casualty  
Assistance And Health Care”**

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
7.16.07

Do you actually mean to tell me that it is important for the Army to invest its time and energy into a flashy uniform that smacks of assimilation in appearance to the Air Force, and that robs the soldier of any sort of unit pride or individuality? This new design is taking away all of the distinguishing features that mark a soldier as a “volunteer within volunteers.”

They are taking away the pride of the soldier’s unit from being displayed on the right sleeve.

**Our priorities should be:**

**Proactive, professional, compassionate health care and treatment for our wounded soldiers, and equitable level medical care for all soldiers and dependents.**

**The best possible weaponry and protective gear for our soldiers in the fight. As of my last tour in January, I still see soldiers on convoys and patrols with M16s, no weaponry optics and the old-style Kevlar helmets.**

**Quality of life for all service members and families. This includes fulfilling bonuses that are promised to them.**

**All the work going into this uniform program could be better used in improving family advocacy, morale, welfare and recreation, casualty assistance and health care.**

A new uniform isn't going to make me prouder to be a soldier. A new uniform isn't going to teach me how to do my job. A new uniform isn't going to help me to hit my target better.

**A new uniform isn't going to send my son to school.**

**When everyone is taken care of at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and places like it, when someone's loved one doesn't have to wait for months to be treated for post-traumatic stress disorder and when every soldier in the war zones — from rifleman to explosive ordnance disposal tech to special forces operator to clerk and cook — is tactically equipped to the best of our ability, then let's change the uniform.**

Capt. Brian Ellis  
Cameron, N.C.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **“Imams In Four Mosques Used Loudspeakers To Call On Their Followers To Fight The Americans”**

7.17.07 By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer

American soldiers backed by tanks, helicopters and at least one F-16 jetfighter rolled into the eastern part of Baqouba, the capital of Diyala province.

Gunfire could be heard in the main market district, and Sunni imams in four mosques used loudspeakers to call on their followers to fight the Americans, residents said by telephone. They spoke on condition of anonymity over fears for their safety.

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

17 Jul 2007 (Reuters) & BBC & By ROBERT H. REID (AP) & 18 Jul 2007 Reuters

Four soldiers, were killed in a car bomb targeting an Iraqi army convoy passing through Zayouna district, Baghdad.

A bomb killed one policeman and wounded four others in Yusufiya, 15 km (nine miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

An Iraqi judge was shot dead at a fake checkpoint near Balad, 80 km (53 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

In the northern city of Mosul, nine people were killed when a car bomber attacked people entering an Iraqi army base, police Brig. Gen. Abdul Karim al-Jubouri said.

Clashes between nationalist, anti-occupation Mehdi Army and Iraqi police in the southern Shi'ite city of Nassiriya, police said. No reports of casualties.

A senior Iraqi police officer and five bodyguards went missing on Wednesday during clashes in a town south of Baghdad, police said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Salam Shanoun, police chief of Iskandiriya, 40 km (25 miles) south of the capital, disappeared during fighting between guerrillas and Iraqi security [collaborator] forces which wounded at least seven people.

One badly wounded bodyguard has been found and security forces are searching the town, police said.

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

### **NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER**

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”  
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

# Bring 'Em On



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 19, 2007  
Subject: Bring 'Em On

## Bring 'Em On

**3,600+ American soldiers killed in Iraq.  
30,000+ wounded.  
Hundreds of thousands of Americans emotionally traumatized.  
Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi people killed.  
One can only imagine how many wounded.**

**Empire does not have any checks and balances.  
Empire is just Empire.**

**As George Bush said on July 2, 2003:  
"Bring 'Em On"**

**America,  
you are dying.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71**

July 19, 2007

Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: ([hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)

## ***July 19, 1958: Honorable Anniversary*** **The First Instance Of A Sit-In To Protest Segregation**

Carl Bunin Peace History July 16-22

Several black teenagers, members of the local NAACP chapter (National Association of Colored People), entered downtown Wichita's Dockum Drug Store (then the largest drug store chain in Kansas) and sat down at the lunch counter.

The store refused to serve them because of their race. They returned at least twice a week for the next several weeks. They sat quietly all afternoon, creating no disturbance, but refused to leave without being served. Though the police once chased them away, they were breaking no law, only a store policy.

**This was the first instance of a sit-in to protest segregationist policies.**

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## **Debate: Comment And Reply**

From: Rob Brixey  
To: GI Special  
Sent: July 12, 2007

Please forward this to Doug Anderson, or print it, so he can read my response.

Thanks. I like your publication, discourse is a good thing.

\*\*\*\*\*

**[Robert Brixby replies here to a letter published in GI Special 5D26 4.27.07 by Doug Anderson which criticized Brixby's views. The contents of the original letter, from Doug Anderson, are shown in italics. The reply from Robert Brixby is in plain text. Both are veterans. T]**

Re: Doug Anderson of Connecticut:



*Dear Robert Brixby. You will note that G.I. Special has printed your letter. This is something that I daresay you would not do for G.I. Special, had you the power over their 1st Amendment rights.*

I don't publish any newspapers, but I have served in the armed forces, defending all Constitutional Rights of all Americans. Including free speech and a free press.

*There is nothing "traitorous" about what this website, and its contributors, are doing.*

Advocating withdrawal from a war in which the leader of Al Qaeda, Al Zawahiri, has claimed as the battleground of Jihad between radical Islam extremists and the US (which includes you and your family) is, indeed traitorous. Which US city would you require attacked, PRIOR to you agreeing that this enemy must be destroyed? The way I was raised made me intolerant of attacks upon the US. Notice I said nothing about you or the writers of this website – personally. I described the act of advocating Al Qaeda's objectives as traitorous. Every American is entitled to an opinion. Particularly veterans such as you and I.

*It is simply giving voice to people who might otherwise be drowned out by the Bush/Rove propaganda machine.*

*They are publishing in support of people who have been betrayed by the most venal government the country has ever had.*

*How would you like to have had your tour extended 2 or 3 times, long after it was discovered that Bush lied about the pretext of the war?*

In 1979, I was extended in the Persian Gulf. The Iran Hostage crisis developed, I spent 410 days out. 355 days in the Indian Ocean. It sucked, but I signed up for it. Truthfully, had we attacked Iran outright at that time, instead of wasting a year of mealy mouth Carter diplomacy, the hostages would have been released much sooner. The inauguration of Ronald Reagan coincided with the release of the hostages.

In my opinion, there is a security issue, but no false pretext about the Iraq War. I am almost certain that Weapons of Mass Destruction were in Iraq after 1979. If you remember, Iraq and Iran had a bloody border war going on for years. The US played Iraq against Iran back in that era.

I hate to admit, Saddam Hussein was supported by the US military in those days. George H W Bush was Director of the CIA until 1977. He would have had the most detailed levels of clearance to know what weapons were provided. W should have just shown the damn shipping papers and made Saddam fess up. Saddam used chemical weapons on his own people. In Gulf War I, Israelis wore gas masks after Scud missiles landed without exploding. Aerosol dispersion weapons not explode, they spray.

Our own GIs were exposed to something in Iraq back then. Oil well fires produce massive smoke, which can foul chemical warfare detectors. The smoke plumes may have carried chemical aerosols in them. I know some Gulf War I veterans who have suffered unexplained medical complications.

I don't know that US provided WMDs to Iraq for a fact, I do know for a fact that we made materiel shipments to Iraq during my tour in the Persian Gulf.

*You simply don't know the facts. You have, in fact, been brain washed.*

I know a whole lot of facts. Your statement sounds more like a personal attack, or ad hominem attack, rather than a coherent argument on an issue.

*Unexamined patriotism is just another form of stupidity. You must be an easy target for used car salesmen.*

*By the way, how did you do your tour in the Persian Gulf?*

*On a ship?*

*Chipping paint?*

On a ship? Yes. Chipping paint? No. I was an Electronics Technician / Reactor Operator / Propulsion Plant Supervisor, NEC 3393.

You can look up my name, Robyn Brixey, on military.com and see my NEC classification. I served on nuclear cruisers and aircraft carriers.

*If you're wondering about my credentials, I am a former combat corpsman who did his time in Vietnam and received a purple heart.*

Congratulations on your achievement and thanks for your service.

*Let me suggest that you go somewhere and get real.*

I am as real as it gets.

*PS this is my own opinion, and not necessarily that of G.I. Special.  
Doug Anderson  
Connecticut*

### **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 REPORT**

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



A foreign occupation soldier from the U.S. soldier searches an Iraqi citizen's house after a night home invasion in the town of Al-Meshahda, 32 miles north of Baghdad, June 11, 2007. REUTERS/Goran Tomasevic (IRAQ)

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?]**

**"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."**

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

# Trench Proposed Around Kirkuk [This Insane Bullshit Is Back Again]

July 18, 2007 By Tina Susman, L.A. Times Staff Writer

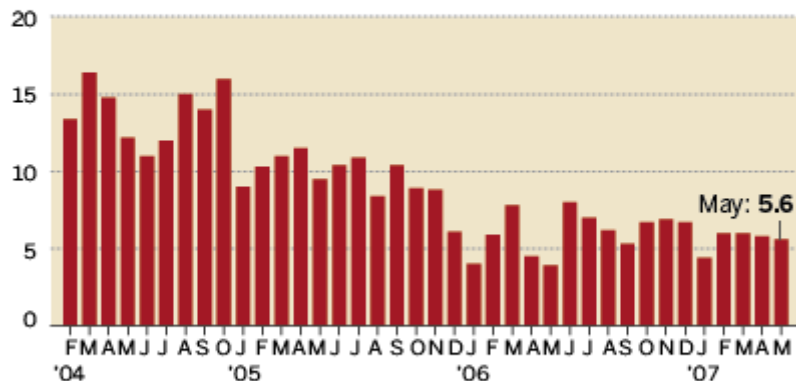
U.S. and Iraqi officials Tuesday announced a ban on truck traffic into Kirkuk and proposed digging a trench around the northern city, where a series of bombs killed at least 76 people a day earlier.

## “Daily Production Still Is Below Prewar Levels Of About 4,000 Megawatts A Day”

### Living without lights

Unreliable electricity service remains a fact of life in Iraq more than four years after the U.S.-led invasion. Average hours of electricity a day in Baghdad have fluctuated:

Estimated prewar level: 16-24 hours a day



Note: Data not available March, April 2003; average 4-8 hours in May 2003; not available June 2003-January 2004 and November, December 2004

Source: Brookings Institution

Los Angeles Times

July 18, 2007 By Tina Susman, L.A. Times Staff Writer

Daily production still is below prewar levels of about 4,000 megawatts a day. Demand is between 8,500 and 9,000 megawatts daily.

If anything is seen as symbolic of the United States' failure to deliver on its promise that life would be better without Saddam Hussein, it is the lack of reliable electricity. And as Iraqis endure their fifth blazing summer without sufficient power, it is no surprise that resentment toward American forces remains fierce.

To outsiders, Iraqi complaints about power shortages might seem trivial in comparison with bombings, sectarian violence and political inertia. But during summer in Iraq, where the temperature rarely falls below 100 even at night, not being able to run an air conditioner or fan is an infuriating misery on top of the other indignities Iraqis have suffered since the war began.

In the summer, many who don't have power sleep on their roofs, where desert breezes offer some relief. In the open air, though, they are vulnerable to stray bullets and gunfire from U.S. helicopters engaged in combat operations.

**They might also be mistaken for insurgents and fired on if they are spotted creeping around on rooftops.**

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

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

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

<http://www.williambowles.info/gispecial/2006/index.html>;

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

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

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

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