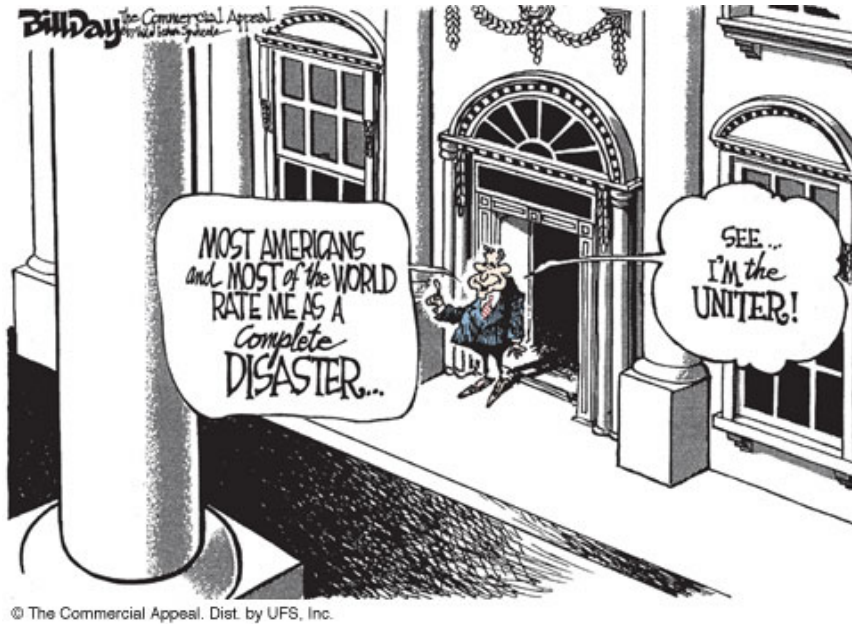


GI SPECIAL 5G9:



The General Fears His Army: The Most Important Three Sentences Of The Year, So Far:

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

Jun. 28, 2007 By JOE KLEIN, Time [Excerpt]

There is another clock, not often mentioned, that sits in the Pentagon. It is the Broken Army clock, the service timeline for an exhausted force.

Petraeus and his staff were deeply concerned when rumors of another tour extension, from the current 15 months for soldiers, spread in mid-June.

"It would be a last resort," Secretary of Defense Robert Gates told reporters — but troop morale is so iffy that [General] Petraeus quietly urged his commanders to "get the word out" to their soldiers that the extension rumors were false.

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

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:. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

California Soldier Killed In Iraq



Spc. Roberto Causor Jr., 21, of San Jose, Calif., was killed July 7, 2007, after a bomb went off near his patrol in Iraq. Causor was an automatic rifleman with the 2nd Battalion,

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team with the 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg. (AP Photo/via U.S. Army)

Arkansas Soldier Killed In Baghdad



Spc. Jeremy L. Stacey, 23, of Bismarck, Ark., died July 5, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/U.S. Army)

Maine Soldier Killed In Iraq



U.S. Army Pfc. Jason Dore, a soldier from western Maine, died July 8, 2007, from injuries sustained in a roadside bomb in Iraq. He is the third soldier from Maine to die in a month. (AP Photo/Family Photo)

U.S. Military Member Killed In Attack On Green Zone, Two More Wounded [Freaky Maliki Gets A Reply To His Message]

7.10.07 AP & Reuters

A thunderous barrage of mortars or rockets killed at least three people and wounded 18 in the Green Zone on Tuesday, the U.S. Embassy said. One of the dead was an American service member.

At about 4:15 p.m. an estimated 30 mortars and rockets were fired at the compound, which houses the Iraqi government and US embassy. It was one of the biggest barrages ever against the heavily fortified zone.

A U.S. Embassy statement said the dead included one U.S. military member, an Iraqi and a person of unknown nationality.

The 18 wounded included five Americans — two military and three contract employees — the embassy statement said.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki warned insurgents a week ago to stop firing rockets and mortar rounds into the Green Zone, which houses the U.S. Embassy and several other foreign missions along with some key Iraqi government offices and the Iraqi parliament.

MORE:

Notes From A Lost War:

**Futile Search For Mortar Teams
Attacking Green Zone Goes
Nowhere At All:
“Many Iraqis Still Regard The
Americans As The Aggressors And
Shield The Mortar Teams”**

Then, just as they are spotted, one produces a rocket-propelled grenade and fires it so close to our vehicle that it forces the gunner, Sergeant Fred Pedro, to duck. It is the militants' way of delivering their own message: don't come hunting in our neighbourhoods.

July 8, 2007 Peter Beaumont, The Observer [Excerpts]

In the still of Baghdad's hot midnight, among thick palm groves that line the Diala river to the city's south, the sound of helicopters strafing the tree line a few hundred metres distant seems sickeningly close.

The Apache gunships are invisible except for the bright commas of gunfire that appear for the briefest of moments. The noise catches up, an ugly bass drilling sound that jars even the US soldiers in their vehicles and uniforms marked to be visible from the air.

It is not quite random firing into the farmland and groves.

It is a calling card to the mortar teams who use these secluded spots to fire into the distant Green Zone. An hour or so earlier, it was artillery firing out of one of the forward operating bases, the explosions echoing among the tall, spare trees.

'It is like searching for a needle in a haystack,' says Lieutenant Johnathan Lee of the 2/17 Field Artillery, leading a patrol of Humvee vehicles along the small, rough dirt roads that intersect the palm groves in the hope of catching a rocket team in the act of firing.

Lee, 24, is not certain whether the tips are bad intelligence meant as sabotage or simply a rumour that has become inflated in the telling. If mortars are fired, he explains politely to any Iraqis he encounters, the gun crews will detect the source and fire back. Then there is the risk that civilians will be hurt.

The alternative, he says, is to tell his forces when the mortar teams are in the area. Then life will improve.

But many Iraqis still regard the Americans as the aggressors and shield the mortar teams.

It is dangerous for the American soldiers to linger too long after dark on their anti-mortar and rocket patrols. The night before it had been a different neighbourhood, Zafraniya, where we had been searching for the mortar teams, not in the woods this time but in an area of rough, dusty football pitches enclosed by poor housing on all sides.

A few men appear through a set of double doors in a nearby alley. At first it appears that they are hanging out like so many do in Iraq's high summer - so often lacking in electricity and therefore air-conditioning - when only the night is bearable for sitting out and talking.

Then, just as they are spotted, one produces a rocket-propelled grenade and fires it so close to our vehicle that it forces the gunner, Sergeant Fred Pedro, to duck.

It is the militants' way of delivering their own message: don't come hunting in our neighbourhoods.

A little later several mortars land at the nearby US base at Rustamiya from one of Zafraniya's neighbourhoods - or muhallas.

'We patrol the scrubland. Then they fire from inside muhallas,' says an exasperated Captain Dave Smith, who is responsible for liaising with the local neighbourhood council. He grabs a phone and begins the process of calling each of the council members in the areas from where the mortars came.

One feigns ignorance, saying he was in his house. Another claims he thought the detonations 'were a wedding celebration'.

'We have two enduring operations here,' Smith says. 'They are called Happy Town and Sad Town. Any time we cause any damage with counter fire to mortar launches we go in and assess the damage, test the atmospherics and ask people why they allowed mortars to fire from by their houses. We hand out claim cards and try to placate the locals. That is Happy Town.

In Operation Sad Town, we lock down the neighbourhood. We search houses and wake people up. We put pressure on people. We have the psy-op truck go round broadcasting.

"But there are always people who will just say: "Oh? We didn't hear the explosion when the mortar was launched."

Chicago Soldier Killed In Iraq Explosion

July 09, 2007 By Associated Press

Army Specialist Eric Lill, who was killed in Iraq by an improvised explosive device, was so determined to join the military he wouldn't take no for an answer, his father said Sunday. Lill, 28 was rejected when he initially tried to enlist because he failed to meet physical fitness requirements, said Anthony Lill. But instead of feeling sorry for himself, Lill began exercising more and eating better, and was allowed to enlist in February of 2002."

He worked so hard. He definitely wanted to get in," Anthony Lill said. "He was not going to let the first rejection keep him out of it."

Lill, who was attached to the 2nd Infantry Division based at Ft. Carson, Colo., died Friday in Baghdad following an attack on his vehicle during a patrol, said Anthony Lill, speaking by phone from his home in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. "He was definitely doing what he wanted to do."

Lill grew up in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood and planned to return to area when he was discharged from the Army in June 2008, according to his father. He attended St.

Laurence High School in suburban Burbank and played hockey at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va., where he studied briefly before enlisting.

The recently divorced father of two had helped trained Iraq police officers, Anthony Lill said. This was his second tour of duty in Iraq." He always told us that it was boring

Two U.S. Mercenaries Killed in Iraq

July 10, 2007 (AP)

Huntsville (AP) - The Army said two mercenaries working for a Huntsville-based military unit were killed in Iraq Monday. They died when the vehicle they were riding in was struck by a roadside bomb.

A third mercenary was wounded in the incident.

The mercenaries were employed by the Army's Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville. The center's Coalition Munitions Clearance Program is responsible for handling munitions captured in Iraq.

Marine Dies In Iraq, Beloved In Ringgold



July 2, 2007 WTVG

A Ringgold, Georgia family found out this morning their Marine died in the Iraq war.

Darrell and Kathy Chambers spoke to their son, 20 year old Will Chambers, Saturday night, his last night alive.

His parents choked back tears. His father Darrell recounted their last conversation, "The night before he died." Chambers said. Will Chambers' mother finished his father's

sentence. "He was sitting on the banks of the Euphrates River, talking to us at that point," Kathy Chambers said.

The very next morning, the Marines say Lance Corporal Chamber's boat capsized in the Euphrates River. The Marines delivered the devastating news to his family.

The casualty report stated Chambers was on a combat operation when his boat sunk about 75 feet from the banks of Abul Hyatt...that city is in the Anbar province.

Chambers was in Charlie Company, second battalion, third platoon.

The 2005 graduate of Ringgold High school went into boot camp in January of last year and started his first tour in Iraq this March, according to his mother.

He was the oldest of four children, loved by them and his school.

His mother says the close knit relationship will help heal, "Will was all about family. Him and the other kids was close. It's devastating to all of us. It's a help knowing they loved each other as much as they did."

Lance Corporal Chambers stayed in touch with his favorite teacher, Jeanne Chambers. She (no relation) taught him English in the 11th grade. She described him as 100% Ringgold and representative of many of the men fighting in this war. "Just a young man who loves his community from which he comes, he loves his school. He loves his hometown, he loves his family," Jeanne Chambers said.

His family is awaiting word on when his body will return. They plan to bury him in Ringgold.

Fort Lewis Pilot Dies July 4

July 5, 2007 By MIKE BARBER, P-I REPORTER

A 16-year military veteran who was an Army "Kiowa" helicopter pilot from Fort Lewis died in Iraq on Independence Day when his helicopter struck a power line, the Defense Department said Thursday.

Chief Warrant Officer Scott A.M. Oswell, 33, whose home was listed only as Washington state, was killed in Ninewah province in northern Iraq, military officials reported. One soldier was injured.

Oswell served with the 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Air Cavalry based at the Army post south of Tacoma. The 600-member squadron arrived at Fort Lewis in 2005 and Oswell arrived in August 2006 at Fort Lewis as an instructor pilot.

The squadron, which deployed to Iraq in May, is part of the 4,000-member 4th Stryker Brigade sent to Iraq in April.

A Christian and Missionary Alliance Web site says he is the son-in-law of Fred and Marilyn Smith, missionaries and employees with the organization's national office in Colorado Springs.

Oswell's wife, Sherry, is the couple's daughter. Oswell leaves behind three children ages 13, 11 and 4 as well, the site said.

According to the site, Oswell's co-pilot survived the crash. Funeral arrangements are being made to bury him at Logan Cemetery in Colorado.

Oswell joined the military in 1991 and became an Army warrant officer in 2001, serving at Wheeler Field, Hawaii. By 2005, he was an instructor pilot.

Oswell's many awards indicate he may first have been a Marine, according to military record information shared by Fort Lewis. They include not only a Combat Action Badge and two Air Medals, but Army and Navy unit and individual commendation awards -- including an Army commendation medal with "V" for valor -- and Marine Corps and Army good conduct medals.

Oswell is the 65th member of the U.S. armed forces with ties to Washington state to die in the war in Iraq this year, and the 212th since the war began in March 2003.

Phil Campbell Grad Killed In Iraq

June 29, 2007 Melissa Cason, Franklin County Times

PHIL CAMPBELL - The town of Phil Campbell is mourning the loss of one of its own today as his family in Enterprise makes final preparations for his funeral.

Army Sgt. William Edward Brown, 25, a 2002 graduate of Phil Campbell High School, died Saturday, June 23 as a result of wounds from indirect fire in Taji, Iraq, according to the Associated Press.

Brown joined the United States Army in June 2002, just after graduating high school. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Carson, Colo. at the time of his deployment to Iraq.

This was Brown's second tour of duty in Iraq, and he was scheduled to return the U.S. in September.

He was planning to attend flight school in Enterprise upon his return, and his wife, Rachel, and their two sons, Ethan and Tyler, had already relocated to south Alabama anticipating his return, according to Regina Lollar, Brown's mother-in-law.

"He was a wonderful husband and father," she said. "Even though he's gone, I am glad that he was my daughter's husband."

Brown attended elementary schools in Dothan and Conyers, Ga. before moving to Franklin County as a high school freshman. He finished ninth grade at East Franklin Junior High and played football at Phil Campbell High School.

Today, the Town of Phil Campbell will honor and remember the fallen soldier with a special service at Phil Campbell High School, where he once walked the halls. In addition to the special service, American flags are waving at half-staff throughout the town in memory of Brown

"He was a fine young man, quiet, and easy-going," said Police Chief Merrell Potter, who remembers Brown well.

Brown's body was returned to his family yesterday morning, and funeral services will be held this Sunday with visitation on Saturday evening. He will be buried in Dothan.

Soldiers Say Gen. Betrayus' Idiotic Outpost Plan Turns Out To Provide Less U.S. Troop Presence In Baghdad: "Many Of The Soldiers Interviewed Asked To Speak Anonymously"

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

As a result of the decrease in patrols, some officers say, they are not even able to keep militia elements out of the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the outposts.

07/07/2007 BY JULIAN E. BARNES, LA Times [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The neighborhood outposts that the U.S. military launched with great fanfare in Baghdad early this year were supposed to put more American patrols on the streets and make residents feel safer.

But some soldiers stationed at the posts and Iraqis who live nearby say they are doing the opposite.

Although senior U.S. commanders and midlevel officers say they believe the bases are starting to work, many soldiers stationed at the outposts are doubtful, arguing that the burden of protecting the bases means they spend less time on the streets.

"They say we are spending more time 'in sector,' which we are doing - we live here," said Spc. Tyrone Richardson, 24, a member of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry that operates in the east Baghdad neighborhood of Ubaidi, outside Sadr City.

"But we aren't spending the time patrolling."

Iraqis who live nearby say they feel less safe now, because many of the bases have quickly become magnets for rocket and mortar attacks.

When attacks miss the troops, they often hit Iraqi civilians.

"In my tactical opinion, the combat outpost hasn't worked," said one junior officer stationed in east Baghdad. "It's not a bad idea, but we are doing it wrong. We have a bigger presence but we have less boots on the ground. You only have one platoon that can maneuver tactically at a time."

Many of the soldiers interviewed asked to speak anonymously because senior officers disapprove of noncommissioned officers and junior officers questioning military strategy.

Many of the large bases outside the city are protected by support soldiers or security units, who are not available at the outposts. Before the outposts were created, some companies maintained a constant presence on the streets, having each of their platoons do two eight-hour patrols a day.

"Before, we would do two patrols a day, of six to eight hours a day. There was almost always a patrol on the street. Now we patrol just 12 times in a month," an experienced noncommissioned officer said. "That's not a lot of interaction with the people. And it's problematic if the intent of this strategy is to interact with locals."

As a result of the decrease in patrols, some officers say, they are not even able to keep militia elements out of the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the outposts.

"The Mahdi army goes around to the houses more than we do," said Pfc. John Evans, 21, a member of 1-8 Cavalry's Alpha Company.

"Since they started firing mortar rounds at the outpost, it has become very chaotic," said Ali Bahadli, a clothing salesman in his 20s who lives near the U.S. outpost in the Baladiyat neighborhood of east Baghdad. "When the Americans go out, I say, 'Here comes trouble.'"

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Sauer, the commander of the 1-8 Cavalry, said the benefit of the troops' presence is seen in the increased numbers of warnings of possible roadside bombs and information about suspected insurgents that is being called in to the tip lines.

To some of soldiers, however, the quality of the intelligence feels thin. They say many of the tips are actually traps aimed at hitting them with bombs as they leave the post to check out the information.

**THIS ENVIRONMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR
HEALTH;
COME HOME, NOW**



BAQUBA, Iraq, June 25: To destroy a house rigged with explosives, an air strike was called in and a 500-pound bomb was dropped on the building. Scott Nelson/World Picture Network, for the New York Times

“Attacks On Supply Convoys Have More Than Tripled”

7.9.07 By Jim Michaels, USA TODAY

BAGHDAD — Attacks on supply convoys protected by private security companies in Iraq have more than tripled as the U.S. government depends more on armed civilian guards to secure reconstruction and other missions.

There were 869 such attacks from the beginning of June 2006 to the end of May this year. For the preceding 12 months, there were 281 attacks.

Deaths and injuries increased to 206 from 157 during that same time, according to the Army Corps of Engineers' Logistics Movement Control Center. Most of those convoys carry U.S.-funded reconstruction supplies for the Iraqi government.

Pentagon records show overall attacks on coalition forces rose sharply this year: from roughly 400 a week in February-May 2006 to more than 750 a week in the same period this year.

The U.S. military moves about 3,000 trucks per day in Iraq as part of its supply operations.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Afghan Soldier Kills U.S. Soldier & 3 Local Collaborator Troops At U.S. Base

7.9.07 AP & 10 July 2007 BBC NEWS

A US soldier injured after an Afghan soldier opened fire on Monday at a military base in the western city of Herat has died, the US-led coalition says.

A coalition spokesman said three other Afghan soldiers and a civilian were killed immediately in the shooting.

Twelve others were injured, including the coalition soldier who later died.

Afghan officials say the gunman, who has been arrested, is suspected of links to the Taleban.

Gen. Fazeluddin Sayar, an Afghan commander, said the soldier told authorities he had a dream telling him to start jihad, or holy war.

"That is why I came to kill this American," Sayar quoted the soldier as saying.

Afghan officials say the soldier, who has been arrested, is suspected of links to the Taleban.

7 Foreign Occupation Soldiers Wounded In Dehrawood; Nationality Not Announced

7.10.07 (Thomson Financial)

Seven soldiers with NATO's International Security Assistance Force were wounded, some of them seriously, when a bomber blew himself up near a NATO convoy in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, officials said.

The bomber, who was on foot, blew himself up as a convoy of ISAF troops passed through a bazaar in the town of Dehrawood in the southern province of Uruzgan, provincial police chief General Mohammad Qasem told Agence France-Presse.

Dehrawood is a small town about 400 km southwest of the capital Kabul. Subhanullah said the targeted convoy drove off without stopping but returned later with Afghan security forces to investigate.

The NATO-led force does not release the nationalities of its casualties and would not confirm that the blast was in Uruzgan, where most ISAF troops are Australian or Dutch.

Five Foreign Occupation Soldiers Wounded In Kunar; Nationality Not Announced

7.9.07 AP

In the east, insurgents fired mortars at a village in Kunar province, wounding five NATO soldiers, a NATO statement said Monday.

NATO did not release the nationalities of the wounded soldiers, but most of the troops in that region are American.

Assorted Resistance Action

7.9.07 AP

In the south, Taliban fighters ambushed a police patrol over the weekend, and the subsequent battle left six police dead, said Kandahar provincial police chief Sayed Agha Saqib. Several police are missing.

Saqib said "a large number" of Taliban launched the attack, but he didn't give numbers.

Elsewhere in Kandahar province, Taliban fighters beheaded two spies for the government or NATO.

TROOP NEWS

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



A member of the U.S. Army honor guards stands alongside the plot of Army Sgt 1st Class Greg Sutton during his burial service at Arlington National Cemetery June 20, 2007. Sutton, 38, died on June 6 after his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad. REUTERS/Jason Reed (UNITED STATES)

56% Of Americans “Would Like To See Most Combat Troops Out Of Iraq By Early Next Year”

Jul 9 By Howard LaFranchi, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

A survey by the Rasmussen Reports polling group, conducted last week, found that 53 percent of Americans fault the Democrats for not doing "enough to change President Bush's policies on Iraq."

At the same time, 56 percent said they would like to see most combat troops out of Iraq by early next year.

**Reservist Fighting Fifth War
Call-Up;
After Serving In Afghanistan And
Three Times In Iraq, Army Reserve
Sgt. Sues To Stop Another
Deployment;
“This Is An Arbitrary Decision By The
Army Human Resources Command With
No Rational Basis”**



Erik Botta is an Army Reservist who has done four combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is now being called for a fifth tour. CARL JUSTE / MIAMI HERALD STAFF

Jul. 08, 2007 BY AMY DRISCOLL, Miami Herald Media Co. [Excerpts]

PORT ST. LUCIE -- Erik Botta believes he's done right by his country.

Days after 9/11, as a young Army reservist, he volunteered to go to war. He was soon in Afghanistan.

The next year, he was sent out again, this time to Iraq, part of a Special Operations team.

In the next two years, he was sent to Iraq again. And again.

He thought he was done. But now, the Army wants Sgt. Botta one more time.

The 26-year-old Port St. Lucie man has been ordered to report to Fort Jackson, S.C., on July 15 for his fifth deployment.

And that has compelled Botta, a first-generation American who counts himself a quiet patriot, to do something he never thought he'd do: sue the Army.

"I'm proud of my service," he said. "I never wanted it to end like this."

Nearly seven years into his eight-year commitment to the reserves, the personal costs are higher for Botta.

He could lose his home. His job at Sikorsky, working on the Black Hawk military helicopter, could be on the line. He's halfway to his electrical engineering degree, planning a career in defense work, but his professors say he'll suffer a significant setback if he is deployed.

He doesn't mention the danger another deployment would bring, but his wife and parents do.

"I'm proud of being in the Army," he said. "They taught me responsibility. They taught me maturity. And they gave me a good toolbox of technical skills to work with. I think I'd be more valuable to my country at this point by being here, getting my degree and working at Sikorsky."

In a lawsuit he expects to file this week in federal court in Florida, Botta says he will ask for an exemption or delay so that he can complete his engineering studies. He will also ask the court to prevent the Army from requiring him to report for duty until the legal questions are settled.

His attorney, Mark Waple -- a West Point graduate and former military judge advocate who practices in Fayetteville, N.C. -- says Botta's case shows that the Army is inconsistent in its decisions when selecting reservists for involuntary mobilization, over and over.

"This is an arbitrary decision by the Army Human Resources Command with no rational basis," Waple said.

Deployment now would mean that he could no longer afford his house -- his wife would probably have to move in with her parents. Plans to start a family would be on hold. He would probably have to repeat some engineering courses after his return, and he might even lose the job he just landed about a month ago. Previously, he worked at Pratt & Whitney in the Joint Strike Fighter and Raptor engine programs. "This is no peace protester," Waple said. "I wouldn't have touched this case with a 10-foot pole if it was. He's put the boots on and been in combat."

Although Botta knew there was a risk that he would be called to duty again, he assumed that it was very slight, given his four combat deployments, pursuit of an engineering degree and employment with military contractors, he said.

"The world pretty much stopped when I got the notice," said Botta, weighing each word. "I've sacrificed a lot for the military. I didn't want to end with litigation, but I feel I've done my service to my country. I've done what I signed up for in more ways than one."

The Army doesn't agree. It turned down one appeal, with another pending but unofficially denied. Last year, it granted Botta a 287-day delay, pushing his deployment date to this month, after an inquiry by U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla.

"This is something we're starting to see more of," Bryan Gulley, Nelson's spokesman, said about repeat deployments. "It's one of the reasons Nelson has been saying we have to stop relying so heavily on the Guard and the Reserve."

Under his current reporting date, he might not even complete the semester; classes end in August.

Attorney Waple says the Army has granted an exemption in at least one similar case, in 2005. A 24-year-old North Carolina enlisted Army reservist with two combat tours under his belt -- in Iraq and Kosovo -- was involuntarily mobilized while attending community college in Raleigh, pursuing a degree in chemical engineering.

He had completed five of his eight years in the service, Waple said. The man's first appeal was denied, but after Waple filed a second appeal, he was given an exemption and honorably discharged, Waple said.

Botta's case may be even stronger. He has completed more years of service and more combat tours, has a job in the defense industry while pursuing his engineering degree, and was granted a 287-day delay already, Waple noted.

Botta has tried hard to avoid a suit, Waple said, filing every appeal available within the Army's justice system. Botta and his wife have sent letters to everyone from Sen. Nelson to the White House. His professors and employers have sent letters, too, on his behalf.

"It's an awkward thing for any serviceman," Waple said. "He has a very strong sense of responsibility and duty to serve."

In his own letters to the Army, Botta notes that he is attending school on the GI Bill, maintaining a 3.9 grade-point average, and is grateful that he can use his Army skills in his work with military contractors.

"If I was to go back to the Army at this juncture in my life, I could very well lose my house and be in considerable debt for years to come," Botta wrote. "I am proud of the fact that I can still continue to serve my country with the knowledge that I have acquired from the U.S. Army."

The Army's response during the appeals, Botta said, has been "minimal communication."

Carlos Botta, his father, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Argentina, said he applauded his son's military service -- until now. "He served in Afghanistan. He served three times in Iraq. The odds are getting slimmer and slimmer for him. He might get hurt. Don't you think he has served the country enough already?"

Botta's wife, Jennifer, who married him between Iraq stints, said she can't face the idea of his returning to combat. Losing their house, painful as that would be, is the least of her worries.

“He's been over there four times. There's only so many times you can go over without something happening . . .” Her voice trailed off.

During his deployments, she said, she would watch television news reports about bombings and then count the hours until he called. “My cellphone was in my hand 24 hours a day,” she said. “I never let it go.”

For Erik Botta, who keeps his hair military-short, the last few months have played out as a struggle between his battle-hardened loyalty to the Army and an abiding sense of what's right.

“We were in a wartime situation,” he said. “I did what they asked me to do. I went over and did it. And then when I was leaving, they told me I could leave. They told me to get on with my life, and I did. Now it seems they've changed their mind.”

But he doesn't regret his service -- at all. “I'm proud to be in the Army, and I'm proud -- cheesy as it might sound -- I'm proud to be an American.”

Bush Traitors Oppose Equalizing Combat And Dwell Time, Again

July 09, 2007 By Rick Maze, Army Times [Excerpts]

A freshman senator and combat veteran vows to do what he says active-duty military leaders should have done long ago: Set a rotation schedule for combat that guarantees at least as much time at home as in the war zone.

The 1-to-1 rotation plan would apply to all the services, although it is mostly aimed at Army and Marine Corps ground troops.

“If we want to be honest about the best way to support our troops, we can start with the rotation policy,” said Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., a decorated Marine veteran of the Vietnam War, best-selling author of books about wartime valor and courage, and former Navy secretary.

On behalf of Senate Democrats, Webb is pushing an amendment to the 2008 defense budget to guarantee more time at home — “dwell time” — for combat troops.

Webb said his amendment is simple.

“Basically, it says you cannot send anyone back unless they have been home as long as they were gone, unless they want to go back -- you could volunteer,” he said.

“If you were deployed for 12 months, you get 12 months at home. If you were deployed for seven months, you get seven months at home. If you were gone 15 months, you get 15 months at home.”

While he calls his proposal simple, such deployment restrictions have been opposed by the Bush administration, and this plan could hold up passage of the defense budget.

Webb said he began working on the proposal after President Bush vetoed the 2007 war funding bill earlier this year because it included several deployment restrictions, including limits on tour lengths, restrictions on deploying anyone who wasn't fully trained and equipped, and a similar promise of a 1-to-1 deployment-to-dwell-time ratio.

White House officials cited the deployment limits, whose chief sponsor was another former Marine, Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., chairman of the House defense appropriations panel, as part of the reason for the veto.

Iraq Veterans Against The War: Chicago Fundraiser July 14



**Saturday, July 14, 2007
from 6:00pm to 11:59pm**

**ACME Artworks
1741 N. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL**

Listen - React - Act:

A fundraiser, an action, and a dance party for Iraq Veterans Against the War.

10 dollar suggested donation (no one will be refused)

Come out to...

- Listen to Iraq Veteran's perspectives on why the war in Iraq is wrong and how to build a

movement to end it.

- Participate in a performances and art project for peace.
- Dance to a DJ with Iraq Veterans Against the War and other local activists
- Get involved with IVAW and learn about future actions.

Aaron Hughes: Contact e-mail: chicago@ivaw.org

Army Misses Recruit Target For Second Straight Month

7.10.07 (Reuters)

The U.S. Army, strained by the war in Iraq, fell nearly 1,400 recruits short in June, the Pentagon said on Tuesday, marking the second straight month the military's largest branch missed its target for new soldiers.

The active-duty Army recruited 7,031 soldiers in June, missing its goal of 8,400. That followed a shortfall in May, when the Army signed up 5,101 recruits, below its goal of 5,500.

Defense officials, speaking on Monday ahead of the release of the June figures, called the Army's shortfall troubling. June is typically a strong recruiting month, given the timing of high school graduation in the United States. Pentagon polling data has shown parental support for recruitment has declined.

If the downward trend continues at current rates, the Army could miss its annual target of 80,000 new soldiers for the current fiscal year, ending September 30.

The Army last missed annual recruiting goals in fiscal years 2005 and 1999.

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**THE FUSE IS LIT;
THE COUNTDOWN IS ON:**

[GET OUT ALIVE WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME]



A man holds handcuffs left behind by U.S. military after an overnight raid in Amil neighborhood in Baghdad July 8, 2007. Over 15 people were arrested in the raid including Jassim al-Hasnawi, the head of a local office of a radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. (AP Photo/Fadhil Maliki)

Assorted Resistance Action

08 Jul 2007 Reuters & (KUNA) & 7.9.07 & 10 Jul 2007 Reuters & AP & AFP

The bodies of an Iraqi couple employed by the U.S. embassy in Baghdad who were captured in May were found, a U.S. official said on Sunday.

Two members of the Mosul Municipal Council were killed Sunday by guerrillas, police sources said. The sources told KUNA the attackers opened fire at the car in which the two members, Khalaf Jazaa and Ibrahim Mohammad Omar, were in and killed them instantly. The attack took place in the western part of the city.

Insurgents killed two policemen and two Iraqi soldiers in an ambush as they responded to a bomb tip-off in the Sunni district of Adhamiya, police said.

A roadside bomb killed nine Iraqi soldiers and wounded 20 others as they travelled in a truck near the town of Balad in Salahuddin province, police said.

Guerrillas killed five Iraqi soldiers and wounded three others when they attacked a military checkpoint near Samarra, 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A ROADSIDE bomb killed nine Iraqi soldiers and wounded 20 others in northern Iraq today. Police said the bomb exploded as the soldiers were passing by in a truck near the town of Balad in Salahuddin province.

Guerrillas killed three policemen and wounded another officer at a fake checkpoint near Balad, 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents killed two policemen and two Iraqi soldiers in an ambush as they responded to a bomb tip-off in the Sunni district of Adhamiya, police said.

Guerrillas captured army Brigadier-General Abdul Razaq Asel, director of a joint security centre in the northern city of Mosul, while he was visiting his family in the Adhamiya district in Baghdad on Monday, police said.

A bomber pedalled between two police trucks, detonating his suicide vest and lightly wounding one police officer and damaging one window of the police vehicle. The wounded police officer was taken to Fallujah hospital for treatment. The bomber died in the explosion.

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

Resistance Attacks On Oil Industry Up Sharply In 2007

July 09, 2007 Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- The Iraqi oil industry was subjected to nearly 160 attacks by insurgents and saboteurs last year, killing and wounding dozens of employees and reducing exports by some 400,000 barrels a day, Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani said Monday.

Al-Shahristani said Iraq's oil production during the fiscal year that ended on July 1 averaged 1.964 million barrels a day, compared with 1.853 million barrels a day the year before. He added that exports stood at an average of 1.552 million barrels a day, up from 1.407 million barrels a day in the previous year.

Al-Shahristani said the pipeline that carries oil from northern Iraqi oil fields to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan was hit several times and did not function for most of the year.

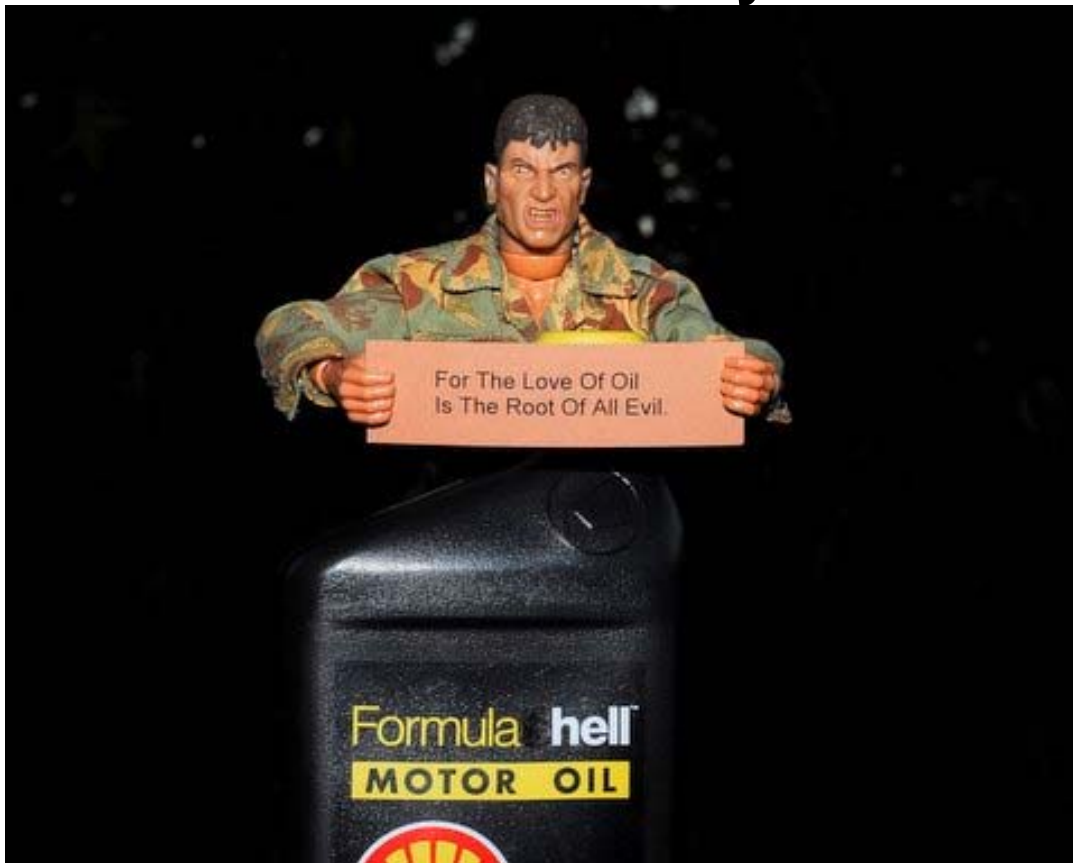
Al-Shahristani said that 198 Oil Ministry employees had been killed and 124 wounded by violence in the past years.

He said that in 2006, the industry was subjected to 159 attacks, down from 170 attacks the year before. He said the industry suffered 104 attacks in the first half of this year "and if they continue at the same level they will surpass 200" by the end of the year.

He said that in addition to attacks on pipelines and ministry employees, there were major fires in three oil wells.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Here Rests In Deadly Deceit



From: Mike Hastie
To: GI Special
Sent: July 09, 2007
Subject: Here Rests In Deadly Deceit

**Here Rests In Deadly Deceit, An
American Soldier Who Died For**

OIL.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
July 8 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) T)

OCCUPATION REPORT

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



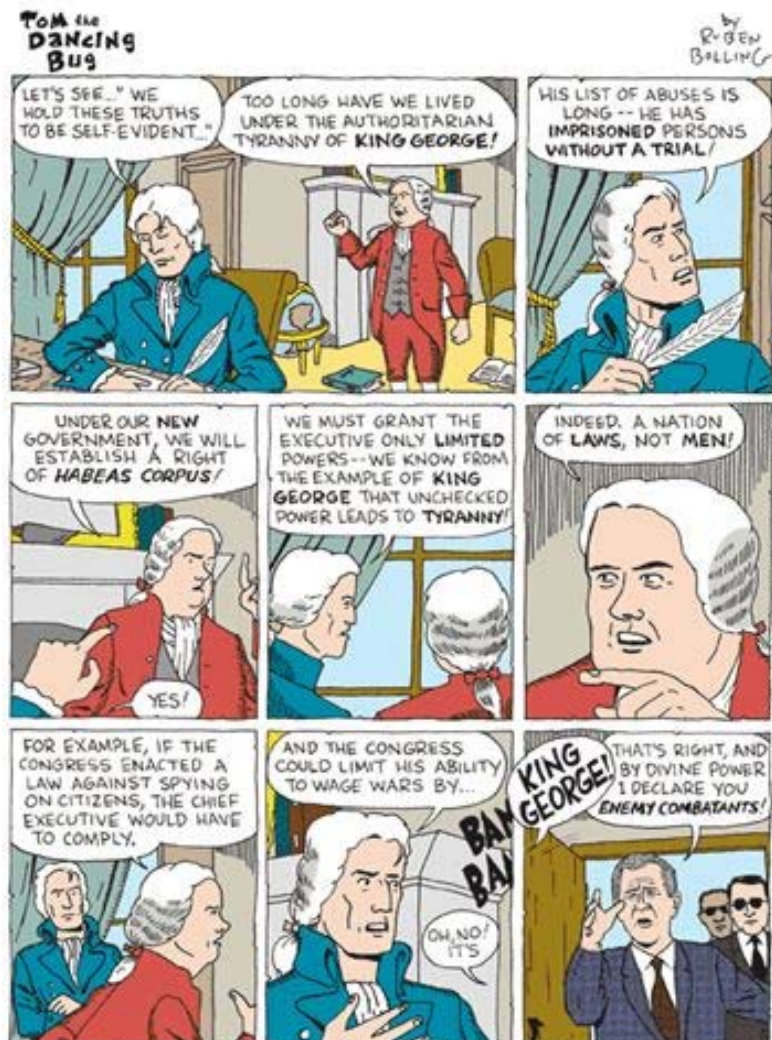
Foreign occupation soldiers of the US Marines 2/6 Battallion, Echo Company check the identity of an Iraqi family after invading their home during a night raid in Fallujah 14 May 2007. (AFP/Roslan Rahman)

[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."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



Imperial Democrat Reid Announces Plan To Leave “Tens Of Thousands” Of U.S. Troops To Die In Iraq: “Reid Reminded Reporters Monday, When He Says ‘Responsibly End This War’ He Does Not Mean ‘Withdraw All U.S. Troops From Iraq’”

July 10, 2007 By Tom Curry, National affairs writer, MSNBC [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON - The momentum in Congress seems to be shifting in favor of withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

“A growing number of Republicans who are now speaking against the failed strategy in Iraq, and that’s good,” Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid told reporters, referring to senators such as Snowe.

But, as Reid reminded reporters Monday, when he says “responsibly end this war” he does not mean “withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq.”

Reid noted that even the measure he co-sponsored with Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., calling on Bush to pull most troops out by next April would permit many soldiers to stay in Iraq.

“Understand even if you take (the) Feingold-Reid (proposal), Feingold-Reid called for American troops to remain in Iraq to do counterterrorism, to protect our assets in Iraq, to train the Iraqis,” Reid explained.

“There’s estimates that that would still leave tens of thousands of troops in Iraq.”

On Tuesday, Reid, along with Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., proposed an amendment to the defense authorization bill requiring reduction in the number of U.S. forces in Iraq to begin within 120 days.

Their amendment did not specify how big a reduction.

So the Senate consensus this week is building for partial withdrawal of American forces, with the remaining troops — the exact number unspecified by senators who speak on the topic — garrisoned inside U.S. bases in Iraq.

SOLDIER-KILLER DOMESTIC ENEMY DESPICABLE PIECE OF SHIT



varifrank.com/images/Preacher_Reid.jpg

WANTED FOR THE MURDER OF U.S. TROOPS AND CITIZENS OF IRAQ: THE TRAITOR REID

How It Is

July 6, 2007 Columnist Eugene Robinson, Washington Post

'Let's put this in perspective.

Martha Stewart is convicted of conspiracy, making false statements and obstruction of justice, and soon she's decorating a prison cell.

Lil' Kim is convicted of perjury before a grand jury and conspiracy, and off to the big house she goes.

Paris Hilton commits a crime that could be described as "driving while blond, vapid and obnoxious," and next thing you know she's freaking out in solitary confinement.

'But when Scooter Libby is found guilty of perjury before a grand jury, lying to FBI investigators and obstruction of justice -- basically the same crimes that got Stewart and Lil' Kim locked up, and miles beyond anything Hilton ever did -- George W. Bush intervenes to save him from the indignity of spending a single night behind bars.

No home confinement, no ankle bracelet, nothing. Now that he's paid his \$250,000 fine, Scooter is free to scoot on with his life.

'What led us to this point -- when a lifestyle maven, a bling-bedecked rapper and a table-dancing celebrity are held more accountable than a powerful member of the White House inner circle who functioned as Dick Cheney's right-hand man -- was an abuse, or at least a misuse, of presidential power.'



7/5

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