

**GI SPECIAL 5119:**



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**5% Of Americans Trust  
Bush On War  
But Don't Worry:  
Imperial Democrats Will Keep  
The Blood Spilling**

September 16, 2007 By FRANK RICH, NY Times [Excerpt]

Though the latest New York Times-CBS News poll finds that only 5 percent trust the president to wrap up the war, the figure for the (barely) Democratic-controlled Congress, 21 percent, is an almost-as-resounding vote of no confidence.

Last week Democrats often earned that rating, especially those running for president.

Few used their time to cross-examine General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker on their disingenuous talking points, choosing instead to regurgitate stump sentiments or ask uncoordinated, redundant questions.

It's telling that the one question that drew blood - are we safer? - was asked by a Republican, John Warner, who is retiring from the Senate.

**LIAR  
SOLDIER-KILLER  
DOMESTIC ENEMY  
DESPICABLE PIECE OF SHIT**



REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

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

**LIAR  
SOLDIER-KILLER  
DOMESTIC ENEMY  
DESPICABLE PIECE OF SHIT**



[varifrank.com/images/Preacher\\_Reid.jpg](http://varifrank.com/images/Preacher_Reid.jpg)

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

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# **WANTED FOR THE MURDER OF U.S. TROOPS AND CITIZENS OF IRAQ: THE TRAITOR PELOSI**

**MORE:**

## **RUB THEIR FUCKING FACES IN IT: Democrats Have Enough Votes To End The War Now**

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

Sep 13, 2007 FAIR [Excerpts]

Following a pattern set when Congress passed supplemental funding for the Iraq War last May (FAIR Media Advisory, 6/1/07), major media outlets continued to “explain” the politics of the war in incomplete and misleading ways.

The point made by these media outlets again and again is that the Democrats have little power to affect policy in Iraq because it would be difficult to pass legislation over a potential Republican filibuster, and even harder to pass a bill over a presidential veto.

This sentiment is also voiced by many Democratic politicians, many of whom consider themselves opponents of the war.

But passing a filibuster- or veto-proof bill is not their only option.

As the Washington Post’s Shailagh Murray and Dan Balz (9/10/07) put it: “Because of a Senate rule requiring 60 votes to shut off debate and 67 votes to overturn a veto, (Senate Majority Leader Harry) Reid faced an almost impossible challenge. Even if all his troops stood together, he started with just 49 votes.”

Newsweek’s Howard Fineman declared that the Democrats’ powerlessness was built into the constitutional system on NBC’s Chris Matthews Show (9/2/07):

“Politically, what the president has been trying to do is to keep discipline among the Republicans because as long as he can keep most of the Republicans in the Senate, in the House with him, there’s no way to overturn the policy because of the way the Constitution reads.... I hate to keep coming back to the Constitution. Sixty votes to stop a filibuster, 67 to overturn a presidential veto in the Senate.”

**This sort of analysis was used to explain the Democrats’ need to compromise with Republicans, watering down a firm withdrawal date in the hopes of winning bipartisan support.**

This approach was endorsed in an Associated Press report (9/11/07) by Matthew Lee:

“If Republican support for the war holds, as it might for now, Democrats would have to soften their approach if they want to pass an anti-war proposal. But they remain under substantial pressure by voters and politically influential anti-war groups to settle for nothing less than ordering troop withdrawals or cutting off money for the war--legislation that has little chances of passing.”

**The problem with all these accounts is that Congress does not have to pass legislation to bring an end to the war in Iraq--it simply has to block passage of any bill that would continue to fund the war.**

**This requires not 67 or 60 Senate votes, or even 51, but just 41--the number of senators needed to maintain a filibuster and prevent a bill from coming up for a vote.**

**In other words, the Democrats have more than enough votes to end the Iraq War--if they choose to do so.**

**The Democratic leadership may believe--rightly or wrongly--that such a strategy would entail unacceptable political costs. But that’s very different from being unable to affect policy.**

**To insist, as many media outlets have, that the Constitution makes it impossible for Congress to stop the war obscures the actual choices facing the nation--by confusing “can’t” with “won’t.”**

**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.**

**IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

## **Three U.S. Soldiers Killed In Diyala, Three More Wounded**

September 18, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070918-06

TIKRIT, Iraq – Three Task Force Lightning Soldiers were killed in Diyala Province, Tuesday, following an explosion near their patrol.

Three Soldiers were also wounded and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

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## **U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad**

September 19, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070919-06

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed during a small arms fire attack while conducting combat operations in a southern section of the Iraqi capital Sept. 18.

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## **U.S. Soldier Killed By Something Or Other Somewhere Or Other In Iraq**

9/18/07 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070919-09

BAGHDAD — A Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldier was killed during combat operations in an area west of the Iraqi capital Sep 19.

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## **Vehicle Wreck Kills U.S. Soldier In Nineveh**

09/18/07 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

A Task Force Lightning Soldier died in a vehicle accident in Nineveh province on Tuesday. The incident is currently under investigation.

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# **U.S. Soldier Dead From “Non-Battle Related Cause” In Salah Ad Din**

9/18/07 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070919-10

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Task Force Lightning Soldier died of a non-battle related cause, Wednesday, in Salah ad Din Province.

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## **Chapel Hill Soldier Killed In 4th Deployment; “He Didn’t Want To Be There”**

Sep 09, 2007 Marlon A. Walker, Staff Writer; The News & Observer

CHAPEL HILL - Lee E. Wilson said his son, Lee C. Wilson, looked forward to a two-week beach trip when he returned to the United States after more than a year in Iraq.

Christian, as the family called the younger Wilson, won't get to take that trip.

The 30-year-old Army sergeant died Thursday when a bomb detonated near his vehicle during combat operations in Mosul. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat team, 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Two others in the vehicle -- Cpl. Jason J. Hernandez, 21, of Streetsboro, Ohio, and Spc. Thomas L. Hilbert, 20, of Venus, Texas -- died the next day.

“We always talked about what he was going to do when he got out,” the elder Wilson said late Saturday night. “He didn’t want to be there.”

The elder Wilson said his son, who attended Chapel Hill High School, spent a few years doing security before joining the Army.

“He always liked to be outside,” Wilson said. “He’d been thinking about the Army.”

Christian Wilson enlisted Jan. 3, 2001. Before his current assignment, he had been assigned to Army units in Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Polk, La.; and Fort Knox, Ky. He was assigned to his last unit as a cavalry scout.

He was in the middle of his fourth deployment, which started in October, his father said. He was supposed to return to the U.S. in December.

Lee Wilson said Christian was mostly a loner who relished outdoor activities. And he loved cold weather.

"He used to take our dog and go cross-country skiing," Lee Wilson said.

Christian Wilson's awards include the Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army service ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Besides his father, he is survived by his mother, Penny Wilson, and his sister, Leia Wilson, all of Chapel Hill.

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## Arkansas Marine Killed

9/10/2007 Charles Crowson, Backpack Journalist; KTHV

Arkansas loses another marine in the War on Terror.

Marine Sgt. Michael Yarbrough, 24, of Glen Rose was killed in Baghdad last week. According to his family, this was his third tour in the war.

"He grew up knowing he wanted to be a Marine," said Yarbrough's cousin, John Keeling. "He always told his mother that.

"His second tour he volunteered for," Keeling added. "He took the place of one of his friends, whose wife was pregnant."

Keeling says his cousin was killed by a suicide bomber when the car he was inspecting at a roadside checkpoint exploded. Four other servicemen were killed in the blast.

Yarbrough leaves behind his wife, mother, two sisters, and six nieces and nephews.

"They were his life," Keeling said, "his family and the Corps."

Yarbrough would have turned 25 on Sept. 17. He was scheduled to come home in November.

**Yarbrough's death marks the 61st Arkansan killed in action since the War on Terror began.**

**His is also the second military death from Glen Rose in less than a month. Donovan Witham was killed in action on Aug. 21.**

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## Springs Soldier, 19, Killed In Iraq

September 7, 2007 By KIM NGUYEN and DENNIS HUSPENI, THE GAZETTE

A soldier from Colorado Springs was killed in combat in Iraq, the Defense Department said late Thursday.



Pfc. Dane R. Balcon, 19, died Wednesday from wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device went off in Balad. Balcon was a member of the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry regiment, 3rd Brigade Team, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

Balcon graduated from Sand Creek High School in 2006.

“Outstanding” was the one word Assistant Principal David Morgan said he would use to describe Balcon. “He just had an absolute love for the military and serving his country,” Morgan said. “It’s what he always said he wanted to do.”

Balcon came back to the school in May to let teachers and students know how he was doing in the Army, Morgan said.

On Aug. 30, Balcon left a message on his MySpace.com page, saying that he was still alive and that he’d be coming back to “the world” soon, said friend Jamar Harrison. It was the last message he left.

“I responded to him to let him know that I prayed for him and that I love him,” he said. “The biggest thing I want to know is if he read it.”

Balcon loved the drums and was “very, very involved with all aspects of our music at Sand Creek,” Morgan said.

Harrison, 17, said Balcon joined the school’s drumline in his senior year, even though he couldn’t read music sheets very well. Harrison, who plays on the line, said the six-member team became a close-knit family in the single year that Balcon was there.

“We knew we wanted him on the drumline because we knew how positive he was and how enthusiastic he was,” said Harrison, a senior at Sand Creek. “He didn’t make anyone seem like an outsider. He liked to crack jokes, and if anyone was in a bad mood, he’d crack more jokes. He was just a person that brought a smile to your face.”

Harrison said he remembers sitting around between performances during basketball games, chatting about anything, from television shows to music on each other’s iPods.

“We were always swapping each other’s earphones,” he said. “We weren’t supposed to have them at games, but somehow me and Dane would have ours.”

An announcement about Balcon’s death was made to the students at the school Thursday, followed by a moment of silence. Harrison said the mood in the halls was somber and reflective, and students and staff were trying to uplift each other.

“You could tell everyone had respect for him, whether or not they knew him,” he said. “People could tell that it was very honorable, what he did.” “It’s been very hard for the staff and students who knew him,” Morgan said. “He was so well-liked.”

Several former students came back to the school Thursday to share their grief with others who knew him. The students in the media class are preparing a video memorial on Balcon that will air on the in-house Channel 1. And the school’s flag was to hang at

half staff this morning. "What he wanted to do with his life was have a career in the military," Morgan said. "He gave the ultimate price for it."

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## Salina Soldier Killed In Baghdad

9/13/2007 By TIM UNRUH, Salina Journal [Excerpts]

Kenneth Murray was reading a news report on the Internet that Wednesday morning, about a Humvee that had been hit the day before in Sadr City, Iraq.

"There was this graphic description of what happened to the people. It was more information than I needed to know," he recalled.

The attack occurred where Murray's 26-year-old son, Sgt. Joel Murray had been on missions.

"I remember thinking 'Oh my God, there's a lot of Humvees in that area. I hope it's not Joel.'

"Then my doorbell rings," said Murray, who lives in Simpson, a small town in Mitchell County. He answered to find uniformed Army officers, one a chaplain, from Fort Riley.

At that instant, "I knew what happened. When two field grade officers walk up to your door, it's not good news," Murray said.

His son was among three killed Sept. 4 when an improvised explosive device hit the Humvee he was riding in.

It is the Army's duty to inform loved ones. Casualty notification officers also notified Joel's mother, Ann Meuli, in Salina and Joel's wife, Maricel Murray, Ogden.

Kenneth Murray always knew there was a chance his son, who was on his second tour in Iraq, would be hurt or killed.

"You always know your son's an infantryman who puts himself in harm's way. And you also know that he knows what can happen. But he does it, and that makes him different than most people," he said.

Sgt. Murray's body was returned Tuesday to Salina, where he spent some of his childhood. His funeral is 10 a.m. Friday at First Southern Baptist Church, 2401 S. Ohio.

While Kenneth Murray, family and friends mourn the loss of a loved one, he also hurts for the soldiers charged with delivering the dreadful news to families.

"I tell' ya what. They've got the toughest job on earth," he said.

On Tuesday, an Army honor guard transferred Joel Murray's body -- in a flag-draped coffin -- from a jet at Salina Municipal Airport to a hearse, and carried it into Ryan Mortuary, 137 N. Eighth.

At Friday's funeral, the same honor guard will serve as a funeral detail, providing military rites at First Baptist Church, including folding the flag and presenting it to Murray's family, Fort Riley spokeswoman Alison Kohler said.

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**REALLY BAD IDEA:  
NO MISSION;  
HOPELESS WAR:  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. at the U.S. Rustamiyah camp, southeast of Baghdad September 14, 2007. (Carlos Barria/Reuters)

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**AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

**British Soldier Killed, Another Wounded  
In Helmand**

18 Sep 07 & 19 Sep 07 Ministry of Defence

It is with immense sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm the death of Lance Corporal Ivano Violino from 20 Field Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment in southern Afghanistan on Monday 17 September 2007.

Lance Corporal Violino was commanding an FL12 Self-Loading Dump Truck on a routine logistics convoy, moving vital engineering equipment to a Forward Operating Base 19 kilometre north east of the town of Gereshk in Helmand province, when his vehicle was caught in an explosion. Despite the best efforts of the Air Medical Emergency Response Team who arrived on the scene shortly after the explosion, Lance Corporal Violino was sadly pronounced dead on arrival at the field hospital at Camp Bastion.

Another soldier was injured in the incident.

An emergency response helicopter was requested and flew them to the ISAF medical facility at Camp Bastion. Sadly the very seriously injured soldier was pronounced dead on arrival. The injuries sustained by the second soldier are not life threatening.

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## Majority Of Germans Say Get Our Troops Out Of Afghanistan

September 19, 2007 AP

BERLIN: Germany's government approved a one-year extension to the increasingly unpopular mission of German peacekeeping troops and reconnaissance jets in Afghanistan on Wednesday, a decision that will need parliament's approval.

The decision to extend the mandate comes with polls showing growing skepticism among the public, with a majority of Germans now in favor of withdrawing the country's troops.

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## Resistance Action

9.17.07 AP & 9.19.07 By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press Writer & Pakistan News Service

In southern Zabul province, Taliban militants killed three security guards protecting a construction project in Qalat, said Gulab Shah Alikhail, spokesman for the governor.

A bombing wounded eight Afghan policemen in the southern Helmand province on Wednesday morning, the police said.

A bomber on foot rushed to a police patrol in Garmser district in Helmand, provincial police chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwai told Xinhua. The explosion wounded eight policemen, three of whom were in serious condition, he added.

A bomber on foot entered a government office and blew himself up Monday in the south, killing eight people including four policemen, officials said.

The district police chief was among the seven people wounded in the attack on the Nad Ali district center in Helmand province, said deputy provincial police chief Faqir Askeryar.

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## **Taleban Vows To Support Afghan Polio Vaccination Campaign**

[They even do PR better than the Occupation.]

September 19, 2007 DPA

KABUL - Taleban insurgents in Afghanistan say they will fully cooperate with a polio vaccination campaign launched by the government on Wednesday in four restive provinces.

The Afghan public health minister announced that the campaign in four southern provinces will continue for two days to eliminate the virus which still exists but with very few cases in Afghanistan.

The campaign is being undertaken in Helmand, Uruzgan, Farah and Kandahar provinces. A similar two-day campaign will also be kicked off on September 24 in three eastern provinces: Kunar, Nangarhar and Laghman. Both the south and east are among the most volatile zones of Afghanistan.

Dr Abdullah Fahim, spokesman for the Public Health Ministry, told Deutsche Presse-Agentur DPA the two zones were singled out for the polio vaccinations because the virus was found there recently.

Meanwhile, the Taleban have said in an unprecedented manner that all insurgents have been told to protect the staff involved in the polio vaccination campaign.

A Taleban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, told dpa: 'We will fully help the vaccination teams to carry out their campaign and (they will) not to be hurt by anyone as all our friends have been told to provide a safe environment for the vaccinators.'

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The casket of Army Cpl. Jason Hernandez in Streetsboro, Oh., Sept. 17, 2007. Hernandez was killed by a roadside bomb on Sept. 7, his 21st birthday, while serving in Mosul, Iraq. (AP Photo/Amy Sancetta)



[They ran this one in Army Times!]

# **“Prevent Future Financial Abuse Of Our Soldiers, Particularly In Germany”**

## **“I Have Been Reduced To Living In The Barracks Without Any Funds To Pay My Debts Or Meet The Needs Of My Family”**

Letters To The Editor  
Army Times  
September 17, 2007

This memorandum is written to highlight the housing policies of U.S. Army Europe, which are, in my view, wrong, and which are causing financial hardship to personnel there.

I am suffering such hardship and write in the hope that some action will be taken to prevent future financial abuse of our soldiers, particularly in Germany.

Here are the facts and background.

I was assigned to Germany on an unaccompanied tour under orders stating my tour was from August 2005 to August 2007. During October 2005 to September 2006, I was deployed to Iraq.

Upon return, I had one year to serve, and as a staff sergeant could not live on base. Accordingly, I secured housing through the Army Housing Office and signed a contract from an approved landlord. The contract required a security deposit in the amount of 3,000 euros — about \$4,000 U.S.

**Upon leaving in May 2007, my landlady refused to return the deposit. I was advised by a German attorney who was a U.S. forces employee that the landlady could legally retain the deposit for up to six months. After that, she must return the deposit or face criminal charges.**

**Finance personnel in Germany said that the matter was a legal one, and that they had no way to help.**

**They advised that they then collect the deposit from my pay.**

Accordingly, I have drawn no pay due one month and \$165 pay for another, and will have \$491.58 withheld from my pay for the next nine months.

There is something wrong with this scenario.

Why must I repay the Army for a security deposit under these circumstances? Why can't the Army collect the money, or wait until the money is released by the landlady?

**I have been reduced to living in the barracks without any funds to pay my debts or meet the needs of my family.**

**I know of a number of people to whom this has happened, and do not understand why the soldier must take the risk of nonpayment in this case.**

Staff Sgt. Kelvin D. Clark  
Fort Benning, Ga.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **GET THE MESSAGE? [The Handwriting On The Wall]**



A wall separating Shiite and Sunni neighbourhoods of al-Shula and al-Ghazaliyah in Baghdad, 15 September 2007. The wall built by the US army is covered with graffiti reading "No No Occupation" & "No To the Wall". (AFP/File/Ali Al-Saadi )

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# Armed Groups Attack And Burn 20 Oil Trucks From Bayji

9.18.07 DPA News

Armed groups believed Tuesday set 20 oil trucks ablaze on the Fallujah-Samarra road, independent Voices of Iraq news (VOI) agency reported, citing a police source.

The guerrillas also seized a number of drivers, while others managed to escape and reported the incident, the source added.

Most of the truck drivers, according to the source, are from Anbar and Salahaddin provinces who transport crude oil from Bayji refinery, 180 kilometres south of Baghdad. Then they export it to Jordan and Syria through Anbar province.

The Fallujah-Samarra road is 100 kilometres south of Baghdad, linking it with Anbar and Salahaddin provinces.

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## Resistance Attack On Bayji Pipeline Cuts Half Of Iraq's Refining Capacity



An oil pipeline burns in Bejj, Sept. 18, 2007. A bomb went off under the pipeline, setting off a fire and causing huge quantities of crude oil to spill into the Tigris River, a police official said. (AP Photo/US Army)

18 Sep 2007 DPA & By BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD - A bomb exploded under an oil pipeline near the northern city of Beiji on Tuesday, causing huge quantities of crude oil to spill into the Tigris River, a police official said.

The Iraqi police official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said the bomb went off before dawn, delaying the firefighters' arrival at the scene to extinguish the blaze.

Because of the danger across the country, Iraqis avoid going outside before daylight.

The explosion along an oil pipeline that extends from the northern Kirkuk oilfields to Bayji refineries caused damage to both the line and another parallel pipeline between Iraq and Turkey.

The U.S. military said in a statement that the part of the pipeline that was hit was some 7 feet underground and covered with a slab of concrete.

The ensuing fire affected only a section of the Kirkuk-Bayji pipeline which runs over River Tigris, but caused an oil leak and black fog in the area.

Later the in the day, the spill reached the central city of Tikrit, more than 60 miles to the south, residents and local officials said. Water stations closed in both cities, Tikrit and Beiji.

It was not clear if irrigation officials would allow the spill to reach Baghdad or would block it at Samarra dam, which diverts water into Tharthar lake north of the Iraqi capital.

The water supply up to 40 kilometres south of the explosion site was affected, a source added.

Firefighters struggled to contain the damage, a source in the local oil industry said.

The explosion is expected to result in halt to production at Bayji refineries, which reportedly supply more than half of Iraq's oil products.

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## Resistance Action



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

18 Sep 2007 Reuters

A car bomber targeting an Iraqi military convoy wounded two soldiers in the northern city of Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, the army said.

A roadside bomb at the same location killed one Iraqi soldier and wounded three others.

A policeman was killed when a police force raided a house and came under fire in the town of Shirqat, 300 km (190 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol killed one civilian and wounded two policemen in Zaafaraniya district in the southern outskirts of Baghdad, police said.

Salahuddin province deputy governor, Abdullah Jbara, escaped a roadside bomb attack near his convoy in the city of Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, Jbara told Reuters. Jbara was not harmed.

Three policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A soldier was killed and three wounded in clashes in eastern Mosul.

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

## **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.**

**“The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”  
--Camille Desmoulins**

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

# September 20, 1830: Honorable Anniversary



Richard Allen

Carl Bunin Peace History September 17-23

**The National Negro Convention, a group of 38 free black Americans from eight states, met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with the express purpose of abolishing slavery and improving the social status of African Americans.**

**They elected Richard Allen president and agreed to boycott slave-produced goods and encourage free-produce organizations. The most active would be the Colored Female Free Produce Society, which urged the boycott of all slave-produced goods.**

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The Encyclopedia of African-American Heritage, by Susan Altman, Copyright 1997, Facts on File, Inc. New York [Excerpt]

September 20, 1830

On this date in 1830, the National Negro Convention met in Philadelphia, PA. This group gathered for the express purpose of abolishing slavery and improving the status of African Americans.

This first meeting of the National Negro Convention would initiate a trend that would continue for the next three decades.

The formation of another organization had been recommended one which would be called the "American Society of Free Persons of Labor." This group would branch out to several states and hold their own conventions.

These, in turn, would lead to the formation of other organizations. The number of conventions, held at local, state, and national levels, blossomed to such a level that, in 1859, one paper would report that “colored conventions are almost as frequent as church meetings.”

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## OCCUPATION REPORT

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



A foreign occupation soldier from U.S. Bravo 6-9 Cav. guards Iraqi citizens forced to line up and stand against the wall of their own home as the troops search through their personal belongings inside their house. Muqadiyah, Iraq, Sept. 17, 2007. (AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo).

**[61% of Iraqis say they approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces in their country, up from 47 percent in January. A solid majority of Shiite and Sunni Arabs approved of the attacks, according to the poll. 9/27/2006 By BARRY SCHWEID, AP & Program on International Policy Attitudes**

**Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist by any means necessary. T]**

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# **U.S. Civilian Officials Barred From Road Travel Outside Green Zone: Blackwater “Not Allowed To Operate Anywhere In The Republic Of Iraq, Said Gen. Abdul Kareem Khalaf”**

9.18.07 Reuters & Sep 19, 2007 By Waleed Ibrahim and Dean Yates, (Reuters) & By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press Writer & CNN

U.S. civilian officials have been barred from road travel in Iraq outside Baghdad’s heavily fortified Green Zone because of possible attacks after a deadly shooting involving American security firm Blackwater.

“In light of the serious security incident involving a U.S. embassy protection detail ... the embassy has suspended official U.S. government civilian ground movements outside the International Zone (IZ) and throughout Iraq,” it said.

**The order barring U.S. civilians and diplomats from leaving the compound further isolates American officials from Iraqis amid already tight curbs on movement because of security fears.**

**Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said on Tuesday the cabinet had backed an Interior Ministry decision to “halt the licence” of Blackwater and launch an investigation.**

**“As of now, they are not allowed to operate anywhere in the Republic of Iraq,” said Gen. Abdul Kareem Khalaf, an Interior Ministry spokesman. He added that Blackwater would be notified of the ministry’s decision soon.**

“Blackwater has a reputation. If you want over-over-the-top, gun-toting security with high profile and all the bells and whistles, Blackwater are the people you are going to go with,” said James Sammons, a former Australian Special Air Service commander who now works for British-based AKE Group that also provides security in Iraq.

**The New York Times reported late Tuesday that a preliminary review by Iraq’s Ministry of Interior found that Blackwater security guards fired at a car when it did not heed a policeman’s call to stop, killing a couple and their infant.**

**The Iraqi Ministry of Defense said that 20 Iraqis were killed, considerably higher than the 11 dead reported before.**

**Anti-occupation politician Muqtada al-Sadr demanded that the government ban all 48,000 foreign security contractors.**

Al-Sadr's office in Najaf said the government should nullify contracts of all foreign security companies, branding them "criminal and intelligence firms."

"This aggression would not have happened had it not been for the presence of the occupiers who brought these companies, most of whose members are criminals and ex-convicts in American and Western prisons," he said in a statement.

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***This Is Not A Satire:  
This Is A Real News Story About A  
Stupid, Twisted, Sadistic Freak:  
Marine Commander Says He Will  
Use His Prison "House Of  
Wisdom" On Iraqi Kids To "Bend  
Them To Our Will"  
"Found Them, Identified Them, Threw  
Them Up Against The Fence And  
Shaved Their Frickin' Beards Off Of  
Them. . . . I Mean, That Is Historic"  
Some Will Be In "Permanent Detention"***

He quoted Iraqi vice president Tariq al-Hashimi as saying that "America could win the war if they just applied the exact process that you're putting in detention to the rest of the entire nation," in Stone's words.

September 19, 2007 by Walter Pincus, Washington Post staff writer [Excerpts]

The U.S. military has introduced "religious enlightenment" and other education programs for Iraqi detainees, some of whom are as young as 11, Marine Maj. Gen. Douglas M. Stone, the commander of U.S. detention facilities in Iraq, said yesterday.

Stone said such efforts, aimed mainly at Iraqis who have been held for more than a year, are intended to "bend them back to our will" and are part of waging war in what he called "the battlefield of the mind."

**Most of the younger detainees are held in a facility that the military calls the “House of Wisdom.”**

The religious courses are led by Muslim clerics who “teach out of a moderate doctrine,” stone said, according to the transcript of a conference call he held from Baghdad with a group of defense bloggers.

**Such schooling “tears apart” the arguments of al-Qaeda, such as “let’s kill innocents,” and helps to “bring some of the edge off” the detainees, he said. [Right. They say that all the time, “Hey, I’ve got a great idea, let’s go kill some innocents.” Kind of a weird thought though. Let’s hope those 11-year olds don’t have to spend a lot of up-close-and-personal time with Stone. Learning his wisdom and all. T]**

As a result of the increased U.S. troop presence in Iraq this year, the number of Iraqis in u.s. detention has swelled from about 10,000 last year to more than 25,000.

The effort to reshape attitudes among the growing detainee population is aimed at addressing a problem that has vexed U.S. troops in Iraq for the past four years: military detention facilities have served as breeding grounds for extremist views, transforming some prisoners into hard-core insurgents, according to military analysts.

**Stone said he wants to identify “irreconcilables” -- those detainees whose views cannot be moderated -- and “put them away” in permanent detention facilities.**

Psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors and interrogators help distinguish the extremists from others, he said.

Stone said he believes his approach is “compelling because it’s how you win this war, not only the one in Iraq, but the one on a greater basis.”

**He quoted Iraqi vice president Tariq al-Hashimi as saying that “America could win the war if they just applied the exact process that you’re putting in detention to the rest of the entire nation,” in Stone’s words.**

The 25,000 detainees now being held in U.S. facilities in Iraq include more than 820 juveniles, stone said, most of whom are held in the House of Wisdom, which opened last month and is located at the camp victory military base near Baghdad’s airport.

He said that six additional young people had been sent to him just yesterday, and that “the trend is towards the youth,” including 11-, 12- and 13-year-olds.

He described older juveniles -- the 15-, 16- and 17-year-olds -- as “harder nuts” and said that 50 to 60 of them have been removed from U.S. detention facilities and turned over to Iraqi authorities for trial.

He said his staff members include a specialist in Islamic youth programs and he has also put together “a positive program that has been proven in Islam to actually turn the kids around to sort of reject some of these other things.” he has also started “four very large soccer programs” aimed at young detainees.



The new religious training, Stone said, helps U.S. forces pinpoint the hard-core extremists.

**“I want to know who they are,” he said. “They’re like rotten eggs, you know, hiding in the Easter basket.”**

Stone said his staff conducts polygraph tests for detainees who promise to change after undergoing the religious training program. “We were trying to figure out if they’re messing with us. . . . You’re not talking about radicals going to choirboys.” but he also added that they’re succeeding in countering extremists in the facilities.

**“We’re busting them down, we’re making whole moderate compounds that didn’t exist before.”**

Stone described a sort of religious insurgency that occurred at one detention facility on Sept. 2.

**“We had a compound of moderates for the first time overtake . . . Extremists. It’s never happened before. Found them, identified them, threw them up against the fence and shaved their frickin’ beards off of them. . . . I mean, that is historic.”**

He said he has created a “transition-out barracks” where detainees being released discuss civics and human rights.

He has also begun a “huge, expensive” Rand Corp. Research study on detainee motivation and morale and has plans for a major communication campaign.

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