

## GI SPECIAL 5K4:



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

**“I Volunteered To Fight  
In Iraq When I Was  
Seventeen Years Old”  
“What They’ve Never Told Us Is  
That The Enemy Is Already  
Here, And They Never Came  
From Places Like Iraq, Or  
Vietnam, Or Iran”**

**“They Were Born And Raised Right Here  
In The United States, And They All Live  
About 800 Miles North Of Here, Right  
Across The Potomac River, In A Filthy,  
Rotten Cesspool Called Washington,  
D.C.”**



10/25/2007 by Clifton Hicks  
[Iraq Veterans Against The War] [[www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/)]  
Branch of service: United States Army (USA)  
Unit: C Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Regiment of Dragoons  
Rank: Private  
Home: Gainesville, Florida  
Served in: Knox-Baghdad-Germany

My name is Clifton Hicks, I volunteered to fight in Iraq when I was seventeen years old, three of my best friends died there.

The first burned to death when his tank was hit by a rocket, the second was shot by a sniper, and the third was blown to pieces by an IED.

Four years later I stand before you in the name of Peace and Liberty, and I stand with you against the illegal, immoral, and unnecessary occupation of Iraq.

When I joined the Army, I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, against all enemies, be they foreign or domestic. To this day I still live by that oath.

In October of 2003, I was ordered to join the 1st Squadron of the 1st United States Cavalry Regiment, which had been in combat for five months just south of Baghdad. When I got there, they gave me an M16 rifle and a bullet proof vest, and in exchange for

this, they took from me my soul, and my conscience, and for ten months, every single aspect of my humanity.

They told me to forget everything I'd ever known or thought I knew, they told me to shoot first and to ask questions later, they told me that if I wanted to survive, I would turn myself into a machine.

Well I wanted to survive. So I shut my mouth, and I shut my ears and my heart, and I didn't hear the screaming of the people that died, or the pleading of the women whose husbands we took away in the night, or the motherless children who begged for food and water.

It was easy for me to ignore these things, to pretend that they didn't affect me, because I was so afraid.

I was afraid of dying, more afraid of being crippled, and even more afraid of what might happen to me if I was ever captured. I was so afraid of this that I swore that I would never surrender to the enemy, and for this purpose, I kept a spare bullet with me at all times, so that I could take my own life if necessary.

By the time I was nineteen I had learned that the natural human reaction to fear is hatred, shortly followed violence.

Because any Iraqi might potentially pose a threat, all were treated as the enemy, and eventually, as casualties mounted and families fell apart back home, abusing them was seen as a simple matter of revenge.

Whether it be demolishing their homes with our tanks, handcuffing and publicly beating them in front of their families, destroying their livestock and burning down their places of business, kidnapping entire male populations of villages to be tortured in secret prisons, refusing basic medical care to mothers with dying children, cheering from roof-tops while entire apartment complexes were leveled by C-130 gun ships, or even covering up the wrongful deaths of local civilians.

I speak not of rumors or of hear-say, I speak of what I have seen with my own eyes, and what I have done with my own hands. Because of our hatred for the Iraqis, and the fear and mistrust of our own corrupt and abusive leadership, none of these occurrences were ever questioned, they were simply accepted as the way things had to be.

Now I'm not here to tell you war stories, and I'm not here to shock you, none of these things should come as a surprise to any of you.

We've seen it all before throughout history; the countless times we've murdered each other by the thousands, and by the millions, over nothing. Whether we're talking about Iraq, or Vietnam, the 1st World War, or even our own Civil War, all of these tragedies, these fools' errands, they've all had one thing in common besides fear, hatred, and death. All of them directly resulted from the same pointless and idiotic logic, the same greed for wealth and power, and the same disregard for the sanctity of human life.

Well I don't know about you folks, but I for one am sick and tired of being thrown to the lions every time some high-born coward decides that we need another war. I came here

today, to send a message to these lying, yellow-bellied, chicken-hawks in Washington, that the American people are against this stupid war, and that the American people will not stand for it any longer.

I want to tell you about a conversation I had with my father just the other day. He told me something that really stuck in my mind. Dad was stationed in the Middle East back in the 60's and his father fought in the Pacific during the 2nd World War. What he said was this; "History has well proven that the United States cannot be defeated from without. It can only be defeated from within."

**Now these scumbags that run our country have been lying to us for years now, telling us that it's, "Better to fight 'em over there, than over here."**

**Well what they've never told us is that the enemy is already here, and they never came from places like Iraq, or Vietnam, or Iran.**

**They were born and raised right here in the United States, and they all live about 800 miles North of here, right across the Potomac River, in a filthy, rotten cesspool called Washington, D.C.**

## **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**

# **“2007 Is On Course To Be The Deadliest Year On Record For American Troops In Iraq”**

11/05/2007 By LAUREN FRAYER Associated Press Writer [Excerpts]

2007 is on course to be the deadliest year on record for American troops in Iraq, despite the recent sharp drop in U.S. deaths.

At least 847 American military personnel have died in Iraq so far this year—the second-highest annual toll since the war began in March 2003, according to Associated Press figures.

**If four more U.S. troops by the year's end, this year will surpass 2004 as the bloodiest year of the war for the U.S.**

Some 850 troops died in 2004, mostly in larger, more conventional battles like the campaign to cleanse Fallujah of Sunni militants in November, and U.S. clashes with Shiite militiamen in the sect's holy city of Najaf in August.

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## **U.S. Command Declares Victory And Withdraws Marines From Fallujah**

November 5, 2007 Advertiser Staff and Wire Reports

After surrounding the city with walls and improving security on its streets, Marines are pulling back from the one-time insurgent bastion of Fallujah.

The Marines leave behind in Fallujah a city devastated by years of fighting and starved for reconstruction. Hawai'i Marines with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, fought door to door in a clearing operation in Fallujah in late 2004.

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



U.S. soldiers with First Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 30th Infantry Regiment, walk through a field during a search mission in Arab Jabour in south Baghdad October 18, 2007. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# **Taliban Capture Third Western Afghan District: “On Sunday, The Insurgents Seized Khak-E Sefid Without A Fight” “Up To 38 Officers Had Defected To The Taliban In The Last Week In Farah”**

Nov 5 HERAT, Afghanistan (Reuters)

Taliban insurgents have captured a third district in western Afghanistan, local officials said on Monday, defying Western assertions the rebels are unable to mount large military offensives.

In the last week, the Taliban have captured three districts in the western province of Farah, forcing lightly armed Afghan police to flee and defying Afghan and foreign forces to retake the lost ground.

First, Taliban rebels captured the Farah district of Gulistan a week ago, then on Wednesday took nearby Bakwa.

On Sunday, the insurgents seized Khak-e Sefid without a fight.

"Khake-e Sefid district fell into Taliban hands yesterday without any resistance from Afghan forces," Qadir Daqiq, a Farah provincial council member told Reuters. A provincial official who declined to be named also confirmed the report.

Taliban forces had been building up around Khak-e Sefid for some days, a Western security analyst said.

Poor morale among Afghan police meant that up to 38 officers had defected to the Taliban in the last week in Farah, the security analyst said, and those that remained were unwilling or unable to put up much of a fight.

"As soon as the Taliban attacked in numbers they did their best to make a tactical withdrawal -- they basically got out of there as quick as they could," he said. "Their motivation is not there to fight."

Local residents have complained that NATO-led troops, under Italian command in western Afghanistan, have not helped Afghan forces to retake the districts.

"The residents are complaining that foreign forces do not assist Afghan troops to retake the districts," Maolavi Yahya, district chief of neighboring Delaram told Reuters. "They have been complaining for a week now."

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## ***Welcome To Liberated Afghanistan: Official Arrested For "Misinterpreting" Book & Preacher Arrested For "Approving" It***

11/05/07 (AFP)

An Afghan official accused of misinterpreting the Quran in a translation of the holy book was arrested trying to cross into Pakistan Sunday, a day after parliament banned him from travelling, the attorney general said.

Mohammad Ghaws Zalmi, a spokesman for attorney general Abdul Jabar Sabet, was picked up at the Torkham border crossing in the early morning, Sabet told reporters in Kabul. "Ghaws Zalmi was arrested at the border gate as he was crossing into Pakistan," he said.

Sabet said he had also ordered the arrest of a Kabul preacher, Qari Mushtaq, who had approved Zalmi's version of the Quran. On Saturday both houses of parliament slammed the official's translation into Dari of the Muslim holy book, saying he had misinterpreted many issues including about homosexuality and adultery.

It ordered that he should not be allowed to leave the country until the religious committee of the Upper House had studied his text. Media reports said several thousand copies of his translation have been distributed free. Zalmi, a former journalist who heads media affairs in Sabet's office, told AFP he did not want to comment on the issue.

Abadullah Abad, a medical doctor who had obtained a copy, said he could not see how Zalmi's translation was fundamentally different to another accepted Dari version.

"I read it and compared it to the other accepted copy of the holy book and found nothing altered," Abad said.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

**NOT ANOTHER DAY  
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR**

## NOT ANOTHER LIFE



The casket of Army Spc. Camy Florexil, 23, of Philadelphia, who was killed in Baghdad in July, during funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Oct. 5, 2007 (AP Photos/Susan Walsh)

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## **“It’s Time For The Occupation To End And Veterans Should Be At The Head Of The Movement To End It”**



November 2, 2007 By Elizabeth Schulte, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

THOUSANDS OF protesters in major cities, including New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco, turned out for protests against the war in Iraq on October 27.

In New York City, despite the rain, hundreds of students marched in a lively campus antiwar contingent.

“Politicians who are running for president are saying we should pull troops out of Iraq and send them to other wars, better wars,” said IVAW [Iraq Veterans Against The War] speaker Fernando Braga. “There are no better wars. This is a system of imperialism.”

In Seattle, marchers were led by a contingent of veterans in IVAW and Veterans for Peace.

“It’s time for the occupation to end and veterans should be at the head of the movement to end it,” said IVAW Seattle chapter president Chanan Suarez Diaz.

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## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

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

**“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**

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ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS**

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**NOTE WELL: They will all be different issues of GI Special to satisfy DOD regs that you may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue.***

## **Nothing Has Changed**



Montagnard girl near An Khe, Vietnam 1970.

From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 05, 2007  
Subject: Nothing Has Changed

### **Nothing Has Changed**

**Traumatized face of a little girl.  
Traumatized for the rest of her life.  
Children like her were killed by the  
tens of thousands in  
Vietnam**

Cambodia  
and  
Laos.

America was a non-stop killing machine  
in Southeast Asia.

Total War is about killing anyone anywhere.

Got to break the spirit of the people.

Geneva Convention Rules are for fools  
who believe in fantasies.

The American people will never realize  
that their taxes were used to kill civilians  
as fast as their government could kill them.

Nothing has changed.

The only good Indian is a dead Indian.

Bury my heart at Wounded Knee.

Mike Hastie

Vietnam Veteran

November 5, 2007

Bear Witness, until the truth  
exposes the lies.

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)

***“It’s All A Waste”***

**“I Have Seen War Since I Was 20”**

**“In All Those Years In The Service To My  
Arrogant Masters In Washington DC, All I  
Have Seen Are Body Counts”**

My youngest Son just came back from Iraq minus parts of his mind and soul and  
my eldest is about to go back for a second time. He still suffers nightmares and  
horror from his first deployment. He is a critical care specialist and still sees the  
faces of the blood soaked young men and women he could not save.

From: Tim T

To: GI Special

Sent: November 05, 2007

Subject: It’s all a waste

I have seen war since I was 20.

**In all those years in the service to my arrogant masters in Washington DC, all I have seen are body counts.**

I was bounced from one third world shithole to another as the whims of the politicians changed. All I have for my memories are body counts, night sweats, nightmares and psychosis.

Even there, The VA says I am only temporarily disabled and that I can be cured (their way of saving money which is the only thing that matters to the pinstriped bastards in Washington).

**My youngest Son just came back from Iraq minus parts of his mind and soul and my eldest is about to go back for a second time. He still suffers nightmares and horror from his first deployment.**

**He is a critical care specialist and still sees the faces of the blood soaked young men and women he could not save.**

**We went into Iraq through criminal arrogance and ignorance....it makes me sick.**

I would vehemently urge any young men or women NOT to join!

Additionally, when young traumatized veterans return, they are expected to push a switch and become "NORMAL".

Civilian courts couldn't care less what these poor veterans have been through and crucify them as added punishment for their courage in having gone.

I am bitter and there is hatred as well as I have seen the discarded human wreckage caused by this fiasco.

I've lost 3 friends to suicide in the last year and one half.

I would do anything to prevent the young from joining this useless slaughter! It would be good if there were an exodus of troops from the military as well.

A big problem is that Veterans have a tendency of stabbing each other in the back.

We need to learn to overcome this and unite!

**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.**

**“Barring Imminent Deployment, A Stand-Alone Attack Against Iran’s Nuclear Capabilities Makes Little Sense”**

**“The Condition Of The U.S. Army And Marines Does Not Permit The Opening Of A New Theater Of Operations In Iran”**

**“The Danger Of War Is That Politicians And Generals, Desiring A Particular End, Fantasize That They Can Achieve That End With Insufficient Resources”**

**Any blockade strategy assumes that Iran is internationally isolated, which it is not, that the United States can impose a military blockade on land, which it cannot, and that it can withstand the consequences elsewhere should a third party use U.S. actions to justify counteraction, which is questionable.**

October 30, 2007 By George Friedman, Strategic Forecasting, Inc.,

A possible U.S. attack against Iran has been a hot topic in the news for many months now. In some quarters it has become an article of faith that the Bush administration intends to order such an attack before it leaves office.

It remains a mystery whether the administration plans an actual attack or whether it is using the threat of attack to try to intimidate Iran -- and thus shape its behavior in Iraq and elsewhere.

Unraveling the mystery lies, at least in part, in examining what a U.S. attack would look like, given U.S. goals and resources, as well as in considering the potential Iranian response.

Before turning to intentions, it is important to discuss the desired outcomes and capabilities.

Unfortunately, those discussions have taken a backseat to speculations about the sheer probability of war.

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Let's begin with goals.

What would the United States hope to achieve by attacking Iran?

On the broadest strategic level, the answer is actually quite simple.

After 9/11, the United States launched counterstrikes in the Islamic world. The goal was to disrupt the al Qaeda core in order to prevent further attacks against the United States. The counterstrikes also were aimed at preventing the emergence of a follow-on threat from the Islamic world that would replace the threat that had been posed by al Qaeda.

The disruption of all Islamic centers of power that have the ability and intent to launch terrorist attacks against the United States is a general goal of U.S. strategy. With the decline of Sunni radicalism, Iran has emerged as an alternative Shiite threat. Hence, under this logic, Iran must be dealt with.

Obviously, the greater the disruption of radically anti-American elements in the Islamic world, the better it is for the United States.

But there are three problems here.

First, the United States has a far more complex relationship with Iran than it does with al Qaeda.

**Iran supported the U.S. attack against the Taliban in Afghanistan as well as the U.S. invasion of Iraq -- for its own reasons, of course.**

Second, the grand strategy of the United States might include annihilating Islamic radicalism, but at the end of the day, maintaining the balance of power between Sunnis and Shia and between Arab and non-Arab Muslims is a far more practical approach.

**Finally, the question of what to do about Iran depends on the military capabilities of the United States in the immediate future.**

**The intentions are shaped by the capabilities.**

What, therefore, would the U.S. goals be in an attack against Iran? They divide into three (not mutually exclusive) strategies:

1. Eliminating Iran's nuclear program.
2. Crippling Iran by hitting its internal infrastructure -- political, industrial and military -- ideally forcing regime change that would favor U.S. interests.
3. Using an attack -- or threatening an attack -- to change Iranian behavior in Iraq, Lebanon or other areas of the world.

**It is important to note the option that is not on the table: invasion by U.S. ground forces, beyond the possible use of small numbers of Special Operations forces.**

**Regardless of the state of Iranian conventional forces after a sustained air attack, the United States simply does not have the numbers of ground troops needed to invade and occupy Iran -- particularly given the geography and topography of the country.**

**Therefore, any U.S. attack would rely on the forces available, namely air and naval forces.**

The destruction of Iran's nuclear capabilities would be the easiest to achieve, assuming that U.S. intelligence has a clear picture of the infrastructure of that program and that the infrastructure has not been hardened to the point of being invulnerable to conventional attack.

Iran, however, learned a great deal from Iraq's Osirak experience and has spread out and hardened its nuclear facilities.

Also, given Iran's location and the proximity of U.S. forces and allies, we can assume the United States would not be interested in a massive nuclear attack with the resulting fallout. Moreover, we would argue that, in a world of proliferation, it would not be in the interest of the United States to set a precedent by being the first use to use nuclear weapons since World War II.

**Therefore, the U.S. option is to carry out precision strikes against Iran's nuclear program using air- and sea-launched munitions.**

**As a threat, this is in an interesting option.**

**As an actual operation, it is less interesting.**

First, the available evidence is that Iran is years away from achieving a deliverable nuclear weapon.

Second, Iran might be more interested in trading its nuclear program for other political benefits -- specifically in Iraq.

An attack against the country's nuclear facilities would make Tehran less motivated than before to change its behavior.

Furthermore, even if its facilities were destroyed, Iran would retain its capabilities in Iraq, Lebanon, and elsewhere in the world.

Therefore, unless the United States believed there was an imminent threat of the creation of a deliverable nuclear system, the destruction of a long-term program would eliminate the long-term threat, but leave Iran's short-term capabilities intact.

**Barring imminent deployment, a stand-alone attack against Iran's nuclear capabilities makes little sense.**

**That leaves the second option -- a much broader air and sea campaign against Iran. This would have four potential components:**

1. Attacks against its economic infrastructure, particularly its refineries.
2. Attacks against its military infrastructure.
3. Attacks against its political infrastructure, particularly its leadership.
4. A blockade and sanctions.

Let's begin in reverse order.

**The United States has the ability to blockade Iran's ports, limiting the importation of oil and refined products, as well as food. It does not have the ability to impose a general land blockade against Iran, which has long land borders, including with Iraq.**

**Because the United States lacks the military capability to seal those borders, goods from around Iran's periphery would continue to flow, including, we emphasize, from Iraq, where U.S. control of transportation systems, particularly in the Shiite south, is limited.**

In addition, it is unclear whether the United States would be willing to intercept, board, and seize ships from third-party countries (Russia, China, and a large number of small countries) that are not prepared to participate in sanctions or might not choose to respect an embargo.

**The United States is stretched thin, and everyone knows it.**

**A blockade could invite deliberate challenges, while enforcement would justify other actions against U.S. interests elsewhere.**

**Any blockade strategy assumes that Iran is internationally isolated, which it is not, that the United States can impose a military blockade on land, which it cannot, and that it can withstand the consequences elsewhere should a third party use U.S. actions to justify counteraction, which is questionable.**

A blockade could hurt Iran's energy economy, but Iran has been preparing for this for years and can mitigate the effect by extensive smuggling operations. Ultimately, Iran is not likely to crumble unless the United States can maintain and strengthen the blockade process over a matter of many months at the very least.

**Another option is a decapitation strike against Iran's leadership -- though it is important to recall how this strategy failed in Iraq at the beginning of the 2003 invasion.**

Decapitation assumes superb intelligence on the location of the leadership at a given time -- and that level of intelligence is hard to come by. Iraq had a much smaller political élite than Iran has, and the United States couldn't nail down its whereabouts.

It also is important to remember that Iran has a much deeper and more diverse leadership structure than Iraq had. Iraq's highly centralized system included few significant leaders. Iran is more decentralized and thus has a much larger and deeper leadership cadre.

**We doubt the United States has the real-time intelligence capability to carry out such a broad decapitation strike.**

**The second option is an assault against the Iranian military.**

**Obviously, the United States has the ability to carry out a very effective assault against the military's technical infrastructure -- air defense, command and control, aircraft, armor, and so on.**

**But the Iranian military is primarily an infantry force, designed for internal control and operations in mountainous terrain -- the bulk of Iran's borders.**

**Once combat operations began, the force would disperse and tend to become indistinguishable from the general population.**

**A counterpersonnel operation would rapidly become a counterpopulation operation.**

Under any circumstances, an attack against a dispersed personnel pool numbering in the high hundreds of thousands would be sortie intensive, to say the least. An air campaign designed to impose high attrition on an infantry force, leaving aside civilian casualties, would require an extremely large number of sorties, in which the use of precision-guided munitions would be of minimal value and the use of area weapons would be at a premium.

Given the fog of war and intelligence issues, the ability to evaluate the status of this campaign would be questionable.

**In our view, the Iranians are prepared to lose their technical infrastructure and devolve command and control to regional and local levels.**

**The collapse of the armed forces -- most of whose senior officers and noncoms fought in the Iran-Iraq war with very flexible command and control -- is unlikely.**

The force would continue to be able to control the frontiers as well as maintain internal security functions. The United States would rapidly establish command of the air, and destroy noninfantry forces.

But even here there is a cautionary note. In Yugoslavia, the United States learned that relatively simple camouflage and deception techniques were quite effective in protecting tactical assets.

The Iranians have studied both the Kosovo war and U.S. operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and have extensive tactical combat experience themselves. A forced collapse from the air of the Iranian infantry capability -- the backbone of Iran's military -- is unlikely.

**This leaves a direct assault against the Iranian economic infrastructure.**

Although this is the most promising path, it must be remembered that counterinfrastructure and counterpopulation strategic air operations have been tried extensively.

**The assumption has been that the economic cost of resistance would drive a wedge between the population and the regime, but there is no precedent in the history of air campaigns for this assumption.**

Such operations have succeeded in only two instances: Japan and Kosovo.

In Japan, counterpopulation operations of massive proportions involving conventional weapons were followed by two atomic strikes. Even in that case, there was no split between régime and population, but a decision by the régime to capitulate. The occupation in Kosovo was not so much because of military success as diplomatic isolation. That isolation is not likely to happen in Iran.

In all other cases -- Britain, Germany, Vietnam, Iraq -- air campaigns by themselves did not split the population from the regime or force the regime to change course. In Britain and Vietnam, the campaigns failed completely. In Germany and Iraq (and Kuwait), they succeeded because of follow-on attacks by overwhelming ground forces.

**The United States could indeed inflict heavy economic hardship, but history suggests that this is more likely to tighten the people's identification with the government -- not the other way around.**

**In most circumstances, air campaigns have solidified the regime's control over the population, allowing it to justify extreme security measures and generating a condition of intense psychological resistance.**

In no case has a campaign led to an uprising against the régime.

**Moreover, a meaningful campaign against economic infrastructure would take some 4 million barrels per day off of the global oil market at a time when oil prices already are closing in on \$100 a barrel.**

**Such a campaign is more likely to drive a wedge between the American people and the American government than between the Iranians and their government.**

For an air campaign to work, the attacking power must be prepared to bring in an army on the ground to defeat the army that has been weakened by the air campaign -- a tactic Israel failed to apply last summer in Lebanon.

Combined arms operations do work, repeatedly.

**But the condition of the U.S. Army and Marines does not permit the opening of a new theater of operations in Iran.**

**Most important, even if conditions did permit the use of U.S. ground forces to engage and defeat the Iranian army -- a massive operation simply by the size of the country -- the United States does not have the ability to occupy Iran against a hostile population.**

**The Japanese and German nations were crushed completely over many years before an overwhelming force occupied them. What was present there, but not in Iraq, was overwhelming force. That is not an option for Iran.**

Finally, consider the Iranian response. Iran does not expect to defeat the U.S. Air Force or Navy, although the use of mine warfare and anti-ship cruise missiles against tankers in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz should not be dismissed.

**The Iranian solution would be classically asymmetrical.**

**First, they would respond in Iraq, using their assets in the country to further complicate the occupation, as well as to impose as many casualties as possible on the United States.**

**And they would use their forces to increase the difficulty of moving supplies from Kuwait to U.S. forces in central Iraq.**

They also would try to respond globally using their own forces (the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps), as well as Hezbollah and other trained Shiite militant assets, to carry out counterpopulation attacks against U.S. assets around the world, including in the United States.

If the goal is to eliminate Iran's nuclear program, we expect the United States would be able to carry out the mission.

If, however, the goal is to compel a change in the Iranian regime or Iranian policy, we do not think the United States can succeed with air forces alone. It would need to be prepared for a follow-on invasion by U.S. forces, coming out of both Afghanistan and Iraq. Those forces are not available at this point and would require several years to develop. That the United States could defeat and occupy Iran is certain. Whether the United States has a national interest in devoting the time and the resources to Iran's occupation is unclear.

The United States could have defeated North Vietnam with a greater mobilization of forces. However, Washington determined that the defeat of North Vietnam and the defense of Indochina were not worth the level of effort required. Instead, it tried to achieve its ends with the resources it was prepared to devote to the mission. As a result, resources were squandered and the North Vietnamese flag flies over what was Saigon.

**The danger of war is that politicians and generals, desiring a particular end, fantasize that they can achieve that end with insufficient resources.**

**This lesson is applicable to Iran.**

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***Pakistan:***  
**The Military Dictator Imposes  
Military Dictatorship:  
“The U.S. Embassy Had Green  
Lighted The Coup Because They  
Regarded The Chief Justice As A  
Nuisance And ‘A Taliban  
Sympathiser’”**



New Pakistani Currency Note [Thanks to Gerald Ali]

November 3 / 4, 2007 By TARIQ ALI, CounterPunch

For anyone marinated in the history of Pakistan yesterday's decision by the military to impose a State of Emergency will hardly come as a surprise.

Martial Law in this country has become an antibiotic: in order to obtain the same results one has to keep doubling the doses. What has taken place is a coup within a coup.

**General Pervaiz Musharraf ruled the country with a civilian façade, but his power base was limited to the Army.**

And it was the Army Chief of Staff who declared the emergency, suspended the 1973 Constitution, took all non-government TV channels off the air, jammed the mobile phone networks, surrounded the Supreme Court with paramilitary units, dismissed the Chief Justice, arrested the President of the Bar association and the civil rights activists of the Human Right Commission of Pakistan, thus inaugurating yet another shabby period in the country history.

Why?

They feared that a Supreme Court judgement due next week might make it impossible for Musharraf to contest the elections.

The decision to suspend the Constitution was taken a few weeks ago. Benazir Bhutto, was informed and left the country. She is reportedly on her way back.

Till now she has offered no comment on the new martial law, despite the fact that a senior leader of her party, Aitzaz Ahsan has been arrested for denouncing the coup. Intoxicated by the incense of power she might now discover that it remains as elusive as ever.

If she supports the latest turn it will be an act of political suicide.

If she decides to dump the General (she has accused him of breaking his promises and it will be difficult for her to remain allied to a dictator) she will be betraying the confidence of the US State Department, which pushed her in this direction.

The two institutions targeted by the Emergency are the judiciary and the lively network of independent TV stations, many of whose correspondents supply information that can never be gleaned from politicians.

Geo TV the largest of these continued to broadcast outside the country.

**Hamid Mir, one of its sharpest journalists, reported yesterday afternoon that according to his sources the US Embassy had green lighted the coup because they regarded the Chief Justice as a nuisance and 'a Taliban sympathiser'.**

For a whole year now, the regime was confronted with a severe crisis of legitimacy that came to a head earlier this year when General Musharraf's decision to suspend the Chief Justice, Iftikhar Hussein Chaudhry, provoked a six-month long mass movement that forced a government retreat.

Some of Chaudhry's judgements had challenged the government on key issues such as 'disappeared prisoners', harassment of women and rushed privatisations. It was feared that he might declare a uniformed President illegal.

The struggle to demand a separation of powers between the state and the judiciary, which has always been weak, was of critical importance.

Pakistan's judges have usually been acquiescent in the past. Those who resisted previous military leaders were cajoled, blackmailed, bullied and persuaded to retire.

Pakistani judges spring from the same milieu as the rest of the ruling elite, which is why the decision of this chief justice to fight back was surprising, but extremely important and won him enormous respect, a commodity in short supply.

Global media coverage of Pakistan suggests a country consisting of Generals, corrupt politicians and bearded lunatics.

The struggle to reinstate the Chief Justice presented a different snapshot of the country.

This movement for constitutional freedoms revived hope at a time when most people are alienated from the system and cynical about their rulers, whose ill-gotten wealth and withered faces consumed by vanity inspire nil confidence.

That this is the case can be seen in the heroic decision taken by the Supreme Court in a special session yesterday declaring the new dispensation 'illegal and unconstitutional'.

The hurriedly sworn in new Chief Justice will be seen for what he is: a stooge of the men in uniform.

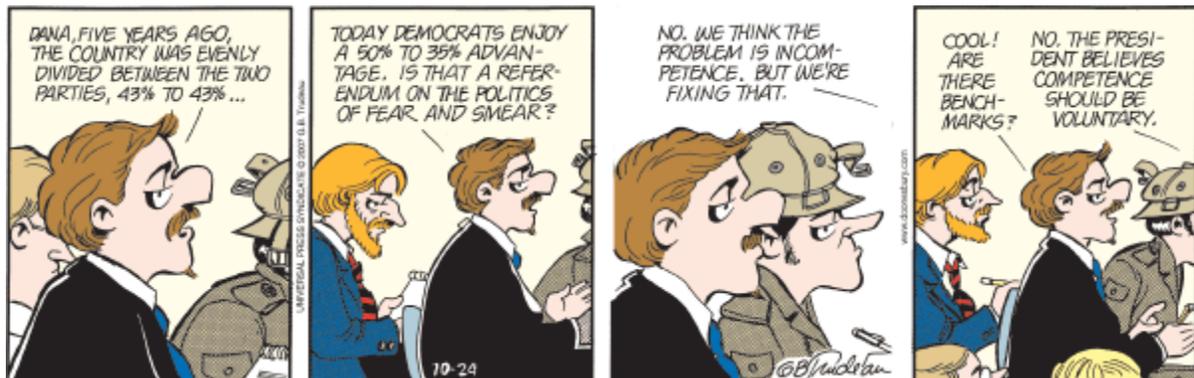
If the constitution remains in suspension for more than three months then Musharraf himself might be pushed aside by the Army and a new strongman put in place.

Or it could be that the aim of the operation was limited to a cleansing of the Supreme Court and controlling the media.

That is what Musharraf indicated in his broadcast to the nation. In which case a totally rigged election becomes a certainty next January. Whatever the case Pakistan's long journey to the end of the night continues.

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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## CLASS WAR REPORTS

# A MESSAGE FOR YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD BLOODSUCKER:



Protesters shout slogans during a socialist demonstration against U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's attendance at the Iraqi conference in Istanbul, November 3, 2007. Placards read "Down with Imperialism. Long Live Socialism", "Blood suckers will give an accounting." REUTERS/Stringer

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

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

**"The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops." Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War**

**"The military are the final, essential weak point of Bush and Cheney." David McReynolds 9.29.07**

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<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>



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