

## GI SPECIAL 5L3:

Improvement! Iraq War No Longer the Eighth Circle of Hell!



# [Matched Pair]

## #1:

To: GI Special  
Sent: December 03, 2007  
Subject: World War III by Dennis

By Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade, purple heart, Veterans For Peace 50 Michigan, Vietnam Veterans Against The War, United Auto Workers GM Retiree, in Perry, Michigan

World War III

**There is "In God We Trust" on every dollar bill  
"In God We Trust" on every M-16  
"In God We Trust" on every bullet and tank,  
there are just too many billions and billions  
of "In God We Trust's."  
Follow the money and "One Nation Under God"  
was inserted before World War II  
and "In God We Trust" was left to fight Korea  
to fight the Cold War, the Vietnam War  
and now the Iraq War and Afghanistan War,  
it's all spelled out on the dollar bill.  
Right wing Evangelists, right wing Catholics  
and right wing Jews  
think all the same, that "God Is Pro-War."  
Forget "Thou Shall Not Kill"  
and Jesus as the "Prince Of Peace,"  
they want to kill all "Islamic Fascists"  
in "Their Holy War," what an oxymoron.  
They want to kill all the Muslims  
who are like Nazis' they believe,  
like we killed over 50 years ago in WW II  
since then we have been, in constant War.  
Now they want to drag us  
kicking, screaming, dying and wounding  
into World War III.  
But it is "Their God" and "Their God Is Dead"  
because "Their God" died a long time ago.  
The founders of Our Nation  
wisely wrote in Our Constitution  
that there will be, a Separation  
Between the Church and State.  
So throw away the "Pledge Of Allegiance"  
and burn the dollar bills and print new ones  
that just say "One Dollar."  
Then take away, the Billions and Billions  
almost a Trillion, of one dollars  
and end "Their Un-Holy War."  
Stop the killing, the nonsense,  
the backwardness, superstitions,  
of why, we are here  
and where, we will go.**

**#2:**



From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: December 03, 2007  
Subject: Siren---Incoming Insanity

### **Siren---Incoming Insanity**

**G.I. Special is like a car alarm going off in the middle of the night. If you don't piss people off about the war in Iraq, they will wet the bed with apathy.**

**Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran**

**When God and Government become ONE,  
war is inevitable.**

**MH**

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)

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Soldier From Lee Killed In Iraq**

December 03, 2007 AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)

**A soldier from Maine has been killed in Iraq, the second with ties to his small hometown to die in combat in less than six months.**

Cpl. Blair William Emery, 24, originally from Lee, died Nov. 30th when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Baqubah, according to Gov. John Baldacci's office.

Emery, whose parents live in Lee, served with the 571st Military Police Company, 97th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade.

Sgt. Joel A. House, whose parents also live in Lee, which is northeast of Bangor, was killed June 23 by an IED in Taji, Iraq.

"The people of Lee have paid a high price," Baldacci said in a statement Monday. "This small Maine community has been hit especially hard. The entire community needs our support."

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## Dodge City Native Killed In Iraq



Nov. 20 By Mark Vierthaler, Dodge City Daily Globe

Shortly after enlisting in the U.S. Army, Christopher Kruse was stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash. One night around 10 p.m., he received a phone call from a friend and fellow soldier.

He had been in a wreck down in California. His car was disabled and he was afraid he wasn't going to make it back in time for 4 a.m. drill.

As soon as he hung up the phone, Chris drove down, picked up his friend and drove back to Washington. The two pulled up to the base just in time to make it to drill.

That was Chris in a nutshell, said his wife, Courtney.

"He was always thinking about other people," she said. "They always came before himself."

Sgt. Christopher Ryan Kruse, Second Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, Fourth Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Second Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash., was killed by an IED near Mukisha, Iraq, on Tuesday, Nov. 13.

He was 23 years old.

Chris' mother, Linda Hensley, said the Dodge City native spent most of his time outside, if not camping or hunting, then simply enjoying the woods.

When not playing the outdoorsman, he often had his head under the hood of a car. The older, the better, said his stepfather Brant.

Chris' inventory included a 1971 Chevy pickup, El Camino and Blazer. The only thing that outstripped his love of the cars, Linda said, was the intuition and fervor with which he approached the vehicles.

Picture this: As Chris drives his pickup home, Linda looks out the rear-view mirror to see flames shooting out from underneath the hood. Calmly, Chris pulls the car over and pops the hood.

"He fiddled under the hood for a little while," Linda said. "He rewired some things, hopped in and we were back on our way."

Chris' father, Dan, said he was a shy child but he would always show that he was equally comfortable alone or among a group.

On a trip to Colorado for a family reunion when Chris was 10, Dan said he disappeared for an hour into the woods. As the family became increasingly concerned, Chris wandered back into sight. He seemed bemused that they had worried.

"Chris just laughed," he said. "He knew where he was the entire time."

As Chris got older, those who knew him said his penchant for selflessness simply grew.

"He did stuff because he wanted to," Linda said. "He never wanted to be the center of attention."

When he was 14, Brant purchased his stepson a bow, promising Chris that he would be able to go hunting with all the guys. The first time out, they hunkered down in the river bed running alongside Ford.

Some years later, Brant said Chris and his stepbrothers decided to hunt geese. The drove to Bucklin and then to Ford with no luck. Coming back into town, the truck drove straight into a flock.

A 2002 graduate of Dodge City High School, Chris played on the Red Demons basketball team. He remained an active hunter with his family and mechanics, even going so far as to fix a friend's truck on his stepdad's driveway.

"Even if I had to clean up the oil-stains," Brant said. "But, it was all right. He was always willing to help."

Chris' funeral will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the First United Methodist Church in Dodge City.

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## **Georgian Base In Numaniya Attacked**

12/3/2007 Reuters

Five rockets were fired at a base for Georgian troops in Numaniya, 120 km (75 miles) south of Baghdad, the U.S. military said. One rocket landed inside the base, causing minor damage but no casualties.

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



A U.S. soldier with the 4th Platoon, Bravo Company I-327th Infantry 1st Battalion 101st Airborne Division Air Assault takes position after finding a handmade explosive on the side of the road during a patrol in Siniyah, around 70 km ( 40 miles) north of Tikrit, November 23, 2007. REUTERS/Stefano Rellandini

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Success In Afghanistan! Cultivation Of Marijuana Up 40%**

Dec. 2, 2007 Rahim Faiez (AP)

KABUL, Afghanistan - The fields of Balkh province in northern Afghanistan were free of opium poppies this year, a success touted often by Afghan and international officials. But one look at Mohammad Alam's fields uncovers an emerging drug problem.

Ten-foot-tall cannabis plants flourish in Alam's fields. The crop - the source of both marijuana and hashish - can be just as profitable as opium but draws none of the scrutiny from Afghan officials bent on eradicating poppies.

Cannabis cultivation rose 40 percent in Afghanistan this year, to 173,000 acres from 123,550 in 2006, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime estimated in its 2007 opium survey. The crop is being grown in at least 18 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, according to the survey released last month.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

***Typical Coward In Command:*  
“‘Why Won’t You Date Any Of Us,  
Bitch?’ One Of The Men  
Demanded Before He Helped Kick  
In Her Barracks Door”**

# **“The Next Week, Blume’s Fort Sill, Okla., Army Commanders Charged Her With Assault”**

## **“Capt. Juan Tanabe, ‘Determined That Her Actions Were Not In Self-Defense, And Therefore Punished Her Accordingly’”**

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

11/05/2007 By Matthew D. LaPlante, The Salt Lake Tribune [Excerpts]

The soldiers outside her room were drunken and indignant.

“Why won’t you date any of us, bitch?” Amanda Blume recalled one of the men demanded before he helped kick in her barracks door.

Inside, Blume remembered, she was surrounded, called names and pushed into a corner. Fearing for her safety, she said, she fought her way free, striking one of the men in the face on the way out.

The next week, Blume’s Fort Sill, Okla., Army commanders charged her with assault.

**[I]n punishing the female soldier, Blume’s male commanders followed a pattern that advocates of female service members call “epidemic” - a pattern that nearly repeated itself again to Blume just a few months later.**

Honorably discharged in early July, Blume remains proud of her military service, which began the month after she graduated from Jordan High School in 2004.

As a whole, she said, the experience was positive. But it also was punctuated by moments that were alternately frightening, demeaning and unjust.

**The day after Blume was attacked in her room, she was called in to see her commanding officer. “I thought he would help me, but that’s not what happened,” she said.**

**The man she’d struck had already been in to file a complaint.**

**“They told me they knew I had hit one of those guys and that was the only thing they could prove,” Blume said.**

**Blume was given the opportunity to fight the charge in a military court, but she said she was told doing so could take a very long time - and that she wouldn’t be eligible for discharge until after her trial and any possible resulting sentence had run its course.**



**With just a few months left on her Army contract, Blume accepted the charge and her nonjudicial punishment - a letter of reprimand and three days of extra duty.**

Army officials said that three people were punished in the incident, but initially declined to give names or acknowledge that Blume was one of those disciplined.

**Upon further questioning, Fort Sill officials confirmed that Blume had been punished, explaining that her commander, Capt. Juan Tanabe, “determined that her actions were not in self-defense, and therefore punished her accordingly.”**

Blume was unimpressed by the efforts made to determine the truth. “No one even came out to see the door,” which was dented and bent in the attack, she said.

According to Blume, one of the others who was punished was a senior enlisted soldier who had come to her defense after she ran out of the building. He was chastised for having been fraternizing with junior soldiers, she said.

Blume was never told what happened to the soldier she punched - a man whom she had earlier accused of stalking her and was under orders to stay away - or to the others who were in her barracks that night.

In any case, no criminal charges were filed against her alleged assailant. Tanabe ended up handling all three punishments privately.

Blume regrets the decision not to fight back by demanding a court-martial.

“Right there, I basically gave everyone a license to do whatever they wanted to me,” she said.

In June, on the final week of her service in the military, Blume reported being brutally attacked again - this time by her sergeant, a man she considered a friend - the same soldier who had been punished in the earlier attack for having come to her aid. While drunk, he allegedly chased her into a field and choked her into unconsciousness after she refused his order to stay at his home after a party there.

Once again, Blume’s assailant was quick to report the incident first - and with his own version of events. But because the attack occurred off base, Larnelle Lewis had to tell his story to civilian authorities.

Lawton, Okla., city prosecutors prepared a criminal complaint against Blume, but ripped up the charges after speaking to her - and seeing the bruises on her neck. Still, Blume said, she felt as though she were treated more as a suspect than a victim.

Lewis ultimately was charged with three counts of misdemeanor assault against Blume and two others who tried to help her. He pleaded no contest to the charges, acknowledging that prosecutors had enough evidence to convict him while not admitting any personal culpability.

On Sept. 28, Lawton, Okla., city Judge Mike Corrales suspended a sentence of up to 60 days in jail for Lewis. If the convicted soldier meets all of the conditions of a six-month probation, the charges will be dropped.

Prosecutor Neil West said he was prepared to ask for a much harsher punishment, but he was surprised when one of the victims in the case - a soldier who remains in Lewis' unit at Fort Sill - testified in favor of the lenient sentence. West said that no one contested the facts of the case, but Lewis' attorney produced several "character witnesses" - service members of various ranks from his unit who described the defendant as a model citizen and soldier.

Blume was never informed of the sentence. She found out from The Salt Lake Tribune days later.

But even before the sentencing hearing, Blume knew that soldiers from her unit had sided with her assailant. "They've been protecting him all along - at my expense," she said.

**The former soldier said her commanders even ordered her to attend combat training along with her attacker on the Monday after the assault. It wasn't until Blume's mother threatened legal action that the order was rescinded, she said.**

**A member of Blume's unit, who asked not to be identified for fear of retribution by Army superiors, said Lewis has never been punished by Tanabe.**

**"Nothing happened to the man - nothing at all," the soldier said. "He didn't lose his rank, he didn't get extra duty, nothing."**

Fort Sill spokeswoman Nancy Elliot confirmed, in the statement, that "at this time, the commander has not made any decision," in regards to punishing Lewis for the attack, which occurred in June.

Colleen Mussolino has heard that kind of language before. The national commander of Women Veterans of America says it usually indicates a big broom is coming through and a big rug is being lifted up.

Indeed, The Tribune later learned, Tanabe recently completed his service obligations and is no longer in the military. And members of the unit say that the new leadership seems content to simply move on.

"Nothing seems to change," sighed Mussolino, a Vietnam-era Army veteran who said she was assaulted by four fellow soldiers during her service. "It goes right back to this good old boys network not wanting to take care of the females. It's outrageous."

**Mussolino said she hears stories like Blume's "all the time." And the result for their attackers, she said, is often the same, "a slap on the wrist."**

"Women go into the military for the same reasons that men do - for education, to travel, to serve their country - and they're willing to lay their lives down for their nation," Mussolino said.

"All they expect is to have the same kind of respect and protection as the men. And they can't get it."

Blume said no one in Fort Sill seemed to want to hear about what had happened to her until she finally stumbled upon the base victim's advocate, David Carnahan. She credits him with forcing the little action that has occurred, including the opening of an investigation into the earlier attack in her barracks room.

Elliot, however, indicated the matter is closed. "Within one week of this investigation, all punishments were imposed," she said in a statement.

**She said Carnahan would not be allowed to speak with The Tribune about the matter - even after Blume signed a privacy waiver - except via e-mails that would be censored by base authorities.**

The Tribune declined that arrangement.

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## **Thieving Scum At Philadelphia V.A. Steal From Long-Term Disabled Veterans; Protected By Democrat Politicians, They Use The Money For Loan Sharking**

**[Sounds like the vets need some self-defense, doesn't it? No doubt there are some not too disabled. And what jury in the world would convict them? T]**

Nov 28, 2007 by Gabriele Valentine, Philadelphia City Paper

**Some live in wheelchairs. Others spend their days and nights bedridden with old combat wounds from World War II Korea or Vietnam.**

**And then there are those who suffer from disabling diseases that make unassisted living an impossibility.**

Many of the long-term patients at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center in University City are forced to rely on the kindness of doctors, nurses, health-care assistants and even janitors in order to survive.

**But, it turns out that some of the veterans are also victims of an organized gang of part-time criminals.**

**According to patients, and current and former VA employees, a gang of crooked health-care workers is responsible for a years-long crime wave that targets the most vulnerable veterans.**

**The money stolen from these vets is used to finance a low-level loan-sharking operation at the VA, say sources, who note that the thieves “loan” their ill-gotten cash to fellow employees at high interest rates.**

**This year, the VA police have managed to arrest one VA employee who was caught stealing a vet’s cell phone.**

**He was found guilty in court but, after paying a fine, was transferred from the nursing home to the VA hospital across the street.**

**Another employee was caught stealing money from a severely disabled veteran several years ago and fired, but rehired by the janitorial department.**

**“The thief is protected by a guy here at the VA who is connected to a very powerful local congressman,” one VA supervisor tells City Paper.**

**“He is also close to a Democratic ward leader in West Philly.”**

**The supervisor claims VA police avoid the crooked cleaner, even though they suspect he plays a key role in the loan-sharking operation. “They won’t go near the guy now,” the VA source says, “even when he’s up to no good.”**

**Some gang members are said to work for a subcontractor that provides health-care assistants to the hospital and nursing home.**

**“These guys come into my room in the middle of the night with a little pen light, checking out my night stand,” one wheelchair-bound vet says. “I yell, ‘What do you want?’ And they run right out.”**

**Adding that, “I have about \$20 a week to spend, that’s it,” the vet says he’s had more than \$60 and two DVDs stolen during the past two years. “That’s a lot of money for me to lose.”**

**Meanwhile, a midlevel VA hospital employee notes, “Many of us live paycheck to paycheck, so when folks run out of money before payday, they borrow from the sharks here. Everybody knows who the loan sharks are and where to find them. You borrow \$20, you pay back \$30. That’s how it works.”**

**Like everybody interviewed for this story, the VA employee and the disabled veteran requested anonymity because they fear retribution from the thieves or their friends. Besides, they also claim, the administrators would rather ignore the problem than address it.**

**“This summer we had one interim director here from the Coatesville VA,” a medical staffer says. “I asked again and again for an appointment with him so I could tell him about the problems here. Finally his office said, ‘Sure, he says to call Monday and make**

an appointment.' I called Monday and found out the guy had left the job on Friday and was back running the Coatesville VA full time."

**Last May, a local TV news crew investigating thefts at the VA nursing home was arrested by VA police.**

**Their videotape was seized and the crew held for hours inside a holding cell at the VA Hospital.**

Their reports on CBS-3 focused on the thefts, but never touched on the loan-sharking.

"After a couple of stories about us on TV, things got better for a while," one resident says. "The police started putting in more surveillance cameras, patrolling the hallways at night. That lasted for the summer.

"Now, we're back to only one cop on duty at night in the nursing home. Nobody is really watching the workers at night.

**"We have money stolen every single week and nobody cares. We served our country with honor. The sacrifices some of us made! We lost limbs, lost normal lives for good! And now we're treated like shit." [A few lost thieves might improve the environment.]**

The U.S. Attorney's Office is charged with prosecuting crimes at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center; the VA police is supposed to pass the crime reports to them for further review.

**In the course of researching this story, though, CP reviewed more than 150 VA-police crime reports and found almost every single one ended with these words: "US Attorney Notified, No Further Police Action Taken. This Is A Final Report."**

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## ***Great Moments In Battlefield Leadership:*** **"We're Getting Ready To Invade A Country, And This Is What Our Commander Talks To Us About?" One Soldier Says. "Mustaches?"**

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

**It's now clear that the distant figures who'd been shot at were not fighters with rifles but shepherds with canes. Fick runs to company headquarters and explains what has happened. He wants the boys evacuated to a field hospital. The major**

**on duty informs him that Lieutenant Colonel Ferrando is sleeping and can't be disturbed.**

December 20, 2007 By Michael Massing, The New York Review Of Books [Excerpts]

It's in these firsthand accounts that one can find the most searing descriptions of the toll the war has taken on both US troops and the Iraqi people.

That toll began not with the terrible violence that broke out after the fall of Baghdad but during the invasion itself.

Two books describe this with special vividness: *One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer*, by Nathaniel Fick, and *Generation Kill*, by Evan Wright.

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The company's operations chief, while failing to bring along enough batteries for the Marines' critical night-fighting equipment, had the presence of mind to bring a personal video camera, which he plans to use to make a war documentary that he hopes to sell after the invasion.

**Their commander, Lieutenant Colonel Steve Ferrando, seems more interested in the Marines' personal appearance than in their preparedness for battle.**

**Addressing them in the Kuwaiti desert on the eve of war, he tells them that when they cross the Euphrates, all mustaches must come off.**

"We're getting ready to invade a country, and this is what our commander talks to us about?" one soldier says. "Mustaches?"

Further north, as they near the town of Qalat Sukkar, Fick writes, he and his men are ordered to seize a nearby military airfield.

This upsets them, since they are not trained for such a mission, and their Humvees lack not only armor but also doors and roofs. Fick is further distressed to hear the new rules of engagement: all personnel on the airfield—whether armed or not—are to be considered hostile.

**During training, he writes, "we had learned about Vietnam's free-fire zones. They had been, it was acknowledged, immoral and counterproductive. Qalat Sukkar was being declared a free-fire zone."**

As they race toward the airfield, one of his men suddenly opens fire. Looking out, Fick sees in the distance a blur of cars, camels, and men carrying long sticks that might be rifles.

Finally reaching the airfield, the Marines find it deserted. While relieved, they are shaken to see how vulnerable they had been. They are soon approached by five Iraqis dragging two bundles.

Inside are two teenaged boys.

Both have been wounded—one gravely.

**Examining him, Doc Bryan, a medic, can see that he's been shot with 5.56mm rounds, a caliber used by the Americans. "Marines shot this boy!" he roars.**

**It's now clear that the distant figures who'd been shot at were not fighters with rifles but shepherds with canes.**

**Fick runs to company headquarters and explains what has happened. He wants the boys evacuated to a field hospital. The major on duty informs him that Lieutenant Colonel Ferrando is sleeping and can't be disturbed.**

Fick is livid:

"I wanted to tell the major that we were Americans, that Americans don't shoot kids and let them die, that the men in my platoon had to be able to look themselves in the mirror for the rest of their lives."

The reckless way his men have been deployed has opened up cracks in his trust in his commanding officers:

"I thought of the untold innocent civilians who must have been killed by artillery and air strikes over the past week. The only difference was that we hadn't stuck around to see the effects those wrought.

**"Our actions were being thrust in our faces, and the chain of command was passing the buck to the youngest, and most vulnerable, of the troops."**

**Determined to force the issue, Fick races back to his men. Placing the two boys on stretchers, they rush them to the battalion headquarters, then deposit them in front of the indifferent major.**

**Faced with this small-scale mutiny, he slips to the back of the tent to rouse Ferrando.**

Coming out, the lieutenant colonel — quickly sizing up the situation — orders the boys' immediate transfer to a field hospital. Fick's dejection does not lift:

"I felt sick for the shepherd boys, for the girl in the blue dress, and for all the innocent people who surely lived in Nasiriyah, Ar Rifa, and the other towns this war would consume.

"I hurt for my Marines, goodhearted American guys who'd bear these burdens for the rest of their lives.

"And I mourned for myself. Not in self-pity, but for the kid who'd come to Iraq. He was gone."

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# IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

## **Resistance Action**

01 Dec 2007 Reuters & 02 Dec 2007 Reuters & VOI & 12/3/2007 The Peninsula & (AFP) & Reuters

A roadside bomb wounded three police commandos when it targeted their patrol in the Shaab district of northern Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents killed a policeman in front of his house in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - Insurgents killed Lieutenant-Colonel Aqeel Abdul Hussein, assistant to the head of Baghdad's security forces, in a drive-by shooting in western Baghdad's Mansour district, police said.

A roadside bomb killed two policemen and wounded four others in Baghdad's Mansour district, police said.

Two policemen were killed and four wounded when a roadside bomb exploded next to their patrol in the Mansur neighbourhood, Baghdad.

Major General Fawzi Mohammed Hussein, an advisor to Interior Minister Jawad Bolani, was killed while driving in his car in west Baghdad, a security official said. The general's driver was wounded in the attack, which was carried out by insurgents driving a Dodge car, the official said.

Guerrillas killed four soldiers and abducted another from the oil pipelines protection force at Al-Fatha town, 95 kilometres (60 miles) southwest of the northern oil hub of Kirkuk. They attacked the five soldiers when they left the military's headquarters early Monday killing four of them and abducting another one.

Two Iraqi soldiers were wounded when their checkpoint was sprayed with gunfire by unknown attackers near the northern oil refinery town of Baiji, police said.



Guerrillas killed four policemen and wounded two others in an attack on a police patrol in southeastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A car bomber killed three policemen and wounded another in northern Ramadi, 110 km (70 miles) west of Baghdad, on Sunday, police said.

Insurgents killed four policemen in an ambush near the town of Riyadh, 60 km (40 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, on Sunday police said.

Three policemen were wounded when several mortar bombs hit a police station in Kut, 170 km (105 miles) southeast of Baghdad, a security source said.

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

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

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



A foreign occupation soldier from U.S. I-327th Infantry 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division Air Assault, fires to open a locked door in Baiji, some 250km (180 miles) from Baghdad, November 24, 2007. REUTERS/Stefano Rellandini

**[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]

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

**Remember All That Bullshit About  
Happy Iraqis Coming Home?  
“70 % Say They Are Leaving Because  
Of Tougher Visa Regulations And  
Because They Are Not Allowed To  
Work And Can No Longer Afford To  
Stay In Syria”  
“Only 14 % Of Iraqi Refugees Are  
Returning Because Of Improved Security  
Conditions”**

Dec 3 by Herve Bar (AFP)

Between 25,000 and 28,000 Iraqi refugees have come home from Syria since mid-September, the Iraqi Red Crescent Organisation said Monday, confirming a growing trend but casting doubts on reports of mass returns.

Its numbers are lower than those given by the Iraqi government, which estimates as many as 60,000 refugees have made the homeward trip across the border in the past few months, mainly from Syria but also from Jordan, and that the numbers are growing by the day.

The government's method of calculating numbers of returnees has been questioned, amid claims by its political opponents -- which it vehemently denies -- that it is inflating the figures.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that 4.2 million Iraqis have been displaced since the US-led invasion of March 2003, including 750,000 who found refuge in Jordan, 1.4 million in Syria and about two million elsewhere in Iraq.

The UNHCR, meanwhile, said in a statement on its website that a survey in Syria of 100 Iraqi families found that most of those returning do so because they are running out of money or resources or because their visas have expired.

Only 14 percent of Iraqi refugees are returning because of improved security conditions, it said.

Around 70 percent say they are leaving because of tougher visa regulations and because they are not allowed to work and can no longer afford to stay in Syria," the statement said.

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

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

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

## **Welcome To Liberated Iraq**

Dec 3, 2007 AFP

BAGHDAD (AFP) - US troops are holding nearly 950 children and teenagers in a military prison at a Baghdad base, some as young as 10, a top commander said Monday.

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## **Cholera: “We Have A Catastrophe In Baghdad, An Official Said”**

[Thanks to J & Phil G, who sent this in. She writes: How can anyone with a functioning brain doubt that the lack of clean water and sewerage is responsible for the cholera

spreading. Who can doubt that the erratic power supply makes it difficult to boil the contaminated water. Who can doubt that the hospitals lack the medicines and facilities to cope with the sick.

[And who can thinking people blame for the situation as it exists? Certainly not Saddam. Under him there was clean water, sewerage and electricity.

[Are the allies congratulating themselves on this achievement? They sure are managing to reduce the population very efficiently but for what purpose? Is it possible this cholera can be classed as a crime against humanity to add to the war crimes already committed?]

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December 2, 2007 David Smith, The Observer

Baghdad is facing a 'catastrophe' with cases of cholera rising sharply in the past three weeks to more than 100, strengthening fears that poor sanitation and the imminent rainy season could create an epidemic.

The disease - spread by bacteria in contaminated water, which can result in rapid dehydration and death - threatens to blunt growing optimism in the Iraqi capital after a recent downturn in violence. Two boys in an orphanage have died and six other children were diagnosed with the disease, according to the Iraqi government. 'We have a catastrophe in Baghdad,' an official said.

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) said 101 cases had been recorded in the city, making up 79 per cent of all new cases in Iraq. It added that no single source for the upsurge had been identified, but the main Shia enclave of Sadr City was among the areas hardest hit.

As Iraq's rainy season nears, its ageing water pipes and sewerage systems, many damaged or destroyed by more than four years of war, pose a new threat to a population weary of crisis.

Claire Hajaj, a spokeswoman for Unicef, said: 'Iraq's water and sanitation networks are in a critical condition. Pollution of waterways by raw sewage is perhaps the greatest environmental and public health hazard facing Iraqis - particularly children. Waterborne diarrhoea diseases kill and sicken more Iraqi children than anything except pneumonia. We estimate that only one in three Iraqi children can rely on a safe water source - with Baghdad and southern cities most affected.'

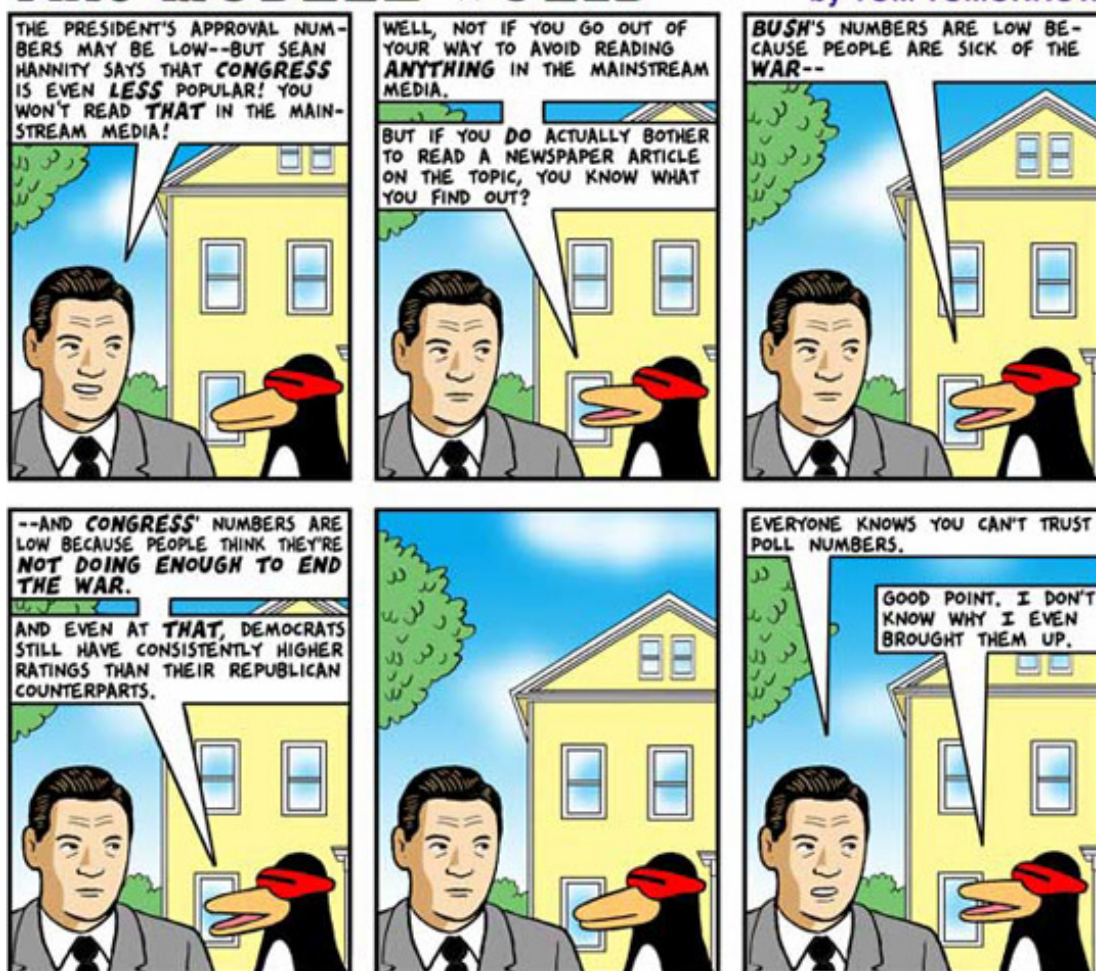
Captain Richard Dos Santos, attached to the 3rd squadron of the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, said that in the al-Hadar area of south Baghdad sewage pumps were only 30 to 40 per cent operational. 'There is sewage near schools and there is an increased threat of cholera and flu in winter when resistance is low,' he said.

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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



## 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.

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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

# ***THIS IS NOT A SATIRE***

## **U.S. Government Says It Has Right To Kidnap British Citizens**

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

December 2, 2007 The Sunday Times [UK] [Excerpts]

AMERICA has told Britain that it can “kidnap” British citizens if they are wanted for crimes in the United States.

A senior lawyer for the American government has told the Court of Appeal in London that kidnapping foreign citizens is permissible under American law because the US Supreme Court has sanctioned it.

The admission will alarm the British business community after the case of the so-called NatWest Three, bankers who were extradited to America on fraud charges. More than a dozen other British executives, including senior managers at British Airways and BAE Systems, are under investigation by the US authorities and could face criminal charges in America.

**Until now it was commonly assumed that US law permitted kidnapping only in the “extraordinary rendition” of terrorist suspects.**

**The American government has for the first time made it clear in a British court that the law applies to anyone, British or otherwise, suspected of a crime by Washington.**

Legal experts confirmed this weekend that America viewed extradition as just one way of getting foreign suspects back to face trial. Rendition, or kidnapping, dates back to 19th-century bounty hunting and Washington believes it is still legitimate.

Legal sources said that under traditional American justice, rendition meant capturing wanted people abroad and bringing them to the United States.

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**CLASS WAR REPORTS**

# “More Than One In 10 People In The United States Going Hungry”

**Of the 35.52 million food insecure U.S. residents, 11.1 million lived in households marked by “very low food security,” a new term for what the government used to call “food insecurity with hunger”.**

November 28, 2007 By Abid Aslam, IPS News

More than one in 10 people in the United States go hungry, according to new official figures that suggest government food programs are falling short in the world's wealthiest country.

More than 35 million people in a country of some 294 million went hungry last year, 390,000 more than in 2005, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's latest Household Food Security report.

Of the total, 12.63 million were children.

**“The U.S. is the only industrialized nation that still allows hunger within its borders,” said David Beckmann, president of the advocacy group Bread for the World.**

Jim Weill, president of the Food Research and Action Centre, warned the situation likely has worsened since the agriculture department surveyed the populace in December 2006.

“As costs for food, energy, and housing continue to rise and wages stagnate or decline, households are finding themselves increasingly strapped,” Weill said. “This may mean even worse numbers in 2007. We need to do more to make sure that households have access to healthy food by improving and expanding proven programmes that help.”

The advocates highlighted the federal government's Food Stamp Programme, which Beckmann called “the flagship nutrition safety net for Americans”, as needed an upgrade.

The programme provides food stamps to more than 26 million people every month, enabling them to use the tokens in place of cash to purchase specified foodstuffs. According to Beckmann and Weill, the relief is insufficient.

“The average benefit of one dollar per meal per person is just not enough to buy adequate, nutritious food,” said Beckmann, whose group plans to launch its own hunger report Nov. 19.

**Of the 35.52 million food insecure U.S. residents, 11.1 million lived in households marked by “very low food security,” a new term for what the government used to call “food insecurity with hunger”.**

The figure rose from 10.8 million in 2005, consistent with other surveys showing worsening conditions among the poorest.

Black and Hispanic households suffered the most, with food insecurity rates of 21.8 percent and 19.5 percent respectively.

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## “War Imposes Enormous Costs On A Bankrupt Country” “The U.S. Dollar Has Lost 60% Of Its Value During The Current Administration”



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

11/28/07 By Paul Craig Roberts, Information Clearing House. Dr. Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury for Economic Policy in the Reagan administration.  
[Excerpts]

**Without the ability to borrow abroad, Washington cannot conduct its wars of aggression, and Americans cannot continue to consume \$800 billion dollars more each year than the economy produces.**

A few years ago the euro was worth 85 cents. Today it is worth \$1.48. This is an enormous decline in the exchange value of the US dollar.



Foreigners who finance the US budget and trade deficits have experienced a huge drop in the value of their dollar holdings.

The interest rate on US Treasury bonds does not come close to compensating foreigners for the decline in the value of the dollar against other traded currencies.

China holds over one trillion dollars, and Japan almost one trillion, in dollar-denominated assets. Other countries have lesser but still substantial amounts. As the US dollar is the reserve currency, the entire world's investment portfolio is over-weighted in dollars.

**No country wants to hold a depreciating asset, and no country wants to acquire more depreciating assets.**

**In order to reassure itself, Wall Street claims that foreign countries are locked into accumulating dollars in order to protect the value of their existing dollar holdings. But this is utter nonsense.**

**The US dollar has lost 60% of its value during the current administration. Obviously, countries are not locked into accumulating dollars.**

By offshoring production for US markets, the US has no prospect of closing its trade deficit. The offshored production of US firms counts as imports when it returns to the US to be marketed. The more US production moves abroad, the less there is to export and the higher imports rise.

The dollar's decline has resulted from foreigners accumulating new dollars at a lower rate. They still accumulate dollars, but fewer. As new dollars are still being produced at high rates, their value has dropped.

**If foreigners were to stop accumulating new dollars, the dollar's value would plummet. If foreigners were to reduce their existing holdings of dollars, superpower America would instantly disappear.**

Foreigners have continued to accumulate dollars in the expectation that sooner or later Washington would address its trade and budget deficits. However, now these deficits seem to have passed the point of no return.

The sharp decline in the dollar has not closed the trade deficit by increasing exports and decreasing imports. Offshoring prevents the possibility of exports reducing the trade deficit, and Americans are now dependent on imports (including offshored production) for which there are no longer any domestically produced alternatives. The US trade deficit will close when foreigners cease to finance it.

The budget deficit cannot be closed by taxation without driving up unemployment and poverty. American median family incomes have experienced no real increase during the 21st century.

**Moreover, if the huge bonuses paid to CEOs for offshoring their corporations' production and to Wall Street for marketing subprime derivatives are removed from the income figures, Americans have experienced a decline in real income.**

Some studies, such as the Economic Mobility Project, find long-term declines in the real median incomes of some US population groups and a decline in upward mobility.

**The falling dollar has pushed oil to \$100 a barrel, which in turn will drive up other prices.**

The falling dollar means that the imports and offshored production on which Americans are dependent will rise in price. This is not a formula to produce a rise in US real incomes.

Superpower America is a ship of fools in denial of their plight.

**While war imposes enormous costs on a bankrupt country, neoconservatives call for more war, and Republicans and Democrats appropriate war funds which can only be obtained by borrowing abroad.**

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