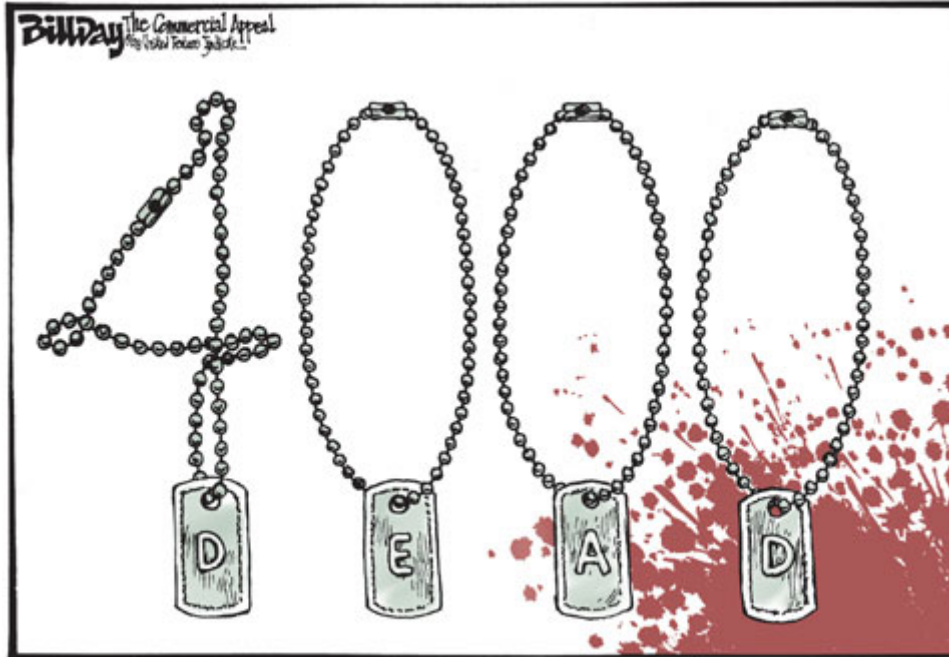


## GI SPECIAL 6C18:



**“4000 Brave Men And  
Women Have Been  
Killed For The Lies”**

From: Rose Gentle  
To: GI Special  
Subject: 4000  
Date: Mar 24, 2008

[This is a message to Americans from Rose Gentle in Scotland. Her son Gordon was killed in Iraq. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now. Her words carry more weight, and contain more truth, than 5000 pages of bullshit from the politicians. T]

i was going to say happy Easter to America

but on this day there is not much to be happy about

4000 brave men and women have been killed for the lies  
and have been let down  
by the cowardly man, george bush .

the man that says he is proud of his arm forces,  
bush is just like our government, gordon brown  
lies and more lies,

tony blair took us into this war and now gordon brown  
it just taken over where he left off.

i would just like to say to all the American people  
that we here in the grate Briton are all thinking of America to day,  
and our harts are with you as we have all lost love ones to,

lets see bush blair brown put a uniform on and go to iraq,

when thy do go thy have the best of protection  
not like our son and love ones,

bring them all home,

rose gentle  
mum of fus gentle  
killed in 2004  
age 19years

MORE:

**“Any Amount Of Deaths In Iraq  
Is Inexcusable”**

**“They Kept The Sacred Yet  
Unspoken Promise That We Have  
With Our Civilian Leadership”**

**“It Is A Promise That We Will Lay  
Down Our Lives For Our Country, So**

# **Long As We Are Not Sent To Die For Something Not Worth Dying For” “Unfortunately, The Civilian Leadership Has Not Kept Their End Of The Bargain”**

**On the Heels of the Surge, 4,000 Lives Lost Over Lies and Mismanagement**

[Posted by James Starowitz. He writes:

**'RockRichard' is serving in Afghanistan right now, coming home in the next couple of weeks.**

He's a Frontpage poster at Vet Voice. Last night, before he posted the below, he had a post up about his coming back, in it he has this:

“All told it will be a month before my wife meets me planeside with my 14 month old daughter in tow. I'll delve into life raising an infant, a life I have known for only a short 25 days; a week after she was born and before I deployed, and 18 days of R&R leave. It will be a challenge that I cannot wait to face.”]

\*\*\*\*\*

Mar 24, 2008, By: RockRichard, Vet Voice.com [Excerpts]

First, let me say that millennium milestones for fatalities in Iraq are completely arbitrary.

Every single Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine who lays his or her life down there is a tragedy.

However, over the next few days the media will be cramming it down our throats. Therefore, I feel it is important to offer a response within this community. In a time when the war in Iraq is receiving less and less attention within the traditional media, it is important that we seize the opportunities for discourse wherever they appear.

Politicians and talking heads keep telling me that the surge has been a successful strategy. Violence is down and Baghdad is becoming more secure every day.

**What hasn't been spoken of much in the traditional media is an issue often discussed here at VetVoice: the fact that the decrease in violence in Baghdad is more a product of the cease fire of the Mahdi Army than of American troop presence.**

**What pundits also neglect to mention is that there has been little effect outside of Baghdad.**

**In fact violence has increased in places like Nineveh and Diyala. This is the dreaded Whac-a-Mole effect which has plagued the war in Iraq since 2003.**

The same effect has been seen in the war in Afghanistan during the recent Taliban resurgence. This resurgence is a direct result of neglect of Afghanistan due to concentration on a war in Iraq which has no military solution.

**There is also concern that the surge strategy isn't really working, even in Baghdad.**

The surge was designed to create breathing room for the political process by reducing violence in and around Baghdad. Even General Petraeus has recently noted that the surge has not had those desired political effects.

**Also, after a temporary reduction in violence (which again is more attributable to the Sadr cease fire) tensions and violence are currently increasing.**

**Iraqi deaths in Baghdad have increased for four straight months.**

**In the first 13 days of March, the wounded total surpassed that of the entire month of February.**

There is also the coincidence that on the same day the fatality count reached 4,000, 57 deaths were reported in Iraq due to mortar shelling of the supposedly secure Green Zone and a suicide car bomb in Mosul.

It's also not just the far left that is doubting the surge. On Sunday's ABC News This Week, Republican Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel noted the following:

“We have lost over 900 dead Americans since the surge. Now if you want to dismiss that as 'success' that would be your interpretation.”

What we have now is bipartisan agreement that the surge has not been a success. Republicans realize it. Democrats realize it. Veterans realize it, and the American people realize it.

So why do some pundits insist on perpetuating a fallacy that is in direct contradiction to the truth?

The reality of the situation is obvious to the rest of us.

Of course, there are plenty of mismanagement to discuss in Iraq.

**I focus on the surge because it is the latest failed strategy, to no fault of our service members, to be attempted in Iraq and was billed as the beginning of the end of the conflict in Iraq. Yet, here we are five years into this war, reaching the 4,000 milestone with no end in sight.**

So this is where we are now.

We have seen every excuse for invading Iraq you can think of. Weapons of mass destruction, spreading democracy, imminent threats, connections to al Qaeda, regime change, Iraq's threat to the region, to lower oil prices, because God called us to and a host of other ridiculous reasons. We have seen a surge that has produced artificial results and no political progress. We have spent \$1 trillion of tax payer money.

More importantly and most dreadfully, we have lost the lives of 4,000 American service members to a conflict that is definitely immoral and arguably illegal.

**They kept the sacred yet unspoken promise that we have with our civilian leadership.**

**It is a promise that we will lay down our lives for our country, so long as we are not sent to die for something not worth dying for. Unfortunately, the civilian leadership has not kept their end of the bargain.**

One death was too many in Iraq. 1,000, 2,000 and 3,000 were too many. 2,568 was too many, as was 3,999.

**The next service member that dies will be too many, although I hope with every bit of me that another Soldier, another father or mother, another spouse, another child is not lost to this ridiculous conflict.**

**Any amount of deaths in Iraq is inexcusable.**

**Remember that as you hear and read conversations on the television, in the newspapers and around the water cooler.**

**Remember that every single death has resulted from our flawed policies in a war that was actually won militarily years ago.**

**Yet, it is a war that never should have happened in the first place. Remember this, remember them, and seize the opportunity for discourse.**

**MORE:**

**[From: GI SPECIAL 6C13: 3.22.08:]**

## **4000 And Five Years**

From: Dennis Serdel  
To: GI Special  
Sent: March 13, 2008  
Subject: 4000 And Five Years

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

## 4000 And Five Years

Corporation warlords  
slicing up the pie  
we will be there for a 100 years  
or forever like an endless song  
that only Soldiers' hear.  
Iraq is one big funeral  
with a line of cars across America  
leading in the red states  
covering the blue states  
on the highways like a spider's web  
their gravesites mark the flies they caught  
4000 buglers crying with their taps  
84,000 spent shells 21 gun salutes  
lying all around  
kicking them into graves  
their brass will never shine again  
4000 limousines drop off  
wall street investors  
like if a gangster died  
and they do not care  
if their pictures are taken  
only for a moment  
and then they disappear again  
a president who has said I was right  
4000 times and dances  
as bo-jangles across the TV screen  
like the shoe shine job he has and does  
going on 8 years now  
meanwhile the corpses shrink up  
hair grows out as the skin  
the muscles dry in their coffins  
many some 5 years ago  
forgotten like dead dried animals  
driven over and over on the highway  
until the rain washes them away  
and spring and Soldiers come  
for another summer of hate  
and 4001.

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## ACTION REPORTS

**“We Will Let The Troops At Fort Meade Know, THEY ARE NOT ALONE! WE ARE NOT ALONE!”**  
**“I Have 10 Months Left In The Navy. That's Ten Months To Reach People When They Really Need To Be Reached, Where They Often Can't Be Reached”**



02/22/2008 by Marie [Iraq Veterans Against the War]

5 Top Ways to Know You're Raising a Radical Child (Yes, all of these things have happened!)

5. She wants to know why her daycare provider isn't in IVAW.
4. She sees Geoff Millard on youtube and yells, It's Mr. Adam!
3. She is on a first name bases with the entire DC Veterans for Peace chapter.
2. When you ask where she lives, she answers Fort Meade Chapter.
1. If you have ever heard your child say, “But I want to put on the wheat paste”, you know you are raising a radical child.

**One a more serious note, outreach has changed my life in a positive way in the past few weeks. When I see my fellow service members I see future members of IVAW. In the past I have been afraid to be seen at public events, afraid of getting my photo taken at marches.**

**I am not afraid anymore.**

**I have 10 months left in the navy. That's ten months to reach people when they really need to be reached, where they often can't be reached.**

This war is bigger than all of us, which means we have to be bigger than our fears. Fears of reprisals that not only do we not deserve, but go against the very grain of what our country stands for. While our rights might be limited by the uniforms that we wear, only our fears can truly make us slaves to others.

**Tomorrow, February 23, we will back at the mall, hopefully for longer than the weekend before (we were kicked off mall premises.)**

**And we will let the troops at Fort Meade know, THEY ARE NOT ALONE! WE ARE NOT ALONE! Thank you.**

## **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**

### **SSG Killed In Baghdad**



3.25.08: Staff Sgt. Chris Hake, 26, was killed when a roadside bomb hit his vehicle Sunday as he patrolled in a southern Baghdad neighborhood, said Hake's father, Peter Hake. (AP Photo/Courtesy of the Hake Family)



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## **New Hampshire Soldier Killed In Iraq**



New Hampshire Army National Guard Spc. David Stelmat, 27, of Littleton, N.H. His qualms about violence led him to become a medic. He and two others were killed March 22, 2008, in Iraq by a roadside bomb. (AP Photo/NH Army National Guard)

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

3.25.08 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory Release No. 20080325-09

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier was killed by a hostile fire attack at approximately 5 p.m. March 25 while conducting combat operations.

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

3.26.08 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

A MND - Baghdad Soldier was killed during a small-arms fire attack at approximately 12:35 p.m. March 26 while conducting a combat patrol. The Soldier was medically evacuated to a Coalition forces combat support hospital, where he succumbed.

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

3.26.08 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080326-15

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier was killed by hostile fire in eastern Baghdad at approximately 4:30 p.m. March 26.

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## **Missouri Soldier Dies In Iraq**

Mar. 25 The Associated Press

The St. Louis-area town of Festus is mourning the loss of a 22-year-old native who was killed in Iraq.

Andy Habsieger was among four soldiers whose death on Sunday brought the American death toll in Iraq to 4,000. The four were killed by a bomb that exploded near Baghdad.

Friend Amy Edwards described Habsieger as fun-loving and happy, always smiling. She says he knew the dangers of his duty but wanted to serve his country. He joined the Army and was sent to Iraq last fall.

Habsieger was due to take leave and return home in two weeks.

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## **British Soldier Killed Somewhere Or Other In Iraq**

March 26 (Reuters)

The British Ministry of Defence said a British soldier died of gunshot wounds sustained during a firefight in the early hours of this morning in Iraq. It did not say where the fighting had taken place.

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## **“For The First Time Since January, A Majority Of U.S. Troops Were Killed In Baghdad”**

March 24, 2008 By Leila Fadel and Nancy A. Youssef, McClatchy Newspapers

For the first time since January, a majority of U.S. troops were killed in Baghdad, not in outlying northern provinces. Indeed, the U.S. military reached the death of its 4,000th soldier in Iraq on Sunday, when four U.S. soldiers were killed in southern Baghdad.

So far, this month, 27 soldiers have been killed in Iraq. Of those, 16, or 59 percent, died in Baghdad. In January, 25 percent of U.S. deaths happened in Baghdad, or 10 of 40.

Civilian casualties in Baghdad are also on the rise, according to a McClatchy count.

After a record low through November, when at least 76 people were killed and 306 were injured, the deaths began to rise. In December, it crept up to 88 people killed, in January 100 and in February 172. As of March 24, at least 149 people were killed and 448 were injured.

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## **UNREMITTING HELL ON EARTH; ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat team, 3rd Infantry Division after the second roadside bomb explosion of the day during the Sukhumi clearing operation in the area of Al-leg, south of Baghdad, March 7, 2008. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

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## **U.S. Occupation Staff Member Dead From Easter Green Zone Mortar Attack**

March 24 (Reuters) & Mar 25 AP

BAGHDAD - An American financial analyst working for the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad has died of his wounds from an Easter Day rocket attack against the heavily fortified Green Zone, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Paul Converse, 56, was hit when rockets rained down on the U.S.-protected area in central Baghdad Sunday.

His parents, Dick and Leona Converse of Corvallis, Ore., told the Gazette-Times newspaper they learned Sunday that their son had been wounded and likely wouldn't survive. On Monday, two officers from the Oregon Army National Guard arrived at their door to inform them of his death.

Another person was seriously wounded after mortar attacks fell inside the Green Zone on Sunday, while six others sustained minor wounds, a U.S. embassy spokesman said.

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## **Green Zone Hit By Rocket Attack On Tuesday**

3.24.08 AFP

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Insurgents on Tuesday slammed at least four rockets into the heavily-fortified Baghdad Green Zone, the seat of the Iraqi government and the US embassy, Iraqi and US officials said.

At least four Katyusha rockets struck the Green Zone, an Iraqi security official said.

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## **Three “U.S. Government Officials” Seriously Wounded By 16 Rocket Attack On Green Zone Wednesday**

March 25 Reuters & March 26 (Xinhua)

The Green Zone, the government and diplomatic compound, came under 12 indirect attacks that included 16 rockets, the U.S. military said.

At least three U.S. citizens working for the U.S. government in Baghdad were seriously wounded from the attacks, while structural damage in the compound was limited.

“I can confirm that there was an indirect fire attack on the Green Zone, and that three U.S. government officials were seriously injured,” Mirembe Nantongo, U.S. embassy spokeswoman told reporters in Baghdad.

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# **Great Moments In U.S. Military History; Air Force Kills Judge & Five Civilians In Tikrit**

3.26.08 AFP

A U.S. air strike killed five Iraqi civilians, including a judge, and wounded 10 in the northern town of Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles north of Baghdad, Iraqi police said.

The dead included Munaf Mehdi, a judge in the town.

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**Mahdi Army Fed Up With Attacks  
By U.S. Occupation Command &  
Their Collaborators:  
They Are Warned “It Will Crush Their  
Rotten Heads”  
“Believed To Number Up To 60,000  
Fighters,” They Have Received Fresh  
Supplies Of Weapons Including  
“Rockets, Armor-Piercing Roadside  
Bombs And Anti-Aircraft Guns That  
Could Be Effective Against Low-Flying  
Helicopters”**

<p>A resumption of intense fighting by al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia could kill more U.S. soldiers and threaten — at least in the short run — the security gains Washington has hailed as a sign that Iraq is on the road to recovery.</p>
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Mar 24 Associated Press

**BAGHDAD - Rocket attacks on the U.S.-protected Green Zone may carry a message with implications across Iraq: rising anger within the Mahdi Army militia.**

**The latest rumblings in the Mahdi Army are provoked by the belief that the Americans and their Iraqi allies abused the cease-fire by conducting raids that have targeted hundreds of al-Sadr's backers and aides.**

Militia commanders told The Associated Press they viewed the arrests as a move by Shiite rivals to deny them a prominent political voice. They also cited al-Sadr's statement this month that his cease-fire did not preclude his followers from self defense.

The three commanders, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not supposed to comment on policy matters, said al-Sadr's statement gave them the nod to take on their adversaries.

**"They don't seem to realize that the Sadrist trend is like a volcano," Abdul-Hadi al-Mohammedawi told worshippers Friday in Kufa, referring to the Iraqi government and its U.S. backers. "If it explodes, it will crush their rotten heads."**

Leaders of the Sadrist movement are calling on supporters to protest the arrests by closing their shops and businesses.

The call was heeded Monday in at least two predominantly Shiite neighborhoods of Baghdad. Video by Associated Press Television News showed a deserted bus stop, shuttered shops and empty streets in normally bustling Amil and Baiyaa.

**Police said Mahdi Army militiamen have also issued general strike orders in three other areas of southwestern Baghdad and in Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles south of the capital.**

The Mahdi Army, believed to number up to 60,000 fighters, was battered by U.S. troops in a series of battles in 2004.

But the militia appears to have regrouped and, according to commanders, is ready to respond to "provocations."

According to the three commanders, the militia has received fresh supplies of weapons.

The weapons, the commanders said, included rockets, armor-piercing roadside bombs and anti-aircraft guns that could be effective against low-flying helicopters.

**Saleh al-Auqaeili, a senior lawmaker loyal to al-Sadr, says between 2,000 and 2,500 Mahdi Army militiamen have been detained since the cease-fire came into force.**

**Other al-Sadr loyalists complain that only a small percentage of the detainees being released under a new amnesty law have been from al-Sadr's movement.**

“The Mahdi Army, strong and organized, is necessary now to protect the movement,” said Hassan al-Rubaie, leader of the 30-seat parliamentary bloc loyal to al-Sadr.

**A resumption of intense fighting by al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia could kill more U.S. soldiers and threaten — at least in the short run — the security gains Washington has hailed as a sign that Iraq is on the road to recovery.**



**A man holds up a banner depicting Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki as an American pawn during a protest in Sadr City, Baghdad March 26, 2008.**  
REUTERS/Kareem Raheem





A fighter from the Mahdi Army militia stands guard near a burning tyre on a road in Baghdad's Sadr City March 26, 2008. Fourteen people were killed and more than 140 wounded in clashes between occupation allied forces and militants in Baghdad's Sadr City. REUTERS/Kareem Raheem

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**MORE:**

## **Pro-Iranian Regime, Backed By U.S. Occupation Forces, Attack Nationalist Mahdi Army In Basra:**

**Fighting Also Breaks Out In  
Nasiriyah And Maysan Provinces,  
Hilla & Eastern Diwaniya:  
Government Troops In Basra “Facing  
Stiff Resistance”**

**“It Was Unclear Which Side Had The  
Upper Hand By Sundown”**





Insurgents fighting March 26, 2008, in Basra, Iraq. (AP Photo/APTN)

Mar 25 AP & AFP & By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer & Mar 26 AFP

Gunfire echoed through the streets of Basra as Iraqi soldiers and police fought the Mahdi Army, police said.

Iraqi forces, backed by US air power, launched a major crackdown on the Mahdi Army elements.

AP Television News video showed militia members in fierce street battles with security forces [loyal to the pro-Iranian government in Baghdad].

Tanks rumbled in the background as Mahdi Army militia exchanged rocket-propelled grenade and machine gun fire.

**They also danced in the streets and around burned out Iraqi military vehicles.**

Mortar rounds hit a detention center in central Basra and wounded 10, police said.

The fighting broke between the Mahdi Army militia and Iraqi forces as the government launched a crackdown on armed [nationalist] groups in Basra. An AFP correspondent said fighting involving mortars and gunfire erupted soon after security forces entered the Al-Tamiyah neighbourhood, a bastion of Sadr's Mahdi Army militia, at around 5:00 am (0200 GMT).

The Mahdi Army captured three Iraqi policemen guarding a police training centre, police said.

Throughout the day, the sounds of explosions and machine gunfire echoed through Basra's streets as Iraqi soldiers and police fought the Mahdi Army in at least four strategic neighborhoods. Associated Press Television News video showed smoke rising over Basra, and coalition jets prowling the skies while ambulances raced through the streets.

**Iraqi police and soldiers prevented journalists from reaching the areas of heaviest fighting, and it was unclear which side had the upper hand by sundown.**

**Iraqi military spokesman Col. Karim al-Zaidi acknowledged that government troops were facing stiff resistance.**

**Residents of one neighborhood said Mahdi Army snipers were firing from rooftops. Others fired rocket-propelled grenades at the troops, then scurried away on motorcycles.**

**Other residents said police fled their posts.**

Fighting is now centered in Mahdi Army strongholds in the neighborhoods of Tamimiyah, Hayaniyah, and Five Miles, and that there was also fighting in the neighboring provinces of Nasiriyah and Maysan.

Clashes resumed between Mehdi army and Iraqi security forces in three districts of Hilla, 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

One Iraqi soldier was killed in eastern Diwaniya, 180 km (112 miles) south of Baghdad, in clashes between Iraqi security forces and Mehdi Army militants, according to an army source. Police Colonel Ghassan Mohammed, commander of emergency forces in Diwaniya, said two militants were killed, seven policemen wounded, and seven insurgents arrested in the clashes.

On Wednesday, fighting broke out in the Mahdi Army strongholds of Al-Gaazaiza, Al-Garma, Khmasamene, Al-Hayania and Al-Maqal, witnesses said.



3.25.08: An Iraqi Mahdi Army soldier during clashes in Basra. (AFP/Essam Al-Sudani)

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**MORE:**

## **Mahdi Army Offensive In Kut Takes Seven Districts**

March 25 Reuters: Mahdi Army Forces captured of five districts in the southern Iraqi town of Kut on Tuesday, police sources said. Kut is 170 km (105 miles) southeast of Baghdad.

March 26 Reuters: Mahdi Army Forces have captured two more districts in Kut, bring the total taken to seven.

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***Baghdad Explodes:***  
**“The Cease-Fire Is Over; We  
Have Been Told To Fight The  
Americans”**

**Mahdi Army Fights Back After  
Idiots In U.S. Command Order  
Attacks On Their Forces:  
18 Mortar Rounds Fall On US Bases  
And Combat Outposts On The East  
Side Of Baghdad;  
“Leaflets Saying ‘No, No To America’  
Were Plastered On Each Storefront”**



Tires are set on fire and road is blocked in Sadr City, Baghdad Mahdi Army militia members clash with the Iraqi government forces backed by the US military March 26, 2008. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

3.25.08 AP & March 26, 2008 By Sam Dagher, Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor [Excerpts]

**Firefights erupted around Baghdad pitting government and US forces against the militia allied to the influential Shiite [nationalist] cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.**

**U.S. and Iraqi troops backed by helicopters fought Mahdi Army forces in Baghdad's Sadr City district after the local office of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Dawa Party came under attack, the U.S. said.**

**“The cease-fire is over; we have been told to fight the Americans,” said one Mahdi Army militiaman, who was reached by telephone in Sadr City. This same man, when interviewed in January, had stated that he was abiding by the cease-fire and that he was keeping busy running his cellular phone store.**

**18 mortar rounds fell on US bases and combat outposts on the east side of Baghdad.**

**A mortar round hit a US patrol in the northern Adhamiyah district, killing one US soldier.**

**A roadside bomb set a US Humvee on fire in Sadr City but all soldiers inside survived.**

Sadr City residents say they saw fighting Tuesday between Mahdi militiamen and US and Iraqi forces in several parts of the district. One eyewitness, in the adjacent neighborhood of Baghdad Jadida, who wished to remain anonymous, said he saw a heavy militia presence on the streets, with two fighters planting roadside bombs on a main thoroughfare.

**One of the movement's leaders, Liwa Smaisim, described as “preposterous” US claims that it was only targeting splinter elements of the Mahdi Army.**

On Tuesday, witnesses reported that gun battles broke out in the capital's Sadr City district between the militia and rivals from the Badr [pro-Iranian] Organization, which is part of Maliki's ruling coalition.

On Tuesday, all shops in the Mahdi Army stronghold neighborhoods – Bayiaa, Iskan, Shuala, and Washash – were shuttered.

Leaflets saying “No, no to America” were plastered on each storefront.

**Banners opposing the Occupation hung right next to Iraqi government checkpoints.**

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

# Danish Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

March 26, 2008 The Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark: Denmark's military says a Danish soldier has been killed in Afghanistan.

The Army Operational Command says another Danish soldier was wounded during the shootout near Gereshk in the volatile Helmand province.

The army says both soldiers were taken by helicopter to the Danish camp in southern Afghanistan.

Most of Denmark's 550 troops are based in the Helmand province.

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## Occupation Fuel Supply-Line Hit Again; 36 Oil Tankers Destroyed

Mar 24, 2008 Reuters

**Suspected militants in Pakistan have attacked oil tankers supplying fuel to foreign forces in Afghanistan, destroying 36 tankers and wounding up to 70 people, officials and residents said.**

**The attack took place on Sunday night in Torkham, the main crossing point on the Afghan-Pakistani border just west of the Khyber Pass, where about 100 oil tankers were parked in a field.**

"We have reports of 60 to 70 injured but none in critical condition," said a senior official in Jamrud, the main town in the Khyber tribal region.

The militants set off two bombs that started a fire and many people who had gathered in the field were hurt when some of the tankers exploded, said the official, who declined to be identified.

"There were huge flames. People began running when the fire spread," said witness Waheed Afridi.

**No one claimed responsibility for the attack, the second on oil tankers bound for Afghanistan in two weeks, but the official blamed militants.**

**Foreign forces fighting the Taliban in land-locked Afghanistan get many of their supplies via Pakistan, where militants have been stepping up attacks on supply lines.**

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# Mine Clearing Convoy Attacked In Jawzjan

Mar 24 KABUL (AFP)

Unknown gunmen ambushed a convoy of mine clearers in northern Afghanistan, killing five and wounding seven, the director of their UN-funded mine company told AFP Monday.

The attackers stopped the convoy as the team was returning to its base camp in the northern province of Jawzjan Sunday after mine clearing operations in a remote area, Afghan Technical Consultants director Kefayatullah Eblagh, said.

They opened fire into the first vehicle and shot at the others, which included an ambulance, as they turned around and sped off, Eblagh said.

“Three people stopped the vehicle and started shooting at them without saying anything,” he said. “Five people were killed and seven injured,” he said.

Eblagh said the dead men, who included a driver and a section leader, were aged between 30 and 40 and came from various parts of Afghanistan.

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# Resistance Launches “Operation Ebrat” Against Occupation Forces

Mar 25 (AFP) & By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

A statement Tuesday attributed to Taliban senior commander Mullah Bradar threatened more attacks this spring using new techniques, and also warned Afghans working with the government to quit their jobs or risk being targeted.

A statement said to be from one of the insurgent movement's most senior members, Mullah Bradar, announced Operation Ebrat, which means “lesson” in Pashtu.

“This will be a new type of operation to expand operations countrywide and surround the enemy wherever they are and encounter them,” according to the statement read to an AFP reporter over the telephone.

It said the Taliban's “holy jihad” (war) would continue until international troops left Afghanistan and President Hamid Karzai's administration collapsed.

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## SOMALIA WAR REPORTS

### **He Died For Bush Buddies**



The body of a Somali government soldier lies on a street after clashes with militants fighting the U.S. government-backed occupation government in Mogadishu March 24, 2008. Grenade blasts and roadside bombings have left parts of city completely deserted. REUTERS/Feisal Omar

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## TROOP NEWS

### **Pentagon Announces Exciting New Plan To Kill U.S. Soldiers In Combat: Taking Away Effective Rifles And Replacing Them With Malfunctioning Pieces Of Shit**

This is the latest round of controversy surrounding the M4 since late November, when the weapon finished last in an Army reliability test against other carbines.

**The M4 suffered more stoppages than the combined number of jams by the other three competitors — the H&K XM8, FNH USA's Special Operations Forces Combat Assault Rifle (SCAR) and the H&K 416.**

March 24, 2008 By Matthew Cox, Army Times [Excerpts]

The Army has stripped the Asymmetric Warfare Group of its weapon of choice — the Heckler & Koch 416 — saying that its mission requires the unique outfit to carry the standard-issue M4 carbine.

The decision reverses a policy that allowed the AWG to buy 416s instead of carrying M4s when it was established three years ago to help senior Army leaders find new tactics and technologies to make soldiers more lethal in combat.

Members of the AWG have declined to comment on the issue, but sources in AWG told Army Times that the unit fought to keep its several hundred 416s, arguing that they outperform the Army's M4 and require less maintenance.

"The AWG is empowered to procure, on a limited basis, select nonstandard equipment to assist in identifying capability gaps and advise on the development of future requirements. To this end, the Asymmetric Warfare Group did purchase H&K 416 rifles," said Army spokesman Lt. Col. Martin Downie.

"The AWG also advises units on training, tactics and procedures. In this capacity, the use of the standard-issue M4 is required. In support of this mission set, the decision was made to transition to the M4 and the AWG is now turning in its H&K rifles."

**This is the latest round of controversy surrounding the M4 since late November, when the weapon finished last in an Army reliability test against other carbines.**

**The M4 suffered more stoppages than the combined number of jams by the other three competitors — the H&K XM8, FNH USA's Special Operations Forces Combat Assault Rifle (SCAR) and the H&K 416.**

Army weapons officials agreed to perform the dust test at the request of Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., in July. Coburn took up the issue following a Feb. 26, 2007, Army Times report on moves by elite Army Special Forces units to ditch the M4 in favor of carbines they consider more reliable.

Since then, Coburn has questioned the Army's plans to spend more than \$300 million to purchase M4s through fiscal 2009 rather than considering newer and possibly better weapons available commercially.

**Special Operations Command decided nearly four years ago that it wanted a better weapon than the M4. After a competition, it awarded a developmental contract to FN Herstal to develop its new SCAR to replace all of the command's M4s.**



**But even prior to SOCom's decision, the Army's Delta Force replaced its M4s in 2004 with the H&K 416 after tests revealed that its piston operating system reduces malfunctions while increasing the life of parts.**

The M4, like its predecessor, the M16, uses a gas tube system, which relies on the gas created when a bullet is fired to cycle the weapon.

**Weapon experts say the M4's system of blowing gas directly into the receiver of the weapon spews carbon residue that can lead to fouling and heat that dries up lubrication and causes excessive wear on parts.**

The AWG followed Delta's example when it stood up in March 2005 to advise the Army's senior leadership on identifying and countering emerging threats on the battlefield. With Army approval, the unit bought several hundred 416s for its members to carry when they deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and other hot spots.

**Senior sergeants in the AWG were angered that soldiers in the unit had to turn in their 416s, a process that began last fall, said an officer with knowledge of the AWG community.**

"They were outraged," he told Army Times. "It's a reduction in capability. It's a waste of money that was already spent, and it makes the job more difficult since (the M4) is much more maintenance-intensive."

#### **Troops Invited:**

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Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Action**

March 23 (Reuters) & (AFP) & March 24 (Reuters) & By Laith Hammoudi, McClatchy Newspapers & March 25 Reuters & March 26 (Reuters)

**In the northwestern city of Mosul, Iraqi security forces opened fire on a bomber as he drove toward a military base but were unable to foil the attack because the truck's windshield had been made bulletproof.**

The attacker blasted past an armored vehicle to reach the courtyard of the military headquarters, the officer said.

Police said at least 13 Iraqi soldiers were killed and 30 soldiers wounded in the attack.

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A roadside bomb near the northern city of Tuz Khormato killed four Iraqi soldiers, including an officer.

An attack occurred when a convoy was travelling from the oil-rich city of Kirkuk to the tourist town of Dibis, which contains an antiquity site, according to assistant police chief Major General Torhan Yussef. "Four policemen were wounded," Yussef said.

Guerrillas killed Colonel Akram Awad al-Omairi, commander of a rapid reaction unit of Balad Ruz, and his driver outside his home in the town of Abu Saida in Diyala province.

A roadside bomb blew up near a police patrol, wounding three policemen in Zayouna district, in eastern Baghdad, police said.

A car bomber attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint, killing one soldier and wounding three, in Mosul, said a spokesman for the city's Iraqi police and military operation.

Insurgents killed a police lieutenant and wounded two policemen in an attack on a checkpoint in central Baquba, 65 km (42 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

One police officer was wounded in clashes between Iraqi police and militants on Sunday and Monday in the southern Iraqi town of Qurna, police said.

A policeman was injured in an IED explosion that targeted Iraqi police patrol on Mohammed al Qasim high way in east Baghdad around 8:00 a.m.

Three policemen were injured in an IED explosion that targeted a walking police patrol in Zayuna neighborhood in east Baghdad around 9:00 a.m.

Three policemen were killed and two civilians were injured in an IED explosion that targeted a police patrol in Sadiyah town north of Baquba on Monday morning.

Guerrillas seized two police vehicles and captured six policemen in the Maamil district of northeastern Baghdad, police said.

Eight or ten policemen were wounded in clashes in Aziziya town, north of Kut, police said. A hospital source said two policemen and one civilian were killed.

Guerrillas wounded three police officers on patrol in the city of Hilla, 100 km (62 km) south of Baghdad.

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

***Good News For The Iraqi  
Resistance!!***

**U.S. Occupation Commands'  
Stupid Terror Tactics Recruit Even  
More Fighters To Kill U.S. Troops**



An Iraqi citizen in tears as foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. leave her house after a night home invasion and search of her belongings in Mosul, March 21, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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