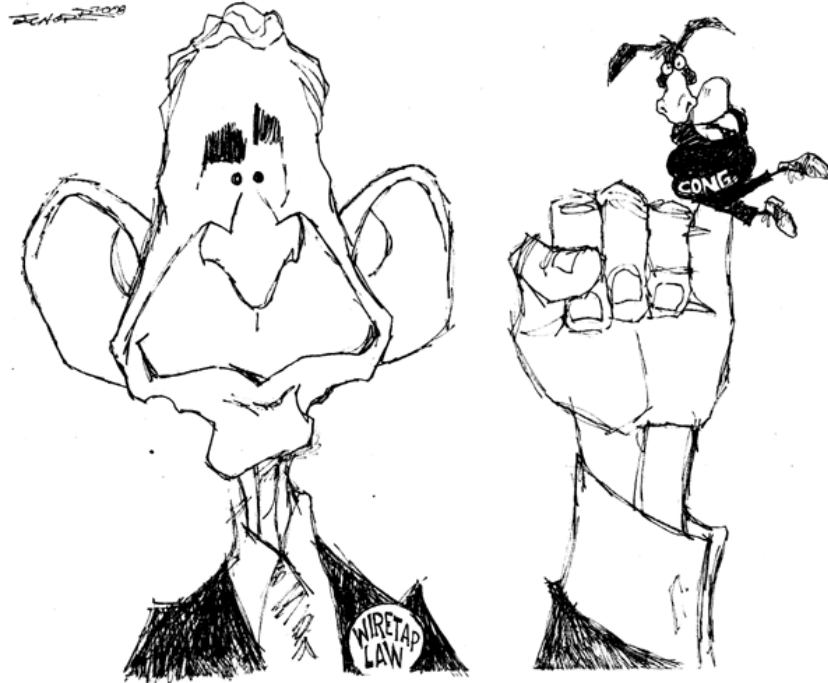


**GI SPECIAL 6F19:**



**“I’m Sorry For What  
We’ve Done To Your  
Country”**

**“I Called It Up To The Commander  
And The Reply Was To Tell Him To  
Fuck Off”**

**“We Screwed Him Over, And He Was  
Just Looking Out For His People”**



[Thanks to Dennis O'Neil, who sent this in.]

June 24, 2008 By Casey J. Porter, Iraq Veteran Against the War. Posted at Fire In The Mountain.blogspot.com by Jimmy Higgins.

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I feel pretty lousy as a human being today.

I had to turn away this Iraqi man at our gate here at the outpost.

At some point the army took over this factory in the industrial part of Baghdad and we've been here ever since. He was an older man, diabetic, with multiple folders of paper work to show. He didn't speak any English and wished to talk to an interpreter.

I was guarding the gate and was the one to call it in. So they send out the "Terp" as we call them.

This older man was not looking for a handout. He was the former owner of a paint shop that is built right up the building we now occupy.

He was asking for compensation for his workers because they are no longer able to work now that we are here.

Why can't they work?

Because they are terrified of us.

Also, when we get rocket or mortar attacks, they don't always land where the insurgents want them to. Sometimes they fall short or overshoot their target.

So when we set up shop, the people that can afford to leave, do.

He wasn't like the younger Iraqi Police Force guys. They get so much free stuff from you, the taxpayer, that it's insane. Then they always ask us to give them stuff. They are like children with AK-47s.

This man was not like that. He was looking out for his workers. The translator was telling me what he was saying when things got confusing. The Iraqi man was saying: "You are the United States, human rights for all, etc., etc."

I'm not sure what else he said after that since it was clear that the Terp changed gears right after that.

But that older gentleman wasn't being hostile about what he was saying, and I was all ears.

Within his paper work he had forms and documents that proved he was the owner and operator, among other aspects of his business I'm sure.

With the exception of the language, it looked a lot like the paperwork my father had for his business.

**I called it up to the commander and the reply was to tell him to fuck off.**

**He couldn't hear any of this because we keep the radio in the truck. I wasn't going to do that to this man.**

**We screwed him over, and he was just looking out for his people.**

I told the Terp to translate the following: "I can not authorize any money to be given to you. I also can not promise that anyone will see you. All I can tell you is to keep coming back until someone takes care of your needs."

**He finally said that he would come back in about a week or so. Before he left I had the Terp translate one more thing.**

**"I'm sorry for what we've done to your country."**

The man said "Thank You" in English to me. I hope that even though we had to talk through an interpreter that he understood that I felt for him, and was not blowing him off.

Either way I felt, and still feel, pretty rotten about the whole thing. I'm not supposed to be the bad guy.

## **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. Phone: 917.677.8057**

# IRAQ WAR REPORTS

## 4th BCT Soldier Killed In Iraq June 7



Sgt. 1st Class David R. Hurst, an infantry noncommissioned officer assigned to 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment.

June 10, 2008 Public Affairs Office, Fort Drum, New York

FORT DRUM – A Soldier from the 10th Mountain Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team was killed in Baghdad June 7 when his patrol was attacked by an improvised explosive device.

Sgt. 1st Class David R. Hurst, 31, was an infantry noncommissioned officer assigned to 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment.

Hurst was originally from Fort Sill, Okla., and enlisted in the Army in April 1996. He completed basic and advanced individual training at Fort Benning, Ga. An early assignment was with 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

He also served with the 82nd Airborne Division from April 2002 until April 2004.

Hurst was a basic training drill sergeant at Fort Sill, Okla., from November 2005 to October 2007. He was reassigned to Fort Polk and 4th BCT in December 2007.

His military education includes Drill Sergeant School, Air Movement Operations Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Primary Leadership Development Course and the Basic Airborne Course.

Hurst deployed to Panama from January 1997 to May 1997. He also previously deployed to Iraq from February 2003 to May 2003 and August 2003 to April 2004.

Hurst's awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge and the Parachutist Badge.

He is survived by his parents of New Orleans, La.

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## Azerbaijani Soldier Dies In Iraq



APA Photo

28 Jun 2008 Solmaz Mehdiyeva-APA, Khachmaz

Azerbaijani peacekeeper serving in Iraq died.

APA's north bureau reports that 20-year-old Rafael Agayev, who was drafted from Khachmaz in December 2006, died in Iraq some days ago. The cause of his death is not reported.

He had three days to finish his military service.

Rafael Agayev was buried in his native Ilkhichi Mammadkhanli village.

Defense Ministry will reportedly make statement on the fact in two days. It was unavailable to get information from the Defense Ministry.

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# **Crisis Spreading Over Stupid Occupation Raid That Killed Maliki Relative:**

## **“Outrage Over The Mysterious Operation Has Spread To The Highest Levels Of The Iraqi Government”**

**Official Says “We Condemn These Barbaric Actions Not Only When They Target A Relative Of Maliki’s, But When Any Iraqi Is Targeted In The Same Way”**

**“This is a big embarrassment for Prime Minister Maliki because he was in that area two days before the incident, telling his people that we are the masters in our country and the decisions were ours to make,” Othman said.**

June 28, 2008 By Hannah Allam, McClatchy Newspapers & June 29 By Ernesto Londono and Saad Sarhan, Washington Post Foreign Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Senior Iraqi government officials said Saturday that a U.S. Special Forces counterterrorism unit conducted the raid that reportedly killed a relative of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki, touching off a high-stakes diplomatic crisis between the United States and Iraq.

U.S. soldiers stormed into a house in Hindiyah searching for Ali Abdul Hussein al-Maliki, the man’s brother, Ahmad Abdul Hussein Razak al-Maliki, said in an interview Saturday.

“They came in at night, gathered everyone inside a room and went to that room where my brother was,” he said.

Ahmad al-Maliki, who was in the house at the time, said his brother was shot in the chest. He and his brother are first cousins of the prime minister, who is their father’s brother, he said, adding that he and his slain brother belonged to the prime minister’s security detail.

**U.S. military officials in Baghdad had no comment for the second day in a row, an unusual position for a command that typically releases information on combat operations within 24 hours.**

The raid occurred at dawn Friday in the town of Janaja near Maliki's birthplace in the southern, mostly Shiite Muslim province of Karbala.

**Ali Abdulhussein Razak al Maliki, who was killed in the raid, was related to the prime minister and had close ties to his personal security detail, according to authorities in Karbala.**

The incident puts an added strain on U.S.-Iraqi negotiations to draft a Status of Forces Agreement, a long-term security pact that will govern the conduct of U.S. forces in Iraq.

Members of the Iraqi government and security forces said the raid only deepened their reluctance to sign any agreement that did not leave Iraqis with the biggest say on when and how combat operations are conducted.

The U.S. military handed Iraqi forces control of Karbala security in October 2007. By the end of 2007 the U.S. military had transferred nine of the country's 18 provinces to Iraqi control.

**"We are afraid now of signing the long-term pact between Iraq and America because of such unjustified violations by the troops.**

**"Handing over security in provinces doesn't mean anything to the American troops," said Mohamed Hussein al Musawi, a senior Najaf-based member of the prime minister's Dawa Party.**

**"We condemn these barbaric actions not only when they target a relative of Maliki's, but when any Iraqi is targeted in the same way."**

**Outrage over the mysterious operation has spread to the highest levels of the Iraqi government, which is demanding an explanation for how such a raid occurred in a province ostensibly under full Iraqi command.**

"This is a Special Forces operation, an antiterrorism unit that operates almost independently so there's been no coordination with the local forces on the ground," said a high-ranking member of the Iraqi government who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the extreme sensitivity of the issue.

**Kurdish legislator Mahmoud Othman called Friday's operation "unacceptable" and had strained relations between the countries.**

"This is a big embarrassment for Prime Minister Maliki because he was in that area two days before the incident, telling his people that we are the masters in our country and the decisions were ours to make," Othman said.

"This is why we are afraid of agreements and immunity. ... If there are wanted people in any area, why not send an Iraqi force to do the job?"

Iraqi officials in Karbala said the operation began at dawn Friday with U.S. aircraft delivering dozens of American troops to the rural town of Janaja, which is populated mostly by members of the Maliki tribe. Authorities said the raid apparently was aimed at

capturing what the military calls a “high-value target,” often a reference to the leader of a militant cell.

Raed Shakir Jowdet, the Iraqi military commander of Karbala operations, told journalists Friday that the Americans had acted on faulty intelligence.

He said four U.S. military helicopters and a jet fighter soared over the area that morning. About 60 U.S. ground forces then stormed the town, “terrifying the families,” Jowdet said. At least one man was detained, though some Iraqi authorities said more were taken into custody.

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**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT A PACK OF TRAITORS IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE**  
**That is not a good enough reason.**



A U.S. Army soldier from 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment patrols in Sadr City, Baghdad, April 25, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

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**AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**



# **Pentagon Report Says Afghan War Running Against The Occupation; “A Resilient Insurgency”**

June 28, 2008 Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press [Excerpts]

**The Taliban have regrouped after their initial fall from power in Afghanistan, and the pace of their attacks is likely to increase this year, according to a Pentagon report that offers a dim view of progress in the nearly 7-year-old war.**

**The Taliban, it said, have “coalesced into a resilient insurgency.”**

**Insurgents will continue to challenge the government in southern and eastern Afghanistan, and they may also move to increase their power in the north and west, the report predicted.**

The assessment was bluntly pessimistic as it described efforts to train the Army and police.

As of March, it said, just one Army battalion and a headquarters unit could operate independently, while 26 battalions, five brigade headquarters and two corps headquarters units could plan and execute counterinsurgency operations with the support of coalition forces.

In addition, as of the spring, the United States had provided only 44 percent of the nearly 2,400 trainers needed for the Afghan army, and just 39 percent of the mentors for the Afghan police.

Development of the Afghan police is taking longer and has been hindered by “corruption, insufficient U.S. military trainers and advisers, and a lack of unity of effort within the international community,” the report noted.

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## **TROOP NEWS**

# **“I Really Do Think That People Separate The Troops And The War,” She Said**

[Thanks to Comrade Tribune, Vietnam Veteran, who sent this in.]

June 9, 2008 By Jeb Phillips, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

When the Iraq war was at its height, Ohio-based troops left all the time. Newspapers wrote about the departure ceremonies; TV put them on the evening news.

People paid attention. Businesses had to adjust when their employees deployed. Families were forced to figure out new child-care arrangements.

It's old hat now, though, and there are so many fewer troops leaving.

But, surprising even to organizations whose mission is caring for military members, public support for the troops has never been higher.

"We expected support to wane, either because of politics or just lack of interest," said Mark Phillips, a spokesman for the United Service Organizations (USO). "We are amazed that we haven't seen any of that."

That suggests to some observers that the public perceives "the war" and "the troops" as different issues.

**As recently as last July, 15 percent of news stories were devoted to the war, according to the same poll. In February, 3 percent were.**

There were 5,269 Ohio-based National Guard members and reservists mobilized in May 2004. There are now 3,051, but the majority of them left in a group in January. The public interest and a flurry of news coverage that came with that deployment have faded.

People are contributing to the USO in support of the troops as much as they ever have, Phillips said. Bock said people who have no real connection with the military continue to find his group online as they search for ways to send care packages overseas.

Teresa Dawson leads the family readiness group for the Ohio Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Unit. Her son, Spc. Christopher Dawson, 23, is in Kuwait with that unit.

She said care packages for the unit have come from some places you'd expect -- area schools, Boy and Girl Scouts -- but also from at least one organization that is advocating for peace. She said she knows people are necessarily spending more time thinking about the economy and gas prices these days than the war, but you wouldn't know it by the amount of money the readiness group has been able to raise for care packages.

**"I really do think that people separate the troops and the war," she said.**

**"People have been coming out of the woodwork to support the troops."**

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**JOIN MILITARY FAMILIES,  
VETERANS, NEIGHBORS, AND  
FRIENDS AT THE  
Peace Contingent  
Of The  
4th Of July Parade In Teaneck, NJ**

From: New Jersey Veterans For Peace

Sent: June 28, 2008

Subject: Parade in Teaneck

Meet at 9:15 am at Sherman Avenue and Queen Anne Road, just South of Cedar Lane.

(buses are available from New York. [www.njtransit.com](http://www.njtransit.com)).

There will be coffee and donuts.

March about 1 mile to Votee Park

Please make signs:

**Bring all of the troops home NOW!**

Take care of them when they get here.

Pass State Senate Bill SJR55 and Assembly Bill AJR89 to de-federalize the New Jersey National Guard.

NJ National Guard for New Jersey.

Or similar types of signs.

The war in Iraq costs \$720 million/day.

Keep the money here for people's needs: education, health care, housing, and jobs.

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**Guantanamo:  
The Bush Administration's War  
Crimes System "Is Designed To  
Get Criminal Convictions" With**

**“No Real Evidence,” Commander  
Kuebler Says:  
Military Prosecutors “Launder  
Evidence Derived From Torture”  
“You Put The Whole Package Together  
And It Stinks”**



Lt. Cmdr. William C. Kuebler [Ian Austen for The New York Times]

June 19, 2008 By WILLIAM GLABERSON, The New York Times Company [Excerpts]

**When he speaks publicly, Lt. Cmdr. William C. Kuebler, a military lawyer for a Guantánamo detainee, is careful to say his remarks do not reflect the views of the Pentagon.**

**As if anybody would make that mistake.**

In his Navy blues, the youthful commander could pass for an eager cadet. But give him a minute on the subject of his client, a terrorism suspect named Omar Khadr, and he sounds like some 1960s radical lawyer, an apple-cheeked William Kunstler in uniform.

**The Bush administration's war crimes system "is designed to get criminal convictions" with "no real evidence," Commander Kuebler says.**

**Or he lets fly that military prosecutors "launder evidence derived from torture."**

**"You put the whole package together and it stinks," he said in an interview.**

When President Bush announced plans for military commission trials in 2001, critics said military defense lawyers would not put up much of a fight on behalf of men labeled terrorists.

"They wanted us to just be good little boys," one of the lawyers, Maj. Michael D. Mori of the Marines, once told an interviewer.

But nearly seven years later, not one trial has been held, partly because the military defense lawyers have raised a continuous ruckus, challenging the commission system rather than simply defending their clients.

After the Supreme Court said last week that the Constitution gave detainees a right to challenge their detention in federal court, some of the military defense lawyers, including Commander Kuebler, seized on the ruling as another opportunity to paralyze the war crimes system with new claims that detainees are entitled to even broader constitutional rights.

The lawyers, trained in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, were selected to defend detainees in a judicial system established especially for terrorism suspects.

But many of them share a sense of indignation that Guantánamo makes military justice seem like watered-down justice.

Representing detainees, said one of them, Lt. Cmdr. Brian L. Mizer, "is a historic opportunity to defend the rule of law."

Commander Kuebler is the latest example of a lawyer in uniform attacking the Pentagon's legal system.

He is no natural agitator. At 37, he is in some ways deeply conventional. Married to the first girl he ever dated in high school, he is a self-described born-again Christian and conservative who has "never voted for a Democrat." Tom Fleener, a former Guantánamo military defense lawyer, described Commander Kuebler, saying, "Take the average conservative guy in the street and multiply that by a million."

Commander Kuebler is prone to begin provocative comments with a deep sigh, as if giving himself a shove.

But he has emerged recently as one of the Pentagon's most persistent challengers, working the news media with incendiary claims about the military's case, filing motion after motion in court and traveling to Canada to whip up support for his client, a Canadian who is charged with throwing a hand grenade that killed an American serviceman in Afghanistan in 2002 and other offenses.

The Kuebler strategy is obvious: to irritate the powers that be into sending his client, the last citizen of a Western country at Guantánamo, home to Canada. There is no sign yet of a ticket out for Mr. Khadr, 21, the son of a family once so close to Osama bin Laden that it is sometimes called Canada's first family of terrorism.

But the irritation strategy seems to be driving the prosecutors to distraction.

The latest incident, this month, was an assertion that found a quick audience.

In a news release, he described learning of a Guantánamo manual that encouraged interrogators to destroy their notes. He suggested it was to evade questions about torture. Countless news accounts carried his claims.

The military prosecutors had complained about Commander Kuebler's tactics before, but after the torture-concealment accusations it seemed they had reached their limit.

"One defense counsel in particular," said the chief military prosecutor, Col. Lawrence J. Morris, "has habitually flouted the rules" and was responsible for "grossly distorting" and "fabricating information."

Commander Kuebler responded that he "abides by military commission secrecy rules, as draconian as they are."

However scrappy he may appear, Commander Kuebler does not claim the typical lawyer's zest for a fight for its own sake. Instead, he said, his faith and his work are intertwined. "It is a powerful way to be a witness for Christ," he said, "by demonstrating your capacity to not judge the way everybody else is judging and to serve unconditionally."

His sister, Karen Picard, said his search for meaningful work began when he was in his late 20s and a business lawyer in San Diego. His mother died suddenly. He found religion. He joined the Navy. "I think he started to realize," Ms. Picard said, "there's more to life than driving a BMW and having your initials on your cuff." As a Navy lawyer, his work has included criminal defense. His clients have included a sailor charged with rape.

Since he was appointed Mr. Khadr's lawyer last year, Commander Kuebler has taken on his cause with a drip-drip-drip of attacks on the prosecution.

He has raised questions about the government's description of the firefight in July 2002, when the American, Sgt. First Class Christopher J. Speer, was fatally wounded. Officials have suggested that Mr. Khadr, then 15, was the last survivor of a group of anti-American fighters who "popped up and threw a grenade."

But in February, Commander Kuebler highlighted a military report that said another enemy fighter was still alive in the compound when the grenade was thrown, suggesting that Mr. Khadr might not have been the killer.

In March, he took note of an American commander's report that said the assailant had been killed, which would also seem to eliminate Mr. Khadr as the attacker.

He often aims at a Canadian audience as he works to pressure the Conservative government in Canada, which has been supportive of the Bush administration, to request Mr. Khadr's return. The Toronto Star: "U.S. Doctored Evidence to Implicate Khadr, Lawyer Says." The Edmonton Journal: "Khadr Was Likely Tortured."

In April, Commander Kuebler appeared before a Canadian Parliament committee. "Lies have been told about Omar," he testified.

Maj. Jeffrey D. Groharing of the Marines, the prosecutor in the Khadr case, told a military judge that "the time the defense has spent lobbying the Canadian Parliament would be better spent interviewing the witnesses."

Asked about the role the military defense lawyers have been playing, Cmdr. Jeffrey D. Gordon, a Pentagon spokesman, said military defense lawyers have a duty to represent their clients zealously and to follow the ethical standards of their profession. He added, without naming any of the lawyers, that "it is disappointing when counsel do not live up to these standards."

But Commander Kuebler argued that such attacks on Guantánamo were necessary. "If we're not advocating against the process," he said, "we're not competently representing our clients."

Commander Kuebler's strategy follows energetic efforts by other military lawyers to undercut the commissions. Lt. Cmdr. Charles D. Swift, who has since retired from the military, helped take the case of Salim Hamdan, a former driver for Osama bin Laden, to the Supreme Court. The ruling in 2006 invalidated the Bush administration's first military commission system.

Commander Swift, now a visiting associate professor at Emory University, said he and other lawyers worried that focusing only on a defense in a commission trial would help the Pentagon argue that its system was fair enough to encourage zealous defense lawyers.

"We were concerned," Professor Swift said, "that fighting would serve to validate the system." The strategy to avoid that, he said, was: "Attack the system."

Outsiders to the culture of military lawyers sometimes find their willingness to challenge their commanders' system surprising. John D. Altenburg Jr., a retired major general who headed the Office of Military Commissions at the Pentagon until 2006, said administration planners of the commissions may have misunderstood military lawyers. They may have been influenced, he said, by old movies that showed quick military trials and perfunctory defense presentations. "I can just imagine," he said, "a bunch of guys sitting around and saying, 'Hey, I know, we can do military trials because the defense lawyers will all roll over.'"

The reality has been far different, said General Altenburg, a former senior Army lawyer.

Commander Kuebler said many of the lawyers feel the role they have been assigned "is not career enhancing" in climbing the Pentagon ladder. And at times, defense lawyers have been met with hostility within the military for their aggressive tactics.

Lt. Col. Yvonne Bradley, an Air Force reservist from Pennsylvania, was once nearly sent to the brig when she angered a military judge by asserting that legal ethics barred her from participating in the proceedings.

Commander Mizer, the fourth-generation military man in his family, challenged a Pentagon general by filing a successful claim that the general had exerted unlawful influence over the commissions.

After Major Mori made seven trips to Australia on behalf of the detainee David Hicks, an Australian Qaeda trainee, the chief military prosecutor at the time suggested that the major could be prosecuted for using “contemptuous words” against American leaders.

In Australia, Major Mori had told audiences that Guantánamo commissions were “kangaroo courts” and that Mr. Hicks was “like a monkey in a cage.” In 2007, after Australia’s prime minister at the time, John Howard, came under pressure over the case, the United States government reached a plea deal. Mr. Hicks was soon released. Major Mori was not prosecuted, and is now serving in Iraq.

As the military defense lawyers prepare for a new constitutional challenge to the Pentagon’s commissions, they are facing an unforeseen obstacle. Many detainees are refusing to cooperate with them because they see the lawyers as agents of their captors.

Mr. Khadr, however, is working with Commander Kuebler on his defense, preparing for a trial that could come as soon as this summer.

But the cooperation is not because Commander Kuebler offers any hope for a courtroom victory. If there is a trial, he said, he expects Mr. Khadr to be convicted.

“I don’t believe it is a fair process,” Commander Kuebler said.

As if anyone thought he did.

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## **Women In Particular Have Been Caught In The Crosshairs Of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’**

[Thanks to SSG N (ret’d) & Mark Shapiro, The Military Project, who sent this in.]  
[Excerpts]

June 23, 2008 By THOM SHANKER, The New York Times Company & June 27, 2008  
Houston Chronicle

**WASHINGTON — The Army and Air Force discharged a disproportionate number of women in 2007 under the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy that prohibits openly gay people from serving in the military, according to Pentagon statistics gathered by an advocacy group.**



**While women make up 14 percent of Army personnel, 46 percent of those discharged under the policy last year were women. And while 20 percent of Air Force personnel are women, 49 percent of its discharges under the policy last year were women.**

By comparison for 2006, about 35 percent of the Army's discharges and 36 percent of the Air Force's were women, according to the statistics.

The information was gathered under a Freedom of Information Act request by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a policy advocacy organization.

"Women make up 15 percent of the armed forces, so to find they represent nearly 50 percent of Army and Air Force discharges under 'don't ask, don't tell' is shocking," said Aubrey Sarvis, the organization's executive director.

"Women in particular have been caught in the crosshairs of this counterproductive law."

The rationale is that allowing gays to serve openly would hurt troop morale and recruitment and would undermine military effectiveness.

"I wonder about that when I'm in court fighting my discharge," said Stacy Vasquez, an Army recruiter in Dallas in 2003 when she was discharged after someone reported she had been seen kissing a woman in a gay bar. "I have no criminal record, I have a master's degree and 12 years of experience. You'd think the Pentagon would be concerned about this when they have problems recruiting qualified applicants."

Over all, the number of gay men and lesbians discharged from the military in 2007 rose to 627 from 612 a year before, according to Pentagon statistics. Those figures represent a drop of about 50 percent from a peak in 2001, before the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

Advocacy groups say that 65,000 gay men and lesbians serve in the American armed forces and that there are more than one million gay veterans.

Early last year, Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when the policy was adopted, argued for its repeal, saying that conversations with military personnel had prompted him to change his position.

"I now believe that if gay men and lesbians served openly in the United States military, they would not undermine the efficacy of the armed forces," General Shalikashvili wrote in an Op-Ed article published in The New York Times on Jan. 2, 2007. "Our military has been stretched thin by our deployments in the Middle East, and we must welcome the service of any American who is willing and able to do the job."

According to the statistics, the Army in 2007 discharged 302 soldiers under the policy, up from 280 the year before. The Air Force dismissed 91 people, down from 102 in 2006. The Navy discharged 166, the same as in 2006. The Marine Corps discharged 68, up from 64 in 2006.

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**“Perhaps The Best Available Example Of The ‘Promises Made-Promises Kept’ Lie Can Be Found When Viewing The Health Care Provided For Career Military Retirees”**

**‘Everyone In Uniform Knows That DOD Views Retirees As An Extra Burden Hung Around Its Neck’  
TRICARE: “A Hodge-Podge Of Different Plans, Each Worse Than The Other”**

The Department of Defense and its lackeys have a long history of attacking the funding and support for career military retirees.

In fact it would be difficult to find any evidence of that cabinet agency doing anything of a favorable nature for those who served with honor, but no longer wear a uniform.

June 27, 2008 by Tom Segel, Wilson County News

Harlingen, Texas, June 26, 2008: I really have a great amount of pity for those millions of poor souls who have such undying faith in the promises made by any politician, particularly those who hold national offices.

Those who swallow this “Alice in Wonderland” rhetoric will suffer the deepest cuts of all when they step back through the looking glass and view reality for the first time.

**Perhaps the best available example of the “Promises Made-Promises Kept” lie can be found when viewing the health care provided for career military retirees.**

Those who enlisted in the armed forces from World War II through the Korean War and well up until 1958, who elected to make the military a career were all promised health care for themselves and their dependents for life.

Recruiting literature and every reenlistment councilor promoted this free health care option continuously during all of those years.

**But, the end result was not as promised.**

**There is limited care. It is not free.**

**And the program is so stingy that a vast number of doctors and medical organizations will not even accept those who must use the program our government provides.**

After 1958 the government started to weasel its way out of that “free care” obligation with changes in various regulations that called for medical services to be offered on a “space available” basis at military facilities.

They also started to close many of the facilities that offered such services. There was CHAMPUS, a program that offered limited services with co-pay to the individual service member or retiree. Those past age 65 were directed to enroll in Medicare, effectively removing them from the Department of Defense obligation to cover their medical treatment.

When the CHAMPUS method of payment became too expensive TRICARE was created.

It quickly morphed into a hodge-podge of different plans, each worse than the other.

Members of Congress have also noted for the record that “A significant share of the Nation’s health care providers refuse to accept new TRICARE patients because TRICARE pays them significantly less than commercial insurance programs and imposes unique and extensive administrative requirements.”

Furthermore, TRICARE remains under the Department of Defense umbrella.

**Everyone in uniform knows that DOD views retirees as an extra burden hung around its neck.**

The agency feels retirees drain dollars away from the beans and bullets it needs for the active duty mission.

**Thus, when DOD was charged with constraining the cost of TRICARE, a major part of the department’s cost reduction effort has been to shift a larger share of those cost burdens to retired service members.**

In the findings and sense of Congress section of H.R. 579 it remarks, “The beneficiary cost increases proposed by the Department of Defense fail to recognize adequately that career service members paid enormous in-kind premiums through their extended service and sacrifice.” But, even with such a rebuking review DOD still continues attempts to circumvent existing law and congressional guidelines.

**The Department of Defense and its lackeys have a long history of attacking the funding and support for career military retirees.**

In fact it would be difficult to find any evidence of that cabinet agency doing anything of a favorable nature for those who served with honor, but no longer wear a uniform.

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# The New Issue Of Traveling Soldier Is Out!

This issue features:

1. "This is bullshit and I'm calling you out Uncle Sam!"  
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/6.08.hannah.php>
2. Iraq Veterans Against The War Report on Outreach To GIs:  
"95-98% Were Very Receptive" writes Iraq vet Wendy Barranco  
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/6.08.outreach.php>
3. "The only way to stop Vietnam was for we the lowly jarheads and grunts to take our fingers off the triggers and say no" says a Vietnam Vet.  
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/6.08.vietvet.php>
4. "Bridging the Gap, Making It Happen" – Outreach To The Troops  
Report on the April 5th Military Project Organizers' Conference in New York City, April 5, 2008  
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/6.08.conference.php>
5. Beware Of Useless Drugging For PTSD:  
"Reliving A Traumatic Experience By Writing Or Talking About It Is The Only Therapy Proved Effective By Independent Research"  
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/6.08.drugging.php>
6. Download the new Traveling Soldier to pass it out at your school, workplace, or at nearby base.  
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/TS18.pdf>

**NEED SOME TRUTH?**

**CHECK OUT THE NEW 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/))

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Please say how many you wish sent.

NOTE WELL: DOD regs say that ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS may possess copies, *provided you don't have more than one of the same issue*. These limits do NOT apply to National Guard or Reserve troops UNLESS deployed or assembled at muster.

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **GET THE MESSAGE?**



Iraqi nationalists display an Iraqi flag during a protest march after Friday prayers in Kufa, south of Baghdad, June 27, 2008. Thousands of Iraqis demonstrated in various Iraqi cities to protest at talks between Washington and Baghdad that would keep U.S. troops in Iraq after 2008, responding to a call by nationalist political leader Moqtada al-Sadr. REUTERS/Ali Abu Shish

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

***Words Of Prophecy:***  
**“While We Engaged In The “Global  
War On Terror” (Checkers), They  
Were Engaged In Economic Warfare  
Of The Highest Order (Chess)”**  
**“Check Mate, Game Over”**

**“All that we have to do is to send two mujahedeen to the furthest point east to raise a piece of cloth on which is written al Qaeda, in order to make generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic and political losses without their achieving anything of note other than some benefits for their private corporations,”**

Jun 28, 2008 By: Colonel “Joe” USAR, Vetvoice.com

In November 2004, UBL outlined what victory would look like and how it would be achieved.

“We are continuing this policy in bleeding America to the point of bankruptcy. Allah willing, and nothing is too great for Allah.”

He also discussed the prior successful history;

“We, alongside the mujahedeen, bled Russia for 10 years until it went bankrupt and was forced to withdraw in defeat,”

And then what became very prophetic;

**“All that we have to do is to send two mujahedeen to the furthest point east to raise a piece of cloth on which is written al Qaeda, in order to make generals race there to cause America to suffer human, economic and political losses without their achieving anything of note other than some benefits for their private corporations,”**

**AQ and UBL had a desired end state for the USA and we are now at that end state.**

**While politicians talk about staying the course to achieve “Victory” something even they can not define, AQ and UBL have achieved a stunning victory.**

**While we engaged in the “Global War on Terror” (checkers), they were engaged in economic warfare of the highest order (chess).**

**Check mate, game over.**

Now that the game is over it is time to ask the politicians what they think of UBL’s prophetic message in November 2004.

There is not a single State where I can not see the damage because this warning was ignored.

We lost the War that UBL was fighting because we flagrantly ignored the warning and decided to fight “something else.”

### **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. Phone: 917.677.8057**

## **Vietnam GI: Reprints Available**

**Not available from anybody else, anywhere**

**Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command. The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.**

**The Military Project has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.**

**Free on request to active duty members of the armed forces.**

Cost for others: \$15 if picked up in New York City. For mailing inside USA add \$5 for bubble bag and postage. For outside USA, include extra for mailing 2.5 pounds to wherever you are.

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Orders to:  
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New York, N.Y.  
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All proceeds are used for projects giving aid and comfort to members of the armed forces opposed to today's Imperial wars.

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### **OCCUPATION REPORT**

**They Built A Prison, And Call It  
Peace:  
“The Wall Came To Make Us  
Suffer”**



# **“We Are In A Prison And Isolated From The Rest Of The City” The Moalimeen Area “Is Now Accessible To Pedestrians Through Revolving Iron Doors Guarded By Security Troops”**



Petros Giannakouris / AP

June. 27, 2008 AP [Excerpts]

Baghdad's walls are everywhere, turning a riverside capital of leafy neighborhoods and palm-lined boulevards where Shiites and Sunnis once mingled into a city of shadows separating the two Muslim sects.

The walls block access to schools, mosques, churches, hotels, homes, markets and even entire neighborhoods — almost anything that could be attacked. For many Iraqis, they have become the iconic symbol of the war.

“Maybe one day they will remove it,” said Kareem Mustapha, a 26-year-old Sadr City resident who lives a five-minute walk from a wall built this spring in the large Shiite district.

Indeed, new walls are still going up, the latest one around the northwestern Shiite neighborhood of Hurriyah ...

Dora, a one-time stronghold of insurgents in southern Baghdad, has so many walls and observation towers that some parts resemble a maze.

The district's notorious Moalimeen area, which until a year ago had been among the most dangerous places in the capital, is now accessible to pedestrians through revolving iron doors guarded by security troops.

"The walls have stopped gunmen from coming into the neighborhood," said Salim Ahmed, a 29-year-old oil refinery worker who lives and works in Dora. "But we also feel that we are in a prison and isolated from the rest of the city."

In some areas of Baghdad, the walls delay the movement of food and other essential supplies, raising prices.

First introduced by the Americans in 2003 to protect their Green Zone headquarters, walls became much more widespread with the launch early last year of a major security campaign in Baghdad. In some walled-off neighborhoods, access was granted only on proof of residence or special ID cards.

Nowadays there's hardly a street in Baghdad without a wall — or a cheaper substitute like barbed wire, palm tree trunks, mounds of dirt or piles of rocks.

Because of the Sadr City wall, Mustapha's journey to work every day now involves a 15-minute walk and two minibus rides — a major inconvenience considering Baghdad's unforgiving summer heat.

On the other side of the Tigris river, the U.S. military recently began constructing the new barrier around Hurriyah.

The old part of Azamiyah was sealed early last year in the first attempt to wall off an entire neighborhood.

News of the 3-mile-long wall caused an uproar among Sunnis across the country. Many spoke of a conspiracy by the Shiite-dominated government to suffocate Baghdad's most famous Sunni district, also home to the sect's most important shrine in Iraq, the Grand Imam mosque.

"The wall came to make us suffer," said Waleed Mahmoud, a 35-year-old father of four. "It takes my children an hour to get to school. I am often late for work, and there is never fewer than 10 cars in the line at the two crossing points."

The local Azamiyah economy, which suffered during the worst of the bloodshed, hasn't improved since the wall was built.

The district's popular garment stores and kebab restaurants are still doing a fraction of the business they enjoyed before the war. Potential shoppers from other neighborhoods are staying away, wary of the identity checks at the wall.

There are too few Azamiyah residents to sustain local commerce.

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# ***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 looks on as foreign occupation soldiers from the U.S. raid inside her house during a home invasion in a neighbourhood of Mosul June 26, 2008.  
REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz

**[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.**

**[But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]**

Iraqi citizens have no right to resist home invasions by occupation soldiers from the USA. If they do, they may be arrested, wounded, or killed.

**"In the States, if police burst into your house, kicking down doors and swearing at you, you would call your lawyer and file a lawsuit," said Wood, 42, from Iowa, who did not accompany Halladay's Charlie Company, from his battalion, on Thursday's raid. "Here, there are no lawyers. Their resources are limited, so they plant IEDs (improvised explosive devices) instead."**



[images.google.com]

English soldiers search an American settler's house (1770's)

**Declared Bill Ehrhart, a marine in Vietnam:**

In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom. Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life.

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

## **US Forces Arrest Police Commander Of N. Iraq Region [So Much For That Silly Lying Bullshit About Iraqi "Sovereignty"]**

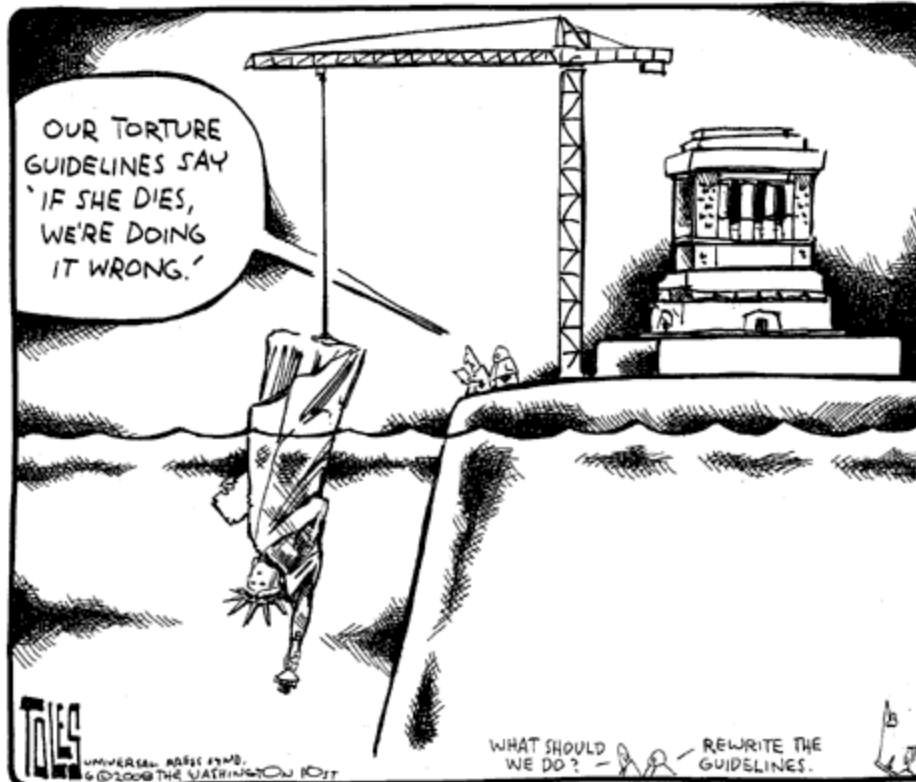
June 28 (KUNA)

US forces have arrested police commander in charge of Al-Dour town in Salah Eddin province in northern Baghdad, Iraqi police said on Saturday.

An Iraqi police source said US forces raided a police building in the town and arrested Commander Colonel Mahmoud Adwan without explaining the reasons behind the arrest. The source added since the arrest, the US military did not comment on the incident.

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## DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to SSG N (ret'd) who sent this in.]

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