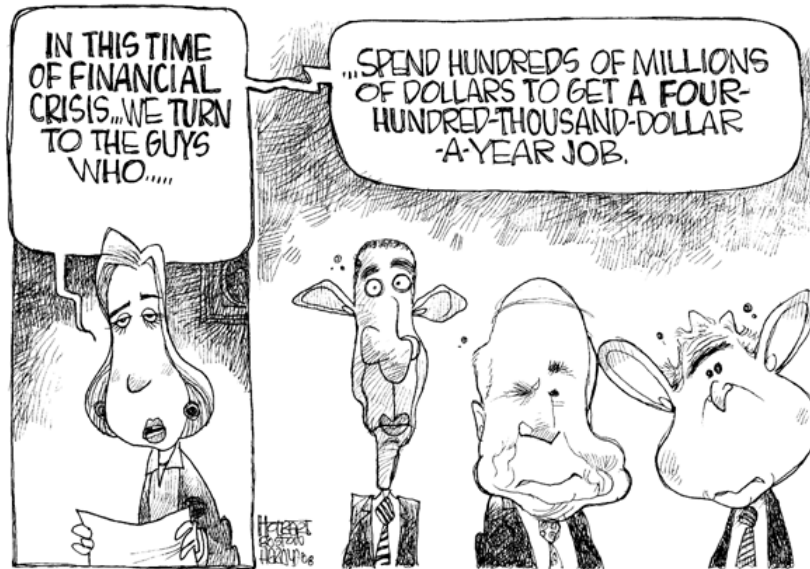


## GI SPECIAL 6J10:



### **GI Special Raffle Thank You!**

The raffle is over and winners are being notified, in order of their place in the drawing. That will take a bit of time because we can't go on to the third place winner until the second place winner has picked their prize, etc.

We'll have total of funds raised in an upcoming GI Special.

**If anybody is in touch with Veterans For Peace Chapter #14, Gainesville, Florida, please let them know they won second prize, and ask that they contact GI Special to let their choice of prize be known.**

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**“In All But The North The  
Picture Is Unrelentingly  
Grim”**

**“Security Maps No Longer Made Public Because They Reveal Just How Bad Things Are”**  
**“Today More Than Half The Country Is Pink”: No-Go Areas;**  
**“So Bad Is The Situation That British And American Forces Are Indirectly Funding The Taliban As They Get Their Own Fuel And Water Supplies Through”**

Noting that the plaque on the centre’s door describes it as the Presidential Media Centre, I asked if President Karzai would be carrying out the official opening next month. “No, security is not good enough,” replied Niblock.

The presidential palace is just a mile down the road, mostly through streets closed off to the public.

October 12, 2008 Christina Lamb, The Sunday Times [Excerpts]

Christina Lamb has been reporting from Afghanistan for 20 years.

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Last week I sat perched inside a Chinook flying over Helmand, trussed up in flak jacket and helmet, squashed between some Royal Marines arriving for a six-month tour.

For long distances there was nothing to see but our dark shadow skimming across the desert. On the horizon was a camel train, perhaps carrying the opium that will end up as heroin on British streets. Temperatures can exceed 50C out here, and the one mudwalled settlement we see seems to be sinking into the sands like an ancient ruin.

Miles and miles from anywhere, we fly low over a man with a cloth turban wrapped round his head and a small herd of ragged brown sheep. He does not even look up.

What does he think about these foreign soldiers flying back and forth, I wonder. I wonder the same as we swing round into a patch of green trees and the Helmand River, swooping low over compounds where I can see colourfully dressed women and children.

We have come to help them but it looks like anger in their faces.

The Chinook comes down to land in our own heavily fortified compound in the centre of Lashkar Gah and the marines and I jump out and run, trying to escape the burning powdery dust that gets in through the bandannas and goggles we all wear.

Thirty-two British soldiers were killed during the last six-month tour – another 170 were injured – and I study the eager faces of the troops, many of whom are young enough to be my son, knowing that some of them probably won't make it back home.

Until recently I used to argue confidently that we needed more troops – and more helicopters – in Afghanistan.

When British troops arrived in force, in what we all described as “the lawless province of Helmand” in 2006, I was one of the first reporters out here.

Embedded with the paras, I felt it was a worthy mission and a great adventure, until one afternoon we were ambushed by Taliban in a muddy field. I realised then that politicians back home might be talking of reconstruction and not firing a single shot, but this was war.

Two and a half years, a doubling of troops to more than 8,000, and several million bullets later, British forces may hold five small districts in Helmand but the local governor himself says the Taliban control at least half the province.

**As for the rest of the country, in all but the north the picture is unrelentingly grim.**

**An aid worker smuggled me security maps compiled by the United Nations (no longer made public because they reveal just how bad things are).**

**These show the relentless sweep from Helmand and the south across the country of pink, which represents “uncontrolled hostile environment” – no-go areas.**

**In 2005, when the International Security Assistance Force (Isaf), which included British military personnel, was active in the country, there was not a single pink patch; today more than half the country is pink.**

Violent incidents have gone up from 44 a month in 2003 to 573 this year, and more than 4,500 people have been killed this year. In June and July the Americans lost more troops in Afghanistan than Iraq.

**Most alarming is the way Kabul has been encircled by the Taliban, prompting a sense of being under siege both among Afghans and foreigners, behind their concrete blocks and armed guards.**

**Of four highways into the capital from the south, east, west and north, built with hundreds of millions of foreign aid money, only the northern route is considered safe. Even that has become prone to rocket attacks.**

So as I jumped out of the Chinook in Lashkar Gah, lugging my kit, I wondered what we British are actually achieving in this faraway country where all our previous engagements, since our first military expedition 170 years ago, have ended in disaster.

That evening I had dinner in the cookhouse with Brigadier Mark Carleton-Smith, who has just finished his tour as commander of British forces in Helmand.

He told me over turkey escalopes and chips washed down with Ribena that we should stop thinking in terms of defeat and victory.

**Over the past year diplomats and military officials have been saying much the same privately.**

**One Foreign Office official confided that he had written in a Whitehall memo that Afghanistan was “going to rats”.**

**Publicly, however, everyone still insisted on painting a rosy picture.**

With the fiasco of the war in Iraq, no one wanted to own up to the fact that it was going even more wrong in the land of the Hindu Kush.

**“We are spending our blood and treasure for what?” asked a senior Nato officer angrily. “For an Afghan government that is spending its time lining its pockets? It’s time to think about what we are doing and what we are really trying to achieve.”**

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Back in Kabul, the sensation of the Taliban approaching the gates of the city has led to a frenzied fin-de-siècle atmosphere.

**Among the foreigners in their ever more fortified homes, every night seems to be party night, with people drinking heavily and bemoaning the fact that their cooks are leaving because they fear they will be targeted for working for foreigners.**

One night I even lay on cushions in a friend’s garden drinking Chilean merlot and watching Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull projected onto the back wall while surrounded by armed guards and barricades.

**It was odd to think that the Taliban were patrolling villages only an hour away ... and threatening anyone who worked with the infidels.**

One morning I met Abdul Karim Khurram, the rotund information and culture minister, who comes from a village an hour and a half from Kabul.

**“I used to go home every weekend,” he said, shaking his head. “But the security situation is so bad I haven’t been able to go for the past year.”**

Khurram may be the information minister but he is definitely not on message with the new Afghan Presidential Media Centre. Funded by America as well as with £1.7m from Britain’s international development department, this was a Nato idea, emerging from belated recognition that the Taliban were far better than the international community at getting their message out.

“The words ‘white elephant’ spring to mind,” said a UN official.

The problem is, there's not much good news to put out.

This does not deter Thomas Niblock, an irrepressibly up-beat American who is senior adviser at the centre. "You've got to distinguish between perception and reality," he said. "The perception may be bad but the reality is there are millions of Afghans getting on with their ordinary Afghan lives."

I pointed out that it is Afghans as well as foreigners who say it is too dangerous to travel on the roads.

I listed examples such as the information minister I talked to and a friend at the Afghan Women's Resource Centre who can no longer visit her projects in provinces neighbouring Kabul.

"It's a two-sided coin," he replied. "Yes the highways have security issues but on the plus side the drive time has reduced."

Noting that the plaque on the centre's door describes it as the Presidential Media Centre, I asked if President Karzai would be carrying out the official opening next month.

"No, security is not good enough," replied Niblock.

The presidential palace is just a mile down the road, mostly through streets closed off to the public.

The Niblock thesis that insecurity might simply be perception is not much consolation to the terrified man I met secretly the next day.

For 15 years Ahmed Bachar looked after the children of the province of Logar – orphans and those whose fathers had lost legs or eyes to the war that has gone on for three decades. Bachar made sure they got to school, had something to eat and had somewhere to sleep every night.

After the fall of the Taliban regime, he started receiving international aid money. This enabled him to arrange a proper building, books, clothes and occasionally even balloons and kites for the children to play with. Two months ago masked Taliban came to his house one night and accused him of working with foreigners and threatened to kill him if he did not stop. It was no idle threat. One British aid agency estimates that there is now a beheading every other day.

"I was terrified," he said. "But I look after around 200 children aged from five to 16 and didn't know what would happen to them if I stopped."

So he went to the mosque and told the local community. It was a risk: among those gathered for prayers were local shopkeepers and farmers who he knew donned masks at night and joined the Taliban patrolling the streets. The Eid holiday collection of 50 afghanis (about 58p) per head, which usually goes to the poor, had been commandeered by the Taliban.

But the people beseeched him to stay. "We need you to look after our children," they said. "We will talk to the Taliban and ask them to let you continue."

A few nights later the Taliban again dragged him out of his house and told him he could stay as long as he broke off all association with foreigners.

Bachar was not convinced.

Now in hiding in Kabul with his five daughters and two sons, he said: "Maybe 80% they leave me alone, but 20% chance they kill me. The problem is, I cannot trust the government forces to protect me. The police only want bribes from us. We are caught between the two."

Bachar's case, in a town just an hour's drive from the capital, is typical. Although the coalition can defeat the Taliban in direct battle, what the Taliban do is control the terrain psychologically.

Complicating matters is the fact that the Taliban are not the only source of violence. Like a franchise of the disgruntled, there are also militants from the Hezb-i-Islami of the warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Al-Qaeda militants from the Jala-luddin Haqqani network based in the Pakistani tribal area of Waziristan, drug networks, armed criminals and corrupt elements inside and outside the government.

"The Taliban are mining in a sea of acquiescence, a sullen, frightened acquiescence," agrees a western diplomat gloomily. "If you ask people, they don't want Taliban; but if it's a choice between them and corrupt, predatory government, they prefer Taliban."

"We don't have the resources to hold the ground," says one Nato officer. "The enemy is out-producing us and that's got to stop."

He points out that while Iraq is a third smaller in population and terrain, it has an army of 600,000 and more than 160,000 coalition forces. "By contrast, Afghanistan has only 80,000 indigenous forces and 51,000 Nato – of which, when you consider those who are here for the fight, not just tree-hugging, that's 28,000."

Much of the capital remains without water and light, and Kabul's once-sparkling river through the centre is clogged with garbage and sewage.

Amid the atmosphere of fear and loathing in Kabul, almost all the leading actors are engaged in the blame game. Karzai spends weeks on end cooped up inside the Arg, the presidential palace where so many of his predecessors were horribly murdered.

Two months ago he stormed out of a meeting with both the British and US ambassadors and the Nato commander over highway security when they refused to fund his idea for creating a highway police force and empowering communities along the roads.

**So bad is the situation that British and American forces are indirectly funding the Taliban as they get their own fuel and water supplies through.**

**The private contractors they use estimate that 25% of the \$4,000 per truck paid for security ends up with the Taliban.**

**Ashraf Ghani, his former finance minister, said: “Instead of the order that people wanted after 30 years of conflict, they have uncertainty and corruption where just a few become obscenely wealthy.**

**“Two individuals in the interior ministry have just declared assets of \$21m and \$35m. In what country can you gain that in four years?”**

Even Karzai’s closest friends and relatives admit that only by acting tough now to sack the worst culprits might he save himself and the country.

The name-calling is not restricted to Karzai. Nato members are also bickering. There is resentment that Germany, Italy and other countries refuse to do any fighting.

Meeting in Budapest last week, Nato countries refused Gates’s entreaties to commit more troops.

They also clashed over his calls for them to target drug traffickers, arguing that this would further endanger their troops. Britain’s military commanders in Helmand insist that they cannot open up another front.

Perhaps, as the Taliban fled across the border in December 2001, someone should have remembered the words of Sir Olaf Caroe, the last British governor on the northwest frontier.

“Unlike other wars,” he said, “Afghan wars become serious only when they are over.”

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?**

**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 wars, 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**

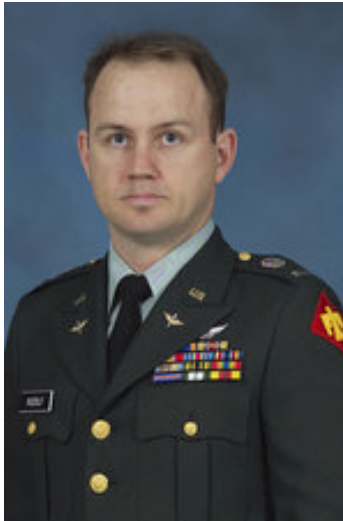
### **IED South Of Amara Kills U.S. Soldier**

Oct 11 (Reuters)

A U.S. soldier was killed on Saturday in a roadside bomb attack south of Amara, in Maysan Province, some 300 km (185 miles) southeast of Baghdad, the U.S. military said in a statement.

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## Thousands Remember National Guard Soldier



9/29/2008 By BARBARA HOBEROCK World Capitol Bureau, Tulsa World

OKLAHOMA CITY — Several thousand people gathered Sunday in a south Oklahoma City church to celebrate the life and remember Oklahoma Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Brady J. Rudolf, 37.

The father of three boys was killed Sept. 18 when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter he was in crashed in southern Iraq.

Also killed were Cpl. Michael Thompson, 23, of Harrah, and Sgt. Dan Eshbaugh, 43, of Norman.

The three were assigned to Detachment 1, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation out of Lexington.

American flags lined the lawn of the Southern Hills Baptist Church as hundreds began arriving at least an hour early.

Rudolf's boots, helmet and a large picture of him greeted those entering the church.

Many mourners wore military uniforms. Police, firefighters and other law enforcement uniforms filled the pews, along with family, friends and those seeking to honor a man known as a hero well before he was deployed.



Rudolf served in the Army National Guard for 20 years. He was remembered as a conscientious pilot, doting father, loyal husband and faithful member of the church. "We will greatly miss Brady," said Rev. Jeff LeDuc. "The hope of the resurrection is that we will see him again."

His uncle, Roger Northcutt said that in the pictures, Rudolf had a sparkle in his eyes. The sparkle is the brightest and hottest light of freedom shining in faith, Northcutt said. His wife, Jennifer, said in a letter read during the service that she was thankful that God put the pair together.

The couple, who were married for 13 years, thought alike and had the same goals, she said.

Pictures of the fallen serviceman were displayed on two large monitors in the church. Rudolf appeared as a child in one picture, holding his children in another and with arms wrapped around his wife in another. He peers out in military and athletic uniforms.

He was awarded several medals posthumously, including the Bronze Star and the Oklahoma Distinguished Service Medal. His three sons and wife were given folded American flags, while the boys were also given the wings their father had worn.

Pastor Douglas O. Melton, who presided over the service, said no one knows when their time will come. "The greatest thing you will do in your life will be to prepare to meet your Lord," Melton said.

A lone military trumpeter played taps and following the church service, a 21-gun salute was given outside.

Four Chinook helicopters also flew over the church.

Maj. Gen. Bud Wyatt III, Adjutant General of the Oklahoma National Guard, called Rudolf a great soldier, patriot and excellent father.

He said Sunday was a "sad day, but proud day."

"Our life together was so good and perfect," said Jennifer Rudolf, in a statement handed out after the service. "It was the kind that not many people even get to experience in their lives. I am thankful for the time we had and that our boys will grow up knowing Brady is a hero and lived for God, family and our country."

"We will miss him greatly and cherish the beautiful memories in our hearts. Through our faith we will hold onto the promise of seeing him again."

"I love you, Brady."

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## **U.S. Soldier Wounded In Sadr City Fighting**

10/10/08 AP

Overnight clashes broke out in Sadr City in which one American soldier was wounded, the U.S. military said. The fighting, though small-scale, was a sign that Shiite extremists are trying to rebound after losing control of their Sadr City stronghold in fighting last spring.

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## **U.S. Military Vehicle Destroyed By Baghdad IED; Casualties Not Announced**

October 11, 2008 Aswat al-Iraq

An improvised explosive device (IED) went off near a convoy of the U.S. forces in al-Baladiyat district, eastern Baghdad, on Saturday, destroying one vehicle, according to an Iraqi police source.

“An IED emplaced by unidentified persons near a cement plant in al-Baladiyat district went off near a Hummer vehicle, severely damaging it,” the source told Aswat al-Iraq. It was not clear whether the blast left casualties on the U.S. side due to a security cordon imposed around the scene.

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## **Cowards In Command Of U.S. Occupation Hiding Combat From Reporters: “It’s Very Clear That They Are Trying To Push Us Away From Active Areas Of Combat”**

October 11, 2008 By Ernesto Londoño and Amit R. Paley, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpt]

More than five years after the U.S.-led invasion, many of the most important stories in Iraq, such as debate over election laws and negotiations over the legal framework that will govern the presence of U.S. troops here after the United Nations mandate expires at the end of the year, are playing out incrementally and often behind closed doors.

U.S. military officials say they remain eager to embed journalists with U.S. troops, but many journalists in Baghdad say the military has grown reluctant to take journalists to the front lines.

"It's very clear that they are trying to push us away from active areas of combat and trying to push us to places" where reconstruction and training are underway, said Associated Press bureau chief Robert H. Reid.

"It's very difficult to pick an embed unit and be relatively assured you will see active combat."

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## **Welcome To Liberated Iraq: “Parliament Security Guards Held 35 Journalists Against Their Will And Confiscated Their Equipment” “A Young Cameraman Was Beaten By Guards”**

October 11, 2008 Baghdad Observer

It wasn't a good couple of days for journalists in Iraq or a positive reflection on a government that is supposed to be a fledgling Democracy.

When a press conference by the advisory commission of the Shabak, an Iraqi ethnic minority demanding their rights, turned heated today parliament security guards held 35 journalists against their will and confiscated their equipment.

They stopped broadcasts and cut off internet lines so no journalist could file the news to their offices, the Journalistic Freedom Observatory an independent Iraqi organization that monitors violations of press freedom.

An Arabic satellite television station reported that a young cameraman was beaten by guards and in Kirkuk a young man named Diyar Abbas Ahmed was shot down as he left the Artist Union in the Northern city.

The Kurdish man left the union with a friend and gunmen drove up. They leaned out of the windows of their vehicle and yelled for people to move out of the way so they could shoot Ahmed. Ahmed's friend tried to protect him but the men shot bullets into the air and then shot the 25-year-old, friends and police said.

Diyar was a young journalist who worked for The Eye, a privately owned Iraqi News Agency. He is one of 222 media workers who've been killed in Iraq since the start of the war, according to Reporters without Borders.

His death is a tragedy and his life was a light. The more journalists that are killed or intimidated the more darkness there will be.

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**“This Is The Real Situation Of Iraq”  
“No One Would Even Blame The US  
Soldier If He Killed Him And Simply The  
Poor Man Would Be Considered A  
TERRORIST Who Tried To Kill The  
Innocent Poor American Liberator”**



An Iraq in Balad, 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad October 7, 2008. His T-shirt carries a copy of the words found on the back of U.S. occupation military vehicles.  
[REUTERS/Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud]

October 12, 2008 by Laith, "Inside Iraq"

My long trips of coming to the office and going back home which sometimes take more than three hours give me a great chance to see different scenes. one of the repeated scenes is the armored convoys and the misuse of power.

About 5:40 on Saturday afternoon; the Iraqi security forces blocked the main street of Jadiriyah neighborhood was blocked because one of the Iraqi officials was passing through.

The drivers were waiting for the convoy to pass.

While they were waiting, a US military convoy came from behind. The driver of the first humvee saw the real long of the stooped cars and I'm sure he knows for sure they stooped because the street was blocked. Yet; he didn't stop.

He used the horn and he kept hitting a sedan Mercedes in front of his humvee.

The driver of the Mercedes took his hand out of the car and waved to the humvee driver as if he was telling him to stop hitting the car because the man doesn't have any choices but the American soldier kept hitting the car.

He kept doing that for more than three minutes.

I was on the other side of the street trying to get a taxi to go home.

I left the street while the American soldier was enjoying hitting and bothering the poor Iraqi man who could do nothing because he knows for sure that he might be killed if he thought about going out of his car and tried to ask the soldier to stop.

**No one would even blame the US soldier if he killed him and simply the poor man would be considered a TERRORIST who tried to kill the innocent poor American liberator.**

The principle of the US soldier is (Im the one who has the gun. SO; I'm above law.)

The guards of the convoys of the Iraqi officials are not better than the US soldiers because they follow the same principle in addition to their main principle which is (I'm the guard of the official. So; I'm above law).

About one month ago, the guards of one of the Iraqi ministers killed a woman and injured many civilians in downtown Baghdad.

The way those people who have guns behave make me like many other Iraqi civilians feel that Iraqi became a wild jungle where survival is only for the strongest which kills the soul of patriotism.

**I never thought that freedom means mess and I never thought that liberators care only about themselves.**

**Its too hard to believe that but this is the real situation of Iraq.**

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

## **ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT; ALL HOME NOW**



A U.S. soldier saws wooden planks to make cabins as he works with fellow soldiers at outpost, Carver in Salman Pak, about 25 miles south of Baghdad. (Mahmoud Raouf Mahmoud/Reuters)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Occupation Troops Retreat: Give Up Kamdish District To Resistance**

11 October 2008 Quqnoos

THE NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has withdrawn from a district in the north-eastern province of Nuristan, the international force said.

ISAF said it retreated from its forward operating base in the Kamdish district on Friday following advice from Afghanistan's Defence Ministry.

But the Taliban claimed that it forced ISAF troops in the district to retreat after engaging them in fierce fighting in the district, one of the country's most insecure.

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# Resistance Action

05 October 2008 by M Reza Sher Mohammadi in Heart, Quqnoos & October 7, 2008 By Mohammed Al Dulaimy, McClatchy Newspapers & Oct 11 (KUNA)

A bomber has wounded four people, including an Afghan soldier, in the western province of Herat, security officials say. Sunday's blast in the Gulran district targeted a vehicle belonging to the Afghan National Army, officials said.

Insurgents killed a governmental employee in al Quds neighborhood in Mosul.  
Oct 7 16:46

In Uruzgan province, a bomber targetted a vehicle of the Afghan National Army wounding one soldier and six civilians, police said. Chief of police in Uruzgan province Juma Gul Himmat told KUNA over the telephone that the attack was carried out in Deh Rahud district of the province. He said the bomber was on foot. He had hidden the explosives under his cloths, said the police chief.

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## TROOP NEWS

# **Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too: “He Has No Love For Incompetent Leaders Above Him Or The Pogue Units That Rule Kuwait With An Iron PT Belt”**

[Intro to Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too, by Alex, Army Of Dude, September 28, 2008:  
Excerpt:

### **Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too**

For the uninitiated, fobbits are the miserable soldiers on a FOB (forward operating base) that are deployed for no clear purpose other than to guard gates, buy 50-inch TVs at the base exchange and take pictures of the desert sunset.

If you do not leave the security of the wire on a semi-regular basis, congratulations, you're a fobbit.

Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too is written by Joe, a junior enlisted soldier in the National Guard.

He's infantry, but the merciless gods that assign units to their area of operations had Joe's unit based in Kuwait.

His job is simple: take outlandish amenities like ice cream, X Box 360s and folding lawn chairs across the border into Iraq to feed the never ending appetite for fobbits from Striker to Marez.

They provide security for KBR truckers, usually Iraqi nationals that are working hard to run up Cheney's severance check.

As any anonymous junior enlisted soldier would, Joe rails against the lazy assholes who depend on him to deliver their absurd spoils.

He has no love for incompetent leaders above him or the pogue units that rule Kuwait with an iron PT belt.

I found myself laughing hysterically at all the ridiculous things he goes through (endless formations because of graffiti are among the highlights. The offending word? Breastmilk.).

Joe is getting great buzz within the community for good reason.

He's not swayed by politics or concerned with telling the most dramatic combat story.

He recounts day to day life in combat, trials of incredible highs and devastating lows. If you want to immerse yourself in the view of the common grunt, look no further.

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## **“In Other News, My TC Went Fucking Psycho On Me And Jim Last Night In The Chow Hall Parking Lot Up North”**

October 2, 2008 By Joe; Fobbits Need Ice Cream Too; [Kbrsecurity.blogspot.com/](http://Kbrsecurity.blogspot.com/)

Age: 23

Gender: Male

Industry: Military

Occupation: Ice Cream Man

Location: An Nasiriyah, Scania, BIAP, TQ, Taji, Balad, Mosul, Baqubah : Iraq

Buck Rogers here to tell you some exciting news.

The ADVON (advanced party) from our replacing unit will be here in 2 weeks to kick us out of our "nice" tents and make us move about 2 miles into the rear of the camp into shitty tents with cots and no A/C.



I guess that's ok because it's really fucking cold all of a sudden. Two weeks ago I couldn't shit in the port-a-john without passing out and now I have to wear my fleece under my body armor at night. Whatever. With the arrival of the replacing unit, we will train them in our (their) jobs and then pack our shit up and get the fuck out of here.

**We were told (promise was the word used) we would be home by Christmas and then today had a meeting with the CSM where he yelled at us for telling our families we'd be home by Christmas because they are calling the FRG and asking about Christmas parties and shit.**

**FRG stands for the family readiness group, a group of wives and moms and other busybodies who charge \$8 for a sandwich at weekend drill as the only source of food after training, this is my personal opinion of our FRG and I apologize in advance if anyone is a member of a productive FRG.**

Back home, we have 90 new privates fresh (or not so fresh, it's been over a year since we left) and waiting for us. This means that we need to cut 90 people from the company in some shape or form to remain full strength but not go over.

There is a program here where National Guardsmen can extend their tours voluntarily and stay with the replacing unit, go somewhere else in the OIF theater or even go to the OEF theater in Afghanistan.

I volunteered for this for a 12 month tour with the replacing unit here. A 12 month extension grants me 2 weeks of leave, free of charge (no leave days charged), between when my unit leaves and the new one assumes command and also an extra \$800 a month bonus. I volunteered for this over 4 months ago and signed the paperwork already, but I am now being told that I probably won't be allowed to extend, which really cooks my fucking grits.

I had already broken the lease on my apartment and had my shit moved to my Dad's basement to dwell for another year and generally planned on being here another 12 months. No one is sure why my extension is trying to be denied, considering we have to cut 90 people and I am volunteering to be cut from the company.

They won't know for sure until 1 December, which is like 2-3 weeks before we go home.

**I volunteered to extend because let's not kid each other here, the economy is in the shits and especially so back in Michigan.**

My friends graduating from college are moving out of state for jobs or working at their college jobs full time.

One guy I know graduated with a Criminal Justice/Academy degree to be a detective and is delivering Pitas full-time instead of part-time and another guy is in grad school because he couldn't find a job.

A 12 month extension here would rake in a little over \$40,000 plus the other half of my enlistment bonus due in March, so around \$50,000 which is a nice nest egg to take home and another 12 months hoping the economy turns around.

Getting cut from this company means when I get back, I can go back to the college I was originally at instead of the local one by our armory that I transferred to so I wasn't driving 900 miles 2-3 times a month during mobilization. It also means the last 12 months of active duty time I need to reach my 36 months to get 100% of the new GI Bill benefits.

As usual, no one knows what the fuck is going on or why it isn't going on, so nothing new.

As of now my plan is to have about 4 tough boxes and just toss all my shit in and mail it home at my own cost in the case that I am told last minute that I am not being allowed to extend.

In other news, my TC went fucking psycho on me and Jim last night in the chow hall parking lot up north.

Jim is driving for us because the only other driver available is another corporal in the platoon that my TC doesn't like because he made Corporal in 2 years while my TC is still a corporal after 10 years in the Army.

The other corporal is driving for Jim's truck and Jim is driving for us.

We went out to the truck 2 hours before our hit time, prepped it from top to bottom then stopped at the chow hall to get Jim some food and were 2 minutes late to pick up my TC from the internet cafe where he watches his internet girlfriend show her goodies since the internet cafe is owned by an Iraqi guy and has no restrictions on pornography.

My TC flipped out on us, screaming at the top of his lungs and stomping on Jim's to-go plate.

That was a pretty big no-go in my book; one of the prime rules of being an NCO is making sure that Joes are fed and bedded down before themselves.

During his drill sergeant imitation where he jammed the bill of his cap into our faces and yelled an inch from our eardrums, I pointed out to my TC that the truck was already ready to roll and although we were 2 minutes late to pick him up, we were ready 45 minutes before our hit time and then I did push-ups for 30 minutes.

Jim has a reputation for being a straight-shooter and started to yell back, which further added to the circus in the parking lot.

I'm doing push-ups next to the truck, Jim and my TC are screaming at each other while my TC is stomping over Jim's food while about 50 people stand around us in a circle watching.

Looking back, I laugh but I am not sure what the outcome will be.

It was later revealed that my TC was angry that his girlfriend didn't log on in time for him to get in his daily spank session and decided to let it out on us.

**I don't think anything will come of it as my TC is under investigation by JAG for striking subordinates, ruining a Blue Force Tracker and losing multiple magazines of ammunition.**

The honest truth is that I couldn't give a shit.

**If I have to go back with this shitty excuse for a company, I see myself struggling to motivate myself to go to drill.**

**Driving 900 miles roundtrip from one side of the state to the other just to get treated like a kid and screamed at like basic training by my team leader during underfunded, sub-par "training" while sleeping on a cot at the armory or paying for a hotel nearby is not exactly something to look forward to every month.**

I just paid off the credit card I opened up exclusively to pay for gas, room and board for drill every month (and sometimes more than once a month when mobilization ramped up) and opening it back up is not what I wanted to end up doing.

The only good news about all this is that my team leader is probably moving out of state to move back in with his parents (at the young age of 41) while he earns the money to move his internet bride to America from the Phillipines.

Bid-a-bid-a-bid-a-bid-a oh boy.

#### **Troops Invited:**

**Comments, arguments, articles, and letters 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**

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

# Resistance Action

10/09/08 AFP & Reuters & Oct 11 (Reuters) & Oct. 12 (Xinhua)

In another roadside bomb attack just north of Baghdad, an Iraqi militia leader working with US forces was killed along with two of his children and a nephew, security officials said.

Abbas Khudair, who heads a Sahwa, or Awakening group, that is paid by American forces, was targeted as he drove with his family in the Al-Uthaim area in Baquba, the capital of the restive Diyala province, they said.

An AFP photographer saw the bodies of Khudair, his son and daughter and the nephew taken away to the local hospital, where five more relatives were being treated for blast wounds.

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One policeman was killed and three people wounded by a bomb planted inside a restaurant in the town of Tal Afar, 420 km (260 miles) northwest of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bombing in Baghdad wounded two policemen in Sadr City.

Guerrillas attacked an off-duty policeman in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, wounding the policeman.

Insurgents shot a police officer at a checkpoint south of Hilla, some 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad, police said.

8 policemen, were wounded in two roadside bomb attacks on police patrols in Baghdad.

Unidentified armed men killed two members of an Awakening Council group in the Sunni-dominated district of Doura in southern Baghdad, the source said. The Awakening Council groups are U.S.-backed armed groups.

Two soldiers were killed by a sniper fire as they were manning a checkpoint in the 14th Ramadan Street in the Baghdad's western district of Mansour, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Iraqi security forces immediately blocked the crowded street and searched the surrounding area, while the attacker fled the scene, the source added.

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

## **“Americans Get Out. Americans Get Out,” Shouted Mourners**



Relatives and friends of Iraqi lawmaker Saleh al-Auqaeili, an ally of nationalist, anti-Occupation politician Muqtada al-Sadr, carry his coffin during his funeral in Najaf Oct. 10, 2008. Al-Auqaeili was traveling in a convoy Thursday when he was attacked and died later at a hospital. (AP Photo/Alaa al-Marjani)

10.10.08 BAGHDAD (AFP) - Mourners shouted anti-American slogans as gunfire gripped the Baghdad district of Sadr City ahead of the burial on Friday of a member of parliament killed in a roadside bombing.

"Americans get out. Americans get out," shouted mourners as relatives hugged each other and wept while the wooden coffin of Auqaeili was brought out of his home early on Friday draped in the tri-colour Iraqi flag.

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

## **Bush Announces ‘Cease Fire’ in Iraq**

[Thanks to Ward Reilly, Veterans For Peace]

October 10, 2008, FOX News Press, by Brit Humor [Excerpts]

President George W. Bush stunned the world today, when he ordered a 'cease fire' in Iraq for all U.S. military personnel. He ordered the Air Force to be grounded, and for all troops to withdraw to U.S. bases immediately, and to prepare for withdrawal. 'U.S. troops can expect to be home within 6 months' Bush went on to say.

In front of a shocked international press corp at the White House, Bush announced that he had made the decision during the night. He also said that as much as his heart had been in the effort to win in Iraq, it was clear to him that he had mismanaged the war, beginning late 2003, and that he could no longer see anything positive coming from having hundreds of thousands of troops there any longer.

Bush went on to explain that he wanted to give the next administration a fair chance to be able to focus on national problems, end the killing, and no longer have to pour dwindling-assets into Iraq, 'while Americans were hurting so much at home, with a wrecked economy'.

Vice President Dick Cheney said, soon after the announcement, that he was in control of the military, and that the occupation would continue until a 'full victory had been achieved'.

Presidential candidates McCain and Obama both said that pulling out would not be a responsible thing to do until they were in office, and McCain flatly refused to reveal his 'plan to win', which he claimed to have last week following the debate.

'It can only work if I am president' McCain said. VP Cheney said that he 'wishes that McCain would share his secret for winning the fucking war'.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT  
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE  
WARS**

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

**Telling the truth - about the occupations 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 to Imperial wars 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/>

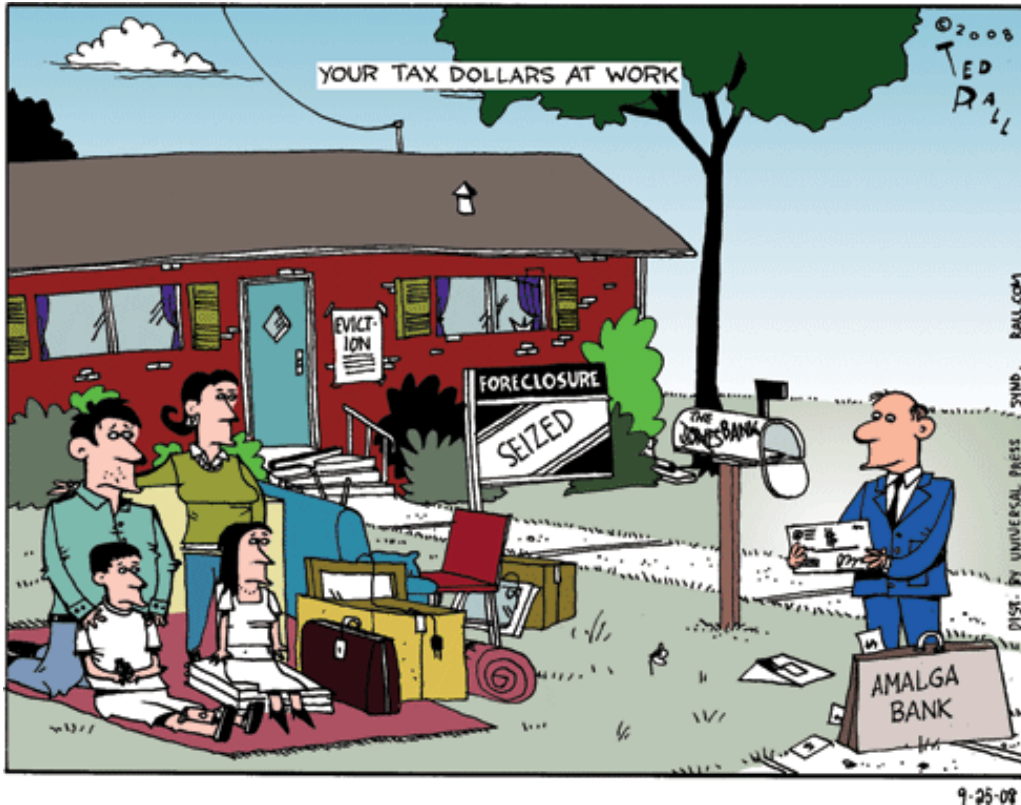
And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.org/](http://www.ivaw.org/))



## CLASS WAR REPORTS

**“Entire National Economies Are Starting To Sink”  
Right Now, No One Really Knows How To Stop That:**

# “Not Obama, Not McCain, Not Ben Bernanke Or Paul Krugman Or Larry Summers Or Hank Paulson”



October 9, 2008 Rosa Brooks, Los Angeles Times [Excerpts]

What McCain doesn't seem to know -- yet -- is that he's a dead man walking. He'll learn it definitively on Nov. 4, when he's going to lose the election -- and the polls increasingly suggest that he'll lose big.

Let's get to Obama, who's almost certain to be our president.

What Obama doesn't know is how to keep the global economic crisis from sending all the rest of us to the bottom of the sea, right along with McCain and the GOP.

On the contrary, Obama, like McCain, bent over backward during Tuesday's debate to reassure voters that all of our problems can be fixed. Neither he nor McCain made reference to the Dow's plunge of 508 points Tuesday, nor to the fact that the index has lost a full third of its value in a year.

And when asked by Brokaw if the economy will get "much worse before it gets better," Obama's response was quick: "No. I'm confident about the American economy."

Really? I'm not.



I don't usually hope that politicians are being disingenuous. But if Obama truly thinks things won't get worse, then what he doesn't know is scary.

And though finger-pointing is always fun, most of us are turning to more urgent questions -- such as whether there will be enough lifeboats to go around and whether there's any real prospect of rescue and recovery.

Right now, no one really knows how to do that.

Not Obama, not McCain, not Ben Bernanke or Paul Krugman or Larry Summers or Hank Paulson.

No one.

That's what makes our situation so frightening.

A problem that began in the U.S. housing market rippled around the globe. Ripples became waves, waves became tsunamis, and now global shores are strewn with wrecked financial institutions.

Entire national economies are starting to sink.



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

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

### **GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

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[http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi\\_special/](http://www.traprockpeace.org/qi_special/);

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