

## GI SPECIAL 2#63

: Des Moines Register.



(From Army Times 4.26.04)

# There Are Now Two Iraqs: Time Magazine Reports Resistance “Maintaining Control Over Parts Of The Country”

Time Magazine, Apr. 18, 2004

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1101040426-612296,00.html>

The fury and chaos of the past three weeks in Iraq have had a profoundly sobering effect on Washington. With Shi'ite unrest spreading in the southern part of the country and fierce military battles erupting in Fallujah, the city west of Baghdad that has become the core of Sunni resistance, **the Administration risked completely losing control in Iraq.**

What started as a U.S. counteroffensive against insurgents on two fronts had by the end of last week become a tense standoff in Shi'ite- and Sunni-dominated regions.

In Fallujah a man who claimed to have participated in the insurgency was interviewed by Time and gave a chilling description of a recent attack on the Marines there.

He said when three U.S. tanks, six humvees and about 70 Marines entered the Nazar district of Fallujah, a group of 25 insurgents ambushed them with a Russian-made PK machine gun, an rpg and AK assault rifles; destroyed one tank and disabled another; and fled before the Americans could return fire.

**On Saturday coalition forces unexpectedly announced that the main highways leading north and south from Baghdad had been closed indefinitely to civilian traffic. The official reason given was repair work, but a coalition military source said the roads were "very dangerous and under intense enemy pressure."**

A U.N.-sponsored government won't automatically command the trust of the Iraqi public. The U.S. hopes the Brahimi plan will be acceptable by the simple virtue that it wasn't concocted by Americans or their allies on the Governing Council. But members of the post-June 30 government still have to be effectively blessed by foreigners—a point not lost on Iraqis. "They cannot fix a wrong with a wrong," says Salah Hassan Habib, 22, a butcher in a Shi'ite neighborhood in Baghdad. "The next government should be elected." The U.N.'s reputation in Iraq is hardly lustrous: ordinary Iraqis suffered for more than a decade under sanctions enacted in the U.N.'s name.

Unless the security situation improves dramatically in the next 10 weeks, daily life under the occupation probably won't feel much different. The U.S. announced last week that it intends to keep 135,000 troops in Iraq for at least the next three months, 30,000 more than U.S. Central Command's projection for May. June's transfer of power to whatever government ultimately takes shape looks increasingly like a symbolic event.

***As long as anticoalition forces maintain control over parts of the country, U.S. commanders have no choice but to keep troops on a combat footing. (One little sentence containing the most terrible reality the Bush people have yet had to face. There are now two Iraqis, one occupied and one free.)***

For the U.S., a grim possibility is that insurgents are exploiting the relative lull to prepare for new offensives. An insurgent interviewed by Time last week says the bulk of his forces have used the ruse of recent truce talks to pull out of Fallujah in preparation for coming operations that will target Baghdad. Teams have been left behind in Fallujah to harass U.S. troops and provide cover for other insurgents to leave the city and head for the capital.

-Reported by Brian Bennett, Meitham Jasim, Paul Quinn-Judge and Michael Ware/  
Baghdad and Massimo Calabresi and Adam Zagorin/Washington

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL 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, at home and in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. **Send requests to address up top. For copies on web site see:** <http://www.notinourname.net/qi-special/>

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

# **What Command Won't Tell You About Falluja**

Jo Wilding's Bio and Diary 1 below Kären Ahern April 17<sup>th</sup>

While we wait we chat with the sheikh in the mosque.

"Falluja people like peace but after we were attacked by the US they lost all their friends here. We had a few trained officers and soldiers from the old army, but now everyone has joined the effort. Not all of the men are fighting: some left with their families, some work in the clinics or move supplies or go in the negotiating teams. We are willing to fight until the last minute, even if it takes a hundred years."

**He says the official figure is 25% of the town controlled by the marines: "This is made up of small parts, a bit in the north east, a bit in the south east, the part around the entrance to the town, controlled with snipers and light vehicles."**

**The new unity between Shia and Sunni pleases him: "Falluja is Iraq and Iraq is Falluja. We received a delegation from all the governorates of Iraq to give aid and solidarity."**

### **GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT THE NEW TRAVELING SOLDIER**

**Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans' benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. 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/>

# Shia Resistance Fighters Show Off U.S. Humvee As Battle Trophy; Say Spanish Soldiers Won't Be Attacked Because They're Going Home Now



**Holding photos of their leader, Muqtada al Sadr's Al Mahdi, militiamen brandish their weapons in front of an American humvee.**

Apr. 19, 2004 By Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson.

**KUFA, Iraq - Soldiers loyal to rebel cleric Muqtada al-Sadr towed a battered 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment Humvee into Kufa police headquarters Monday and said it was a trophy from a firefight that left 16 Americans dead or wounded.**

The Iraqis said the firefight took place earlier Monday a half-mile outside Najaf. About 2,500 U.S. troops are camped out outside Najaf and nearby Kufa on a mission to kill or capture al-Sadr, the founder of the Mahdi Army militia.

**One Mahdi fighter, his face masked in a black scarf and a Kalashnikov rifle cradled in his arms, claimed that he and other guerrillas captured the Humvee and burned two others in a six-vehicle convoy that rolled toward Kufa around noon.** Pilgrims came on foot Monday to Najaf to pray at the Grand Imam Ali Shrine, to commemorate the Prophet Muhammad's death more than 1,300 years ago.

A witness, who said his house was roughly 100 yards from the fighting, said 80 to 100 Mahdi gunmen hidden behind palm trees ambushed the Americans.

**"They started shooting from all sides and forced the Americans to retreat," said the witness, Taleb Muslim, a 55-year-old teacher who described himself as a fervent supporter of al-Sadr.**

**The battered Humvee's windows were shattered and at least one rocket-propelled grenade had burned the interior, which was stripped of equipment. Dried blood streaked the vehicle's exterior near the driver's seat. An empty bag of Fritos, two empty boxes of Marlboros and cigarette butts littered the floor.**

The partisans at first allowed curious passers-by to examine the vehicle at the police compound, which they commandeered from Iraqi police more than a week ago. Before long, however, they cut short the viewing and ushered everyone outside.

Al-Sadr spokesman Qais al Khazali said Mahdi fighters were out to ensure security for the pilgrims when they encountered the U.S. convoy. He said the Americans attacked first.

**He lauded the decision Sunday by new Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero to pull Spain's 1,300 troops out of Iraq quickly, fulfilling a campaign pledge.**

**"It seems Spain thought more of its people than about American interests," al Khazali said, adding that he hoped other coalition partners would follow suit. After Spain's announcement, al-Sadr in writing ordered all Mahdi troops to refrain from attacking the Spanish troops "for 15 days as a reward so they can withdraw from Iraq" peacefully, al Khazali added.**

Indirect talks between the Americans and al-Sadr to end the standoff in Najaf were resuming, a cleric linked to the negotiations said. The talks are being conducted through a go-between, al Dawa (the Islamic Call Party), a Shiite political party.

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

## **South Dakota Guard Member Killed**

Apr. 18, 2004 Associated Press

**SIoux FALLS, S.D. - A South Dakota National Guard member who helped clear mines and explosives was killed in Iraq when a roadside bomb went off as a convoy passed, the military said.**

Spc. Dennis Morgan, 22, of Valentine, Neb., died Saturday south of Baghdad. He was a member of the 153rd Engineer Battalion of Winner that was mobilized on Dec. 7 and deployed to the Middle East in February, the National Guard said.

Morgan was a 2000 graduate of Winner High School. Survivors include his wife and his mother, the Guard said.

Morgan was one of three people manning weapons on an armored personnel carrier when an explosive device of unknown type went off as a convoy passed. No one else was hurt.

The 153rd Engineer Battalion specializes in laying mines or clearing enemy mine fields and in building or removing obstructions to troop movements, the Guard said.

Morgan was part of a group working to protect others by finding and disarming explosive devices along the roads, said a Guard spokesman.

**"We've got 1,192 (National Guard) soldiers over there and there's not one of them that isn't in harm's way because of this stuff,"** said Roger Anderson, a spokesman at Guard headquarters in Rapid City.

### **REAL BAD PLACE TO BE**



### **BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**

Standing in bloody water, a US soldier secures the site of a mortar attack in Baghdad.  
(AFP/Antonio Scorza)

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## **FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION SOLDIER ELECTROCUTED**

April 19, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND  
Release Number: 04-04-31C

TIKRIT, Iraq - One 1st Infantry Division Soldier was electrocuted while working on a generator at a Coalition base near Samarra around 10:30 p.m. April 17.

The Soldier was transported to a nearby military medical facility where he later died.

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# **Sunni Insurgents Blow Up Key Bridges Into Baghdad**

(TMPress International New York April 18, 2004)

**In Baghdad Saturday, Sunni insurgents blew up key bridges outlying and connecting Baghdad. The routes affected are two bridges south of the capital, cutting the main road that links Baghdad with the second largest port city of Basra in the South.**

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# **Three British Soldiers Caught In Roadside Bomb**

19 April, 2004 BBC News

**Three British soldiers have been injured in an explosion in the Iraqi town of Al Amara.**

**The men, serving with the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, based in Kent, were driving in a Land Rover on Sunday night when a roadside bomb exploded.**

An Army spokesman said one of the men had been seriously injured.

He is being flown back to the UK on Monday, together with two others from the same regiment shot during fighting in the town on Saturday.

The other two men injured in the blast are receiving treatment in Iraq, the spokesman said.

The regiment, based in Canterbury, is attached to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders whose commanding officer was last week also involved in a security incident.

**A pilot project by the UK to send failed Iraqi asylum seekers home has been suspended amid concerns over continued fighting.**

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# **Two Soldiers Wounded in Karbala**

19 April 2004 Novinite Ltd.,

Two coalition troops have been wounded in an explosion in the southern Iraqi city of Karbala.

According to Bulgaria's Defence Ministry Spokesperson Romyana Strugarova the injured soldiers were not members of the Bulgarian 480-strong force.

It was also reported that there was an exchange of gunfire after the explosion.

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## Shia Madhi Soldiers Attack U.S. Patrol, Wound 2, Burn Humvee

4.19.04 By JASON KEYSER and LOURDES NAVARRO, Associated Press Writers

Skirmishes continued outside Najaf. Sadr militiamen attacked a U.S. patrol, wounding two Americans. They were later seen parading around a captured Humvee, towing it to a mosque in nearby Kufa and setting it on fire.

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## One Killed, Four U.S. Troops Wounded In Mosul IED Attack

APRIL 19, 2004 MOSUL (AFP) & Reuters 4.20

Five US troops and three Iraqi civilians were injured when a US convoy was targeted by two roadside bombs in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, according to coalition and Iraqi officials.

A military spokesman in Mosul said one soldier died after being transferred to a military hospital in Baghdad.

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## Oklahoma US Marine Injured

April 19, 2004 KOTV News

A town is waiting for word on an Oklahoma Marine wounded during fierce fighting this weekend.

Salina native Lance Corporal Brent Montgomery was 1 of nine Marines wounded in the battle along Iraq's border with Syria. Montgomery's mother told the "News on 6" in a phone interview she's talked to her son twice and he seems to be in good spirits.

**This is Montgomery's his second tour of duty in Iraq. His superior officer volunteered his unit to continue their duty overseas. (Next time, how about putting it up for a vote?)**

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# Bodies Of Halliburton Workers Identified

Apr. 20, 2004 KRISTEN HAYS, Associated Press

HOUSTON - Three of four bodies found near an attack on a fuel convoy in Iraq earlier this month were contract workers for Halliburton Co., the company said Tuesday: Stephen Hulett, 48, of Manistee, Mich.; Jack Montague, 52, of Pittsburg, Ill.; and Jeffery Parker, 45, of Lake Charles, La.,

Hulett worked for Manistee, Mich.-based Kowalski Distributing Company Inc. as a truck driver hauling dry goods in the Midwest until he quit after Christmas to go to work for Halliburton, said Bonnie Bigalke, Kowalski company president.

"He was quite a card. He had a very funny laugh. You knew right away it was him. He seemed like a very happy man," Bigalke said.

**She said Hulett seemed to realize the danger he faced by working in Iraq, but didn't think it was a huge risk because the dust "was kind of settled" after the capture of Saddam Hussein.**

**Parker was due home at the end of May and was planning to get married the first week in June,** his sister, Sheryl Reeves of Moss Bluff, La., told KPLC-TV in Lake Charles. He had one son from a previous marriage.

Parker was the sixth of nine children; he had two brothers and six sisters. Reeves said he carried a Bible in Iraq despite advice not to do so. He read it often.

Counting the deaths announced Tuesday, the company says 33 Halliburton contractors have died while working in Iraq and Kuwait, performing jobs for the government that range from extinguishing oil fires to delivering fuel and food. **Thousands of people have signed on as contract workers because of the good pay. Workers can earn up to \$120,000 tax-free for a year's work, including overtime.**

*"Like all the others that went, it was all the money they were going to be paid," Reeves said of why Parker took the job. "And he was going because, you know, he intended to pay bills off and to try to get ahead. And, you know, we feel now that no amount of money is worth someone's life."*

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## TROOP NEWS

# Honduras Soldiers Going Home "In Shortest Time Possible"

4.19.04 By JASON KEYSER and LOURDES NAVARRO, Associated Press Writers

President Ricardo Maduro of Honduras announced late Monday his country's 370 troops would withdraw "in the shortest time possible."

## HER SON IS COMING HOME



Sandra Zambrano, 43, holds a photo of her son Paul Almendares, 23, a soldier who is in Iraq along with some 370 Honduran troops, in La Trinidad, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, April 20, 2004. (AP Photo/Ginnette Riquelme)

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## SPANISH SOLDIERS VERY HAPPY TO BE GOING HOME NOW



A Spanish soldier takes pictures of his comrades. **Spanish Defense Minister Jose Bono revealed that Madrid has already begun pulling its troops out of Iraq and 'the process will conclude swiftly'** (AFP/Antonio Scorza)

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# Thailand Will Withdraw All Troops “If They Are Attacked”

PBS TV REPORTED at 6 p.m. EDT April 20 that the Thai government announced today their troops will be pulled out of Iraq “if they are attacked.” **(Thai troops may want to have a word with the political genius who released that statement.)**

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## Norway Out Of Iraq “Within A Couple Months”

07.04.04 Norwegian news bureau (NTB)

Norway will probably pull out its forces from Iraq within a couple of months, stated Foreign Minister Jan Petersen after meetings with the UN in New York City Tuesday.

Norway currently has about 150 soldiers in Iraq.

Petersen said that there are «no expectations that Norway would stay there with a large force over a long period of time.»

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## Bulgaria Gets Shaky; Will Keep Troops in Iraq “For Now” But Refuses To Send More

4.20.04 By VESELIN TOSHKOV, Associated Press Writer

SOFIA, Bulgaria - Bulgaria will keep its troops in Iraq for now, but a long-term commitment could hinge on the United Nations passing a resolution giving the international force in the country a mandate, the prime minister said Tuesday.

**Simeon Saxcoburggotski's comments appeared to represent the first time Bulgaria, a staunch U.S. ally, put conditions on its troop presence in Iraq.**

When asked if Sofia would keep troops in Iraq in case there was no U.N. Security Council agreement, he said, "Let's see what will happen."

**Saxcoburggotski also ruled out the possibility of sending additional troops to compensate for a planned pullback of Spanish soldiers. "Spain's withdrawal from Iraq does not in any way mean Bulgaria shall have to send more troops there," he said.**

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## HOME FROM HELL



**CHECK THE SMILES. IT'S A START, ONLY 134,800 MORE TO GO. BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW.**

A National Guard soldier from the Chadron-based 1057th Light-Medium Truck Company kisses the tarmac April 20, on return to Lincoln, Neb. from Iraq. The soldiers will head home Monday. (AP Photo/Nebraska National Guard, David Nore)

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## Lunatic JCS Chief Myers Says Insurrection Against Occupation Is “A Symptom of Success”

The Washington Post, 4.15.04

**Air Force General Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on April 15: "[The chairman] said yesterday that the deadly insurgency that flared up this month is 'a symptom of the success that we're having here in Iraq' and an effort to undermine the country's transition to self-government.**

**"Asked at a news conference here whether the military had failed to counter insurgents' attacks in Iraq, Air Force Gen. Richard Myers said "I think it's that success which is driving the current situation, because there are those extremists that don't want that success," Myers said. (Sewell Chan, General Calls Insurgency in Iraq a Sign of U.S. Success**

**(Remember how people used to ridicule Baghdad Bob? Now we got DC Dick.)**



**General Richard Myers, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a press conference in Washington DC, denied rumors he is too dimwitted to count to five.** The rumor may have begun after Myers claimed that the loss of Falluja, Najaf and Karbala to the resistance, and the inability of the Occupation to retake those cities, was “a symptom of success.” (AFP/File/Yasser al-Zayyat)

## **General Myers Calls This “Success”**



A US marine from the Quick Reaction Force, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Regiment wakes up after a cold night spent in his trench at the marines base in Fallujah. (AFP/Nicolas Asfour)

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to the E-mail address up top. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.**



## TROUBLE CITY



### BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW

A U.S. Marine from the 1st Battalion 5th Marines passes a building in Fallujah April 19.  
(AP Photo/John Moore)

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## 'Baghdad Boil' Infecting Troops; Visceral Form Fatal, But Army Not Publicizing That Little Problem



Army Staff Sgt. Eric DiVona awaits treatment for leishmaniasis at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

4.18.04 By STEPHEN MANNING, AP

WASHINGTON (AP) - Staff Sgt. Eric DiVona didn't notice the small bumps on his face and left earlobe until he returned from serving nine months in Iraq. Nothing much, he thought, probably just a spider bite. But soon those bumps erupted. The left side of his face puffed up, a swelling that wouldn't go away. And he noticed he was not the only

one in his unit with such symptoms. "A lot of people started coming down with sores," he said, sitting at Walter Reed Army Medical Center with an IV taped to his right arm.

"It was like, 'You ain't cool unless you got it. '" What DiVona thought was a spider bite was actually caused by a tiny sand fly with a fierce parasite stewing in its gut, an organism that causes stubborn and ugly sores that linger for months. Scientists and doctors refer to the disease caused by the parasite as **cutaneous** leishmaniasis. But soldiers serving in sand-fly rich Iraq call it, with little affection, the "Baghdad boil." The sores are not painful or contagious, but left untreated they can last up to 18 months and leave permanent, burn-like scars.

**(NOTE WELL: THE CUTE LITTLE ARTICLE HERE FAILS TO TELL YOU THIS DISEASE IS FATAL IF PARASITES ARE NOT ELIMINATED.**

**IF PARASITES ARE NOT ELIMINATED, THEY SPREAD TO THE VISCERA, AND KILL.**

**THIS CAN TAKE MONTHS, SOMETIMES YEARS. THERE MAY BE NO OBVIOUS SIGNS OF SICKNESS UNTIL INTERNAL ORGANS ARE DISEASED.**

**ASK ANY CIVILIAN DOCTOR FAMILIAR WITH LEISHMANIASIS.**

**'CUTANEOUS' IS THE FIRST FORM OF THE INFECTION, MEANING IT'S ON THE SKIN.**

**"VISCERAL" IS WHEN THE PARASITE SPREADS TO THE LIVER AND OTHER INTERNAL ORGANS.**

**UNTREATED VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS IS FATAL, REPEAT FATAL.)**

Since the flies bite exposed areas, many soldiers have sores on their necks, faces and arms. Doctors at Walter Reed have seen 653 cases of leishmaniasis, and the hospital's infectious disease wards until recently overflowed with soldiers undergoing a 20-day treatment regimen.

"We see a few cases every year, but not the numbers we saw come out of Iraq," said Col. Dallas Hack, chief of preventive medicine at Walter Reed. The military has made a big effort to treat leishmaniasis, even pulling soldiers out of the field who have confirmed cases and flying them back to Washington for medical care.

But Walter Reed doctors say it was almost inevitable that they would see a high number of cases this year.

Leishmaniasis occurs in hot and tropical countries where sand flies dwell, Hack said. Still, only about 20 soldiers got leishmaniasis during the first Gulf War, and a handful more contracted it in Afghanistan.

This time, though, American forces arrived in Iraq during the peak season for sand flies and were in the field much longer. Many slept outside at night, exposing themselves at the sand fly's favorite feeding time. Iraqis have also done little to control the problem, such as using insecticide to kill off the flies, Hack said.

Doctors have told soldiers in Iraq what to look for and implored them to wear bug spray. Medical teams with front-line combat troops have tested sand flies for the parasite. But with enemy bullets flying, the first concern of most soldiers was not slathering on bug spray every morning. "You didn't think about leishmaniasis too much," said Maj. Eric Moore, who contracted the parasite on the Iran-Iraq border with the 4th Infantry Division.

**The lesions will eventually go away on their own and would not affect a soldier's ability to serve.**

**(The parasite does not go away "on its own." In the visceral form, it burrows into the guts and lives there until it kills. That will probably "affect a soldier's ability to serve," although, like cancer, it may take months or years before it becomes obvious.)**

Even so, the military thought it was important that soldiers with bad cases be flown out of Iraq for treatment so they wouldn't be disfigured.

**(Or dead. The army doctors know the truth. Why the bullshit happy-talk?)**

In Moore's unit of about 750 men, more than 200 came down with leishmaniasis during a 10-month tour that ended in March. He was relatively lucky - he has only one quarter-sized sore on his left arm.

Others had lesions all over their bodies, he said. Moore isn't too worried about scarring. He predicts it will delight his children, especially his 3-year-old, who has a fascination with Band-Aids. "They will probably think it's cool," he said while getting his daily dose of a drug called Pentostam. "They'll probably say, 'Daddy has an ouchie.'"

"For most soldiers, it isn't a war stopper," said Lt. Col. Glenn Wortmann, an infectious disease physician at Walter Reed. "But most patients want treatment so the thing will go away."

Walter Reed is one of only two hospitals where patients are sent because the treatment can only be done in a clinical setting. With domestic cases a rarity, Pentostam is not licensed in the United States. However, the Army is developing a treatment that can be used in the field.

Many soldiers didn't realize they had the boils until weeks after exposure. DiVona remembers being bitten constantly by flies, but he and other members of his unit didn't



see any sores until after they got home in November to Fort Campbell, Ky.

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## **Cops Gun Down Utah Guardsman; Unhappy His Brother Not Coming Home From Iraq**

April 19, 2004 By Michael N. Westley, The Salt Lake Tribune

**Neighbors say that a Utah National Guardsman who was shot and killed by police early Sunday morning was a good man who had a bad day.**

**Chad Thompson, 32, apparently was upset that his brother would not be returning from his deployment for the Iraq war, and had been out drinking with friends Saturday night, police said.**

Thompson was an Army National Guardsman for more than 10 years and worked as a full-time supply staff sergeant at Camp Williams in Riverton.

**His brother, Staff Sgt. Robert Thompson, is with the Utah Army National Guard's 1457th Engineer Combat Battalion, currently stationed in Kuwait, according to Maj. Lorraine Januzelli, spokeswoman for the Utah Army National Guard.**

Just before 2 a.m., Chad Thompson got into a telephone argument with his wife, who was out for the evening with friends, and said he was headed to their home at 2165 W. 13520 South, according to Sgt. Rosie Rivera of the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office.

His wife called home to warn her mother, who recently had moved in with the family, that Thompson was heading to the house and may be dangerous, Rivera said.

Thompson's mother-in-law called police for help.

While deputies searched the neighborhood for Thompson, a call came through dispatch reporting that he was in the house and threatening family members with a loaded gun, Rivera said. Thompson left the home as officers returned, but was found in the back yard of a home around the corner a short time later.

Neighbor Patrice Rikli opened her sliding glass door to let out her dog and found herself in the middle of a standoff between police and Thompson, who was yelling at officers to call back a K-9 dog that had him cornered.

**"He was just right to the side of the house. The police were screaming at me to turn my lights off," Rikli said. Officers repeatedly told Thompson to put his gun down but fired when Thompson warned police that he had his finger on the trigger. "I didn't see the hit but I saw him fall. He was just 2 feet from me," Rikli said.**

**Thompson was shot once in the head and died en route to a helicopter to be transported to a hospital. The officer who fired was placed on routine administrative leave pending an investigation.**

Tina Morton watched the scene unfold in the Riklis' back yard from her second floor bedroom window.

**"Everybody's just shocked about the whole thing," said Morton, who remembered Thompson as a great dad to his three children, ages 2, 4 and 9. "All the boys in the neighborhood really liked him," she said.**

The 400 Utah soldiers in the 1457th Engineer Combat Battalion were mobilized in February 2003, and sent to the Baghdad airport for a six-month tour of duty.

**Last summer the Pentagon announced that all GIs in Iraq would have their tours doubled -- with the pledge that the extended tour would be for no more than 12 months.**

**The Utah soldiers were preparing to return home this month when they were ordered to serve longer, perhaps up to 120 days.**

They are among 20,000 GIs in the region recalled to duty.

**The Utah soldiers had already turned over personal equipment such as body armor and night vision goggles to incoming troops and were preparing to load their heavy equipment onto ships in Kuwait for the trip home.**

Tribune reporter Dawn House and The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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## **Kimmitt Gets The Vapors**

(Thanks to L, who e-mailed this in.)

The Scotsman newspaper reported on the breakdown of negotiations with some pessimism, and noted that ' **The pressures appeared to be taking their toll on US Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, who appeared to briefly lose consciousness during a press conference yesterday. Kimmitt left the podium, apparently feeling unwell, but returned a short time later.** ' [www.juancole.com](http://www.juancole.com)

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## **Another Silly Occupation Fantasy Crushed: "Leading From Behind"**

(About a month ago, "U.S. leaders" announced their brilliant new military strategy for Iraq, "leading from behind," meaning turning over the cities to the "Iraqi Civil-Defense Forces," while U.S. Forces would sit in bases outside the cities, available in case of extreme emergencies.)

Army Times 3.8.04 By Vince Crawley

In a strategy dubbed “leading from behind,” the United States is reducing dramatically its on-the-street presence in Baghdad so Iraqi police and civil-defense forces can take on a more public role in their own security.

U.S. officials insist their Baghdad presence will remain ‘robust.’ Plans call for eight forward operating bases surrounding the city plus two “patrol bases” in strategic close-in locations.

The Green Zone, a cordoned-off section of central Baghdad housing U.S. administrative offices, will remain intact and counts as one of the forward operating bases. U.S. and coalition forces will continue to guard the zone and other high-security areas around Baghdad.

Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, deputy director of operations for Combined Joint Task Force 7, told reporters Feb. 23 that the decision to get Iraqi security forces on the streets early was deliberate, due in part to the sustained violence against U.S. troops by insurgents eager to thwart Iraq’s fragile reconstruction.

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## “It’s Just Another Day In Faluja”

**(Check out what was happening about a month ago. How peaceful it all seems now. And it wasn’t peaceful then.)**

By Robert Hodieme, Army Times Staff Writer, 3.8.04

FALLUJAH, Iraq

There are two ways of looking at it.

You could say Ruben Garcia should have put all his money on a lottery ticket because Feb. 21 was his lucky day. Or, you could say he should never bet on anything again because he just used up his luck.

He and his friends debated this philosophical point as they examined the hole punched through the plywood-covered window alongside the 27-year-old specialist’s head. That’s the hole made by the 57mm antitank rocket that then blew through a wooden computer desk — leaving the computer un- harmed — and planted itself harmlessly in the concrete wall on the other side of the room.

The rocket’s warhead is powerful enough to slam through four inches of armor.

Garcia, of Miami, was stretched out on his upper bunk, the rock band Tool’s “Lateralus” blaring in his headphones, when the rocket hit at about 10:40 am.

“There was a lot of smoke in the room,” Garcia said. “I didn’t notice the hole at first. What I figured happened is a mortar landed on the roof and the roof was caving in.”

When he looked around, he said, he “saw the hole [in the plywood] and it had fin traces ... I knew a rocket came through. I figured, the rocket didn’t detonate, the best thing to do was just get out of the room.”

**Rocket, mortar and rocket-propelled grenade attacks are so common at this 82nd Airborne Division forward operating base on the outskirts of Fallujah that it takes something as remarkable as Garcia’s near hit to raise eyebrows.**

In that same attack, another of the four rockets fired exploded with a deep bass crunch just 70 feet from three soldiers walking down a road picking up trash. Moments after the dust settled, the soldiers continued on their way, policing up cigarette butts and candy wrappers.

**“I know it sounds weird, but there’s nothing you can do about it,” said one of those soldiers, Sgt Joshua Carroll, 23, of Atlanta.**

“I figured it was over. They usually only fire five or six rounds.”

Besides, said Carroll, 70 feet isn’t especially close. Three weeks ago he had a rocket-propelled grenade whiz past him, missing by two feet.

It wasn’t the first time Garcia’s house was attacked. A few months earlier a mortar landed just outside, slightly wounding a member of his unit. And 15 minutes after the rocket careened past his head Feb. 21, Garcia smoked a cigar and made jokes.

Spc. Mary Bigalk, 22, a reservist from Oshkosh, Wis., was in the same building with Garcia, 20 feet from, the rocket’s path. Bigalk goes into downtown Fallujah on a regular basis and shrugged off the near miss.

**“This is nothing,” she said. “It’s just another day in Fallujah.”**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **U.S. Forces Help Resistance; GIs Kill 2 Workers For Pentagon-Funded Iraq TV**

April 19, 2004 BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)

**U.S. troops shot to death two employees of U.S.-funded television station Al-Iraqiya on Monday and wounded a third in the central city of Samara, the station said.**

Correspondent Asaad Kadhim and driver Hussein Saleh were killed. Cameraman Bassem Kamel was wounded **“after American forces opened fire on them while they were performing their duty,”** the station announced.

**The station, which is funded by the Pentagon,** interrupted its broadcasts to announce the deaths and showed photos of Kadhim. It then began airing only Koranic texts as a symbol of mourning.

The U.S. military had no immediate comment.

Thamir Ibrahim, an Al-Iraqiya editor, told The Associated Press he had no details on how the shooting occurred. But **“it was on the road leading to the city of Samara. Before they reached it, they were fired upon.”**

They were taken to a Samara hospital, he said. **“We wanted to go (to them) now, but the road is closed,** so we will go tomorrow.”

**Al-Iraqiya began broadcasting on May 13, set up under a Defense Department contract.** The Iraq Media Network, which runs Al-Iraqiya and two Baghdad radio station, was conceived during the State Department's war preparations.

**The TV station gets exclusive interviews with coalition leaders and streams live broadcasts of speeches by L. Paul Bremer, the top U.S. official in Iraq. But most Iraqis continue to get their news from Arab satellite stations based abroad, like Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya.**

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## LIBERATION, BUSH STYLE



Iraqis get checked by a U.S. Army soldier at a checkpoint at the entrance of the Abu Ghraib, Sunday, April 18. (AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)

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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# Kerry, Bush Unite To Attack Spain For Pulling Soldiers Out Of Iraq

April 19, 2004 By TERENCE HUNT, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON - **President Bush scolded Spain's new prime minister Monday for his abrupt withdrawal of troops from Iraq** and told him to avoid actions that give "false comfort to terrorists or enemies of freedom in Iraq."

**Sen. John Kerry, the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, also deplored Spain's move.**

"I regret Prime Minister Zapateros decision," Kerry said. "Spain and all the world have an interest in rebuilding an Iraq that is not a haven for terrorists and a failed state. I had hoped the prime minister would have reconsidered his position...."

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## Thieves Fall Out



**Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Colin Powell are so upset with one another over the Iraq war that they are barely on speaking terms**, according to excerpts from a new book published in the Washington Post on April 17, 2004. The book, entitled 'Plan of Attack,' is not due to be released until next week but the Post's assistant managing editor, Robert Woodward, wrote it and the newspaper is reporting from it. (Jason Reed/Reuters)

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## Received:

**From:** xxx

**To:** GI Special

**Cc:** XXX

**Sent:** April 14, 2004 1:26 AM

**Subject:** your paper to help in the struggle

I'm from a peace group in Victoria, Australia. **We call for the Australian troops to be brought home!** Love to see some of your fliers, pics, cartoons to help us in the struggle

Fraternal greetings. M

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**From:** D

**To:** GI Special

**Sent:** April 19, 2004 10:54 PM

Congrats on the gi special, it's really needed and excellent stuff. i get it via the iraq action discussion list, but i'd like to be directly on your list, too. thanks. keep up the great work, and hope to see you around.

DR

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