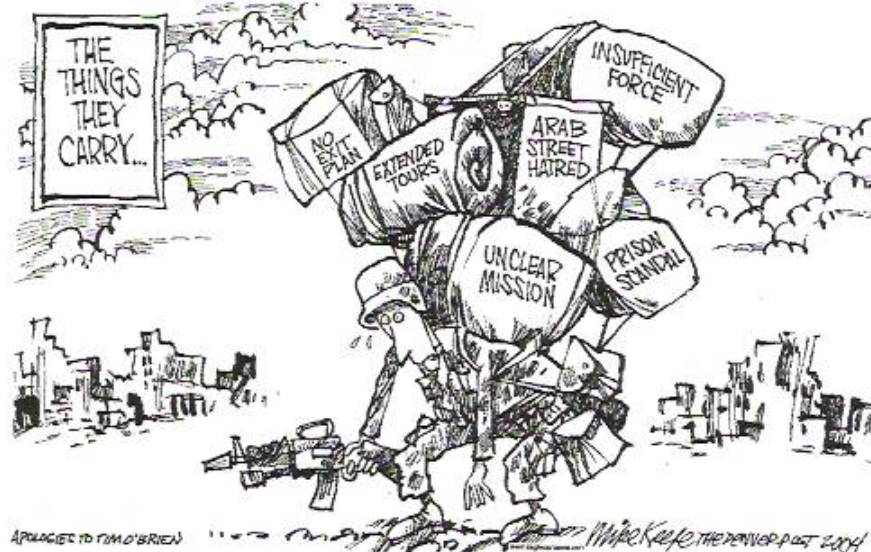


## GI SPECIAL 2#83

This cartoon first appeared in the Denver Post.



Army Times 5.24.04

# **Blackmailed By Officers: Army Threatens Military Families To Make Soldiers Re- Enlist: “The Mistreatment Of The Soldiers Must Stop Now”**

(Although this posting is two months old, the crime described lives on in the ruined lives of the service men and women, and their children, subjected to this odious blackmail. Threatening the wellbeing of families and children is the act of cowards with no honor, decency or justification for continued existence. No punishment could be too severe for the officers responsible.)

March 2, 2004 Posted At <http://www.bringthemhomenow.com/> Check it out.

At last, an organization to stand up and fight for the soldiers who fight for America!

**I am a military spouse, my husband is Active Duty Army stationed at Ft. Hood w/ 1st CAV DIV. The mistreatment of the soldiers must stop now, and I commend your website for its information and support given to the military family. My husband will soon be one of the "numbers" stationed in Iraq.**

A couple of months ago my husband attended a briefing held at his unit's headquarters battalion for all soldiers who were less than a year away from their ETS date. The CSM and unit retention NCO headed up the brief. Their purpose was to talk to these soldiers about reenlistment and/or extension agreements.

**In trying to make the sell, these so-called "leaders" used the absolute worst scare tactic that they could have ever conceived. The family. Their warning was very clear. "If you don't take steps now to reenlist or extend your current enlistment your family may lose their benefits such as healthcare and housing and you may lose your pay." Their reasoning was that if the soldier deploys without at least extending and he goes over his ETS date he will be kicked out of the system and won't be paid. Then his family will be kicked out of DEERS so they won't have access to healthcare and won't be able to renew their ID cards.**

**It's not just my husband's unit.** My friend's husband is with 13TH COSCOM and his unit actually handed out the paperwork to their soldiers for voluntary extension. **They were told that they should go ahead and fill out the form to extend because if they deploy without doing so they won't get paid while they're gone and the family will lose their benefits.**

**Sure enough, my friend went yesterday to renew her ID card and was told that her husband was out of the system.** She proceeded to go the unit to find out was going on and they said the paperwork to do the involuntary extensions under stop-loss guidelines hadn't been turned in. Their excuse now is that DA won't except it.

The really sad part is this company was specially requested by a General to help with the current movement and they hadn't been officially alerted for a rotation.

**These soldiers just came back from a 7 month long rotation in August.** Their Capt. has been telling them they were under stop loss for the last two months. They did not fall under stop loss until four days before they left on Feb. 22, 2004. They have one soldier whose ETS date is on Mar. 8, 2004. One of the exceptions to the stop loss policy is if a soldier has already shipped household goods, he will be allowed to separate. Obviously, this soldier, who rumor has it, had been saying he was planning on getting out, did not know anything because the Commander kept him in the dark purposefully.

**The lies and deception by the higher authorities here must stop. I have written my congressman. My friends have written theirs. I think that is the only voice we have in this situation. We can't go to anyone on post about this because we think they're all behind it. No one will fully explain the stop-loss policy to the soldiers. They are just told they're not getting out. Something must be done and I applaud your efforts to stop the current operation in Iraq.**

Thank you!

Crystal Luker  
Fort Hood, Texas

**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.**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

### **One 1st ID Soldier Killed And One Wounded By IED Near Samarra**

5.20.04 Combined Joint Task Force 7 Release #040520c

**One 1st Infantry Division Soldier was killed and one was wounded when their combat patrol was attacked with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire near Samarra at 5:28 p.m. May 19. Another Soldier was slightly injured trying to put out a fire caused by the explosion.**

The Soldiers returned fire, wounding three suspected attackers.

The wounded Soldiers were evacuated to the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Balad for treatment and were reported in stable condition. Two of the wounded suspects were treated for their wounds and detained for questioning, while the third evaded capture.

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### **US Soldier Killed, 3 Wounded In Baghdad Grenade Attack**

BAGHDAD, May 20 (Xinhuanet)

"One US soldier was killed and three wounded when their unit was attacked by hand grenades early May 20 in central Baghdad," the US-led coalition said in a statement, without giving more details.

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### **Soldier Died May 18 By Sniper Fire**

May 19, 2004 United States Department of Defense News Release No. 483-04

Staff Sgt. Joseph P. Garyantes, 34, of Rehoboth, Del., died May 18 by sniper fire in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, while on a combat patrol. Garyantes was assigned to B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 63<sup>rd</sup> Armor Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany.

**The attacker fired on the patrol from a cemetery.**

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## 1<sup>st</sup> ID SOLDIER ELECTROCUTED

May 19, 2004 HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND Release  
Number: 04-05-33C

TIKRIT, Iraq - A 1st Infantry Division Soldier died May 18 **died after an electrical accident around 6 p.m. at a Coalition base near Bayji.** Combat lifesavers and medics on site treated the Soldier. He was transported to a military medical facility where he was pronounced dead.

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## Marine Dies in Al Anbar Province

5.18.04 Combined Joint Task Force Seven Release #040519a

**CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq** -- A Marine assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action May 18 in the Al Anbar Province.

I MEF force protection measures preclude the release of any information that could aid enemy personnel in assessing the effectiveness or lack thereof with regard to their tactics, techniques and procedures. The release of more details about the incident could place personnel at greater risk. **(The risk is being an occupation army in somebody else's country, not this lame bullshit. Get the troops out now and watch the risk disappear.)**

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## Bomb Kills Owensboro Reservist; “Anyone Could Be A Potential Enemy”

May. 19, 2004 By Brett Barrouquere, ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOUISVILLE** - An Owensboro native was killed in Iraq when a bomber attacked a convoy he was leading, family members said.

Staff Sgt. James William Harlan, 44, a reservist with the 660th Transportation Company in Cadiz, Ohio, died yesterday, said his brother, Kenny Harlan of Owensboro. News of his death stunned his family.

"We're numb. We're still trying to grasp it," said his sister-in-law, Kelly Likens. "There's just so much about Jimmy. There's not just one thing you can say."

James Harlan spent two decades in the military and reserves, said Kenny Harlan, who took his brother to Evansville, Ind., to re-enlist in the service after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

**While in Iraq, Harlan supervised three truck drivers transporting supplies to troops from Camp Anaconda near Balad, his brother said. He was a passenger in a Humvee during a supply run when a bomber pulled up nearby and detonated a bomb, Kenny Harlan said.**

**The other three soldiers died immediately, but James Harlan survived for a few hours before succumbing to massive head injuries, Kenny Harlan said.**

Likens said family members heard from Harlan occasionally, but his fiancée, Carol Gray, received a few phone calls each week from Iraq.

**Kenny Harlan said his brother was scared sometimes because it seemed that anyone could be a potential enemy. "Imagine in your own home going to the bathroom and everybody is trying to kill you," Kenny Harlan said. "He said that's what it is like over there. You meet people one day and the next day, they're trying to shoot you."**

**The tour was James Harlan's second since the invasion of Iraq 13 months ago, Likens said.** He initially was deployed in 2003, but returned to Kentucky before the end of the year, Likens said. **James Harlan left for his second tour in February, she said.**

**Likens said James Harlan hoped to be home this summer, but no definite return date had been set.**

Family members were notified of his death Saturday morning.

**"When you see that Army chaplain show up with the cross on his lapel, you know what's up," James Bryan Harlan said. "You dread it."**

James Harlan worked for the streets department for the city of Owensboro. He also coached youth baseball and loved sports, family members said.

James Harlan was engaged to be married. He is survived by five children, ranging in age from 11 to 26.

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## **DoD Identifies Army Casualty**

May 20, 2004 United States Department of Defense News Release No. 485-04

**Staff Sgt. William D. Chaney, 59, of Schaumburg, Ill., died May 18, in Landstuhl, Germany due to a non-combat related injury. Initial reports indicate that Chaney**

**was medically evacuated from Iraq to Germany for surgery due to a sudden medical condition.** He died from complications after surgery. Chaney was assigned to the Army National Guard, Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 106<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, Chicago, Ill.

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## Spanish Troops Attacked

May 20, 2004 BAGHDAD, IRAQ (CNN) & By SCHEHEREZADE FARAMARZI, Associated Press Writer

A Spanish security patrol has come under fire from Iraqi insurgents after it accompanied Spanish forces leaving Iraq for Kuwait.

One soldier was injured after the insurgents attacked the patrol Thursday morning in Hamzah about 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of the town of Diwaniyah, according to the Spanish Defense Ministry.

The Spanish forces returned fire, killing one Iraqi, injuring another and taking one into custody, Cmdr. Jose Leon said.

The patrol came under rifle fire while returning to a Spanish base in the south-central city of Diwaniya after accompanying a convoy heading for Kuwait on its way back to Spain.

***Spanish forces still at the base in Diwaniya will concentrate on preparing their withdrawal, the Defense Ministry said in a statement, leaving U.S. troops to carry out patrols.***



**All Spain's troops are due back home by May 27.**

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## Mortar Shells Land in Bulgarian Camp in Karbala

20.05.2004 SOFIA (bnn)

Two mortar shells slammed into the Bulgarian troops' camp in the Iraqi city of Karbala early Thursday causing no injuries, the defense ministry in Sofia said.

The blasts slightly damaged a car, ministry spokeswoman Romyana Strugarova said.

**Mortar attacks against coalition forces are almost daily in Karbala**, a holy Shiite city and stronghold of militias led by resistance cleric Moqtada al Sadr.

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## **Butchering Hearts And Minds: U.S. Air Attack Slaughters Women And Kids At A Wedding Party**

May 19, 2004 NBC News and news services & By SCHEHEREZADE FARAMARZI,  
Associated Press Writer

**BAGHDAD, Iraq: Iraqi officials said a U.S. helicopter fired on a wedding party Wednesday morning in western Iraq, killing more than 40 people, including children.**

Arab television identified the scene of the attack as the village of Makr al-Deeb. **The U.S.-led coalition in Baghdad issued a statement indicating that an attack occurred in the same general area**, about 50 miles southwest of Husaybah and 15 miles from the Syrian border.

The area is a desolate region populated only by shepherds. It is also popular with smugglers, and the U.S. military suspects that militants use it as a route to slip in from Syria to fight the Americans. Consequently, it is under constant surveillance by U.S. forces.

**Col. Ziyad al-Jbouri, deputy police chief of Ramadi, said 42 to 45 people were killed in the attack, which took place about 2:45 a.m. (5:45 p.m. ET Tuesday) near the border with Syria and Jordan. He said the dead included 15 children and 10 women.**

**Associated Press Television News obtained videotape showing a truck containing bodies of people who were killed in the incident. Iraqis interviewed on the tape said partygoers were firing in the air in traditional wedding celebration and said U.S. troops had previously mistaken celebratory gunfire for hostile fire.**

**People who said they were guests said the wedding party was in full swing — with dinner just finished and the band playing tribal Arab music — when U.S. fighter jets roared overhead and U.S. vehicles started shining their highbeams.**

Worried, the hosts ended the party; men stayed in the wedding tent, and women and children went inside the house nearby, the witnesses said.

About five hours later, the first shell hit the tent. Panicked, women clutching their children ran out of the house, they said.

A shepherd who attended the wedding, Madhi Nawaf, said his daughter and at least one of his grandchildren were killed.

**"Mothers died with their children in their arms. One of them was my daughter. I found her a few steps from the house, her two-year old son Raad in her arm. Her one-year-old son, Ra'ed, was lying nearby, his head missing," he said.**

**"Where are the foreign fighters they claim were hiding there?" asked Nawaf. "Everything they said is a lie."**

The footage showed a truck containing bloodied bodies, many wrapped in blankets and piled atop one other, after it arrived in Ramadi. Several were children. The body of a girl who appeared to be younger than 5 lay in a white sheet, her legs riddled with wounds and her dress soaked in blood.

Two Iraqis said to have been killed in the attack were buried Thursday in Baghdad. **One of them was the wedding singer, mourners said**

**"At about 3 a.m., we were sleeping and the planes started firing," said one mourner, who gave his name only as Bassem. "They fired more than 40 missiles ... I was running ... There are no fighters. These are lies."**

Arab media portrayed the airstrike as an example of what is widely seen in this part of the world as an American campaign against Arabs.

Most of the bodies on the APTN videotape were wrapped in blankets and other cloths, but the footage showed at least eight uncovered, bloody bodies, several of them children. **One of the children was headless.**

**"We received about 40 martyrs today, mainly women and children below the age of 12,"** Hamdy al-Lousy, the director of Qaim hospital, told the Dubai-based satellite television station Al-Arabiya, which reported that 41 people were killed and 10 injured in the attack. "We also have 11 people wounded, most of them in critical condition."

**Al-Arabiya showed pictures of several shrouded bodies lined up on a dirt road. Men were shown digging graves and lowering bodies, one of a child, into the pits while relatives wept.**

**"Don't be naive," said Marine Maj. Gen. James N. Mattis in Fallujah. "Plus they had 30 males of military age with them. *How many people go to the middle of the desert to have a wedding party.*" (Because his troops will pay the price in their blood for his arrogance and breathtaking racist ignorance of local customs, it is truly unfortunate that Marine Maj. Gen. James N. Mattis is likely to live through the war instead of ending up in small pieces in the desert near Falluja.**

**(In Vietnam, countless scum like Mattis were killed by U.S. troops, who hated them for their disregard for human life, including the lives of their own troops, and their**



disgusting ass-kissing lust for power and promotion. U.S. troops in Vietnam were right to do so. They lives they saved were often their own.)

Said an unidentified man who said he was from the village told Al-Arabiya "They hit two homes where the wedding was being held, and then they leveled the whole village. No bullets were fired by us. Nothing was happening."

(Something will be happening. Every self respecting Iraqi within 100 miles will take up arms and fight the occupation. They are right to do so. This slaughter will never stop until the occupation forces are driven out of Iraq by armed force or the soldiers have enough of Bush's imperial war and rebel, just like they did in Vietnam. Then they got to come home.)

### **GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT 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/>

## **US Tanks Within 50 Yards Of Shia Holy Shrine**

5.19.04 KERBALA, Iraq (Reuters)

U.S. troops and followers of rebel Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr clashed near one of Shi'ite Islam's holiest sites early on Wednesday and four Iraqis were killed and nine wounded, witnesses said.

**Witnesses said U.S. planes launched air strikes at the fringes of the city as tanks drew within 50 yards of the shrine**, which is ringed by a warren of narrow streets in which Sadr's fighters have taken refuge.

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## **BRITISH MERCENARY KILLED**

May 19, 2004 BSKYB

A British civilian worker has been killed in Iraq, the Foreign Office has said. Andrew Harris, 33, was shot dead while driving on a road in the north. It is not known who was behind the attack.

(BBC News confirms 5.19 the man was a mercenary. So what is “behind the attack” is the earnest desire of Iraqis to kill the armed foreigners occupying their country. How unreasonable of them. It would be much more efficient, however, to invite a couple hundred armed mercenaries to a wedding party so a US helicopter could kill them all at one go.)

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## TROOP NEWS

# **Wounded Soldiers’ Letters Document Army’s Sorry Record Of Neglect; Begging For Toilet Paper As Bush Buddy Contractors Rake In Billions**

May 19, 2004 Keynoter Publishing Company Inc., By Kevin Wadlow Senior Staff Writer

Inches made the difference between life and death for a Florida Keys soldier serving in Iraq.

**Cpl. Darick Pennell, 25, of Key Largo was seriously injured Saturday when a bomb exploded near the Bradley fighting vehicle he was riding. A sergeant sitting alongside Pennell was killed by the blast - triggered by a bomb rigged on a catwalk passing over the street.**

**"He's alive, that's the good news," said Darick's mother, Ginny Pennell.**

Pennell has spoken to his mother twice since he was wounded while patrolling Baghdad Saturday night. He was scheduled to be flown to Germany for treatment of multiple injuries caused by shrapnel.

"He said, 'Mom, I'm OK. I got hurt but I'm OK,' " Pennell related.

"He wanted to call me before the Army called.... This is the first time he's been hurt that I haven't been there by his bed."

The four-year Army veteran is serving as a scout with the 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas. "The 1-7, the Garry Owen," said his mother.

Pennell began his tour in Baghdad three months ago.

The New York Times tersely described the incident, "[An] American soldier was killed Saturday night when a bomb exploded beside a vehicle in Baghdad, the Army said Sunday. Another American was wounded."

That other American was Pennell.

Pennell suffered flash burns and shrapnel wounds to the right side of his head, his hand and arm, and abdomen. "And there's a big chunk in his left shoulder," said Ginny.

He was presented with his Purple Heart medal before leaving Iraq. He may have suffered nerve damage to his hand, Ginny said.

Darick Pennell grew up in the Upper Keys, attending Key Largo School and graduating from Coral Shores High School in 1997.

"He liked fishing and anything to do with boats," said Ginny. He is the grandson of Pat Ross and the late Dr. Glenn Ross. Darick's father, Wilson, also lives in the Keys.

With wife Allison, Darick has a 4-month-old son, Weston.

Four years ago, Ginny Pennell got a call from her son, then living in Okeechobee.

"He asked me to send his birth certificate and diploma. He said the Army needed them," she said. "He sure didn't ask my permission [to enlist]. To be honest, I wasn't thrilled."

Darick recently passed his sergeant's exam, and was awaiting promotion.

***"Right now, I'm just hoping they don't patch him up and send him back," said Ginny.*** "I sent lots of angels over there to watch out for him."

In addition to continuing casualties, **Bruner described in an e-mail to the Keynoter last week temperatures high than 100 degrees, weeks at a time without showering, living on pre-packaged military meals, and only intermittent phone service.**

"We all are looking to come home to our families and friends," she wrote. "The support from back home has been great, and I thank you as do the rest of the troops. ***We have no flush toilets, and we have to supply our own toilet paper.***

"Whenever anyone gets a package we share the wealth. **Mail is running very slow. I have not received any in several weeks, and I know that it is in the system. Mail is the most important item over in this place. It helps us get through the rough times.**"

<b>Items requested include baby-wipes, books, candy, gum, batteries, phone cards, toilet paper, deodorant, mouthwash, toothbrushes, sunscreen, chapstick, pens, pencils and CDs.</b>
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# Pentagon Gave Death Drug To Soldiers Without Warning Them, For A Disease That Didn't Exist In Iraq, And Refuses To Stop Using It

May 20, 2004 CNN

**U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Bill Howell began taking Lariam before going to Iraq in 2003. In March, three weeks after returning home, Howell fatally shot himself in his front yard.**

Sgt. 1st Class Rigoberto Nieves also took the anti-malarial medication during his tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2002. Two days after coming home, he killed his wife and himself.

Although grieving families and some experts suspect a link between Lariam and the deaths, the Pentagon said until its conclusion of a study into the matter, **the Defense Department said it intends to hand out the drug to U.S. military service personnel in some regions where malaria is a threat.**

Since the Food and Drug Administration approved Lariam in 1989, more than 20 million people have received it, according to its maker, Roche Pharmaceuticals.

**Roche warns that in rare cases Lariam can trigger nausea, sleep disorders, nightmares or thoughts of suicide. "Some patients taking Lariam think about killing themselves...."**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns of possible "visual disturbances" associated with Lariam, also known by its generic name, mefloquine. "Mefloquine has rarely been reported to cause serious side effects, such as seizures, depression and psychosis," the CDC's Web site says.

**In July 2003, concern about the drug prompted the FDA to make a rare move. The agency called on Roche to craft a medication guide -- a warning written in laymen's terms -- that must be placed in the hands of each Lariam user.**

**The guide warns of "certain psychiatric adverse events -- anxiety, depression, restlessness or confusion" associated with the drug and advises "to contact a physician if such ailments present themselves." The special medication guide was not required by the FDA before the war in Iraq.**

Based on UPI investigative reporter Mark Benjamin's interviews with 50 to 100 U.S. soldiers, ***troops were routinely given Lariam without any information, written or verbal, about the drug's possible side effects.***

Lariam is one of the most powerful drugs available to fight forms of a parasite resistant to one of the most commonly used anti-malarial drugs -- chloroquine.

***Some U.S. troops were given Lariam while serving in Iraq and Kuwait until the military learned through its testing that drug-resistant forms are not a threat in those countries.*** It continues to be among the drugs the Pentagon uses to combat chloroquine-resistant malaria in Afghanistan.

***The CDC does not list either Iraq or Kuwait as posing a risk of chloroquine-resistant malaria -- information that was available before the Iraq war began.***

On March 14, Howell's wife, Laura, called Colorado's El Paso County 911 to report that her husband had hit her and had gone downstairs to get his gun.

A few minutes after the phone call, Howell, who had been taking Lariam while deployed with Special Forces in Iraq, walked out to his front yard and committed suicide. **Laura Howell said she didn't know what drove her husband to take his life but she suspects Lariam.**

**During the summer of 2002, four soldiers at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, killed their wives -- and three of them killed themselves. Three of the four men had been taking Lariam before their suicides,** according to Benjamin, who has done an extensive investigation into the drug and its use in military and civilian settings.

**Benjamin interviewed family members and colleagues of the soldiers after the cluster of killings among the elite troops who used Lariam** drew his attention.

**Nieves fatally shot himself and his wife** two days after returning from Afghanistan in June 2002, according to the Army.

**Another of the Fort Bragg soldiers who took Lariam, Master Sgt. William Wright, confessed to strangling his wife a month after his return from Afghanistan. He later hanged himself while awaiting trial in jail, according to police.**

**Fellow soldiers who served with Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Floyd said he also was taking Lariam before he killed his wife and himself,** although the Army said it could not confirm that he was taking the drug.

An Army investigation into the Fort Bragg killings also included a fifth soldier, who police say was killed by his wife. She's awaiting trial on murder charges.

**The Army probe found that Lariam was not the cause of the Fort Bragg deaths -- a conclusion public health specialist Sue Rose disputes.** Rose, who is working to raise consumer awareness about Lariam, said the Army erred in its investigation by including those who did not take the medication.

**"The military is drawing the wrong conclusion from those deaths," Rose said. "The true cluster, the true group you want to look at are those men who took Lariam, and of the men who took Lariam, who all served in Afghanistan, all three of them killed their wives and subsequently committed suicide."**

Rose said data from a recent study suggests that Lariam users experience significantly more moderate and severe neuropsychiatric side effects than users of three other comparable anti-malarial drugs.

Rose -- an assistant adjunct professor in the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services -- said she has been investigating Lariam since the early 1990s. She also has a law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. Rose has not performed an independent investigation into the killings at Fort Bragg.

**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/gi-special/>

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

# **IRAQI RESISTANCES: FACTS, FOTOS – AND – RITA SUMMARY AND SOME THOUGHTS:**

*(A discussion article from Max Watts, Australia: lifetime friend of soldiers rebelling against Imperial wars, author of books and articles about GI resistance to the Vietnam War (See [Left Face: Soldier Unions and Resistance Movements in Modern Armies \(Contributions in Military Studies\)](#) by David Cortright (Author), Max Watts (Author), and key organizer of support networks for U.S. war-resister soldiers in Europe during Vietnam days.)*

The discussion about the Iraq Resistances – the "Armed" – and the "Non-Armed" (including the Iraqi Communist Party and some "Left" Unions) – has, so far, failed to consider the effects these Resistances have had on the Occupation Armies and on the now rapid growth of Resistance Inside these Armies (RITA).

The publication of Fotos describing Facts in Iraq has aroused unanimous condemnation in the coalition of the killing. Bush, Blair, Coward howl their Indignation. "Apologise". Unmentioned, always, is that the scandal is the publication, not the – of course long-known - facts.

**There would have been no scandal, no revelations, no fotos, were it not for those gutsy American and British soldiers who, certainly not on, but against, orders, had revealed what they, their colleagues, were doing. Riddenhours. RITAS. There are arguments, many, made – even by some on the Left - against the Armed Iraqi Resistances: These are led by various Nationalist and Religious, Fundamentalist, right-wing, currents. They are not only anti-communist but against women's rights, against "democracy", against secular progress. However, one FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION HAS BEEN IGNORED: HOW STRONG WOULD THE – QUITE ESSENTIAL – RITA IN THE US ARMY HAVE GROWN WERE IT NOT FOR THE DAILY DEATHS THE ARMED RESISTANCE HAS INFLICTED ON "THE" AMERICANS ?**

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1.1/ It is possible to group the multiple forms of Iraqi Resistance to the New Flag Imperialism, to the rapid conquest and subsequent "Flag" occupation of Iraq after April 2003 by the US, British and (minor) Australian, other, armies under **two general headings**: An **armed** and a **Non-Armed** Resistance (NAR). The Non-Armed Resistance includes much of the "Left", the Iraqi Communists, Unionists, Feminists, Secularist Intellectuals...

2.1/ The **Armed Resistance** is led by various elements which have been (negatively) described (1) as

- Bathist "remnants" (in principle "secularist")
- Religious Fundamentalists (Shias, Sunnis, Wahabis ?, AlQuaida?? et al.)
- "Bourgeois Nationalists"

Of course many of the actual fighters are far from "Bourgeois", but these are often dismissed as "unemployed", "poor", - "Lumpen-proletarians".

2.2/ The Iraqi **Communist critique of the Armed Resistance**, a critique echoed by some Leftists in the Imperialist countries, can be summarised:

2.2.1/ The armed resistance represents only a small minority of the Iraqi people. According to some Communist/left positions (2) – it's "fundamentalist" religious segment (Shia, Sadr) was initially encouraged by the occupiers. All complaints against these "fundamentalists" – when they attacked "secularist" groups (particularly women) were, so the communists - long ignored by the Americans. Only when these fundamentalists "got out of hand" was a, very ill-considered, (?belated?) attempt made to repress them (2).

2.2.2/ Armed attacks against the Occupiers harm the life of the Iraqi people. The "excessive" American repression not only kills innocent civilians, but also further destroys the damaged (by sanctions, the two wars) infra-structure. (Electricity, Water, Health, Education.. services). This distracts from the Non-Armed struggles, union organisation, fights for higher wages, makes these harder, impossible.

2.2.3/ The "excessive", but belated, American repression against the Armed Resistance is – so some Iraqi Communists – counterproductive. The American killers drive previously uncommitted Iraqis into the right-wing camp, reinforce the fundamentalist-reactionary, groups, initially unimportant.

2.2.4/ FUNDAMENTAL: This strengthening of the Armed Resistances could lead to an eventual victory of the Nationalist/Religious Fundamentalist/Bourgeois forces. Such a

victory would be a defeat, indeed a disaster, for the progressive, Secularist, elements of Iraqi society. (Women's Rights, Independent Unions, and – the Left/Communist parties in general.) The Communists remember what happened to the anti-Imperialist Left in Iraq in the past, once the Nationalists (i.e. Saddam Hussein, his Baathists) had consolidated their power. They, the Left, who had initially supported this Baath, were now no longer needed. They were massacred – to the cheers of the US agencies, glad to give these Baathists, Saddam, a helping hand (3). Similarly, in Iran also the left-wing, the Tudeh (Communist) Party, who had taken an important part in the anti-imperialist resistance, were also – once the victory over the Shah complete - brutally eliminated by the Khomeini religious fundamentalists.

3.1.1/ **Civil War in Iraq ? But between whom ?** In April 2004 the situation changed. The violent American response to two initially minor incidents –

3.1.2/ the death of four mercenaries in Falluja – which was well publicised by the post-mortem exhibition of their bodies

3.1.3/ the demonstrations against the closure of Sadr's Baghdad's paper

3.2.1/ very "successfully" strengthened Iraqi nationalist unity. Thanks to the US repression, April saw the end (4) or at least considerable decline of the much trumpeted Sunni/Shia division.

3.2.2/ The irony of the situation: Little Johnny CoWard, at present Australia's Prime Minister, attacks his ALP opponent Latham who mentions withdrawing Australian troops from Iraq by ? X-mas: CoWard: No, never, 'we' will stay there till we "finish the job". If asked what the job is – would CoWard not say honestly "until we are sure "we" can keep the Iraqi Oil" (5)? He would surely repeat the reason trumpeted constantly by the New Flag Imperialists for continuing the occupation: "to maintain order, install democracy, prevent civil war between Sunnis and Shiites..."

Well, the American repression of Shiites and Sunnis has done much to remove that particular danger. That job is, probably, already finished.

3.3.1/ In fact, it seems now possible that a future "civil war" inside Iraq **will not be between "Sunni and Shia", but between pro and anti-Occupation forces. Between the "Americans" and any available Iraqi allies on one side, and the Armed Resistances on the other.**

3.4.1/ **The danger that elements of the Non-Armed Resistance (Communists ? Unions ?) – unable to function as an independent Third Force - will find themselves in the Occupiers camp CANNOT BE IGNORED!**

**However, the latest developments within the Non-Armed Resistance indicate that this "NAR" is aware of that danger, and is accelerating its anti-Occupation activities. (6)**

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<b>4.1.1/ The above – summarised – arguments re the Armed and the Non-Armed Resistances have been widely discussed. However, to the best of my knowledge</b>
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**most have – so far – ignored the effect of the Iraqi Resistances on RITA, the soldiers of the occupying Armies.**

4.2.1/ RITA played no effective role in either the "Gulf" or the "Saddam" American/Brit/et.al wars (7). After the rapid collapse of the Saddam Hussein regime, the initially uncontested occupation of Baghdad in April 2003, Resistance inside the "Coalition" armies seemed totally absent.

4.2.1/ Now, a year later: Things are very different. (10). RITA has been taking many forms, but perhaps the most effective has now been the RIDDENHOURISM (max watts term !) of "spilling the beans". Riddenhour, a U.S. Vietnam soldier, then, blew the whistle on MyLai. With fotos, but on film and paper. Today's Riddenhours have used more modern methods, digital cameras, videos. More rapid. And to equal, perhaps even greater, effect. I don't remember Nixon apologising to the Vietnamese of MyLai, well, in any case, they were already dead. Adolf Bush, Musso Blair, little CoWard – already say they "are sorry", it ain't "us". Just some bad apples, "we didn't know nothing."

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**5. NOW I DON'T WANT TO DOWNGRADE THE IMPORTANCE, VALIDITY, OF THE Non-Armed Resistance, BUT WOULD THE RITA SOLDIERS WHO BLEW THE WHISTLE ON THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH PRISONS IN IRAQ HAVE BEEN QUITE SO COURAGEOUS IF THE BODY BAGS, TODAY THE FLAG-DRAPED COFFINS, WERE NOT PILING UP IN THE HOMEWARD BOUND PLANES ? AND THESE COFFINS ARE THE RESULTS OF THE ARMED, RELIGIOUS AND NATIONALIST, RESISTANCES ! NO ?**

comments appreciated: Max Watts, 5.11.04 [rosiek@bigpond.com](mailto:rosiek@bigpond.com)

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1. usually by its opponents in the Occupying Forces and some of their Iraqi allies, the "Chalabi" governing Council CPA), and the Iraqi Communist Party and "Left Unions":
  2. see in particular the interview of **Salam Ali**, member of the Central Committee of the Iraq Communist Party (ICP) – also in the Guardian (Sydney) Weekly of the Communist Party of Australia – April 28, 2004, p. 8., also [www.morningstaronline.co.uk](http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk)
  3. *Washington provided Baghdad with thousands of names and addresses of Leftists, Communists, who Saddam then happily went ahead and killed. A similar "combined-operation" was also carried out earlier on an even larger scale (approximately 1 million "Communists" killed) in Indonesia.*
  4. Any number of "in place" reports from Iraq, such as "while American officials insist that only fringe elements support the radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, a majority of Iraqis crossed ethnic and sectarian lines to name him the second most-respected man in Iraq, according to the coalition-funded poll." (By Hannah

Allam \*\* New poll says majority wants Americans gone \*\* Knight Ridder Newspapers May 10, 2004)

5. Herman Downer, in (ill-considered ?) moments of honesty: "These ungrateful Timorese ! They still want to keep their own oil ! After all we have done for them ! " Downer, insisting that he was Australia's foreign minister, looking out for Australia (and the US multinational Philips Petroleum) – thinks the Timorese should appreciate that "Australia" supported the Indonesian invasions, occupation, murder of 200,000 Timorese – only for 24 years. In the 25<sup>th</sup> year "Australia" had some second thoughts about that policy. Indeed, the Timorese should be grateful, and be happy, that "Australia", i.e. in this case Gareth Evans, was so successful in stealing East Timor's oil, exchange that theft for the recognition of the Indonesian invasion.....

(6) Doubts about the governing council's competence and legitimacy resurfaced Saturday (8 May) when about 2,000 of Iraq's top scholars and activists gathered at the Babylon Hotel in Baghdad to form an **anti-American political bloc**. A highly diverse crowd of Islamists, Christians, **secular** nationalists, Baathists and **communists** listened as speakers demanded an **immediate withdrawal of American forces** and the dismantling of the governing council, whose members rode into Iraq "on American tanks." Even the prospect of civil war sounded better to them than a prolonged occupation. (see (4) above)

(7) Brief Flash-back: In both Iraqi wars (1991, 2003) RITA played no major role. A little noted fact: The first Iraqi (Gulf) war involved far greater forces (ca 500,000 soldiers) than the second (ca 150,000) on the Imperialist side (8). In both wars only "volunteer" soldiers were engaged on the Imperialist side (9). In late 1990, in the months preceding the war, there was much incipient RITA in several US bases, mostly in the form of multiple CO (Conscientious Objection) Applications, but this Resistance played no effective role in the actual fighting.

In both wars the large pre-war civilian anti-war demonstrations collapsed rapidly once the fighting started. This was totally one-sided, in 1991 predominantly aerial, and in both cases quite brief (19 days in 2003).

At the start of the 2003 Iraq war there were a few RITA incidents – including one well publicised (because of the presence of a journalist ?) American fragging. Several British soldiers refused to fight and were "quietly" sent home. Nothing much seems to have happened "par la suite" .

The April 2003 "victory", symbolised by Bumsfield's knocking down the Saddam statue (well, staging that knock-down) – seemed, at the time, total. It left the way open for marching directly to Teheran, Damascus, and soon to: Pyongyang, Havana, Caracas... "Tomorrow the whole world" (Und morgen die ganze Welt !) Tomorrow ? After all, the US army is already in 146 countries...

At that time the U N was scorned. Allies, except from the coalition of the killing, were unneeded. Why share the loot when we've got it made ?

**(8) The organic composition of capital, the ratio of capital to labor,  $c/v = o'$ , seems to have increased between 1991 and 2003. The US military has replaced bodies by machines, well, tried to. This worked quite well when "the other side" played the same game, but miserably when the bastards ran guerrilla tactics against the American/British armies.**

(9)The Iraqis, of course, were mostly draftees. They died muchly in the 1991 Gulf war, ran away fairly quickly during the Saddam 2003 war.

**(10) The US Army in Iraq can longer spare enough soldiers to go to Damascus, Teheran, nor, right now, to Caracas Havana Pyongyang.. In fact, reinforcements are desperately needed! Where from ? From CONUS? What, without a draft ? (a very bad idea, before elections and - as far as rita is concerned, afterwards too!) From the killing coalition? GB, AUS ? well.. there are problems..From purchased soldiers ? in Bulgaria, Poland, Ukraine ? Who's volunteering ? in fact, who wants to leave ? Hessians ! Mercs ? Privatized armies ? More Chileans, South Africans ? Ideas, please !**

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **Thieves Fall Out; Dictator Bremer Vs. Crook Chalabi;**

**(THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: B WRITES: They're pissed that these I.N.C. assholes misled them into the war, just like the ruling class of Russia ganged up on Rasputin.)**

May 20, 2004 By HAMZA HENDAWI, The Associated Press & By SCHEHEREZADE FARAMARZI, Associated Press Writer & Reuters

**BAGHDAD, Iraq - U.S. soldiers and Iraqi police raided the residence of Iraqi politician Ahmad Chalabi on Thursday, and aides accused the Americans of holding guns to his head and bullying him** over his criticism of plans for next month's transfer of sovereignty.

A Chalabi aide, Haidar Musawi, accused the Americans of trying to pressure Chalabi, who has become openly critical of U.S. plans for how much power to transfer to the Iraqis on June 30.

"The aim is to put political pressure," Musawi told The Associated Press. "Why is this happening at a time when the government is being formed?"

He said the Americans also raided other offices of Chalabi's Iraqi National Congress.

Salem Chalabi, nephew of Ahmad Chalabi and head of the Iraqi war crimes tribunal, said his uncle told him by telephone that Iraqi and American authorities **"entered his home and put the guns to his head in a very humiliating way** that reminds everyone of the conduct of the former regime." **(They should have put guns to his head in a less humiliating way? What the fuck does that mean?)**

Chalabi said American soldiers burst into his bedroom carrying pistols. **Brandishing a framed picture on which the glass was shattered, he accused troops and police of rousing him from his bed, ransacking his office, removing documents and a valuable copy of the Koran and "vandalizing" his belongings.**

**(Whine whine whine. He's cheered on Occupation troops doing the same thing to Iraqis in the resistance. Too bad they didn't shoot the asshole and every one of his scum buddies. Better luck next time. If the troops don't get him, the resistance will. He'll look neat hanging from a bridge.)**

**"I am America's best friend in Iraq," Chalabi told a news conference. "If the (coalition) finds it necessary to direct an armed attack against my home, you can see the state of relations between the (coalition) and the Iraqi people."**

American soldiers and armed U.S. civilians could be seen milling about Chalabi's compound in the city's fashionable Mansour district. Some people could be seen loading boxes into vehicles. **Aides said documents and computers were seized without warrants.**

Musawi said the U.S.-Iraqi force surrounded the residence about 10:30 a.m. while Chalabi, a member of the Iraqi Governing Council was inside. **They told Chalabi's aides that they wanted to search the house for Iraqi National Congress officials wanted by the authorities.**

**The aides agreed to let one unarmed Iraqi policeman inside to look around.**

**"The Iraqi police were very embarrassed and said that they (the Americans) ordered them to come and that they didn't know it was Chalabi's house," Musawi said. "The INC is ready to have any impartial and judicial body investigate any accusation against it. *There are American parties who have a list of Iraqi personalities that they want arrested to put pressure on the Iraqi political force.*"**

Abdul Kareem Abbas, an INC official, said Chalabi's entourage objected to the raid but "we couldn't because they came with U.S. troops."

**"They came this morning, entered the office of Dr. Ahmad Chalabi and said that they were looking for people," said Abbas. He said they wanted to make arrests.**

**Another official, Qaisar Wotwot, said the operation was linked to Chalabi's recent comments demanding full Iraqi control of oil revenues and security after the June 30 transfer of power.**

**For years, Chalabi's INC had received hundreds of thousands of dollars every month from the Pentagon, in part for intelligence passed along by exiles about Saddam's purported weapons of mass destruction.**

**Chalabi has come under criticism since large stockpiles of such weapons were never found.**

**Chalabi, a former banker and longtime Iraqi exile, was convicted of fraud in absentia in Jordan in 1992 in a banking scandal and sentenced to 22 years in jail. He has repeatedly denied the charges.**

Chalabi has complained recently about U.S. plans to retain control of Iraqi security forces and maintain widespread influence over political institutions after power is transferred from the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority to an Iraqi interim administration at the end of June.

**(OK, finally, here it is:)**

U.S. and coalition officials have recently accused him of undermining the investigation into the oil-for-food program. The U.S.-backed investigation has collected more than 20,000 files from Saddam's old regime and hired an American accounting firm Ernst & Young to conduct the review.

**Chalabi has launched his own investigation, saying an independent probe will have more credibility. Chalabi took an early lead in exposing alleged abuses of the oil-for-food program and has been trying to force the coalition to give him the \$5 million in Iraqi funds set aside for the probe to pay for his effort. The move was strongly resisted by the U.S. governor of Iraq, L. Paul Bremer.**

**Chalabi's backers have hired a different firm, KPMG, to do its audit, but they want Bremer's administration to pay the bill from the Iraqi funds it controls. The money comes from a fund of mostly seized Saddam assets and Iraqi oil sales.**

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## **“Security” Sucking Up “Reconstruction” Billions; Cost Of “Repatriating Corpses” Going Up**

5.17.04 Wall St. Journal, By Russell Gold And Sara Schaeffer Munoz

**The growing insurgency in Iraq is forcing contractors to spend more on employee security, recruiting and pay, creating an increasingly significant drain on funds available to rebuild the country.**

**Reconstruction contractors say recruiting costs are rising as U.S. citizens increasingly are reluctant to work in a chaotic and dangerous war zone. Some contractors have increased pay to get new employees. Government agencies doling out more than \$18 billion appropriated by Congress for rebuilding Iraqi infrastructure say the**

costs of providing security to workers already in Iraq have risen sharply since last year—and are expected to climb again in coming weeks.

**Since the reconstruction budget is fixed, the additional dollars for bodyguards and protective barriers will eat into funds available to rebuild everything from schools to the electricity grid.** A spokesman for the U.S. Agency for International Development, which oversees \$2.5 billion in contracts, said security costs for its contractors have roughly doubled since last fall to account for 10% to 20% of overall spending.

In March, the Coalition Provisional Authority inspector general highlighted his concern about “rapidly escalating security costs” in a report to Congress, before the violence intensified.

**Companies that fill the most dangerous jobs, such as bodyguards, are finding it difficult to find staff. “Our personnel simply doesn’t want to work there” any more,** said Kenn Kurtz, chief executive of the Steele Foundation, a San Francisco subcontractor with \$42 million of projects and 500 bodyguards, project managers and medical personnel in Iraq.

Mr. Kurtz said the problem has increased since the recent surge of violence. **He is paying employees between \$10,000 and \$20,000 a month, up from \$6,000 a month at the start of the occupation.**

Retired U.S. Navy Rear Adm. David Nash, director of the Program Management Office, says he expects security costs to continue to rise in coming weeks. “We’ll just have to use the amount we’ve been given—that’s our task,” he said. **Adm. Nash expects to cut funding to low- priority projects, but he declined to cite specific examples.**

**Contract International Inc., an Arlington, Va., engineering firm, said security costs now constitute 30% to 40% of its operating budget, which is aimed at construction and providing electricity to military installations in Baghdad and Basra. That could rise to 50% on some projects as it hires more bodyguards and installs concrete barriers around work sites and housing compounds, a spokesman said.**

**With increased instability, the stretched military is providing less security for contractors.**

SSA Marine of Seattle didn’t spend anything on security for the first months of its contract to manage the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr. Coalition soldiers were stationed at the port. As unrest grew, the soldiers were redeployed and the company hired a British security firm, increasing the cost of managing the port 20%, said Bob Watters, managing director of Asian operations. So far, SSA has billed the government \$14.3 million for its work.

The cost of insuring workers, required by U.S. federal law, also is rising. Anita Robinson, a senior vice president of insurance broker Marsh Inc., a unit of Marsh & McLennan Cos., said underwriters are getting rates of \$30 for every \$100 of payroll, and some rates are higher.

“The situation is very dangerous,” she said. U.S. workers typically receive workers’ compensation and death benefits for survivors, **including the cost of repatriating a corpse or wounded employees.**

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

## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



5.18.04: US President George W. Bush addresses the American Israel Public Affairs Committee at the Washington Convention Center. **On the screen behind him, Bush showed a videotape of Iraqi terrorists holding up his own severed head after executing him, saying this proved that the torture of Iraqi prisoners, though “troubling,” was insignificant in comparison to terrorist evildoings, and nobody should pay any further attention to prisoner abuse stories.**

Bush promised a new video release every week, available on VHS or DVD, with proceeds from sales going to his re-election campaign. Next weeks’ release will feature a hooded Colin Powell holding up the severed head of Donald Rumsfeld, with narration by Osama Bin Laden and random screaming crudely dubbed in. (AFP/Paul J. Richards)

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### **Received:**

**From:** B  
**To:** GI Special  
**Sent:** May 19, 2004  
**Subject:** **What do I Think?**

I think that Kerry's plan is to turn over Iraq to the U.N. he said it. We all know the U.N. didn't want war in Iraq so they will slowly pull out in 2005. Kerry's plan is smart and honorable. If elected he just cannot pull us out right away. He would have to be out of his mind to want to continue Bush's policies. This plan also gives some honor to the soldiers

in Iraq. As far as Kerry wanting Bush to ask for more money for this war? I heard many democrats in congress say that Bush only wants to ask for a little bit of what he needs just to get through the election, then go after more. The democrats think that was political and I think it is too. Kerry is right and I support this man for the presidency.

Thanks B

**(If you would like to reply to B, send your comment to address top left. T.)**

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