

## **GI SPECIAL 5A2:**

# **Payback Is Overdue: “It Was Uncertain Whether The Family Could Afford To Visit Petty Officer Kirby”**



Petty Officer Third Class Dustin E. Kirby on Oct. 30 in Karma seeking the shooter of a platoon member. Joao Silva for The New York Times

**[Here it is again, nothing new, been going on since 2003.**

**[A member of the armed forces, of undoubted bravery and courage, is severely wounded. And, as you will read, his family doesn't have the money to go to his bedside when he gets back to the USA.**

**[Everybody knows that the presence of family speeds the healing process. Everybody knows that the traitors who run the government in Washington DC have handed out endless billions for their war profiteer buddies. Everybody knows they're still doing it. And not one fucking cent for this brave man's family to go to comfort him. His mother has to say, "She was going to start out on foot and walk," and the politicians couldn't care less.**

**[There is no enemy in Iraq. Iraqis and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC**

**for their own profit. That common enemy started this war of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: this war was about making money for them, and nothing else.**

**[Payback is overdue. T]**

December 29, 2006 By C. J. CHIVERS, The New York Times Company

Petty Officer Third Class Dustin E. Kirby, a Navy corpsman whose efforts to save a wounded marine in Iraq were covered in an article published Nov. 2 in The New York Times, was severely wounded by an Iraqi sniper on Christmas afternoon, his family and the Marine Corps said yesterday.

The bullet struck the left side of his face while he was on the roof of Outpost Omar, the position his unit occupies in Karma, a city near Falluja in Anbar Province.

His jaw and upper palate were damaged extensively, but after several operations he was conscious and on a ventilator in a military hospital in Germany, his battalion commander, Lt. Col. Kenneth M. DeTreuX, said by telephone.

Petty Officer Kirby, 22, of Hiram, Ga., was assigned to Weapons Company, Second Battalion, Eighth Marines, serving as the trauma medic for the company's Second Mobile Assault Platoon. It was his second tour in Iraq. He had married weeks before leaving the United States in July.

He was expected to arrive today at Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Maryland, where his wife, Lauren Kirby, and his parents, Gail and Jack Kirby, planned to meet him.

Although Petty Officer Kirby cannot speak because of his injuries, his mother said she had communicated with him through his brother-in-law, a serviceman who is stationed in Germany and has been at his bedside, holding a phone to Petty Officer Kirby's ear.

Petty Officer Kirby listened to his mother and replied by writing notes, which his brother-in-law read aloud.

"He told me, 'Don't cry, Mama,'" Ms. Kirby said by telephone. "I said, 'I have to. I'm a mom. That's what moms do.'"

She added, "He wrote, 'Be strong for me and Lauren.'"

In another note, she said, he wrote, simply, "Milkshake."

Colonel DeTreuX said Petty Officer Kirby began writing within minutes of being shot, when he jotted a note to his platoon before being evacuated by helicopter.

In the first note he apologized to the company's senior enlisted man for being wounded, the colonel said. He then refused a stretcher and insisted on walking to the helicopter.

"He's tough," Colonel DeTreuX said. "He showed his character, walking onto the aircraft himself."

The article last month was about the battlefield treatment Petty Officer Kirby provided, and the prayers he said, for a marine who had been shot through the head by an Iraqi sniper.

The marine, Lance Cpl. Colin Smith, had been his roommate in North Carolina before their unit returned to Iraq. Lance Corporal Smith was shot at the end of a raid both men participated in on Karma's outskirts. He remains under treatment and evaluation for injuries to his skull and brain.

Petty Officer Kirby was wounded when a sniper fired one shot on an otherwise quiet Christmas afternoon, Colonel DeTreuX said. He was near one of several rooftop bunkers the company staffs to defend Outpost Omar, which has been attacked by insurgents several times, including once by a truck bomb.

He was the second member of his family to be grievously wounded in Iraq. A cousin, Petty Officer Joseph D. Worley, lost his left leg and suffered gunshot wounds to his right leg in 2004. He also was a corpsman in a Marine Corps unit.

The National Envelope Corporation, of Austell, Ga., where Petty Officer Kirby's father is a janitor, is taking donations to help his family.

**Kathleen Childs, an executive assistant at the company who was helping to manage the donations, said collections began when it was uncertain whether the family could afford to visit Petty Officer Kirby from the moment he arrived in the United States.**

**Even before Gail Kirby arranged a plane ticket, Ms. Childs said, it was clear she was headed to his bedside, whether she had the money or not.**

**"His mother said there was no way she was going to stay at home while her boy was that close," Ms. Childs said. "She was going to start out on foot and walk."**

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Two Task Force Lightning Soldiers Killed, Two Wounded In Diyala Province**

Jan. 1, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20070101-04

TIKRIT, Iraq – Two Task Force Lightning Soldiers assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, were killed Dec. 31 as a result of an explosion while conducting operations in Diyala Province.

Two other Soldiers from this unit were wounded and transported to a Coalition force medical treatment facility.

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## **MEET #3000: HE HAS A NAME; HE HAD A LIFE**



U.S. Army Spc. Dustin R. Donica, 22, of Spring, Texas, who was killed Dec. 28, 2006, by small arms fire in Baghdad. The death of Donica raised the number of U.S. military deaths in Iraq to at least 3,000. (AP Photo/Family photo)

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## **Nightmare Comes True For Mother Of Soldier**

Dec. 28, 2006 DEBORAH HIRSCH, Charlotte Observer

CHESTER, S.C. - A few months before her son left for Iraq, Lori Fairfax Tinsley dreamed that Army officers showed up at her door, the kind of officers who tell parents their children have died in combat.

On Tuesday evening, her nightmare came true.

Her 21-year-old son, Logan Tinsley, died after apparently hitting a roadside bomb in a Humvee in Baghdad, the officers said.

"I begged them not to come in the door. I said, 'No, no, you're not coming in here; you're not going to tell me that Logan's dead.' "

Dozens of family members and friends gathered Wednesday to mourn at the Tinsleys' white house in downtown Chester. Some simply stood silently in a circle in the yard, a few feet from a tree where a picture of Logan was tacked beneath flowers, a yellow bow and an American flag.

Despite her premonition, Lori had always held out hope that her son would be safe. Logan left for Iraq in October as a medic with the 509th Airborne.

"I'd pray all day long for God to put his white light around him."

On Friday, the local Chester paper had printed a letter she'd written calling for more support of soldiers overseas. She told readers how her son had e-mailed her not long before, upset after the first time he had to kill an enemy soldier. He'd killed two, but also saved two by the time he died.

Logan and his brother, Ryan, 19, knew they wanted to join the military when they were younger, Lori said. Their father, Douglas Vance Tinsley of Rock Hill, and other relatives had been in the service.

"When Logan got into ROTC in the ninth grade, he found his niche," his mother said. He was like a father figure to the other cadets, said Donald Holland, one of Logan's former ROTC instructors. "He was always pushing them and motivating them," Holland said. "Logan would always be the leader of the pack. ROTC was his heart." He helped the group go over drill and Army knowledge to prepare for a national inspection in 2003 that won Chester High a prestigious award.

He and his brother were best friends. The boys did almost all the same activities, only two years apart: JROTC, wrestling, baseball and the Army after graduation.

The whole family played music together. Lori Tinsley used to sing and play guitar in rock bands. She showed her sons some chords, but they mostly taught themselves, she said. Between the three of them, they had at least a dozen guitars. Logan loved heavy metal.

"He was a mastermind," Ryan Tinsley said.

At school, Logan earned good grades and learned to speak French fluently. He played mellophone in the marching band.

"Logan was the backbone," his mom said. "He never asked me for anything in his life."

Before Logan was sent to Iraq, he was stationed in Alaska. There, he met a college student, Sarah Nelson, who he planned to marry the next time he got a leave in January.

Throughout the time he was gone, he kept in touch with his friends by posting pictures and messages on his MySpace page. He last logged on Dec. 24.

Lori Tinsley would do anything not to lose another son in the war in Iraq. But Ryan Tinsley said he's staying in the service, and there's no telling if or when he'd be deployed. He's based at Fort Bragg.

Funeral arrangements are pending because the family is awaiting details from the Army. The service will be handled by Barron Funeral Home in Chester.

Lori Tinsley remembered saying goodbye to her son at the airport in July, the last time he was home on leave. It wasn't long after her nightmare, but she never told him about it.

"He said, 'Mom, I'm not scared and I don't want you to watch the news and I'll let you know what's going on,' " she recalled.

After he left for the gate, he looked back.

"At that moment I thought, 'That's the last time I'm going to see you.' I stood there and watched until he walked away."

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## **Soldier Called Home For Christmas, Then Died**

Dec. 28, 2006 By Kera Ritter, Inquirer Staff Writer

Between missions in Baghdad, Sgt. John T. Bubeck found time Monday to make a brief phone call to his mother in Colledgeville to wish her a Merry Christmas.

"He was talking about sheep running loose in the street, and then he said, 'I gotta go because we're going out,' " Judith L. Bubeck, his mother, recalled last night.

The 25-year-old soldier rarely wrote home, but he called on holidays, and his mother transcribed the conversations to share with his brother, Jim, and sister, Kathryn.

He ended the call with: "I'll go hassle the neighbors now, and preserve freedom, and save the world."

Shortly after that phone call, Bubeck and two other soldiers were fatally wounded after an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle in Baghdad, according to the Department of Defense. Bubeck died the next day.

Military representatives delivered the news to Judith Bubeck around noon on Tuesday, Dec. 26 - her birthday.

Bubeck and the other soldiers were assigned to the Ninth Engineer Battalion, Second Brigade Combat Team, of the Army's First Infantry Division out of Schweinfurt, Germany. He had been in Iraq less than three months.

Bubeck enlisted in the Army in August 2002 after a string of jobs cooking in mom-and-pop restaurants. Always the joker, Bubeck had trouble convincing his mother that he was trading in his electric guitar and nights with friends listening to the Grateful Dead for basic training.

He preferred dirty work to paperwork, and became a combat engineer. Although he was proud of being a soldier, he was less than pleased with his military photograph.

"He said he looked like a Chihuahua," Judith Bubeck said.

After stops in South Korea, Texas and Germany, Bubeck's battalion was sent to Kuwait at the end of August, and then to Iraq in October.

"I was very proud of him, more proud than scared," his mother said. "I knew he'd done basic training and he was prepared.

"He was looking forward to it. He kept saying, 'I'm tired of sitting on the bench in the game. I want to get in.' "

His mother recalled a recent conversation in which he talked excitedly about a ride he had taken in a Black Hawk helicopter.

"He was my risk-taker. He liked the adventure, and he liked to be where the action was," she said.

"I could just picture him in his Superman cape," she continued.

On Bubeck's MySpace Web page, he wrote about life in the military and posted snapshots of himself and other soldiers in his unit.

"For the last few years, I've been off the local scene doing the do for Uncle Sam," Bubeck's personal entry reads.

"My talent as a bulls- artist paid off when they awarded me Sergeant stripes. Suckers! I'm currently on a long-term 'business trip' to the Middle East until next summer."

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## **Harrison Man Killed In Iraq**

12/27/2006 By Justin Post of The Montana Standard

Chantelle Dykman is waiting for the telephone to ring.

Even though her husband died a week ago, she still wants to hear his comforting voice on the other end of the line.

"I still haven't accepted the fact that he's not going to call me again from Iraq," she said Tuesday. "I want it to be done so I can move on, but I don't want it to be real." A roadside bomb killed Army Sgt. Scott D. Dykman, a 1998 graduate of Harrison High School, during a patrol Dec. 20 in Baghdad.

A memorial service with full military honors begins at 2 p.m. Friday at Harrison High School followed by burial at Harrison Cemetery.

Dykman, 27, was amidst his third tour in Iraq when a roadside bomb exploded near his Humvee. The sergeant, who served as team leader for his squad, left the vehicle in an effort to secure the area when there was a second explosion.

Power lines fell onto the soldier, who was electrocuted, family members said. Four others in his squad were hospitalized in Baghdad.

Harrison Fire Chief Doug Dykman said he last spoke with his son five days before his death. "He said he was proud to be there and serve his country and I told him I was proud of him," his father said Tuesday.

It was the first time the two had spoken in four months and Doug Dykman said he was worried about his son's safety.

"I didn't have a good feeling about this time at all. The whole thing," he said. "When I didn't hear from him for so long I knew it was not a good thing." Doug Dykman was speaking with a friend on the telephone when he heard someone knocking on his door.

"An Army sergeant and a chaplain came to the house," he said. "I opened the door and as soon as they introduced themselves I knew what had happened and I said 'I didn't want to talk about it' and they said 'well, we're going to have to talk about it.'" One of the hardest things for Chantelle Dykman was explaining to the couple's son, 5-year-old William, and daughter, 3-year-old Rachel, that their father isn't coming home.

The youngsters are still too young to fully come to grips with the situation, their mother said.

"He (William) does understand his dad isn't coming home the way he's supposed to," she said.

Scott Dykman and his brother Michael Dykman, who works as an Army recruiter in Bozeman, joined the Army Airborne together in 2003. Scott served with the 82nd Airborne Division during tours in 2004 and 2005 and transferred in September to Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, as part of the 25th Infantry Division.

Scott and Michael Dykman aspired to becoming fishing and hunting guides in Alaska, said their mother, Donna Koontz of Helena.

"It was always their dream," she said.

Scott Dykman boxed and competed in rodeos. He volunteered with the Harrison Fire Department and worked as a logger before joining the Army.



"He was just a great kid. He was into everything," his mother said.

She often prayed for her sons before each parachute jump and often spoke with Scott about the dangers of war. "He said people have to remember that if we don't want 911 happening in every city in America we've got to go over there and change how they feel about Americans," the mother said. "He said 'we've got to stop the hate over there before it comes over here.' That's why he was there and he truly believed that."

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## Two British Army Vehicles Burning South Of Basra



December 29, 2006: A British patrol was hit by a blast south of Basra and one British soldier was slightly wounded. Two vehicles were damaged and British forces destroyed them on the site of the explosion, he said. (Atef Hassan/Reuters)

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## Soldier From Area Killed In Iraq

December 29, 2006 By FLOYD INGRAM, The Daily Light

MIDLOTHIAN — A North Texas soldier with family in Midlothian died late Christmas Day while serving in Iraq.

Spec. Aaron Lee Preston, 29, of Preston Hollow died about 11:45 p.m. Dec. 25 on a street in Baghdad. Preston was the brother of Mariah Coward of Midlothian.

Funeral plans are incomplete, but the family has made tentative plans to have Preston's funeral in Midlothian sometime next week.

"He had eight more months and then he would have been out," said Noel Coward, of Midlothian, Preston's brother-in-law. "He was with the Army Corps of Engineers and

when they found a bomb, they were the one they called on to go out and defuse it. He had been in the service for three years and in Iraq for six months.”

The Department of Defense said Wednesday an explosive detonated near Preston's vehicle. The bomb also killed Sgt. John T. Bubeck of Collegeville, Penn., and Pfc. Andrew H. Nelson of St. John, Mich.

The trio's death was part of a resurgence of violence that saw three major bombings on the same day.

Preston was assigned to the 9th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Coward said Preston had spent much of his time in Germany training for work in Iraq. He had also been stationed for a time in Kuwait.

“He had gone to college at San Marcos (Texas State University) and had studied engineering,” Coward said. “He got into the Army because he wanted to work in the oil field or mining business with explosives and the military is the only place you can get that kind of training.

“He was older than most of the guys over there who are in their early 20s” said Coward. “He told us the guys in his unit called him Pop.”

Coward said he got an e-mail from Preston on Dec. 23 and he seemed in good spirits but complained of being overworked and understaffed. “I've got a stack of e-mails where he said they needed to triple the number of troops, crack down on the violence and end this thing,” said Coward. “I knew no finer man than Aaron and his family was very proud of him — I'm very proud of him. We're just shocked that this happened over the holidays and we're grieving.”

Coward said Preston's grandfather was a Marine in World War II and was on Iwo Jima's Mt. Suribachi and saw the raising of the American Flag that was photographed and became one of the most famous pictures of World War II. Coward said Preston and his grandfather wrote to each other often.

Preston was not married.

Coward said details of Preston's funeral have not been finalized.

“He did tell us that he wanted to be buried in the National Cemetery in Dallas if anything happened,” said Coward. “We are planning for services to be in Midlothian. They told us it will take five to seven days to get his personal items in order and processed out of Dover (Del.). Then he will come home to us.”

Coward said the community and military are already reaching out to his wife and Preston's family.

“We urge people to continue to support the troops no matter how you feel about the war or the politics,” said Coward. “Those guys are working their butts off over there and we don't need to make them feel like they have been forgotten.”

According to the Pentagon, 22,565 U.S. troops have been wounded in action in Iraq, with 2,978 deaths reported as of Dec. 27.

**Pentagon numbers indicate 280 of those deaths are soldiers from Texas, which is second only to California (333). Ellis County has experienced the loss of five of its sons since the war in Iraq started on March 20, 2003.**

**Preston was the second soldier to die with connections to Midlothian.**

Marine Capt. Lyle Gordon was killed Jan. 26, 2005, while piloting a CH-53 helicopter about 220 miles west of Baghdad. Gordon and his family have been longtime residents of Midlothian and Lyle graduated from Midlothian High School in 1993.

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**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO  
COMPREHENSIBLE REASON TO BE IN THIS  
EXTREMELY HIGH RISK LOCATION AT THIS  
TIME, EXCEPT THAT A TRAITOR WHO LIVES  
IN THE WHITE HOUSE WANTS YOU THERE  
That is not a good enough reason**



A rooftop above Patrol Base Steelers, Iraq, Oct. 18, 2006. Marines with I Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment use combined arms that included air, ground and suppressive fire when insurgents fired upon their post. (AP Photo/Ray Lewis, US Marines)

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## TROOP NEWS

### HOW MANY MORE FOR BUSH'S WAR?



The casket of Army Pvt. 1st Class Joe Luis Baines, Newark, N.J., Dec. 26, 2006. Baines was killed in Taji, Iraq, on Dec. 16 by an improvised explosive device. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart posthumously. (AP Photo/Mel Evans)



A tally of U.S. Iraq war dead is shown in Celeste Zappala's office window in Philadelphia, on Jan. 1, 2007. She is for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq. Zappala's son, Army Sgt. Sherwood Baker, seen in photo, was killed by an explosion in Baghdad while deployed with the Pennsylvania National Guard. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

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# Pentagon Says Iraqi Resistance Has Achieved “Strategic Success”

12.19.06 Washington Post

The Pentagon said that violence in Iraq soared this fall to its highest level on record and acknowledged that anti-U.S. fighters have achieved a "strategic success."

In its most pessimistic report yet on progress in Iraq, the Pentagon described a nation listing toward civil war, with violence at record highs of 959 attacks per week, declining public confidence in government and "little progress" toward political reconciliation.

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# New SecDef Gates Wants More Dead U.S. Troops And Dead Iraqis; Says The Empire “Must Win” In Iraq

News at the Front



[Thanks to David Honish, Veteran, who sent this in.]

12.19.06 Washington Times

Defense Secretary Roberts Gates took the oath of office and immediately said the U.S. must win in Iraq or face a "calamity" that would "endanger Americans for decades to come."

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# **“Soldiers Who Have Deployed To Iraq More Than Once Reported Higher Levels Of Acute Stress Symptoms” [Duh]**

December 19, 2006 By Michelle Tan, Army Times Staff writer [Excerpts]

Soldiers who have deployed to Iraq more than once reported higher levels of acute stress symptoms than soldiers serving their first tours, according to an Army report released Tuesday.

Almost 19 percent of soldiers who had at least one prior tour in Iraq reported acute stress symptoms, including hyper arousal, avoidance and intrusive thoughts, compared with 12.5 percent of soldiers on their first tour.

The latest soldiers surveyed were significantly more likely to report knowing someone who had been seriously injured or killed and having an improvised explosive device or other ordnance explode near them.

Forty-five percent of the soldiers, compared to 39 percent in the 2004 assessment, said they were in life-threatening situations where they were unsure how to respond based on the rules of engagement.

Length of deployment and separation from family were the top two non-combat stressors for active-duty and reserve soldiers. Those with multiple deployments reported “significantly” higher concerns about deployment length.

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# **Soldiers’ Family Forces Army To Admit Information Was Faked About How He Died**

January 01, 2007 By Michelle Tan, Army Times Staff writer

**Pfc. Jesse Buryj’s family probably will never know who fired the fatal shot that killed him more than two years ago in Karbala, Iraq.**

**An Army Inspector General investigation presented to Buryj’s family Nov. 17 showed that a 5.56 mm bullet fragment extracted from the 21-year-old’s body was mistakenly destroyed, eliminating any chance of determining who fired it.**

**Investigators also didn't conduct ballistics tests on the weapons possibly involved in the shooting.**

**The investigation found that the circumstances of Buryj's death were inaccurately reported more than once, leading the family to initially believe he died from injuries suffered in a vehicle accident at a checkpoint.**

**They later learned that their son had been shot, and that it was likely a case of friendly fire.**

The series of snafus led Buryj's mother, Peggy, to fight for the details behind his death.

"I feel like basically they've slammed the door now," she said. "What else can I do, where else can I go? It'll never be proven. Nobody will have to take responsibility for his death."

The mystery that will forever surround his death is more painful because it took months for the family to get information from the Army, said Peggy Buryj.

"Those months were agonizing for us," she said. "I still can't believe it all happened the way it happened. If I hadn't looked through (the IG report), I wouldn't have believed it."

Jesse Buryj, of Canton, Ohio, joined the Army in 2002 and was assigned to the 66th Military Police Company at Fort Lewis, Wash. He left for Iraq in early 2004, and on May 5, 2004, just two months after arriving in country, Buryj was dead.

Buryj's family was told that he died after being thrown from his Humvee after a truck tried to run a checkpoint. A few months later, the family learned that he had been killed by a "penetrating gunshot wound to the back."

It took seven months for Peggy Buryj to get her son's autopsy report. Two months later, in April 2005, the family sat down with Army officials for a briefing to learn what had happened.

In the briefing, the family was told Buryj was on a joint mission with the Polish army when he died. It is still unknown whether the bullet that killed him was fired from an American or Polish weapon.

"To me, it started out trying to find out what happened to Jesse," Peggy Buryj said.

But "the journey became almost to the point of, this is so wrong I can't believe the Army does things this way."

The Army IG investigation, which was directed by Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey on Jan. 18, reviewed two AR 15-6 investigations conducted by the Army after Buryj's death.

The IG found that the attending physician on duty at the 31st Combat Support Hospital when Buryj was brought in was told that he had been killed in a vehicle accident.

**After signing the death certificate, the doctor received a post-mortem CT scan that showed a bullet was lodged inside Buryj's body.**

**However, the doctor did not annotate on the form that Jesse Buryj's death was a "homicide" instead of an "accident."**

**As information about Buryj's death moved through the casualty notification system, the IG found there were often missing entries, incorrect entries and entries that were not posted until 60 days after an event occurred.**

**There also were "unexplained" delays in getting approval for the completed AR 15-6 investigations from Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Multi-National Force-Iraq and Central Command, according to the report.**

Peggy Buryj said she feels the Army has done everything it can to fix the errors made when handling her son's death, but only because she pushed so hard.

"I think they did everything they could when they had to," she said. "I don't think the military out of the goodness of their heart said, 'Oh yeah, we have a problem here.'

"No, I went to the papers, I went to my congressmen, I went to anyone I could talk to to get this story out, and it shouldn't be that way."

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## **“Veterans Affairs Department Showed That Six In 10 Women Who Served In The National Guard And Reserve Said They Were Sexually Harassed Or Assaulted”**

December 19, 2006 The Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — The investigative arm of Congress will look at how the military and its academies deal with sexual assaults after allegations that such cases were not properly handled, officials said.

The investigation follows the first court-martial in the 130-year history of the Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut. Cadet Webster Smith was acquitted of rape in June but served five months in prison for extorting a female classmate for sexual favors.

"I think it's a wonderful thing," said Susan Stopper, whose daughter, former cadet Caitlin Stopper, testified before a congressional panel that academy administrators suggested she was to blame when she accused another student of assaulting her in the barracks. "It's somebody who should be impartial. That's the only way you're able to make changes."



**Former Air Force Academy Cadet Elizabeth L. Davis, who told the hearing she was “raped and assaulted repeatedly” while at the academy, said women who report crimes are often threatened, degraded and driven out.**

The military has also come under fire for repeated problems with sexual abuse in units stationed abroad in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Bahrain, and at military installations. Detainee abuse allegations have also included sexual assaults.

**A survey by the Veterans Affairs Department showed that six in 10 women who served in the National Guard and Reserve said they were sexually harassed or assaulted.**

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## **“Most Service Members Are Accepting Of Gays And Lesbians,” Poll Finds**

December 19, 2006 By Gordon Lubold, Army Times Staff writer

Most service members are accepting of gays and lesbians, a new poll shows.

**The poll, conducted by Zogby International and released Tuesday, shows that 73 percent of military members are “comfortable” with lesbians and gays, and 23 percent “know for sure” that someone in their unit is homosexual, according to results of the poll of 545 service members.**

“Today’s poll is one more nail in the coffin of ‘don’t ask, don’t tell,’” said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a Washington-based, nonprofit gay-rights group, which released the poll data.

“Those who defend the law have argued that openly gay personnel harm military readiness,” Osburn said. “This research highlights the absurdity of such a hypothesis.”

The group estimates there are about 65,000 gay or lesbian service members in the military.

**Those more likely to agree that homosexuals should be allowed to serve were younger, with less than four years in uniform.**

**All the troops polled have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, according to the SLDN.**

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# Texas War Profiteers Almost Detonated A Nuclear Weapon And Then Lied About It; Tired Employees Forced To Work 72 Hour Weeks

Oversight project investigator Peter Stockton, a former Energy Department official, said the device was a W56 warhead, with a yield of 1,200 kilotons, 100 times the destructive power of the Hiroshima bomb.

12.15.2006 By Jeff Nesmith, Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — An accident that occurred as a decades-old nuclear warhead was being dismantled at the government's Pantex facility near Amarillo, Texas, could have caused the device to detonate, a nonprofit organization charged Thursday.

The Project on Government Oversight said the "near miss" event, which led the Energy Department to fine the plant's operator \$110,000, was due partly to requirements that technicians at the plant work up to 72 hours per week.

The Pantex plant, 17 miles northeast of Amarillo, is the country's only factory for assembly and disassembly of nuclear weapons.

**The organization said it was told by unidentified experts who were "knowledgeable about this event" that the accident, in which an unsafe amount of pressure was applied to the warhead, could have caused the device to detonate.**

**The oversight project also released an anonymous letter, purportedly sent by Pantex employees, warning that long hours and efforts to increase output were causing dangerous conditions in the plant.**

Julianne Smith, a spokeswoman for the Energy Department, which owns the Pantex plant, declined to respond to safety complaints outlined in a letter from oversight project Executive Director Danielle Brian to Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman.

However, records show that the department last month fined BWX \$110,000 for the accident and another event involving the same warhead.

**In a letter to Dan J. Swaim, BWX general manger of the plant, the Energy Department said the company had "significantly delayed" disclosing the incidents and then submitted a "factually inaccurate and incomplete" report.**

It said that during three separate unsuccessful attempts to dismantle the warhead in March and April of last year, workers applied too much pressure to the device and a safety mechanism failed to work.

Oversight project investigator Peter Stockton, a former Energy Department official, said the device was a W56 warhead, with a yield of 1,200 kilotons, 100 times the destructive power of the Hiroshima bomb.

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## ***“I Was Literally In Fear Of Something Happening At That Operation”***

### **“Tennessee Army Ammo Plant Firefighters Lack Credentials, Training And Equipment” War Profiteers Running It Won’t Spend Money Needed For Protection**

December 18, 2006 The Associated Press

KINGSPORT, Tenn. — Fire protection for the Holston Army Ammunition Plant, a major explosives supplier since World War II, rests with a 16-member brigade of firefighters that lack credentials, training and equipment, two former fire department chiefs said.

“I left because they were not complying with (Department of Defense) and Army regulations ... and it was not a safe operation,” former chief Bill Killen, president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, told The Associated Press. “I was literally in fear of something happening at that operation,” he said.

The 6,000-acre, 750-employee ammunition plant, cited for alleged security problems, was created in 1942 by Eastman Chemical Co. It was spun off as an independent operation and is now being modernized.

**The plant produces tons of high-powered explosives, including HMX and RDX, for a variety of military weapons.**

**Gerald Flanagan, fire chief for nearly two years before Killen, said he quit when he could no longer take the stress of being blocked by superiors from making improvements to the department.**

“You are responsible, but you have no control,” he said.

Army Lt. Col. Garry McClendon, who has commanded the facility since June, strongly disagrees with Killen and Flanagan's assessment.

However, McClendon acknowledged that subordinates never told him about a scathing 2003 Army inspection that gave Holston's fire department failing grades on training, fire prevention and exercises on weapons of mass destruction.

Guards at the riverfront plant said in September that boaters have entered restricted areas, holes are often found in the perimeter fence and security gets stepped up only to impress inspectors. That prompted calls from Sens. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., for an Army inspector general inquiry.

Killen literally wrote the book on military fire codes before retiring as director of the Navy's Fire and Emergency Services in 2004 and moving to Kingsport to become chief of the ammunition plant's fire department.

**He said he knew about the department's problems before arriving but never anticipated the budgetary "stonewalling" he would receive from the private contractors that run the facility.**

**"They did the same thing to me," Flanagan said. "Everything he suggested, I suggested beforehand. It was always the same thing, 'No money.'"**

Killen, however, was able to call in favors from friends at other fire departments and offices. He acquired a second surplus pumper truck for the one-truck Holston department, secured free basic instruction for his firefighters and obtained training certification for himself out of his own pocket.

But he quit in March after 13 months as chief when BAE said its employees would be in charge during emergencies handled by the fire department, which is operated by subcontractor Wackenhut Services Inc.

**"I cannot in good conscience relinquish my authority and responsibility as a fire chief and fire ground incident commander to individuals who may not be qualified as incident commanders and could in fact render decisions that might endanger life and limb of fire personnel under my supervision," Killen wrote in his resignation letter.**

"Really, it is a safety issue," Killen said in an interview.

Killen said the firefighters still aren't up to Army or state firefighting standards.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **“Insurgents Have Effectively Won Their Battle And Cut Off The Capital From The Major Power Plants To The North, South And West”**

12.19.06 New York Times, December 19, 2006

During the past six months, Baghdad has been all but isolated electrically, Iraqi officials say, as insurgents have effectively won their battle to bring down critical high-voltage lines and cut off the capital from the major power plants to the north, south and west.

The battle has been waged in the remotest parts of the open desert, where the great towers that support thousands of miles of exposed lines are frequently felled with explosive charges in increasingly determined and sophisticated attacks, generally at night.

Crews that arrive to repair the damage are often attacked and sometimes killed, ensuring that the government falls further and further behind as it attempts to repair the lines.

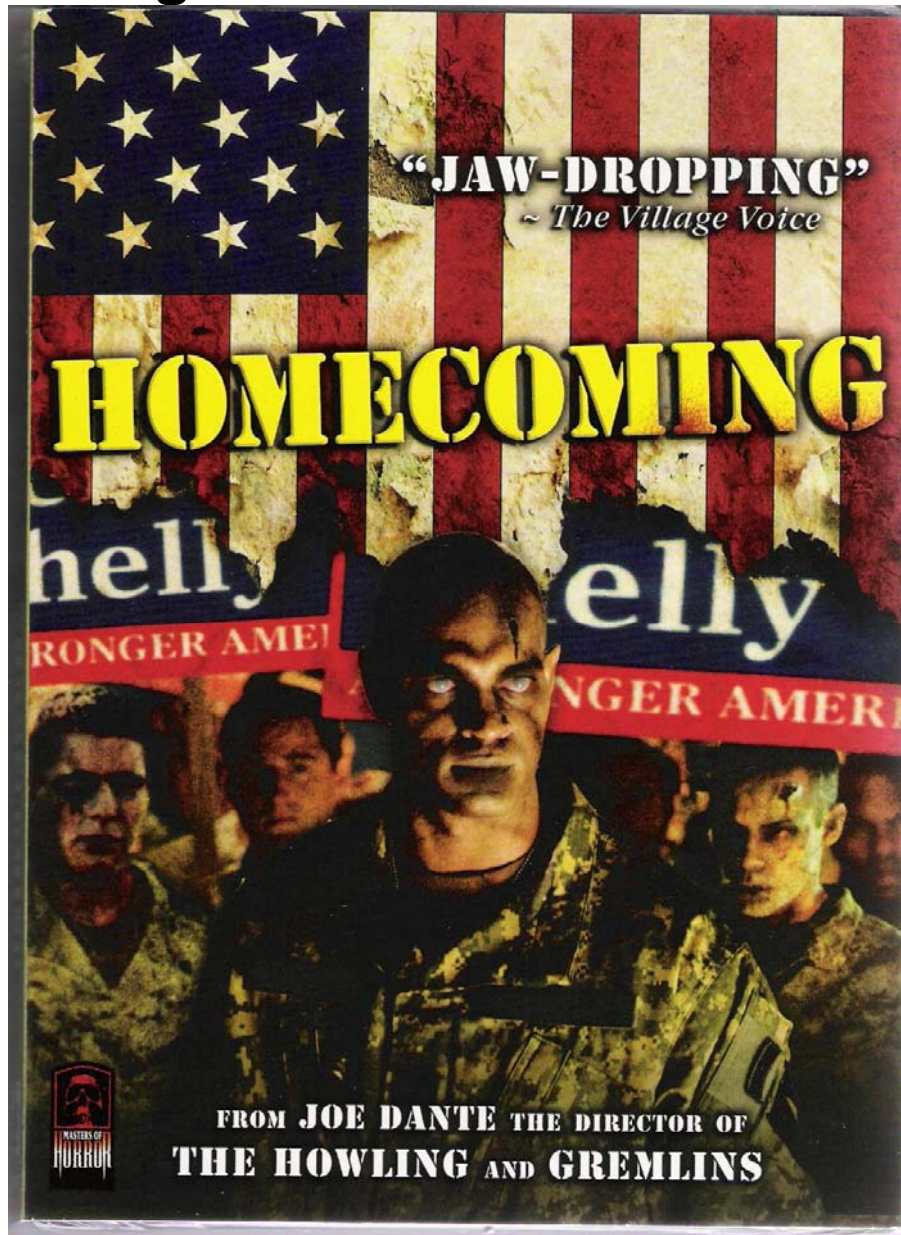
**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE  
END THE OCCUPATION**

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation's ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. Frederick Douglas, 1852

# **KIA Return To Destroy Bush: “This Flick Praises The Troops In Iraq While Offering Up The Politicians**

## And Pundits Who Sent Them There As Finger Food For The Undead”



While Dante's film will no doubt raise hackles, my guess is that most members of the military would get a kick out of this flick that praises the troops in Iraq while offering up the politicians and pundits who sent them there as finger food for the undead.

Dec. 2, 2005 By Grady Hendrix, Slate.com [Excerpts]

Just when things looked like they couldn't get any worse for President Bush, here come the zombies to vote him out of office.

**They arrive courtesy of Joe Dante's Homecoming. One part satire of soulless Beltway insiders, one part gut-crunching horror flick, Homecoming kicks off when the flag-draped coffins of soldiers killed in Iraq burst open and the reanimated corpses of dead veterans hit the streets, searching for polling places where they can pull the lever for "anyone who will end this evil war."**

His characters seem like people we've just watched on MSNBC.

There's David Murch, a political consultant for an unnamed Republican president who sounds exactly like President Bush. His new girlfriend, Jane Cleaver, is a bullying pundit cloned from Ann Coulter's DNA. There's also a James Carville look-alike and a Jerry Falwell doppelgänger, complete with quivering jowls.

**Dante delivers the thrill of watching familiar figures spin the issues and dole out doublespeak, yet he doesn't stint on the satisfaction of seeing them have their brains eaten afterwards.**

He's the first horror director to take the bits of media flotsam and jetsam that have been drifting around — the flag-draped coffins at Dover Air Force Base, the talking-head cable shows, the internment camps, the Ohio and Florida recounts, the "Mission Accomplished" banners — and make something electrifying out of them.

Today, zombies are the perfect metaphor for our soldiers in Iraq: They're shell-shocked, anonymous, and aren't asked to make very many decisions.

**Unless you personally know a soldier, the war in Iraq has been a zombie war, fought by an uncomplaining, faceless mass wrapped in desert camo and called "our boys."**

**We talk about them all the time — supporting them, criticizing them, speaking for them — but we don't really have a clue as to what's on their minds.**

**They often seem like disposable units sent to enforce the will of our country.**

**But what if they come back and they're different?**

**What if they come back and don't want to follow orders anymore?**

What's shocking about Dante's Homecoming is that he dispenses with the usual horror subtext completely. Pundits go on TV to defend the living dead's right to vote until they find out they're not voting Republican. Zombies rise from the grave, wrapped in the American flag. There's even a Cindy Sheehan stand-in with a zombie son. Nothing is too recent or too raw.

**But Homecoming is on another level of guilty pleasures, a junk-food adrenaline rush that debunks the myth of glorious war, presenting every ugly wound in gory latex detail, while having nothing but compassion for the lonely, lurching, living-dead soldiers.**

While Dante's film will no doubt raise hackles, my guess is that most members of the military would get a kick out of this flick that praises the troops in Iraq while offering up the politicians and pundits who sent them there as finger food for the undead.

Some big brains have tried to make a statement about the war in Iraq, and every single one of them should be standing in line, heads hung low, waiting to get their artistic licenses revoked.

Who would've thought that where Michael Moore (Fahrenheit 9/11), Sam Mendes (Jarhead), and Steven Bochco (Over There) got it so wrong, the director of Looney Tunes: Back in Action would have gotten it so right?

"Barbed political satire and zombie thriller." Los Angeles Times

"Jaw dropping...easily one of the most important political films of the era" Village Voice

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657**

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### **“The Iraqi State, In Many Respects, Does Not Exist”**

12.19.06 Christian Science Monitor

As President Bush weighs his options for forging a new Iraq policy, he faces a big conundrum: Many proposals call for greater reliance on and deeper development of the Iraqi state, but the reality is that the Iraqi state, in many respects, does not exist.

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### **“After Nearly Four Years And Bush’s Biggest Achievement In Iraq Has Been A Lynching”**



# “Who Hangs For The Hundreds Of Thousands Who’ve Died As A Direct Result Of This War And Occupation? Bush? Blair? Maliki?”

December 31, 2006 By Riverbend, Baghdad Burning

It's official. Maliki and his people are psychopaths. This really is a new low. It's outrageous- an execution during Eid. Muslims all over the world (with the exception of Iran) are outraged. Eid is a time of peace, of putting aside quarrels and anger - at least for the duration of Eid.

This does not bode well for the coming year. No one imagined the madmen would actually do it during a religious holiday. It is religiously unacceptable and before, it was constitutionally illegal. We thought we'd at least get a few days of peace and some time to enjoy the Eid holiday, which coincides with the New Year this year. We've spent the first two days of a holy holiday watching bits and pieces of a sordid lynching.

**America the savior... After nearly four years and Bush's biggest achievement in Iraq has been a lynching. Bravo Americans.**

Maliki has made the mistake of his life. His signature and unhidden glee at the whole execution, especially on the first day of Eid Al Adha (the Eid where millions of Muslims make a pilgrimage to Mecca), will only do more to damage his already tattered reputation.

He's like a vulture in a suit (or a balding weasel). It's almost embarrassing. I kept expecting Muwafaq Al Rubaii to run over and wipe the drool from the corner of his mouth as he signed for the execution. Are these the people who represent the New Iraq? We're in so much more trouble than I ever thought.

**And no - not the celebrations BBC are claiming. With the exception of a few areas, the streets are empty.**

Now we come to CNN. Shame on you CNN journalists - you're getting lazy. The least you can do is get the last words correct when you write a story about an execution.

Your articles are read the world over and will go down in history as references. You people are the biggest news network in the world - the least you can do is spend some money on a decent translator.

Saddam's last words were NOT "Muqtada Al Sadr" as Munir Haddad claimed, according to the article below. If anyone had seen at least part of the video they showed on TV, you'd know that.

"A witness, Iraqi Judge Munir Haddad, said that one of the executioners told Hussein that the former dictator had destroyed Iraq, which sparked an argument that was joined by several government officials in the room.

"As a noose was tightened around Hussein's neck, one of the executioners yelled 'long live Muqtada al-Sadr,' Haddad said, referring to the powerful anti-American Shiite religious leader.

"Hussein, a Sunni, uttered one last phrase before he died, saying "Muqtada al-Sadr" in a mocking tone, according to Haddad's account."

From the video that was leaked, it was not an executioner who yelled "long live Muqtada al-Sadr".

See, this is another low the Maliki government sunk to - they had some hecklers conveniently standing by during the execution. Maliki claimed they were "some witnesses from the trial", but they were, very obviously, hecklers.

The moment the noose was around Saddam's neck, they began chanting, in unison, "God's prayers be on Mohamed and on Mohamed's family..." Something else I didn't quite catch (but it was very coordinated), and then "Muqtada, Muqtada, Muqtada!" One of them called out to Saddam, "Go to hell..." (in Arabic). Saddam looked down disdainfully and answered "Heya hay il marjala...?" which is basically saying, "Is this your manhood...?".

**Someone half-heartedly called out to the hecklers, "I beg you, I beg you- the man is being executed!" They were slightly quieter and then Saddam stood and said, "Ashadu an la ilaha ila Allah, wa ashadu ana Mohammedun rasool Allah..." Which means, "I witness there is no god but Allah and that Mohammed is His messenger." These are the words a Muslim (Sunnis and Shia alike) should say on their deathbed. He repeated this one more time, very clearly, but before he could finish it, he was lynched.**

**So, no, CNN, his last words were not "Muqtada Al Sadr" in a mocking tone - just thought someone should clear that up. (Really people, six of you contributed to that article!)**

Then again, one could argue that it was a judge who gave them that false information. A judge on the Iraqi appeals court - one of the judges who ratified the execution order. Everyone knows Iraqi judges under American tutelage never lie - that explains CNN's confusion.

Muwafaq Al Rubai was said he was "weak and frightened". Apparently, Rubai saw a different lynching because according to the video they leaked, he didn't look frightened at all. His voice didn't shake and he refused to put on the black hood. He looked resigned to his fate, and during the heckling he looked as defiant as ever. (It's quite a contrast to Muhsin Abdul Hameed's public hysterics last year when the Americans raided his home.)

It's one thing to have militias participating in killings. This is allegedly the democracy the Americans flaunt. Is this how bloodthirsty and frightening we've become? Is this what

Iraq stands for now? Executions? I'm sure the rest of the Arab countries will be impressed.

One of the most advanced countries in the world did not help to reconstruct Iraq, they didn't even help produce a decent constitution. They did, however, contribute nicely to a kangaroo court and a lynching.

**A lynching shall go down in history as America's biggest accomplishment in Iraq.**

**So who's next? Who hangs for the hundreds of thousands who've died as a direct result of this war and occupation? Bush? Blair? Maliki? Jaffari? Allawi? Chalabi?**

2006 has definitely been representative of Maliki and his government - killings like never before and a lynching to end it properly. Death and destruction everywhere. I'm so tired of all of this...

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

## **Republican Politicians Pissing Their Pants As Bush Hints He Will Send More Troops To Iraq**

**"Republicans are scared to death of it politically," said Ed Rogers, a top GOP lobbyist with ties to the White House and Republican leaders on the Hill. "The fear is that it won't make any difference. There won't be a perception of turning the corner."**

January 1, 2007 Washington Post Staff Writer, By Michael Abramowitz

CRAWFORD, Tex., Dec. 31 -- Republican lawmakers appear uneasy about -- and in some cases outright dismissive of -- the idea of sending many more troops to Iraq, as President Bush contemplates such a "surge" as part of his new strategy for stabilizing the country.

Two Senate Republicans with potentially tough reelection contests in 2008, Minnesota's Norm Coleman and Maine's Susan Collins, returned from recent trips to Iraq saying they did not think sending more troops was a good idea.

Branding the U.S. war effort "absurd," Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) made waves in early December with a speech questioning the continued presence of troops.

And while other Republicans say they are open to the president's proposal, some made it clear that they will only be supportive if the troops have a coherent mission and the deployment is linked to a larger political strategy for reconciling feuding sects.

Sen. Sam Brownback (Kan.), another possible presidential contender, said in an interview Saturday that he could favor more troops if they were a "precursor" to political stability. But he added: "A short-term buildup in troops, if it simply is to impose military order without the possibility of political equilibrium, that doesn't seem to me to be too farsighted."

In a separate interview, Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), a supporter of the Iraq war who serves on the Armed Services Committee, said he has been "cautious" in his recommendations to the White House about the need for a troop increase. For instance, if Bush proposes additional troops to help train Iraqi forces or to clean out a specific part of Baghdad, Chambliss said he could support that as long as it was understood the troops would "get out" after the mission was accomplished.

"I don't want to send more troops on a general wartime basis without them having a specific mission," said Chambliss, who is also up for reelection in 2008.

Appearing on "Fox News Sunday," the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Richard G. Lugar (Ind.), said he does not know "whether I do or do not" support more troops and advised the president to consult much more seriously with Congress about Iraq than he has in the past.

"There's been an election; Republicans lost the election," he said.

**"Republicans are scared to death of it politically," said Ed Rogers, a top GOP lobbyist with ties to the White House and Republican leaders on the Hill. "The fear is that it won't make any difference. There won't be a perception of turning the corner."**

Sen. John E. Sununu (R-N.H.), a member of the Foreign Relations Committee who also is up for reelection in 2008, said the president's new plan must address "not only the security needs of large cities like Baghdad, but also the very significant internal changes that need to take place in Iraq to assure long-term stability."

Sununu declined to say what he thinks about more troops, but one of his colleagues from the Northeast, Maine's Collins, said she was flatly opposed to the idea after discussing it with commanders and Iraqis during a trip with McCain, Graham and Lieberman.

"I don't think the addition of new American troops in a situation plagued by sectarian strife is the answer," Collins said. "I think more American troops will present more American targets."

**She said in an interview that she was also influenced by a meeting the senators had with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. "The prime minister made it pretty**

clear that he did not welcome the idea of more American troops," she said. "I would speculate that he recognizes that he needs to take control of the situation, that if he's seen as completely dependent on American troops it's difficult for him to establish his legitimacy."

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) said Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition" that at this point he could not support more troops for Iraq.

"If there is a road map to victory, then I would be prepared to listen to what the president has to say about more troops. But on this date of the record, I do not see it," he said.

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential. Same to unsubscribe.**

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