

## **GI SPECIAL 5C17:**

### **THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE**



The casket containing the remains of 19-year-old Marine Pfc. Tarryl Hill, St. Paul Tabernacle Church in Detroit, Michigan February 16, 2007. Hill was killed in Fallujah. REUTERS/Rebecca Cook

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# **U.S. Troops Dying In Vain: Do The Math**

Mar 16, 2007 AP

“There are now roughly 142,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.

“**About 60,000 are combat forces, the rest are support troops.**”

## Comment: T

That means even if every single combat troop were on duty 12 hours a day, seven days a week, which is impossible, at most 30,000 would be available at any given moment to occupy a nation of 26 million people. Baghdad has 5 million.

30,000 combat troops? To hold down an aroused nation of 25 million determined to end Bush's Imperial occupation?

And do recall that U.S. surveys found 60% of the Iraqi population are in favor of killing U.S. occupation troops.

And the 20,000 combat troops Bush is sending in his surge won't change that grotesque disproportion one fucking tiny bit.

This is truly dying in vain: dying in a hopeless, lost war; U.S. troops dying pointlessly in a dishonorable cause that has not the slightest hope of succeeding, continued by Imperial politicians afraid to take responsibility for reality.

This is nothing more or less than premeditated murder of every U.S. troop killed in Iraq, premeditated murder committed by the U.S. Democrat-Republican political leadership in Washington DC.

Pelosi and Bush are nothing but Murder, Incorporated.

And that is high treason, for which the punishment is prescribed by law.

To repeat for the 3,490<sup>th</sup> time, 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 long overdue.

**NOT ANOTHER DEATH!  
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR!  
NOT ANOTHER DAY!**

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# **The Traitor Bush At It Again: Now It's 30,000 More Troops In His Stupid, Useless "Surge" [He Forgot To Mention Support Forces]**

Mar 16, 2007 AP

Some 2,600 soldiers from a combat aviation unit will go to Iraq ahead of schedule, part of the support troops the Pentagon has said are needed to back the extra combat units President Bush is sending there.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates approved the deployment of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division combat aviation brigade 45 days earlier than planned, meaning they will go around May, a Defense Department official said Friday.

**The approval will mean roughly 30,000 troops eventually will go to Baghdad and Anbar Province in the Bush administration's buildup to crack down on rising sectarian violence and insurgents, said the official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the information.**

**Two months ago, Bush ordered 21,500 additional American troops to Iraq to help calm the violence.**

**He did not initially mention that support units would also be needed.**

There are now roughly 142,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.

About 60,000 are combat forces, the rest are support troops.

**LIAR  
TRAITOR  
TROOP-KILLER  
DOMESTIC ENEMY  
UNFIT FOR COMMAND  
UNWORTHY OF OBEDIENCE**



(AFP/File/Mannie Garcia)

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Four U.S. Soldiers Killed In Baghdad, Two More Wounded In Coordinated IED/Small Arms Attack**

March 17, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070317

During a patrol in western Baghdad, an improvised explosive device detonated and killed four U.S. Soldiers and wounding another. Small arms fire followed the blast wounding one additional Soldier.

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### **One U.S. Soldier Killed, One Wounded In Salah Ad Din**

March 16, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070316-02

TIKRIT, Iraq – One Soldier died as a result of injuries sustained from an explosion when Task Force Lightning Soldiers were attacked while conducting combat operations in Salah ad Din Province, Thursday, setting a Hummer vehicle on fire.

One Soldier was wounded and taken to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

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## **U.S. Soldier Killed In Baqubah**

March 17, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070317-07

BAGHDAD – An MNC-I Soldier died at approximately 1:30 p.m. Saturday as a result of being shot while conducting operations in Baqubah.

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## **One Soldier Killed, Three Wounded By IED South Of Baghdad**

March 17, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070317-10

While conducting a dismounted area reconnaissance patrol south of Baghdad, an improvised explosive device detonated killing one Soldier and wounding three others.

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## **“Non-Combat” Casualty In Al Anbar; Marine Dead**

March 16, 2007 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE  
No. 20070316-02

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – A Marine assigned to Multi National Force-West died March 14 in a noncombat related incident in Al Anbar Province.

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## **U.S. Soldier Dead In “Non-Combat” Incident**

03/17/07 Multi National Corps Iraq Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory

A Task Force Lightning Soldier died Saturday in a non-combat related incident, which is currently under investigation.

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# Six U.S. Troops “Sickened,” One Wounded By Chlorine Bombs In Anbar

[Thanks to Felicity Arbuthnot, who sent this in. She writes: Look out for the chlorine bomb (truck) exploding in Falluja. (Reports today). Falluja we have been told endlessly (and the residents furiously concur) is a ring of steel where people have to be iris and fingerprint identified and wear nazi type sew-ons with name and address on their clothes to get in.]

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[In fact the resistance has been organized and active in Fallujah for over two years now. There are frequent reports of attacks on collaborator and U.S. forces, and occasional photographs of resistance soldiers in action in various parts of the city. The silly occupation propaganda about how Falluja was “pacified” forever after the U.S. command attacked in November 2004 was just that: silly occupation propaganda. T.]

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Mar 17 Associated Press

Bombers have detonated explosives on three trucks carrying a toxic gas amid traffic in western Iraq, killing at least two police. All three attacks were carried out between 4.11 pm (1311 GMT) and 7.13 pm on Friday, two of them just south of the town of Fallujah and one northeast of the nearby city of Ramadi,

Three bombers driving trucks rigged with tanks of toxic chlorine gas struck targets in Anbar province including the office of a tribal leader opposed to the resistance movement.

**The attacks sickened six U.S. troops, the U.S. military said Saturday.**

**The violence started about 4:11 p.m. Friday when a driver detonated explosives in a pickup truck carrying chlorine at a checkpoint northeast of the provincial capital of Ramadi, wounding one U.S. service member and one Iraqi civilian, the military said in a statement.**

Two hours later a dump truck exploded in Amiriyah, south of Fallujah, killing two policemen, the military said.

Ahmed Kuhdier, a 32-year-old taxi driver, said the blast sent up a plume of white smoke that turned black and blue.

“Minutes later, we started to smell nasty smells. I saw people coming form the explosion site and they were coughing and having trouble breathing,” he said.

Another bomber detonated a dump truck containing a 200-gallon chlorine tank rigged with explosives at 7:13 p.m. three miles south of Fallujah in the Albu Issa tribal region, the military said.

Police said the bomb was targeting the reception center of a tribal sheik who has supported the U.S. occupation.

A previously unannounced car bombing in Ramadi involving chlorine killed two Iraqi security officers and wounded 16 other people, including 13 civilians, on Feb. 19, the military said Saturday.

**The primary effect of the chlorine attacks has been to spread panic. Although chlorine gas can be fatal, the heat from the explosions can render the gas nontoxic.**

**Victims in the recent chlorine blasts died from the explosions, and not the effects of the gas.**

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## **U.S. Army Vehicle Burns In Baghdad; Casualties Not Reported**



A U.S. army vehicle burns in an eastern suburb of Baghdad March 18, 2007 after having been attacked by insurgents. There was no official comment on the attack by U.S. officials. (AP Photo/ AP Television News, Pool)

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## **British Patrol Attacked**

3.16.07 VOI

A British patrol came under an attack with RPG-7 missiles on Friday with no reports of casualties, the spokeswoman for British forces in southern Iraq said on Friday.

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## **FUTILE EXERCISE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW!**



3.13.07: US soldiers from Baker Company 2-12 Infantry Battalion walk into an Iraqi home after it was searched by their comrades during a joint patrol with Iraqi national police in the Dora neighbourhood of southern Baghdad.(AFP/David Furst)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Three Australian Soldiers Wounded By Rocket Attack On Kandahar Air Base**

[Thanks to Max Watts, who sent this in.]

17/03/2007 ABC News Online

Three Australian soldiers have been injured during a rocket attack in Afghanistan.

The soldiers were in their accommodation area at the Kandahar air base in southern Afghanistan when it was hit by a rocket overnight.

The Defence Department says they received immediate first aid and medical monitoring by Australian medics at the base.

All three soldiers have suffered only minor injuries and will return to duty.

The Department says the rocket strike did minor damage to some of the accommodation buildings at the air base. But most of the impact was absorbed by a purpose-built barrier system.

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## **U.S. Embassy Convoy Blown Up In Kabul; “Several” Wounded**



U.S. mercenaries near an explosion in Kabul March 19, 2007. A car bomb exploded next to a U.S. Embassy convoy, pushing an embassy SUV across the road and setting it on fire, officials said.(AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

Mar 19 By FISNIK ABRASHI, Associated Press Writer

A car bomb exploded near a three-vehicle U.S. Embassy convoy on a busy road in Kabul on Monday, wounding several people, one seriously, officials said.

The blast, witnessed by an Associated Press reporter, badly damaged the front of one black SUV that was shunted to the other side of the road. First aid was administered to at least two people at the scene.

The other two vehicles in convoy also were damaged, close to the burning wreckage of the car where the bomb was apparently planted.

Joe Mellott, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy, said several people in the convoy were wounded, one seriously. He did not identify them or say whether they were Americans. He said the U.S. ambassador, Ronald Neumann, was not in the convoy.

The bombing took place about 2 miles from the embassy on a road often targeted in bombings and rocket attacks. The road leads out of Kabul and to the U.S. base at Bagram.

The AP reporter who witnessed the attack happened to be traveling in a vehicle about 50 to 70 yards behind the convoy when the bomb went off.

U.S. Embassy security teams initially prevented Afghan police, NATO soldiers and journalists from getting close to the vehicles.

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## **Collaborator Soldier Kill 5 Collaborator Cops**

16 March 2007 Alastair Leithead, BBC News, Kabul

Five policemen have been killed in Helmand province in the south of Afghanistan in what appears to have been a clash between friendly forces.

What appears to have happened, based on information from officials who did not want to be named, is that an Afghan National Army (ANA) unit approached a police check point in the village of Spin Kalay, near Gereshk, and was fired upon.

They then returned fire, and in that shooting some auxiliary police were killed and injured.

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## ***Welcome To Liberated Afghanistan; Half The Population Had To Pay Bribes To The Government Last Year; “Afghans Complain They Have To Pay Bribes To Pay Taxes”***

<p>60 percent said the Karzai administration was more corrupt than the Taliban, the Mujahideen or the Communists</p>
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19 Mar 2007 By Y.P. Rajesh, (Reuters)

Corruption has hit unprecedented levels in Afghanistan and risks undermining the legitimacy of a government struggling with reconstruction and fighting a resurgent Taliban, a watchdog said on Monday.

**A survey by Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) found that half the 1,250 people polled across the country had paid bribes last year while almost everyone perceived that one in every two government or public service was corrupt.**

The report released on Monday estimated that every Afghan household had paid an average bribe of \$100 last year in one of the world's poorest countries where per capita income is about \$500.

The bribes amounted to anything between \$260 million and \$465 million for the country as a whole, according to the report, which IWA said was the first of its kind.

"Corruption is very dangerous for a country which is on the path to be reconstructed, where the legitimacy of the new state is very necessary," IWA executive director Lorenzo Delesgues told a news conference.

"It has also increased the feeling of injustice among the people," he said, adding that high levels of graft showed "the state doesn't control its territory totally." [Now there is a really blinding flash of the obvious. The resistance just blew up a U.S. Embassy convoy in the capitol.]

President Hamid Karzai's Western-backed [translation: occupation] government faces increasing disillusionment over its failure to provide people with jobs and the fact that much of the billions of dollars in foreign aid is wasted or lost in corruption. [Hey you want people to be traitors serving George W. Bush, you got to let them steal. They have short life expectancies.]

Ordinary Afghans complain they have to pay bribes for everything from getting passports to securing electricity for homes and even to pay taxes.

In Kabul, some businesses bribe power workers with beer to remain hooked into the public electricity grid for extra hours.

Last year, Karzai formed a commission to draft a strategy to combat corruption but analysts say his efforts have yet to succeed, with graft highly endemic with even senior politicians and officials said to be involved.

The IWA survey said Afghanistan's courts were the most corrupt, followed by the Interior Ministry, which controls the police. Municipalities, the Finance Ministry, the directorate of national security and the Justice Ministry were next, it said.

This had an impact on national security, particularly in the south, it said, adding that the Taliban alone could not be blamed for the rise in violence there.

About 60 percent of those polled said the Karzai administration was more corrupt than the Taliban, the Mujahideen or the Communists who have governed over recent decades.

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## **“The Situation Is Out Of Control” “Four Of Helmand's 12 Districts Have Fallen Into Taliban Hands... In Several Of The Other Districts, Control Is In Doubt”**

**“They just bomb the whole place whenever they see any Talib,” said one resident of the Nowzad district. “Because of the Taliban, our homes are being bombed and destroyed by the coalition. The people were once very hopeful about the coalition forces. But these kinds of things happen, and now they're hopeless.”**

March 15, 2007 By Griff Witte, Washington Post [Excerpts]

With a weak government presence in Helmand, the Taliban has gained more control there than in any other province in the five years since U.S.-led forces ejected the Islamic militia from power, according to foreign and Afghan officials.

In many villages, Taliban gunmen patrol day and night, residents said in telephone interviews. Some government supporters have been beheaded or hanged.

Provincial Gov. Asadullah Wafa said four of Helmand's 12 districts have fallen into Taliban hands... In several of the other districts, control is in doubt.

The situation is out of control,” said Haji Mohammed Anwar Isaqzai, a parliament member from the Nowzad district in northern Helmand.

Isaqzai said the Afghan national police force has alienated the local population by abusing its authority. “During the day, they are policemen. During the night, they are thieves,” he said.

By comparison, he said, the Taliban looks appealing because it enforces its laws -- albeit in an extreme way.

Several local residents and officials said they had reliable reports that Taliban members were carrying out their own strain of Islamic justice in parts of Helmand -- executing those thought to be collaborating with NATO, and punishing men who have shaved their beards.

In other parts of the province, residents reported that the Taliban was mostly leaving the local people alone. "They are not putting pressure on the people to implement their laws," said Jan, the farmer. "But they do go to people's houses for food and money."

**Residents say NATO forces have not helped the situation, carrying out bombing raids that are aimed at Taliban fighters but that often kill civilian noncombatants as well. Within the past week, residents and local officials said a strike had killed four members of a family of nomads.**

"They just bomb the whole place whenever they see any Talib," said one resident of the Nowzad district. "Because of the Taliban, our homes are being bombed and destroyed by the coalition. The people were once very hopeful about the coalition forces. But these kinds of things happen, and now they're hopeless."

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

# ***Thousands March In Baghdad: "No Occupation!" "No America!" "It Is The Feeling Of Any Patriotic Citizen"***

March 17, 2007 By Tina Susman, L.A. Times Staff Writer

BAGHDAD: Residents of the Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City on Friday showed signs of growing resentment toward the presence of U.S. troops in the area, chanting "No occupation!" and "No America!" in a march demanding the removal of a U.S. base there.

The Sadr City protest followed Friday prayers, which featured a statement from Sadr calling on followers to “raise your voices in unity” against “America, the grand devil.” The statement, read by a prominent cleric close to Sadr, marked a toughening of his rhetoric as the U.S. touts its foothold in Sadr City.

Residents marching Friday, though, said they were anything but accepting of the foreign forces. Some said they wanted U.S. troops out because they blamed the United States for the violence plaguing Iraq.

**“It is the feeling of any patriotic citizen. I am not saying this as a resident of Sadr City but as an Iraqi:**

“Since they came we have seen nothing but poverty, unemployment and hunger,” said Raad Salman.

He was one of several thousand people who joined the demonstration immediately after Friday prayers, which traditionally draw thousands of worshipers.

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

16 Mar 2007 Reuters & VOI & Mar 17 (AFP) & (KUNA) & Reuters & AP

**A total of eleven captives fled al-Shuaaiba jail, 45km west of Basra, after exchanging their clothes with their visiting relatives, the spokeswoman for the Multi-National forces in southern Iraq said on Friday.**

A roadside bomb blew up next to a police patrol, killing two policemen and wounding three in the centre of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, a police source said.

Four policemen, were wounded on Friday evening when an attacker detonated explosives strapped to his body in Diala province, 57 km northeast of Baghdad, a security source said.

The Iraqi police said on Saturday that a policeman had been killed and another wounded when an explosive device hit their patrol southeast of Mosul as the city police arrested five insurgents.

Another roadside bomb killed one policeman and wounded another when it exploded near their patrol in the northern city of Mosul, police said.

Two police died after a bomber struck the checkpoint they were manning near a Sunni mosque in western Baghdad in Baghdad's western Harthiya district, police said.

One policeman was killed and two others wounded when an explosion struck their patrol in central Hillah, a predominantly Shiite city about 60 miles south of Baghdad, local authorities said.

<b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE</b>
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**END THE OCCUPATION**

**TROOP NEWS**



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**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service**

friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

## FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

# 39th Anniversary Of The My Lai Massacre



The monument at My Lai, taken in 1994. After taking pictures for an hour at the massacre site, especially at the War Crimes Museum, I finally broke down.

Lying Is The Most Powerful Weapon In War.

Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: March 16, 2007

### **39th Anniversary of The My Lai Massacre**

**On March 16, 1968, the U.S. Government went into the village of My Lai and murdered 504 innocent Vietnamese civilians.**

**It was a U.S. military operation.  
Lt. William Calley was the fall guy.**

**Fast forward 39 years and nothing has changed.  
Fall guys keep coming out of the woodwork.**

**Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran  
March 16, 2007**

**"The U.S. is ready to defend its interests in the Middle East for decades to come, even though the Iraq war has been tougher than expected."**

**Robert Gates  
Secretary of Defense  
March 16, 2007**

**Photo and caption from the I-R-A-Q (I Remember Another Quagmire) portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: [hastiemike@earthlink.net](mailto:hastiemike@earthlink.net)) T)**

**One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.**

**Mike Hastie  
U.S. Army Medic  
Vietnam 1970-71  
December 13, 2004**

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

**“U.S. STRATEGY IN IRAQ IS  
BASED ON THE FALSE  
ASSUMPTIONS THAT THE  
‘PEOPLE’ AND THE  
‘INSURGENTS’  
IN IRAQ ARE TWO DISTINCT AND  
OPPOSING GROUPS”  
“In The End, Aside From The Deaths,  
Nothing Lasting Will Have Been  
Achieved”**

**It goes against virtually all historical precedent to suppose that an unwelcome invader with 150,000 troops, and Iraqi security forces that the NIE judged to be “persistently weak,” can occupy and subdue a large country with a population of 26 million and long porous borders.**

14 March 2007 BY LARRY C. JOHNSON, RAY McGOVERN, RAY CLOSE, DAVID C. MACMICHAEL, and COLLEEN ROWLEY (Steering Group, Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS))

MEMORANDUM FOR: Speaker of the House, Senate Majority Leader [Excerpts]

**U.S. strategy in Iraq is based on the false assumptions that the “people” and the “insurgents” in Iraq are two distinct and opposing groups, and that U.S. and Iraqi forces will be able to “clear” the insurgents and “hold” the people.**

In fact, the resistance will be suppressed in one area, only to re-emerge somewhere else (the attempt to suppress is appropriately called “Operation Whack-a-Mole”).

**It goes against virtually all historical precedent to suppose that an unwelcome invader with 150,000 troops, and Iraqi security forces that the NIE judged to be “persistently weak,” can occupy and subdue a large country with a population of 26 million and long porous borders.**

**The United States does not have enough military forces on the ground in Iraq to provide effective control of the cities and key regions to prevent violence and destroy insurgent infrastructure.**

**Moreover, the U.S. lacks sufficient soldiers and marines in its current globally deployed force to provide sustained reinforcements.**

And absent is the political will to bring back the draft to obtain the number of troops required to get better control of the situation on the ground in Iraq. Even with a draft, the United States would require two years at a minimum to train and organize the new units for any mission in Iraq.

Given these facts, there is no military solution to the situation in Iraq.

A surge in U.S. troops in specific areas, specifically Baghdad, may bring more than a momentary lessening in the violence, but it will not end the fighting.

**In fact, this concentrated surge will enable insurgent forces in other areas of the country to expand their operations and control.**

At current casualty rates, twelve more months will mean at least 1,000 additional U.S. troops killed and 18 more months will bring at least 1,500, not to mention Iraqis killed, and thousands upon thousands seriously wounded.

**The various Iraqi insurgent groups will probably fade into the woodwork for a while, but at a time and place of their choosing they will surely be back, in force.**

**In the end, aside from the deaths, nothing lasting will have been achieved.**

Senior U.S. civilian and military officials still don't get it.

"They can't beat us in a stand-up fight," bragged our vice president just two months ago, echoing recent words of a U.S. Army colonel in Iraq.

This completely misses the point, and calls to mind the sad month of April 1975, when Col. Harry Summers was sent to negotiate with a North Vietnamese colonel the terms of American withdrawal from Vietnam.

Summers reported the following exchange: "You know, you never beat us on the battlefield," I said to Colonel Tu, my North Vietnamese counterpart. "That may be so," he said, "but it is also irrelevant."

Violence in Iraq, at least for the mid-term, will continue regardless of the U.S. presence.

**Once a U.S. departure is under way there is an increased likelihood that the Sunnis and Shias will move toward a political accommodation of some sort since at that point neither can count on the United States to fight on their side.**

**The only thing in doubt is the timing of the U.S. departure, and whether it can be accomplished without the massacres the British experienced trying to extricate themselves from earlier expeditions into Iraq.**

**The lack of a substantial U.S. military presence in Iraq will have the counterintuitive effect of increasing the likelihood that neighboring countries will be more willing to take steps to help reduce the violence in Iraq.**

Your draft legislation makes the dubious assumption that the president believes the U.S. Constitution still applies to him, and that he should be taken at his word. Rather, his behavior has shown that he has little but contempt for Congress, which he has had little trouble manipulating, at least until now.

**The failure to achieve the original mission in Iraq has already occurred, and the United States has already suffered a significant loss of its interests.**

**Withdrawing troops from the country may not make matters much worse.**

Ray Close, Princeton, NJ

Larry Johnson, Bethesda, MD

David C. MacMichael, Linden, VA

Ray McGovern, Arlington, VA

Coleen Rowley, Apple Valley, MN

Steering Group  
Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity

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## Exactly Right

15 March 2007 The Power and Interest News Report [Excerpt]

**If Washington begins to reduce its footprint in the state, it is likely that many Iraqi insurgents will turn their guns inward in an attempt to seize power in Baghdad.**

**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**

### **Troops Invited:**

**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 email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld**

unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

## OCCUPATION REPORT

# ***THE OCCUPATION TERRORIZES ANOTHER “SUSPICIOUS IRAQI” [U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS]***



A U.S. soldier of the 2nd Platoon Charlie Troop, 3rd Squadron of 61st Cavalry Regiment questions a suspicious man with an interpreter (R) while on patrol with Iraqi National police men in a suburb of Baghdad March 7, 2007.

**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can make people kneel on the ground and question them because they look 'suspicious,' kill people at checkpoints, bust into their houses with force and violence, butcher their families, overthrow the government, put a new one in office they like better and call it "sovereign," and "detain" anybody who doesn't like it in some prison without any charges being filed against them, or any trial.]**

[Those Iraqis are sure a bunch of backward primitives. They actually resent this help, have the absurd notion that it's bad their country is occupied by a foreign military dictatorship, and consider it their patriotic duty to fight and kill the soldiers sent to grab their country. What a bunch of silly people. How fortunate they are to live under a military dictatorship run by George Bush. Why, how could anybody not love that? You'd want that in your home town, right?]

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

**Monumentally Stupid U.S. General  
Publicly Labels Iraqi Mayor A  
Collaborator:  
“It's A Collaboration,' He Said”  
The Mayor Is Ambushed And Shot A  
Few Hours Later;  
“We Always Keep Our Eyes On The  
Occupiers. We Are Never Away From  
Our Duty” Mahdi Army Commander Says**

March 16, 2007 By Sudarsan Raghavan, Washington Post Foreign Service

On Thursday, guerrillas ambushed the convoy of Sadr City's mayor, Rahim al-Darraj, seriously wounding him and killing two of his bodyguards. A senior police officer was killed.

An Iraqi police source said Darraji was driving in a private car with Colonel Mohammed Mutashar on Thursday afternoon in the Habibiya district of Sadr City when insurgents in another car opened fire, killing the policeman and wounding the mayor.

The driver of the car was also killed, a U.S. military spokesman said, confirming the attack.

Sheikh Raheem al-Darraji has been a key figure in facilitating a recent U.S. and Iraqi security crackdown in Sadr City, long a no-go area for U.S. forces and a bastion of the

Mehdi Army, a militia loyal to radical [translation: anti-occupation nationalist] Moqtada al-Sadr.

A few hours earlier, at a luncheon with Western journalists, Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., the U.S. commander in charge of Baghdad, spoke about Darruji.

“We’re in Sadr City, working closely with the mayor and it’s been completely permissive. It’s a collaboration,” he said.

But the collaboration remains controversial. The U.S. military is building a garrison inside a police station to house U.S. and Iraqi troops on the fringes of Sadr City. It will become part of a constellation of neighborhood security outposts -- the linchpin of the new plan to regain control of the streets.

“It’s a wrong idea. Sadr City has faced a lot of violations by the American forces,” said Falah Shanshal, a member of parliament in Sadr’s bloc. “There is no reason for the existence of such a base or the existence of Americans in the city.”

Haider, the Mahdi Army commander, said: “We always keep our eyes on the occupiers. We are never away from our duty.”

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

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it’s in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you’ve read, we hope that you’ll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

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

## ***The Great Iraqi Surge Fiasco Rolls On:***

**“The Station’s Fortified Rooftop Flies An Iraqi Flag, But No Iraqis Are Allowed There”**

# **“We Don’t Trust ‘Em,” 1st Lt. Steve Taylor Said Of His Iraqi Police Counterparts; “Nobody Will Tell You Anything With The Police Along”**



First Lt. Steve Taylor, 25, of Hudson, N. H., provides cover for other 82nd Airborne Division soldiers from next to a bullet-riddled bus near the entrance to the joint security station. [Rick Loomis / LAT]

**He was supposed to have 111 staff officers, the general said. He had four. He couldn't keep the electricity on or the water flowing. His cadets had to bring mattresses and blankets from home. He was supposed to have 800 cadets. He had 524. He needed better weapons, more protective concrete barriers, more vehicles. Humvees would be nice, he said.**

March 17, 2007 By David Zucchino, L.A. Times Staff Writer [Excerpts]

JOINT SECURITY STATION SULAKH, IRAQ — The U.S. military command center inside this cramped Iraqi police station is off-limits to Iraqi police. A Humvee and two U.S. soldiers block access to the American side.

The barricaded police post in northwest Baghdad is called a joint security station, the latest U.S. effort at teaming American soldiers with Iraqi police to battle insurgents and militiamen. But at least for now, the station is literally split down the middle.

**“We don’t trust ‘em,” 1st Lt. Steve Taylor said of his Iraqi police counterparts. “There’s no way to know who’s good and who’s bad, so we have to assume they’re all bad, unfortunately.”**

**The station’s fortified rooftop flies an Iraqi flag, but no Iraqis are allowed there.**

It’s restricted to American soldiers, who maintain a 24-hour watch over the adjoining neighborhood.

**With one eye, they watch for insurgents and militiamen. With the other, they watch their supposed allies, the police.**

Since U.S. forces invaded Iraq four years ago, training and bolstering the Iraqi police and army have been central to the strategy for gradually withdrawing American units. But the U.S. military is only now fully embedding its forces with Iraqi police in local neighborhoods — and as the Sulakh station shows, the effort is daunting.

“I’ve lost a lot of men,” said Col. Ali Mohammed Rahim, the Sulakh station commander, who leads a mostly Shiite force. “Snipers, IEDs, kidnappings, murders — all because they are Iraqi police.

“We are all targets. I am very worried.”

On a wall outside Rahim’s office are color portraits of slain officers. “Martyrs,” said a colleague, gesturing toward the photos and shaking his head.

**Rahim said he worried about being killed on his 20-minute commute to work. He has moved his wife and family to live with relatives in an area where no one knows he works for the police.**

**At least 15 joint security stations have been set up since U.S. and Iraqi authorities launched a major security crackdown in Baghdad last month.**

A total of about 30 are to be established in coming weeks, said Army Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, the top U.S. military spokesman in Iraq.

Capt. Tim Marzano, who commands 66 U.S. soldiers at the station, said he was working to “develop a baseline trust” with Rahim and his officers, though Rahim complained that he had only 80 of the 200 officers he had been promised.

For U.S. soldiers, the station offers bare-bones living. On the FOBs, troops have bountiful hot food at the mess hall, satellite TV, Internet cafes, flush toilets and hot showers.

At Sulakh, they use plywood outhouses and eat packaged meals.

**Taylor said he expected insurgents to attack the station with car bombs or rocket-propelled grenades.**

**At least three joint security stations have been besieged, with U.S. forces and Iraqi police suffering casualties.**

The next day, soldiers from the station embarked on their first foot patrol with Iraqi police. Six police officers toting AK-47 automatic rifles took the lead, followed by 26 Americans in full combat gear.

They walked across cracked concrete and past trash piles, drawing stares and a few waves from residents in tea shops and doorways.

**After the police moved on, Mohammed approached an American reporter walking with the patrol and said in English: “Nobody will tell you anything with the police along. Nobody trusts them. They are thieves and killers.”**

Recruiting and training officers untainted by militia connections is crucial to building a competent and trustworthy force.

One afternoon, Lt. Col. Wilson Shoffner, who commands the paratroopers at the Sulakh station, visited a nearby Iraqi police academy.

There he listened to a litany of complaints from the new commander, Brig. Gen. Abdul Kareem Hisnamy.

**He was supposed to have 111 staff officers, the general said. He had four. He couldn’t keep the electricity on or the water flowing.**

**His cadets had to bring mattresses and blankets from home.**

**He was supposed to have 800 cadets. He had 524. He needed better weapons, more protective concrete barriers, more vehicles.**

**Humvees would be nice, he said.**

Nor did he have enough noncommissioned officers. “I don’t trust them anyway,” Hisnamy said. “They’re not smart.”

Shoffner asked how he ensured that militiamen weren’t infiltrating the academy. The general, a small, round man with a bushy black mustache, sighed.

“I’m constantly thinking about whether this guy or that guy is militia,” he said. “All my efforts go just for security.”

**The two men’s mutual mission seemed weighted down by endless obstacles.**

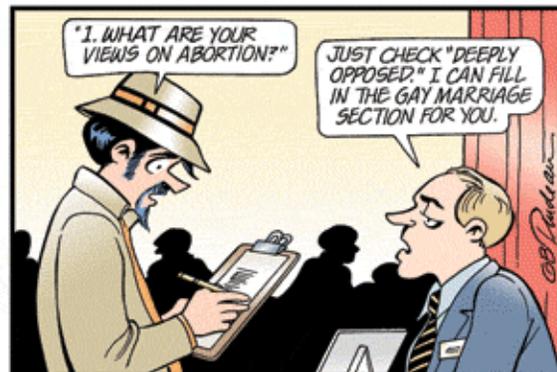
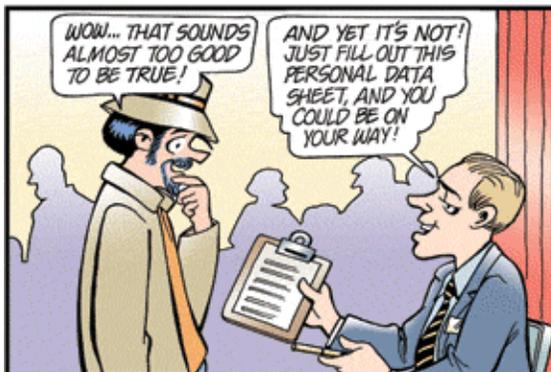
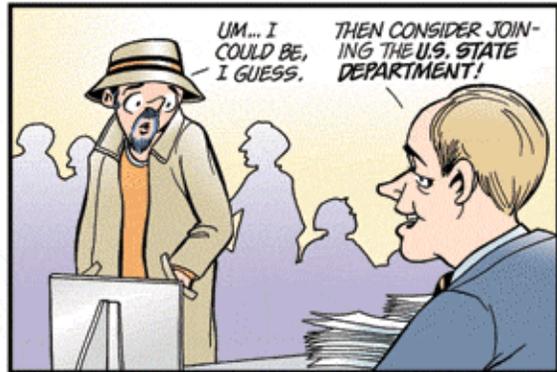
**“How do you say ‘problem’ in Arabic?” Shoffner asked his interpreter.**

**“Mushkilia.”**

**“We should probably learn that,” the colonel said.**

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# DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

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# Bush Creates Department Of Faulty Intelligence

March 16, 2007 The Borowitz Report

In response to what he called a "significant increase in the amount of misinformation about our enemies," President George W. Bush today announced that he was establishing a new Cabinet-level agency devoted solely to faulty intelligence.

By creating the Department of Faulty Intelligence, Mr. Bush said, "The United States will be able to respond swiftly and preemptively to false threats before they don't develop."

The President said that while the CIA and the NSA had both collected faulty intelligence in the past, "there is simply too much misinformation out there for those two agencies to handle."

Mr. Bush said that he hoped that the Department of Faulty Intelligence would not only increase the United States' capacity to collect false leads and red herrings, but that it would also help coordinate the sharing of useless information among the U.S.'s various spy agencies.

Mr. Bush used the announcement at the White House to introduce his nominee to head up the new department, James Frey, the author of "A Million Little Pieces."

Mr. Frey spoke mainly in general terms about the goals of the new agency, but indicated that it would focus on "the gathering threat" posed by Belgium's nuclear program.

In his brief remarks to the press, Mr. Frey said that he was uniquely qualified to head the Department of Faulty Intelligence because of his "deep roots" in the faulty intelligence community.

"I will be bringing over four decades of experience to this job," said Mr. Frey, 37.

Elsewhere, hours after Congress demanded an investigation into the firing of U.S. attorneys, President Bush said he would move the White House to Dubai.

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The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

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