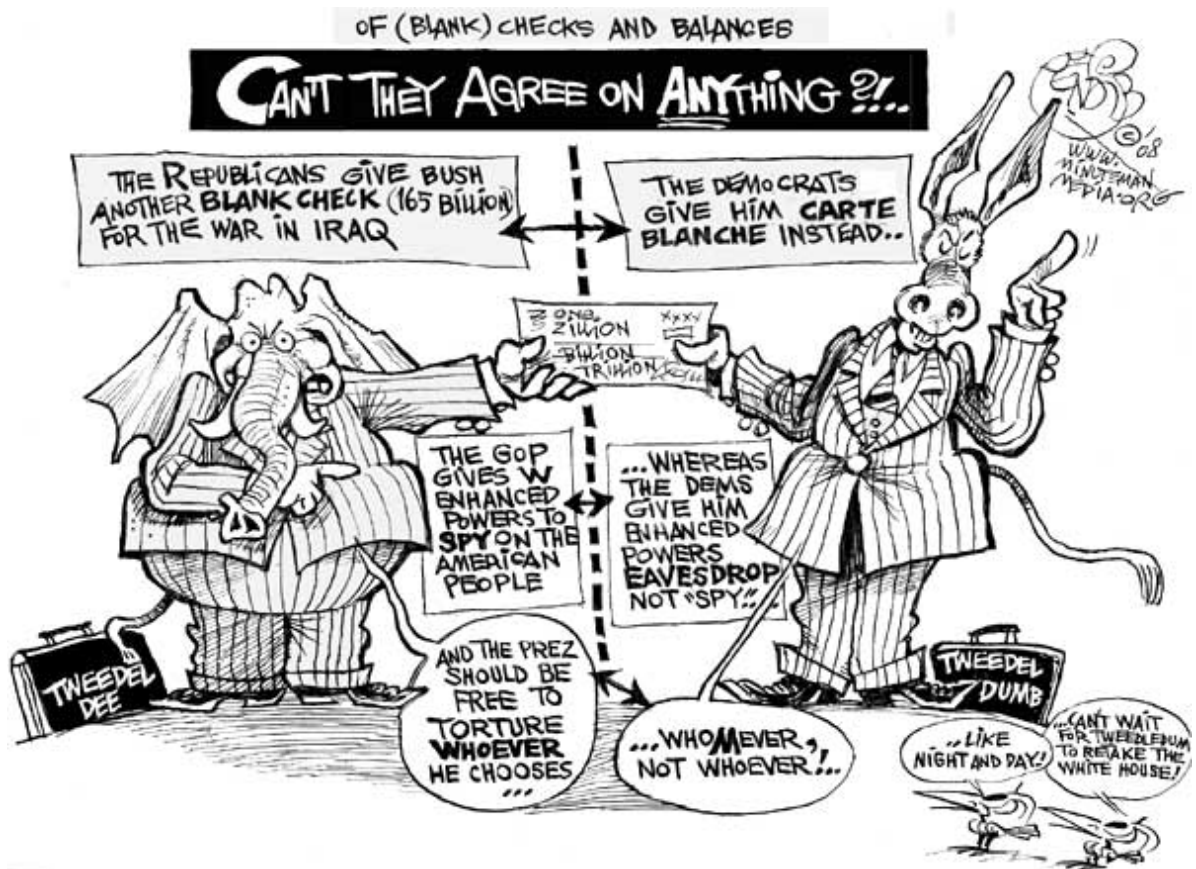


## GI SPECIAL 6G1:



# “I Am Writing To You From Baghdad”

“This War Is Bull\_\_it And We Are All Tired Of Dealing With It”

“I Am A Squad Leader Serving On My Third Tour And My Squad And I Are All Behind IVAW 100%”

# “Our Active Duty Members In Iraq Report That You Can Now See IVAW Graffiti Scrawled In Latrines On Bases There”



[Excerpts from Iraq Veterans Against The War mailed fund appeal, 10 June 2008]

\*\*\*\*\*

Iraq Veterans Against The War  
IVAW: PO Box 8296  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19101  
Tel: 215.241.7123  
Fax: 215.241.7177

Dear Friend,

Iraq Veterans Against the Wars work to end the Iraq occupation is building momentum, and we need your continued financial support.

When you receive your economic stimulus check from George W. Bush, please donate it to IVAW to help us fuel the growing GI resistance movement that will end this war.

## **More Members = More Resistance**

Since our powerful Winter Soldier hearings in March, IVAW has experienced an explosion in membership.

**Increasingly, these new members are active duty troops, overburdened by multiple tours, betrayed by their government, and ready to take action.**

Many of these troops watched Winter Soldier live via our worldwide satellite broadcast.

Here's what one soldier emailed us during that amazing weekend:

**“I am writing to you from Baghdad. My name is SSgt \_\_\_\_ and I’m in the 10 mountain division and I am a [XXXXX] Native.**

**“I heard about what IVAW has been participating in this weekend (Winter Soldier) and I must say I am very happy to hear this.**

**“I am a squad leader serving on my third tour and my squad and I are all behind IVAW 100%.**

**“This war is bulls\_\_t and we are all tired of dealing with it.**

**“I’m not sure what we can do from here, but we want to help in any way we can.**

**Sincerely,  
SSgt \_\_\_\_\_**

\*\*\*\*\*

We know that for a growing number of service members questioning Iraq war policy, IVAW is known, respected, and provides a spiritual comfort reminding them that they are not alone.

**Our active duty members in Iraq report that you can now see IVAW graffiti scrawled in latrines on bases there.**

We can barely keep up with the demands that this new and energized membership brings, but we are excited about the opportunities these members create to increase our power to end the occupation.

That is why I am asking for your help today.

This summer, over the course of 10 weeks, IVAW will take Winter Soldier on the road.

**We will tour the country visiting 10 major military bases and their surrounding communities to share our eye-witness accounts of war, collect additional Winter Soldier testimony, and show active duty troops that they have a right to speak out.**

**We expect to double the number of IVAW active duty chapters on military bases by summer’s end.**

**This will take a lot of resources, and your donation will make a huge difference.**

It is also a time for Iraq Veterans Against the War to reflect on how far we’ve come as a movement.

We have grown from just eight members to over 1,200 strong, and from a staff of one to ten.

We have 45 active chapters, including four on military bases.

We have developed strong young leaders across the country, and in February, hired our first two full-time organizers. We will hire three more organizers by the end of the year.

While we are proud of our achievements, we will not rest until all of our brothers and sisters are home and cared for, and the Iraqi people receive due reparations.

Because two-thirds of our funding comes from individuals, we depend on you to make our work possible. What better way to stimulate the economy than donating to spread GI resistance across the military, so that we can finally end the billions in wasted resources on the occupation in Iraq?

**And who better to end the occupation than fed-up GI's focused and organized by IVAW?**

You are our partner in this effort, so please give today.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Dougherty  
Executive Director

**P.S. We are counting on you to help us during this important summer.**

**Please make a contribution now.**

**To contribute to Iraq Veterans Against The War:**  
<http://ivaw.org/support>

**MORE:**

## **What Time Of Day It Is**

**Comment: T**

**The article below describes a political formation that few of us would agree with.**

**The point is that it illustrates the ferment bubbling up within the ranks of the armed forces, where all kinds of dissatisfaction with the U.S. political structure is beginning to show itself, moving serious numbers of people to break with the failed traditional political parties.**

**It has been noted by political commentators since Marx that when an decrepit, predatory, dying class can no longer rule society with any degree of success, lurching towards chaos and common ruin, and as people below begin to go into motion against it, the new movements initially adopt traditional symbols and banners from days of past glory, displaying a confused, incoherent mixture of progressive and reactionary politics.**

In writing of John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, William Lloyd Garrison wrote: "In firing his gun, John Brown has merely told what time of day it is. It is high noon."

The report below tells us what time of day it is, and we had best not be late in our work. Others are already in the field, offering dead ends, rather than ways forward.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Modern Whig Party Has Appeal To Some Troops

By William H. McMichael, Army Times, June 30, 2008 [Excerpts]

A political platform of strong national defense and "bold social progression" is not a combination that commonly comes to mind when U.S. troops' private views are considered.

**But the Modern Whig Party, which claims that "about a third" of its 3,000 members are active or reserve service members, says it takes a consciously middle-of-the-road and independent stance.**

"It's starting to catch on," said national chairman Mike Lebowitz, a Washington, D.C., attorney who is also a captain and judge advocate in the Army National Guard. "Our members, particularly in the military, they run the spectrum."

Lebowitz admits that the Modern Whig Party, initially launched as a veterans' group, is not the snappiest modern-day moniker.

It was chosen, he said, for its historical connection. The party was first formed in 17th-century England. The U.S. Whigs, Abraham Lincoln's original party, were active from 1833-1856 and supported a strong Congress, protectionism and education.

**The Modern Whig platform calls for giving federal funding in lump sums to each state, based on population; withdrawing from all of Iraq save for Kurdistan, which the U.S. could use as a counterterrorism platform; eliminating dependence on foreign oil; and offering illegal immigrants citizenship in return for military service, with deportation the only alternative.**

The group, whose Web site is at <http://www.modernwhig.org>, is small not only in number. It has no candidates running for office and is registered as a political party only in Florida. It's more of an organization than a party.

But "nothing ever came out of doing nothing," Lebowitz said. "We want to add our voices to the process ... to make a mainstream, credible, independent-minded organization that can be involved in advocacy — particularly with veterans issues."

**That appeals to people like Army Spc. Joel Dolphin — one of 200 party members who are deployed, according to Lebowitz.**

“The Modern Whig Party appeals to me because they cherry-pick between the issues of the GOP and the Democratic parties,” Dolphin wrote in an e-mail from Bagram, Afghanistan. “The party has developed plausible solutions for many problems facing our nation and they are very realistic and impressive.”

Lebowitz, who says he served in Iraq in 2005-06 with the 101st Airborne Division, is not on active duty. He said he’s careful to avoid running afoul of a recently reissued Pentagon directive that spells out how active-duty troops can and cannot be politically active.

“We’re taking great pains to protect our members,” he said. “I’m speaking as a citizen, not in my capacity as a military officer.”

“That’s a gray area of military regulations,” Lebowitz said. “But we’re certainly not trying to exploit anything. ... We’re going to protect our members. We want them to express themselves.”

**MORE:**

## **“Congress Has Given The President Everything He’s Asked For On The War” DemoRats Vote For More Dead U.S. Troops And Iraqis;**

June 27 Nicholas Johnston and Catherine Dodge, (Bloomberg) & By Paul Kane, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

Senate approval of \$162 billion in war funding last night lets President George W. Bush keep his Iraq policy intact through the last days of his administration ...

**Democrats inflated the war funds to about \$162 billion. The additional money will keep military operations going well into 2009.**

“Congress has given the president everything he’s asked for” on the war, said Mackenzie Eaglen, a senior policy analyst for national security at the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

The last piece of war funding legislation, passed by the House last week, was approved 92-6 in the Senate and sent to the president, bringing to a close the battle between this administration and the Democratic majority in Congress over the war.

**MORE:**

GI SPECIAL 5118 [9.18.07]

# Democrats Have Enough Votes To End The War Now [If They Choose To Do So]

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

Sep 13, 2007 FAIR [Excerpts]

Following a pattern set when Congress passed supplemental funding for the Iraq War last May (FAIR Media Advisory, 6/1/07), major media outlets continued to "explain" the politics of the war in incomplete and misleading ways.

The point made by these media outlets again and again is that the Democrats have little power to affect policy in Iraq because it would be difficult to pass legislation over a potential Republican filibuster, and even harder to pass a bill over a presidential veto.

This sentiment is also voiced by many Democratic politicians, many of whom consider themselves opponents of the war.

But passing a filibuster- or veto-proof bill is not their only option.

As the Washington Post's Shailagh Murray and Dan Balz (9/10/07) put it: "Because of a Senate rule requiring 60 votes to shut off debate and 67 votes to overturn a veto, (Senate Majority Leader Harry) Reid faced an almost impossible challenge. Even if all his troops stood together, he started with just 49 votes."

Newsweek's Howard Fineman declared that the Democrats' powerlessness was built into the constitutional system on NBC's Chris Matthews Show (9/2/07):

"Politically, what the president has been trying to do is to keep discipline among the Republicans because as long as he can keep most of the Republicans in the Senate, in the House with him, there's no way to overturn the policy because of the way the Constitution reads.... I hate to keep coming back to the Constitution. Sixty votes to stop a filibuster, 67 to overturn a presidential veto in the Senate."

**This sort of analysis was used to explain the Democrats' need to compromise with Republicans, watering down a firm withdrawal date in the hopes of winning bipartisan support.**

This approach was endorsed in an Associated Press report (9/11/07) by Matthew Lee:

"If Republican support for the war holds, as it might for now, Democrats would have to soften their approach if they want to pass an anti-war proposal. But they remain under substantial pressure by voters and politically influential anti-war groups to settle for

nothing less than ordering troop withdrawals or cutting off money for the war--legislation that has little chances of passing."

**The problem with all these accounts is that Congress does not have to pass legislation to bring an end to the war in Iraq--it simply has to block passage of any bill that would continue to fund the war.**

**This requires not 67 or 60 Senate votes, or even 51, but just 41--the number of senators needed to maintain a filibuster and prevent a bill from coming up for a vote.**

**In other words, the Democrats have more than enough votes to end the Iraq War--if they choose to do so.**

**The Democratic leadership may believe--rightly or wrongly--that such a strategy would entail unacceptable political costs. But that's very different from being unable to affect policy.**

**To insist, as many media outlets have, that the Constitution makes it impossible for Congress to stop the war obscures the actual choices facing the nation--by confusing "can't" with "won't."**

## **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. Phone: 917.677.8057**

## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

**“I Feel Sorry For Every Mother, Wife,  
Child, Who’s Lost Someone In This  
Stinking War”  
Coal Township Man’s Son Killed In Iraq**



Army Pfc. James Yohn

June 26, 2008 By Rob Scott, The Daily Item

COAL TOWNSHIP — Robert Fisher's mind was wandering Thursday night, two days after his son, Army Pfc. James Yohn, was killed in Iraq.

"This makes you think," Mr. Fisher said, as he sat on his living room couch, sipping an iced tea and smoking a cigarette.

He wondered aloud about the state of the country, of the world, about how human lives these days seem to be worth less than dollars and cents.

But mostly, he thought about his 25-year-old son, who was killed by a roadside bomb in Mosul Tuesday.

"Jimmy was one that always pitched in. Always had a smile on his face," Mr. Fisher said. "He loved life."

Yohn was a volunteer firefighter with the Highspire Fire Company in Dauphin County. His wife, Amber, is about to give birth to the couple's first son — James Yohn Jr. — in a few weeks, Mr. Fisher said.

Yohn was supposed to return home to Highspire in February, his father said.

"He's not coming home now," Fisher said.

Mr. Fisher and his wife, Julia Ann, reminisced about Yohn. He was a great cook, they said, and an even better eater. He loved to fish and hunt. Mrs. Fisher recalled, with a smile, the time she pulled his baggy pants down at a family gathering just to embarrass him.

"Jimmy was from the 'hood," his father said. "He wore the turkey pants hanging down."

For a while, when he was younger, "Jimmy had a rough life," Mr. Fisher said. "He straightened his life out through the military."

Yohn enlisted in the Army out of a sense of civic responsibility, but also out of a deep, abiding faith in God, Mr. Fisher said. "He believed in a good and loving God, and I'm sure he's OK. We're still here to deal with it. He died doing what he loved."

The Fishers aren't angry though. Thursday night they seemed, if anything, just tired and sad.

"I feel sorry for every mother, wife, child, who's lost someone in this stinking war," said Mrs. Fisher, who worries about her eldest son, Tracy, suffering the same fate if he returns to Iraq.

"I do try to block it out," she said. "I still think about it every day, because I know (he) is going to go back."

Mr. Fisher said he has bad dreams too. But one thought comforts him.

"It's strange," he said. "I think of Jim. I can see him in my mind's eye, and I feel this peace, and I know he's OK."

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## **REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW**



Mar 24 2008: US soldiers patrol in Diyala Province, northeast of Baghdad. (AFP/David Furst)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

## 2 More New York National Guard Soldiers Killed In Afghanistan



Sgt. First Class Joseph A. McKay, 51, of Cambria Heights, N.Y., and Spc. Mark C. Palmateer, 38

June 29, 2008 NBC

**NEW YORK -- Two New York Army National Guard Soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced Sunday, marking the fifth death in that unit in a week.**

Sgt. First Class Joseph A. McKay, 51, of Cambria Heights, N.Y., and Spc. Mark C. Palmateer, 38, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., were killed shortly after 1 p.m. Afghan time, authorities said

Their humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device, small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades while operating near Forward Operating Base Shank in Logar Province in eastern Afghanistan, officials said.

Both men were members of B Troop 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry (Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition), which is based in Jamestown, N.Y. Their unit was assigned to Afghan Regional Security Integration Command-East, (ARSIC-EAST), which is responsible for training the Afghan National Army in eastern Afghanistan.

A third soldier, Michigan Army National Guard Sgt. First Class Matthew Hilton, 37, of Livonia, Minn., was also killed in the attack.

Sgt. First Class McKay is survived by a wife and son who live in Cambria Heights, an adult son who lives in Brooklyn and an adult daughter who lives in Hope Mills, N.C. He was born on July 4, 1956.

He served in Iraq in 2004 and 2005 with the 1st Battalion 258th Field Artillery of the New York Army National Guard.

Sgt. First Class McKay joined the Army National Guard in August of 1977 and was promoted to Sgt. 1st Class in May of 2005. Prior to being assigned to B Troop 101st Cavalry, he was a member of G Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion, based in Jamaica, N.Y.

His awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Action Badge awarded posthumously; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the New York State Aid to Civil Authorities and the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal, awarded for service in New York City following the 9/11 attacks.

Spc. Palmateer is survived by a daughter who lives in North Creek, N.Y., and his father, who resides in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. He was born on October 21, 1969.

Spc. Palmateer joined the New York Army National Guard in August 2003. He was previously assigned to Company C 1-69th Infantry before joining B Troop 2nd Squadron 101st Cavalry.

His awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Action Badge awarded posthumously; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the New York State Aid to Civil Authorities.

He has been posthumously promoted to Sergeant.

More than 6,500 members of the New York Army National Guard have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since September 11, 2001.

**Twenty-six members of the New York Army National Guard have been killed in action since then, 23 in Iraq and three in Afghanistan.**

Currently 1,700 members of the New York Army National Guard are serving in Afghanistan and about 150 are serving in Iraq. Another 300 soldiers will deploy to Iraq later this year.

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

6.30 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

An American special forces soldier was fatally wounded by a bomb during a patrol on June 27, the Department of Defense said. The coalition said the incident occurred in Ghorak, a district of the southern province of Kandahar.

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# Soldier From The Royal Regiment Of Scotland Killed In Lashkar Gar

29 Jun 08 Ministry of Defence

It is with great sadness that the Ministry of Defence must confirm that a British soldier from B Company 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland died while on operations in Afghanistan yesterday, Saturday 28 June 2008.

At 1100 hrs local time the soldier was part of a vehicle checkpoint patrol operating in the Lashkar Gar area when they received a report of a Rocket Propelled Grenade attack on a civilian aircraft at Bost airfield in Lashkar Gar.

When investigating this they dismounted their vehicles and that is when a legacy Anti-Personnel mine detonated, killing the soldier instantly.

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## Bomb Kills Navy Medic From Ariz. In Afghanistan



Hospitalman Dustin Burnett.

Jun. 24, 2008 by John Faherty, The Arizona Republic

Debbie Nuchols opened the door at 10:30 last Friday night and knew.

"Two guys in dress whites and a Navy chaplain," she said. "You know what they are there for. No doubt."

They were there to tell the Fort Mohave woman that her son, 19-year-old Dustin Burnett, was dead.

On Friday, June 20, Burnett, was a passenger in a vehicle in the Farah province of central-western Afghanistan when a roadside bomb exploded and killed him.

He graduated from Mohave High School in 2007, joined the Navy and went off to war in Afghanistan.

When young men and young women from this part of far-western Arizona join the military, people come together for a send-off rally at the American Legion Post in Bullhead City.

"It's a tradition here," said Jack Hakim, the mayor of Bullhead City. "I present our fighting men with a key to the city, and I tell them the city is with them all the way. Let's them know we will remember them."

Nuchols remembers her son's speech like it was yesterday. "He said he wanted to fight for our freedoms. But more than that, he wanted to give the people over there the same freedoms he had."

Nuchols was so proud of her son after the send-off rally that she told anybody who would listen that her son "could grow up and be president someday."

The send-off rally was March 23.

He was sent to Afghanistan on April 1.

Burnett was in the landlocked country because he was a hospitalman attached to a Marine division. A hospitalman is a medic.

"Everybody over there called him Doc," Nuchols said. "He loved the idea that he would be taking care of people."

Burnett played football for the Fort Mohave Thunderbirds for four years.

His cousin remembers him as a happy and energetic young man.

"He was always smiling," said Rachel Nuchols. "I can't really picture him any way except full of life."

Rachel said her cousin wanted to go to college when he got home from the Navy.

He leaves behind his mother and stepfather. And a little brother, 13-year-old Devin.

In the past school year, Devin was given an assignment to write about his hero. He wrote about his older brother.

The flags in Bullhead City are flying at half-staff today.

**Burnett's death marks the 121st member of the military with Arizona ties to die in Afghanistan or Iraq.**

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# **Cowards In Command Deny Access To Ceremonies Honoring War Dead:**

**“The Pentagon Tends To Prefer  
Upbeat And Noncontroversial  
Images”**

**“Public Affairs Officers Regularly  
Encourage Journalists To Cover  
Battlefield Promotion And Reenlistment  
Ceremonies, And The Handing Out Of  
Soccer Balls To Afghan Or Iraqi  
Children”**



A C-17 Airforce Transport plane arrives in Kandahar, Afghanistan to receive the bodies of five U.S. service members killed. Though more than 1,000 US and coalition forces were on hand to participate in the "ramp ceremony," an Los Angeles Times reporter and photographer were asked to leave the area by a military public affairs officer. A Pentagon policy banning coverage of this particular event was cited as the reason. [Photo: Rick Loomis / Los Angeles Times]

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June 23, 2008 By David Zucchino and Rick Loomis, Los Angeles Times Staff Writers  
[Excerpts]

FORWARD OPERATING BASE BASTION, AFGHANISTAN -- The word went out across the flight line: "Ramp ceremony!"

Two "angels," the remains of a U.S. Marine and his Afghan interpreter, were about to be loaded onto a cargo plane Friday night. Four dozen soldiers and Marines quickly lined the runway to pay a final, poignant tribute to the dead.

Ramp ceremonies have been painfully common in Afghanistan this spring. Roadside bombs are killing U.S. and coalition service members at a high rate, leading to many solemn plane-side tributes.

The events are reverential, dignified and almost majestic in their stark simplicity. But the Pentagon refuses to allow the news media to cover or photograph them, thus denying the American public a look at an enduring military ritual.

A Department of Defense regulation, "Release of Photos and Information Pertaining to War," cites privacy of the dead and their families.

**Invoking those regulations, military public affairs officers told two Times journalists to leave a ramp ceremony in Kandahar on Saturday night. Yet the night before, the same reporters were invited by Marines to join service members lined up to salute the dead at the Bastion base.**

The Pentagon policy is part of what critics allege is an effort to censor the most searing images of war, sanitizing the suffering and death after nearly seven years of a grinding insurgency in Afghanistan. **[Gee, do you think?]**

**The Pentagon tends to prefer upbeat and noncontroversial images. Public affairs officers regularly encourage journalists to cover battlefield promotion and reenlistment ceremonies, and the handing out of soccer balls to Afghan or Iraqi children.**

The Pentagon ban on is haphazardly enforced and poorly understood, even by many public affairs officers.

On Saturday, one such officer escorted Times journalists to cover and photograph the ramp ceremony in Kandahar for five U.S. service members. On the way, she announced that no photographs could be taken of the flag-draped coffins.

Then, after conferring with another public affairs officer who had just read the regulations, she said no journalists would be allowed at all.

The reporters watched the ceremony from behind a fence.

Later, the officer apologized and said the journalists should have been allowed to attend the ceremony, *as long as they agreed to not write about it or take photographs.*

\*\*\*\*\*

At the base fire station at the edge of the flight line, Fire Chief Bill MacDonald did not attend.

He and his firefighters used to faithfully show up for every ramp ceremony, he said, but no more.

There have been 80 such ceremonies since July, the chief said.

He meant no disrespect to the dead of any nation, he said, but watching all those caskets was taking a psychological toll on him and his men.

"It just got to the point we couldn't go out there anymore," he said, watching the C-17 maneuver beneath a dull orange sun setting behind the murky silhouette of a distant mountain.

"It was just too much to take."

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## **Resistance Action: "150 Militants Launched Attacks In The Jawand District And Ambushed A Police Convoy"**

June 24, 2008 (CNN) & June 28, 2008 (AP) & 29 June 2008 By M Reza Sher Mohammadi and agencie, Quqnoos & 6.30 By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press Writer

**TALIBAN fighters have ambushed and killed nine border police, including their commander, a police chief said. The militants ambushed a police car on Saturday in the Khaja Namosi district of Faryab, the head of the northern police force, General Sediq Khan, said. A Taliban spokesman confirmed the ambush and the deaths.**

**In the western province of Farah, militants killed at least three policemen and wounded another five during clashes on Sunday, a police spokesman said. The fire-fight was triggered when 150 militants launched attacks in the Jawand district and ambushed a police convoy in the area, the deputy governor of Farah said.**

**Muhammad Yonis Rasoli said four police were killed in the attacks and that the district's governor was also injured.**

Also on Sunday, a Taliban attack on a police checkpoint in the north-western province of Badghis left one policeman dead.

On Monday, militants attacked a border police post between Kandahar and Uruzgan provinces in the south, killing three police officers and wounding seven, according to Uruzgan's provincial police chief, Juma Khan Hemat. Police in Uruzgan were dispatched into the Shah Wali Kot district of Kandahar province, where police and militants battled for several hours, Hemat said.

In the Guzara district of Herat province in the west, gunmen on a motorbike fatally shot a police officer, police said.

The Afghan Ministry of Defense said it lost two soldiers to a roadside bomb in the Zurmat district of Paktia province on Monday. Three more soldiers were wounded.

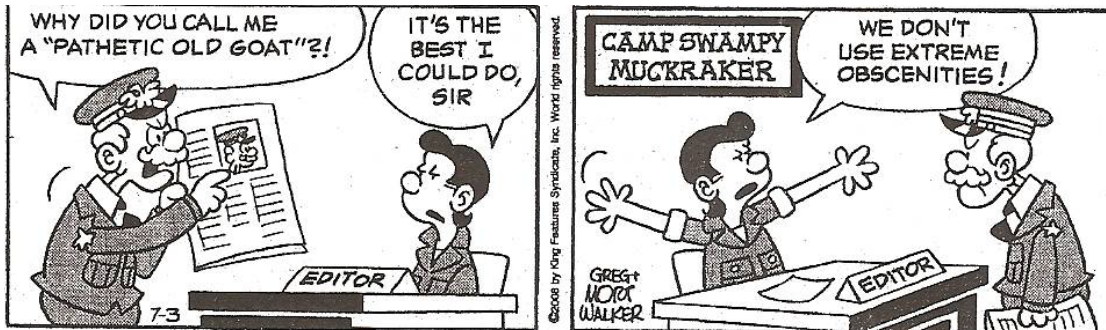
In Logar province, just south of the capital, officials said militants attacked the government office in the town of Azra on Monday morning, killing one civilian employee and wounding three police.

Police said a roadside bomb killed one officer and injured two on Saturday near the border town of Spin Boldak.

Guerrillas attacked a convoy of trucks and cars belonging to a construction company in the eastern province of Khost on Friday, killing five people and wounding two.

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## TROOP NEWS



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**Semper Foo:  
[No, This Is Not A Satire]  
[Or, It's Not Supposed To Be, Anyhow]**

From: Alberto Jaccoma [Military Project & Veterans For Peace]  
To: GI Special  
Sent: June 29, 2008  
Subject: KVN-newsletter

We've gone from Hollywood making training films for the Military to actually training the military?

One can only imagine the cast of characters they've assembled for the Iraqi population!

I will admit this was as far as I got into the newsletter....but I'm sure there's some more interesting stuff to entertain us during the wee hours.

[The paragraph below is "From The Battalion Commanding Officer" and is signed "LtCol G.R. Rollins, Commanding Officer."

[It is published in "Issue June 2008, 2/25 Family Link, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Marines"]  
[www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thmar/2dbn/Battalion%20Newsletters.htm]

Our next phase of training will take us to Camp Pendleton, CA for Strategic Operations. This training is enhanced by real life actors from the Screen Actor's Guild who play the role of the Iraqi population and we also take advantage of the Stu Segall movie studio's special effects to include pyrotechnics. You can actually check out this studio's web site for additional information. This evolution promises to be some of the most realistic training the Marines and Sailors have ever participated in.

#### **Troops Invited:**

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org): Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe. Phone: 917.677.8057**

## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **Resistance Action**

06.29.08 (AP) & (Reuters) & June 30 (Reuters) & July 1 AP & Reuters

Insurgents killed the head of Basra's intelligence department Saturday in a drive-by shooting in eastern Baghdad. Brig. Gen. Jabar Musaid, who played a leading role in the recent government crackdown against militias in Basra, was visiting relatives in a neighborhood controlled by militiamen loyal to nationalist Muqtada al-Sadr.

A car bomber killed seven policemen and wounded three in an attack on a patrol in northern Iraq's Salahuddin province on Sunday in an explosion in the town of Dhuluiya, 70 km (45 miles) north of Baghdad. Among the dead were a captain and a lieutenant, he said.

The Iraqi military says a bomber has wounded one person northeast of Baqouba in an attack on a local U.S.-funded group.

Insurgents killed an off-duty policeman on Saturday outside his house in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Five Iraqi appeals court judges escaped assassination attempts when bombs exploded outside their homes in eastern Baghdad, police and a judicial official said.

Insurgents killed two Iraqi soldiers when they attacked their checkpoint in a drive-by shooting in western Mosul, police said.

The body of an Iraqi soldier was found with gunshot in Mosul, police said.

Police in Iraq say at least one person has been killed in a truck bomb attack on the home of a U.S.-funded tribal leader known for opposing insurgents. The attack in al-Qaiyara, south of Mosul, left about 20 people injured, including the presumed target, Sheikh Abdul Razaq al-Waqaa. Several houses were destroyed in the powerful blast.

A roadside bomb killed one policeman in Mosul, police said.

A bomber killed two policemen, on Monday in the town of Mandili, 100 km (60 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said. Eight were wounded.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

**The Agreement "Would Effectively  
Put All Iraqis Under The Control Of  
The United States, With Perhaps Less**

# **Sovereignty Than Any Supposed Nation In The World”**

June 19, 2008 By NICK MOTTERN, UPI Outside View Commentator. Nick Mottern is the director of ConsumersforPeace.org

**"Americans remain optimistic that a last minute deal can be reached," reported The Wall Street Journal in its June 14-15, 2008 edition, describing an impasse over an extraordinary long-term "security" deal between the United States and Iraqi governments that would keep U.S. troops in Iraq for many, many years.**

**Gina Chon, reporting from Baghdad, was not referring to the American public.**

**She was referring only to a statement by the State Department's Iraq coordinator, David Satterfield, who, she said in breezy style, "is in town for the negotiations" on the deal, which is opposed by an increasing number of Iraqis because it would make Iraq a captive state of the United States.**

Oil was not mentioned in connection with Satterfield's negotiations.

Nor was oil mentioned in the negotiation reports in The New York Times or Financial Times.

**In fact, it has been the practice of the major media to avoid mentioning oil in connection with military activity in Iraq; something also common in the Congress, all following the lead of the Bush administration.**

But it is no coincidence that news of negotiations over the "security" agreement comes with news on June 19 that the occupied Iraqi government is getting ready to sign contracts with ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, Chevron and Total to assist in developing Iraq's vast oil fields, holding the world's third-largest reserves.

Although the contracts are simply for services, not long-term production agreements, the contracts give the major oil companies a foot in the door.

That they are no-bid contracts given to these Western firms over Russian, Chinese and Indian competitors is exceptional and clearly a matter of an occupied government responding to pressure from the occupier.

What the Bush administration and the major oil companies are striving for is a "security" agreement that will be locked into place before the November election, enabling U.S. troops to protect U.S. oil interests in Iraq and to control the Iraqi government for years to come.

**The U.S. military-Iraqi oil connection was made surprisingly clear in March 2008 when Gen. David Petraeus, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, said at a news conference in Iraq, as reported by United Press International, that he had made calls to major "energy" companies, urging them to invest in Iraq.**

Since it has been obvious the "majors" want back into Iraq, and have been pushing for an Iraq oil law that would result in huge profits for them, his calls could only have been to assure the oil officials their investments will be safe.

The United States is, according to a report by Patrick Cockburn in the newsletter Counterpunch, pushing the Iraqi government to allow the U.S. military total freedom in Iraq to do virtually anything it wants, supposedly to fight terrorists. The real day-to-day reality is that the agreement would provide a "legal" basis for allowing the U.S. military to do whatever it takes to protect the investments of major oil companies in Iraq after the U.N. mandate covering the occupation expires at the end of the year.

The United States will be protecting the oil operations not from invaders of Iraq but from Iraqis who are opposed to the long-term oil deals now being pushed by the United States and resisted by many inside and outside the government.

Perhaps the most notable opponents of the long-term deals are members of the Iraqi oil workers union, who also oppose the occupation.

The terms of the proposed agreement have been kept secret by the Bush administration, even from the Congress. The Cockburn report says the terms, some acknowledged by Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, include:

- Permanent military bases in Iraq; 50 is reportedly the minimum number.
- Complete control of Iraqi air space below 29,000 feet.
- Complete freedom to conduct military operations as the United States sees fit.
- Immunity from prosecution for U.S. troops and U.S. mercenaries, also known as private contractors.
- Freedom to jail and interrogate Iraqis at will.

It is possible that provisions yet to be made public may also include commercial privileges, such as freedom for the United States from import and export duties, which would likely mean profit-making possibilities for big oil. This is suggested by a draft of the agreement, created by the United States as early as 2003, made available through the work of the National Security Archive and reported by The Public Record on June 14.

**The astounding military/detention provisions of the agreement would effectively put all Iraqis under the control of the United States, with perhaps less sovereignty than any supposed nation in the world.**

The possibility that the United States may back down from some of these terms does not change the fact that these extraordinary demands have been made at all.

The only reason anyone is even talking about them is the deadly force being thrown around in Iraq by the United States.

An example of why the Bush administration wants a blank check for the U.S. military in Iraq is the operation under way this week in and around the city of Amarah in southern Iraq, not far from the Halfaya super-giant oil field, which is estimated at 3.8 billion barrels.

This field likely holds the equivalent of about 25 percent of the total reserves under control of ExxonMobil worldwide.

The official reason for the offensive, according to the occupied government of Iraq, is to root out "outlaws" and "criminals," according to Reuters.

The area is reportedly under the control of Moqtada Sadr, a Shiite cleric opposed to the occupation.

If the offensive in Amarah, with a population of 250,000, goes like a similar attack in the oil center of Basra in March, following the Petraeus news conference, Iraqi troops will be supported by U.S. helicopter gunships that fire Hellfire missiles. This U.S. air weapon has been responsible for countless horrific civilian deaths as it often has been used in crowded urban neighborhoods.

There is no question that Americans are incensed about high gasoline prices. But it is doubtful that the vast majority of Americans want to be using gasoline in their cars that is being secured at gunpoint.

## **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/))**

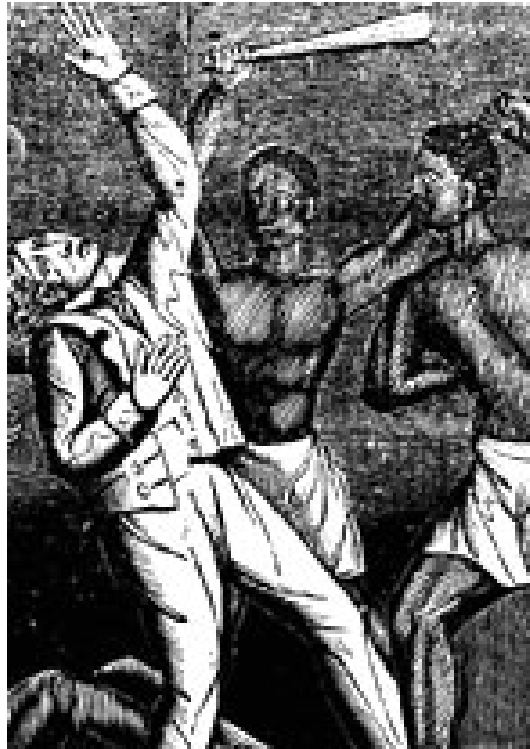
# **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! Mutiny On The Amistad:**

# July 2, 1839

## “53 Slaves Recently Abducted From Africa, Revolted”

Peace History June 26-July 2 By Carl Bunin [Excerpt] Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.

(July 2, 1839)



Amistad Mutiny: slave rebellion that took place on the slave ship Amistad near the coast of Cuba and had important political and legal repercussions in the American Abolitionist movement.

The mutineers were captured and tried in the United States, and a surprising victory for the country's antislavery forces resulted in 1841 when the U.S. Supreme Court freed the rebels. A committee formed to defend the slaves later developed into the American Missionary Association (incorporated 1846).

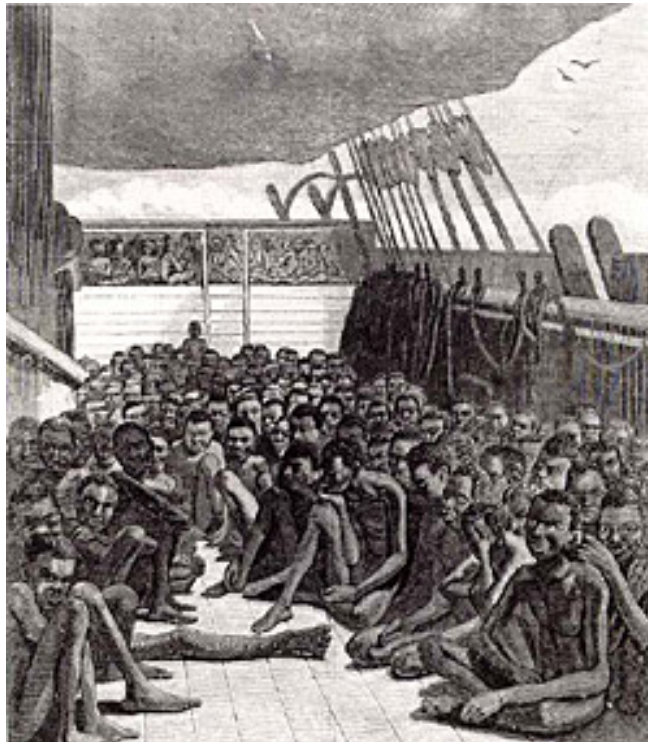
**On July 2, 1839, the Spanish schooner Amistad was sailing from Havana to Puerto Príncipe, Cuba, when the ship's unwilling passengers, 53 slaves recently abducted from Africa, revolted.**

**Led by Joseph Cinqué, they killed the captain and the cook but spared the life of a Spanish navigator, so that he could sail them home to Sierra Leone.**

The navigator managed instead to sail the Amistad generally northward. Two months later the U.S. Navy seized the ship off Long Island, N.Y., and towed it into New London, Conn. The mutineers were held in a jail in New Haven, Conn., a state in which slavery was legal.

The Spanish embassy's demand for the return of the Africans to Cuba led to an 1840 trial in a Hartford, Conn., federal court. New England Abolitionist Lewis Tappan stirred public sympathy for the African captives, while the U.S. government took the proslavery side. U.S.

President Martin Van Buren ordered a Navy ship sent to Connecticut to return the Africans to Cuba immediately after the trial. A candidate for reelection that year, he anticipated a ruling against the defendants and hoped to gain proslavery votes by removing the Africans before Abolitionists could appeal to a higher court.



Prosecutors argued that, as slaves, the mutineers were subject to the laws governing conduct between slaves and their masters. But trial testimony determined that while slavery was legal in Cuba, importation of slaves from Africa was not.

**Therefore, the judge ruled, rather than being merchandise, the Africans were victims of kidnapping and had the right to escape their captors in any way they could.**

When the U.S. government appealed the case before the U.S. Supreme Court the next year, congressman and former president John Quincy Adams argued eloquently for the Amistad rebels.

The Supreme Court upheld the lower court, and private and missionary society donations helped the 35 surviving Africans secure passage home. They arrived in Sierra Leone in January 1842, along with five missionaries and teachers who intended to found a Christian mission.

Spain continued to insist that the United States pay indemnification for the Cuban vessel. The U.S. Congress intermittently debated the Amistad case, without resolution, for more than two decades, until the American Civil War began in 1861.



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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# U.S. OCCUPATION RECRUITING DRIVE IN HIGH GEAR; RECRUITING FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE THAT IS



Women and children are held at gunpoint as soldiers from the U.S. soldiers raid inside their house during a home invasion in a neighbourhood of Mosul June 26, 2008.  
REUTERS/Eduardo Munoz

**[Fair is fair. Let's bring 150,000 Iraqi troops over here to the USA. They can 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!**

**Collaborator Prime Minister Trashed:**

# **“His ‘Allies’ Have Committed An Act That Shames Him In Front Of His People, His Home Town And His Tribe In Every Way An Iraqi Man May Be Shamed”**

June 29, 2008 By Sahar IIS, Inside Iraq, [washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/](http://washingtonbureau.typepad.com/iraq/)

Karbala, a city held sacred by millions of Iraqis, a city certified able to keep its own security by the powers that be – the Americans - wakes up to a very strange story.

Strange even to the Iraqi authorities, even to the Iraqi government..

What can be the secret behind that blatant violation of Iraqi sovereignty as what happened Friday at dawn in one of the towns of Karbala province, in fact the home town of PM al-Maliki?

American troops descended, without the knowledge of the government, without prior consent, without even giving notice for the sake of propriety; they descended and targeted ...who??

Not even that has been clarified.

We don't know who; we don't know why. No, not even how or when until after the fact.

And yet American diplomats and politicians keep telling us and the American people that Iraq is free! Iraq is a sovereign state! And that if the Iraqi government were to request the departure of the foreign forces tomorrow – they would pick up and leave.

**I really feel sorry for the PM; because he probably knows that his government may not survive if American support were withdrawn, and at the same time his "allies" have committed an act that shames him in front of his people, his home town and his tribe in every way an Iraqi man may be shamed – for it was he who said that "we" were masters in our country and the deciders of our fate!**

I wonder what the US Military Command really thinks of that???

Do they laugh behind his back?

<p><b>IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE END THE OCCUPATION</b></p>
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**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

**JUDGE SCALIA'S CONSTITUTION COMICS**

HI, KIDS! IN TODAY'S EPISODE, THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION CONSIDERS HABEAS CORPUS!

CONSTITUTION COMICS

1787 ...AND SO, WE SHALL ESTABLISH AN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT BUILT UPON THE HIGHEST IDEALS OF DEMOCRACY!

YES, WITH JUDICIAL RESTRAINTS ON EXECUTIVE POWER, SUCH AS HABEAS CORPUS, THE RIGHT OF THE INCARCERATED TO REQUEST A HEARING!

BUT, GOOD SIR! WHAT IF WE COULD IMAGINE A DANGER THAT COULD POSSIBLY STEM FROM SUCH A REQUEST?

THEN FORGET IT! OBVIOUSLY, IF THERE'S SOME CHANCE OF DANGER, ALL THESE FOOFY RIGHTS ARE OUT THE WINDOW!

I MUST DISAGREE! DID WE NOT JUST FACE EVERY DANGER POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ADVANCE THESE PRINCIPLES, WHEN WE FOUGHT AGAINST THE BRITISH?

SHRIEK! INTERROGATE THIS MAN! AND TORTURE HIM! AND SPY ON EVERYONE!

SEE, KIDS, OUR BRAVE FOREFATHERS FOUNDED THIS COUNTRY ON LOFTY IDEALS...

... BUT KNEW THEY SHOULD NEVER BE APPLIED DURING TIMES WHEN WAR, CRIME AND EVIL EXIST ON THE PLANET.

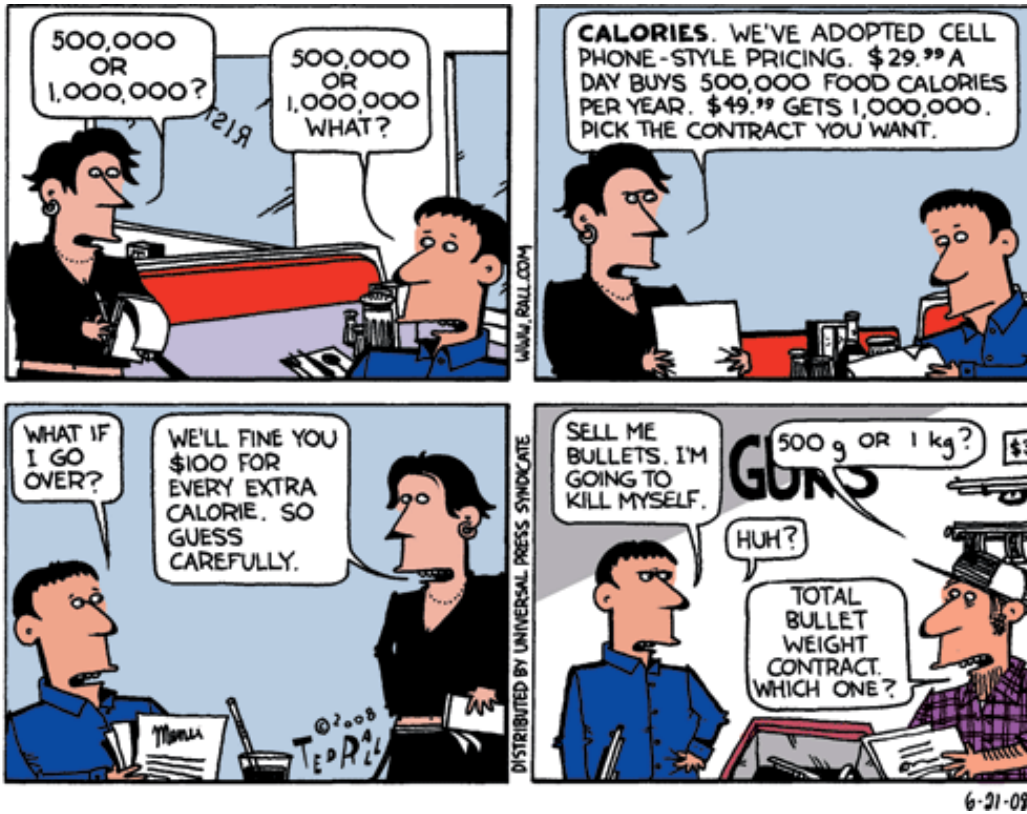
CONSTITUTION COMICS

**NEXT:**  
IN THIS TIME OF WAR, SHOULD FIVE LOONY-LIBERAL JUDGES RETAIN THEIR "RIGHT" TO OUT-VOTE JUDGE SCALIA?

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[Thanks to Phil G]

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