

GI Special: [thomasfbarton@earthlink.net](mailto:thomasfbarton@earthlink.net)

9.29.04

Print it out (color best). Pass it on.

## GI SPECIAL 2#B76

**Liberate OUR Troops!**

Vietnam Veterans Against the War, RNC Miami 1972

**WAR**  
is not healthy



Iraq Veterans Against the War, RNC NYC 2004



for  
**SOLDIERS**  
and other living things...



# TRUTH

To GI Special

9.27.04

From: Soldier, U.S. Army, Iraq

There are not a lot of soldiers here that honestly hate the Iraqis, even after being in combat with them.

It's pretty clear amongst everyone that if the tables were turned, they would be doing the same thing. It seems to me that the only morons that believe in OIF2 are the goddamned officers. Sick world we live in.

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**IRAQ WAR REPORTS:**

## Ballad Sgt. Killed By Sniper

September 28, 2004 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 965-04

**Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Joselito O. Villanueva, 36, of Los Angeles, Calif., died Sept. 27 in Balad, Iraq, when he was at an observation post and was shot by a sniper.** Villanueva was assigned to the 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

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**STUCK IN A SMALL CORNER OF HELL.  
BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW**



U.S. Marines from the 1st Expeditionary Unit along the Iraqi-Syrian border September 25, 2004. (Aladin Abdel Naby/Reuters)

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## Humvee Hit At Miqdadiya

9/27.04 Aljazeera

**In northeast Baghdad, a US military Hummer vehicle was damaged on Monday** when an explosive device targeting a US patrol detonated at the entrance of Miqdadiya city, Aljazeera has learned.

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## British Convoy Hit In Basra; Two Soldiers Killed

September 28, 2004 BASRA, Iraq (Reuters)

Insurgents in Iraq ambushed a British military convoy in the southern city of Basra on Tuesday, killing two soldiers, a spokesman for the British army in Iraq said.

**The first vehicle in a convoy of two armored Land Rovers was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, he said. As soldiers from the second vehicle were trying to rescue those hit, they came under attack from small arms fire.**

The two soldiers in the first Land Rover later died in hospital, the army spokesman said.

## **BRING THEM HOME NOW, ALIVE**



British soldiers in Basra. (Atef Hassan/Reuters)

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# **US Night Terror Bombing Of Kut Kills 75, Wounds 148**

September 27, Press Trust of India, Kut, Iraq,

Heavy overnight US bombing of Kut killed 75 people and wounded nearly 150, one day after clashes between police and Shiite Muslim militiamen in the southern city, said Iraq's health ministry on Monday.

**Many of the dead and wounded were women and children, said Kut hospital director Khader Fadal Arar.**

"We have 75 killed and 148 wounded, according to what the hospitals in Kut have told us," said spokeswoman May Abdul Karim.

Police Colonel Salam Fakhri said the bombing started at 1.00 am and lasted until 3:00 am.

"The bombing was concentrated in the al-Sharkia district as the US military felt there were a lot of Shiite militiamen in that area. It also has an office of Moqtada Sadr," he said.

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## TROOP NEWS

# IRR Troops No Show For War: Army Threatens Desertion Charges

By Tom Squitieri, USA TODAY

**WASHINGTON:** Fewer than two-thirds of the former soldiers being reactivated for duty in Iraq and elsewhere have reported on time, prompting the Army to threaten some with punishment for desertion.

The former soldiers, part of what is known as the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), are being recalled to fill shortages in skills needed for the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Of the 1,662 ready reservists ordered to report to Fort Jackson, S.C., by Sept. 22, only 1,038 had done so, the Army said Monday. About 500 of those who failed to report have requested exemptions on health or personal grounds.**

**"The numbers did not look good," said Lt. Col. Burton Masters, a spokesman for the Army's Human Resources Command. "We are tightening the system, reaching the people and bringing them in."**

**Masters said most of the requests for exemptions are likely to be denied: "To get an exemption, it has to be a very compelling case, such as a severe medical condition."**

The figures are the first on the IRR call-up.

**They reflect the challenges the Pentagon faces in trying to find enough troops for ongoing operations and show resistance among some servicemembers who returned to civilian life.**

The ready reserve is an infrequently used pool of former soldiers who can be called to duty in a national emergency or war. On June 29, the Army announced it would call 5,674 members of its IRR back to active duty this year and next.

**Several of those who received recall notices have already been declared AWOL (absent without official leave) and technically are considered deserters. "We are not in a rush to put someone in the AWOL category," Masters said. "We contact them and convince them it is in their best interests to show up. If you are a deserter, it can affect you the rest of your life."**

Fourteen people were listed as AWOL last week; six subsequently told the Army they would report. Punishment for being AWOL is up to the unit commander and can include prison time and dishonorable discharge, said Col. Joseph Curtin, an Army spokesman.

**Ready reservists are soldiers who were honorably discharged after finishing their active-duty tours, usually four to six years, but remain part of the IRR for the rest of their original eight-year commitment. The IRR call-up is the first major one in 13 years, since 20,277 troops were ordered back for the Persian Gulf War.**

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

**Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans' benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! ([www.ivaw.net](http://www.ivaw.net))**

## **CIA Kept Defective Military Gas Masks A Secret**

9.27.04 Army Times

The independent commission studying the government's response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks raised questions about how classified material has been handled.

**Among the "secrets" the CIA has been keeping under wraps: Chile's dictator Augusto Pinochet liked to drink pisco sours; some CIA employee with too much holiday spirit made up a classified report about a terrorist plot to kidnap Santa Claus; *and 40 percent of the U.S. military's gas masks would leak.***

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# Congress Asked To Probe Military Blackmail

September 28, 2004 AFP & By Jon Sarche, Associated Press

**WASHINGTON - A member of the US House of Representatives has demanded a full congressional investigation of allegations that the all-volunteer US Army was trying to coerce soldiers at the end of their contracts to re-enlist, threatening them with tours of duty in Iraq if they refused.**

The request follows reports in leading Colorado newspapers that Fort Carson-stationed veterans of the Iraq war nearing the end of their eight-year enlistments were being threatened with a second tour in Iraq if they reject overtures by Army recruiters.

**"They told us if we don't re-enlist, then we'd have to be reassigned,"** The Rocky Mountain News quoted one of the targeted soldiers, a member of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, as saying. **"And where we're most needed is in units that are going back to Iraq in the next couple of months."**

**Calling the reports "disturbing," Democratic Rep. Diana DeGette said US soldiers who had honorably fought in Iraq and were near the end of their service "should not be threatened with impressment."**

"They can't meet re-enlistment goals, so they're putting this hammer over their head, which is just wrong," DeGette said.

**What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org). Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.**

## Only 7 Months Home, 2000 Back To Bush's Slaughterhouse Again

9/28/2004 Newschannel5.com

**More than 2,000 Fort Campbell soldiers are preparing to head back to Iraq.**

The deployment involves transportation and medical units. **The soldiers were told the deployment will last one year.**

**Seven months ago most of the soldiers returned home after a year of service in Iraq.**

**“It’s a little too soon, but it’s my job,”** one soldier said while preparing a tanker truck for deployment.

In one of the units, the 541st Transportation Company, **90 percent of the soldier saw the enemy up close when they were in Iraq last time.**

**The transportation company has 60 tanker trucks that carry fuel.**

**“This is the lifeblood for the soldiers in Iraq,” Bean said while pointing to the tankers. “Without this fuel, of course, they couldn’t move and that’s what the 541st will be providing.”**

**With back-to-back deployments, the soldiers have spent more time with each other over the last two years than with their own families.**

The soldiers will deploy before the end of the year, officials said.

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## **N.C. Troops Say Anthrax Vaccine Unsafe**

09/26/2004 Elizabeth Leland , Charlotte Observer (North Carolina)

Two days after a military nurse injected Lavester Brown with the anthrax vaccine at Pope Air Force Base near Fayetteville, his heart failed.

Brown was 34, an avid athlete, career military. Doctors had warned him to avoid vaccinations, he said, because of a reaction to a malaria drug in the early '90s. But when Brown told superiors, he said, they warned he could be kicked out of the military if he didn't get vaccinated for anthrax.

Brown was afraid: of the vaccine, of losing his job. He had a wife and four young children to support.

"I kept telling them, 'I can't take the shot.' "

The vaccination is mandatory, part of the military's war on terrorism. Brown had been in the Air Force 14 years and was trained to follow orders. So when a commander, a major, a captain and a first sergeant all ordered him to be vaccinated, Brown, a technical sergeant, rolled up his sleeve and took the jab. He is now awaiting a heart transplant.

Thousands of soldiers have suffered unexplained illnesses after getting the anthrax vaccine, ranging from muscle aches to death. The federal Food and Drug Administration says the vaccine has no more side effects than other vaccines, but cases like Lavester Brown's raise troubling questions:

Is the vaccination safe?

Should the military require troops to take it?

The FDA and the Department of Defense and BioPort all say the vaccine is safe. A vocal group of current and former military personnel, doctors and members of Congress claims it is not. Three lawsuits challenging the vaccine are now in federal court.

Brown knew nothing of the controversy on Friday, Feb. 27, when he got the fourth in a series of six anthrax shots. He rarely got sick, not even a cold. He didn't drink. He didn't smoke. He stood 5 feet 11 1/2 inches and weighed 207 pounds, but so much was muscle, he looked lean.

The day after the fourth anthrax shot, Saturday morning, he played basketball at the gym as usual but quickly tired. He went to the emergency room that night, he said, and a military doctor diagnosed a gastrointestinal infection.

By Sunday, he felt as if his body was filling up with fluid. The muscles in his neck throbbed and bulged. He had trouble breathing. Back at the emergency room that night, he said, a doctor again diagnosed gastrointestinal infection.

Something else is happening, Brown remembers saying. I can't breathe.

He said his wife, Ebony, insisted on X-rays. "When they looked at the X-rays," Brown recalled, "the doctor got this look on his face. I knew something was terribly wrong."

Brown said his heart was so enlarged, it had almost stopped pumping. He now takes medication to keep it beating until a transplant becomes available. He has dropped to 151 pounds, and walking only a few feet exhausts him. Friday, he was medically retired from the Air Force.

Before he got sick, Brown sometimes worked two jobs to provide for Ebony and their four children, ages 5 to 12. Now Ebony works and the children help care for him, and that's been a tough transition.

"I wish we had done our homework before Lavester got in line (for the vaccine)," Ebony said. "We trusted the military."

In 1998, the Defense Department made vaccinations mandatory.

Studies have reached conflicting conclusions.

The Pentagon cites a 2002 report by the Institute of Medicine, a private, nonprofit scientific group, that said a better vaccine is needed, but that the current vaccine is "acceptably safe and effective."

Other studies link the anthrax vaccine to Gulf War illness, a medically unexplained fatigue suffered by veterans of the first Gulf War. One study found more adverse reactions to the anthrax vaccine than to other vaccines, and urged doctors to report all reactions so the scope of the problem could be determined.

Many cases, critics say, still go unreported.



### **Dead at 29**

Christine Nilson, who lives in Wilmington, hadn't heard about the controversy over the anthrax vaccine until after her husband, Erik, died. Now she's convinced it killed him.

Erik Nilson flew CH-46 helicopters for the Marine Corps and was vaccinated twice, before two separate six-month deployments to the Mediterranean.

Soon after he came home for the second time, in October 2001, Christine noticed the whites of his eyes had yellowed. Doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington discovered bile duct cancer, a slow-moving, usually fatal cancer that most often attacks people over 60.

Nilson was 29 and had a 2-year-old son, Luke.

He was, Christine said, "a man's man," who loved hunting, fishing and the Marines. He had had a rough childhood, she said, and often told her he wanted nothing more than to be a good father.

Six months after the cancer was discovered, Erik Nilson died.

Christine Nilson said no one from the military ever mentioned a possible connection with the anthrax vaccine. The national Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System has no record of Nilson's death.

But the more Christine Nilson read, the more she believed there was a connection. "There is," she said, "no other explanation for it."

Other service members have died of rapid-acting diseases after getting the vaccine, including Army cook Sandra Larson of Kansas. Four weeks after her sixth anthrax shot, she was diagnosed with aplastic anemia, a rare disorder resulting from failure of bone marrow to produce blood cells.

She died two months later. She was 32.

Critics say the government is stonewalling the way it did with the herbicide Agent Orange in the Vietnam War and with Gulf War illness.

"The first thing they do is fight, deny, obfuscate ...," said Steve Robinson, executive director of the National Gulf War Resource Center, an advocacy group for veterans. "Meanwhile people are getting sick."

About 10,000 Vietnam veterans receive disability benefits because of exposure to Agent Orange, and tens of thousands of others suffer illnesses. An estimated 100,000 Gulf War veterans suffer a range of symptoms, including memory and thinking problems, fatigue, joint pain, depression, anxiety, insomnia, headaches and rashes.

Robinson said he has spoken with hundreds of veterans who said they had adverse reactions to the anthrax vaccine, but they can't prove it and are not getting the medical help they need. They complain of chronic fatigue, bone and muscle pain, migraine

headaches, short-term memory loss and cognitive impairment. "While anthrax is a threat," Robinson said, "the American public, much less the military, should not be given an inferior vaccine."

Meryl Nass, an internist in Bar Harbor, Maine, who has testified before Congress about the vaccine, said she has treated dozens of soldiers and corresponded with thousands more.

"I've seen so many people with the exact same thing, the same story," she said. "They can't think straight. They have pain in different parts of their bodies ... and they're fatigued." Usually, she said, they have something else wrong, too: multiple sclerosis or lupus or a sleep disorder.

As a doctor, Nass said, the last few years have been an emotional roller coaster "watching 1 million be vaccinated when I knew at 100,000 what was happening."

In federal court, two lawsuits are pending against BioPort, a third against the Food and Drug Administration, the Defense Department and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The lawsuits challenge whether the vaccine is safe, effective, even necessary.

On Dec. 22, 2003, U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan in Washington, D.C., blocked the Pentagon from forcing soldiers to get vaccinated. He ruled that the FDA had never approved the vaccine for use against inhaled anthrax. The military, he said, could not make troops "serve as guinea pigs for experimental drugs."

Eight days later, the FDA approved the vaccine against inhaled anthrax.

Although Sullivan called the timing of the order "highly suspicious," he lifted his injunction.

The military once again ordered vaccination.

### **Refusal, court-martial**

As many as 500 active-duty personnel have been dismissed from the military for refusing vaccination, according to congressional testimony. At least 100 have been court-martialed. Tom Kaufmann, an airman first class at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, refused to be vaccinated in December 2002.

He had read about problems at the manufacturing plant, he said, as well as about illnesses among people who got the vaccine.

Kaufmann, now 22, was demoted, then discharged under "conditions other than honorable."

"My first sergeant repeatedly called me a coward, saying I was afraid of war, afraid of serving my country," Kaufmann recalled. "I told them that I wanted to deploy. I wasn't against the war."

He was, he said, only against the vaccine.

**Most Common Adverse Reactions**

erythema, headache, arthralgia, fatigue, fever, peripheral swelling, pruritus, nausea, injection site edema, pain/tenderness and dizziness.

**Less Frequent Adverse Reactions**

cellulitis, cysts, pemphigus vulgaris, endocarditis, sepsis, angioedema and other hypersensitivity reactions, asthma, aplastic anemia, neutropenia, idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura, lymphoma, leukemia, collagen vascular disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, multiple sclerosis, polyarteritis nodosa, inflammatory arthritis, transverse myelitis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, immune deficiency, seizure, mental status changes, psychiatric disorders, tremors, cerebrovascular accident (CVA), facial palsy, hearing and visual disorders, aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, myocarditis, cardiomyopathy, atrial fibrillation, syncope, glomerulonephritis, renal failure, spontaneous abortion and liver abscess. Infrequent reports were also received of multisystem disorders defined as chronic symptoms involving at least two of the following three categories: fatigue, mood-cognition, musculoskeletal system.

**SOURCE: FDA-approved package insert for anthrax vaccine**

## Officer Gets Three Years For Live Rounds Training Injury

9.27.04 Army Times

**A Russian military officer who used live rounds in a training exercise has been sentenced to three years in jail, according to Izvestia.**

The incident happened in March when the officer wanted to see how his guards would respond to an unexpected attack.

He began firing what he thought were blanks into the air. **The blanks turned out to be live rounds, but even after discovering this, he kept firing.**

**The officer did not directly aim his weapon at anyone, but a soldier was severely injured when one bullet fell from the sky and into his head, breaking his spine and ending up in his lung.**

The military unit to which the officer was assigned was ordered to pay damages to the injured soldier.

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## Hot Potatoes Of The Week; These Spuds Burst With Flavor

9.27.04 Army Times

**Two old but live grenades were recently found on a potato production line in Norfolk, England.**

Bomb disposal teams were called to the food plant to carry out a controlled explosion in a nearby field, according to British news reports.

A “metallic clanging sound” alerted staff on the production line as the potatoes were being washed.

“They were live grenades, very unstable,” a British military official said. “They might have looked like potatoes — but I wouldn’t like to peel those ones!”

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## **Ban Sex? GIs In Germany Protest**

(New York Daily News, September 28, 2004)

U.S. troops stationed in Germany are up in arms over a Pentagon proposal to make hiring a prostitute punishable by dishonorable discharge and up to a year behind bars.

**Although the policy would apply worldwide, soldiers serving in Germany point out that prostitution is legal there.**

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## **Oops, Too Late**

September 27, 2004 By Gidget Fuentes, Army Times staff writer

**The title slide in the sexual-harassment-training class was a real grabber.**

**A Navy second-class petty officer (E-5) at Pearl Harbor Naval Station, Hawaii, is in hot water after a nude photograph of a woman was projected onto a theater screen Aug. 24 during a “Prevention of Sexual Harassment” training class.**

More than 250 sailors and civilians got the unexpected eyeful as they were seated in the station’s Sharkey Theater waiting for the required annual training to begin.

**The unnamed petty officer, who was helping set up the computer presentation, apparently booted up his government-issued laptop computer and inadvertently projected a personal photo of a naked woman onto the theater screen, officials said. The sailor’s laptop was being used to show an electronic slide presentation during the training class, which was one of several harassment classes scheduled that day.**

“It was a full auditorium,” said Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Davis, a Navy Region Hawaii spokesman. The petty officer was given nonjudicial punishment at a captain’s mast Sept. 1, Davis said.

The image wasn't up long. Someone quickly turned off the computer, and the petty officer's Navy-Marine Corps Intranet access was revoked that day, officials said.

The training continued, but not before some in the audience wondered whether the photograph was a prank or part of the training.

"There was some initial confusion," Davis said.

Word of the incident spread quickly throughout the base.

Capt. Ronald Cox, the region's commander, sent an e-mail message to all class participants, apologizing for the incident, Davis said.

"I am embarrassed that anyone assigned to this command could be exposed to this material," Cox wrote. "This is totally unacceptable and won't be tolerated."

Davis said Aug. 31 that officials believe the photograph's airing was inadvertent, not a prank.

**Various regulations restrict nonofficial use of government computers, such as the one used by the sailor.**

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

### **An Inventory Of Iraqi Resistance Groups**



Mehdi Army resistance militiamen in alley of Baghdad's Sadr City.(AFP/File/Ahmad Al-Rubaye)

September 19, 2004 By Samir Haddad and Mazin Ghazi. *Al Zawra* (Baghdad) (FBIS Translated Text)

**The following is a review of the resistance groups and the armed groups in Iraq:**

**First, Sunni resistance groups that primarily target the US occupation:**

### **1. The Iraqi National Islamic Resistance, "The 1920 Revolution Brigades:"**

-- It emerged for the first time on 16 July 2003. Its declared aim is to liberate Iraqi territory from foreign military and political occupation and to establish a liberated and independent Iraqi state on Islamic bases. It launches armed attacks against the US forces. The attacks primarily are concentrated in the area west of Baghdad, in the regions of Abu-Ghurayb, Khan Dari, and Al-Fallujah. It has other activities in the governorates of Ninwi, Diyali, and Al-Anbar. The group usually takes into consideration the opinions of a number of Sunni authorities in Iraq.

-- The group's statements, in which it claims responsibility for its operations against the US occupation, are usually distributed at the gates of the mosques after the Friday prayers.

-- A recent statement issued by the group on 19 August 2004 explained that the group, during the period between 27 July and 7 August 2004, carried out an average of 10 operations every day, which resulted in the deaths of dozens of US soldiers and the destruction of dozens of US armored vehicles.

-- The most prominent operations of the group during that period were the shooting down of a helicopter in the Abu-Ghurayb region by the Al-Zubayr Bin-al-Awwam Brigade on 1 August 2004, and the shooting down of a Chinook helicopter in the Al-Nu'aymiyah region, near Al-Fallujah, by the Martyr Nur-al-Din Brigade on 9 August 2004.

### **2. The National Front for the Liberation of Iraq:**

-- The front includes 10 resistance groups. It was formed days after the occupation of Iraq in April 2003. It consists of nationalists and Islamists. Its activities are concentrated in Arbil and Karkuk in northern Iraq; in Al-Fallujah, Samarra, and Tikrit in central Iraq, and in Basra and Babil Governorates in the south, in addition to Diyali Governorate in the east.

-- Generally speaking, its activities are considered smaller than those of the 1920 Revolution Brigades.

### **3. The Iraqi Resistance Islamic Front, 'JAMI':**

The front is the newest Sunni resistance group to fight the US occupation. It includes a number of small resistance factions that formed a coalition. Its political and jihad program stems from a jurisprudence viewpoint that allows it to fight the occupiers. Its activities against the occupation forces are concentrated in the two governorates of Ninwi and Diyali. It announced its existence for the first time on 30 May 2004.

In its statements, JAMI warns against the Jewish conspiracies in Iraq.

According to statements issued by the front, JAMI's military wing, the Salah-al-Din and Sayf-Allah al-Maslul Brigades, has carried out dozens of operations against the US occupation forces. The most prominent of these operations were in Ninwi Governorate. These operations included the shelling of the occupation command headquarters and the semi-daily shelling of the Mosul airport. Further more, JAMI targets the members of US intelligence and kills them in the Al-Faysaliyah area in Mosul and also in the governorate of Diyali, where the front's Al-Rantisi Brigade sniped a US soldier and used mortars to shell Al-Faris Airport.

#### **4. Other Small Factions:**

There are other factions that claim responsibility for some limited military operations against the US forces. However, some of these factions have joined larger brigades that are more active and more experienced in fighting. These factions include:

**Hamzah Faction:** A Sunni group that appeared for the first time on 10 October 2003 in Al-Fallujah and called for the release of a local shaykh known as Shaykh Jamal Nidal, who was arrested by the US forces. There is no other information available about this group.

**Iraqi Liberation Army:** The first appearance of this group was on 15 July 2003. It warned the foreign countries against sending troops to Iraq and pledged to attack those troops if they were sent.

**Awakening and Holy War:** A group of Arab Sunni mujahidin. It is active in Al-Fallujah. It filmed an operation on videotape and sent the tape to Iranian television on 7 July 2003. On the tape, the group said that Saddam and the United States were two sides of the same coin. The group said that it carried out operations against the US occupation in Al-Fallujah and other cities.

**The White Banners:** A group of local Arab Sunni mujahidin that is active in the Sunni triangle and probably in other areas. Originally, they were opposed to Saddam Husayn, and in alliance with the Muslim Youths and Muhammad's Army. The group criticized the bombing of the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad. So far, there is no information about their operations.

**Al-Haqq Army:** There is not much information about this group, apart from that it consists of Arab Sunni Muslims, it has some nationalistic tendencies, and it is not loyal to Saddam.

#### **5. Ba'thist Factions:**

These factions are loyal to the Ba'th Party and the previous regime of Saddam Husayn. They do not constitute a proportion of the actual resistance in Iraq. Their activities are more or less restricted to financing of resistance operations. The factions that still exist secretly in the Iraqi arena include:

**Al-Awdah (The Return):** This faction is concentrated in northern Iraq -- Samarra, Tikrit, Al-Dur, and Mosul. It consists of members of the former intelligence apparatus.

Saddam's Fedayeen: The faction was formed by the Saddam regime before the US invasion. Now, it is rumored that many of its members have abandoned their loyalty to Saddam and have joined Islamic and national groups on the side of the 11 September Revolutionary Group and the Serpent's Head Movement.

### **Second, Shiite resistance against the occupation:**

**Al-Sadr group:** The Al-Mahdi Army is considered the only militia experiment to emerge after the occupation. In July 2003, Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr announced the formation of the Al-Mahdi Army, but not as a force directed against the occupation. Within a short period, Al-Sadr gathered between 10,000 and 15,000 well-trained youths, the majority of whom were from the poor of the Al-Sadr City, Al-Shu'lah, and the southern cities.

Recent events -- starting with the closure of Al-Sadr's Al-Hawzah newspaper in March 2004; the arrest of Al-Sadr assistant Mustafa al-Ya'qubi against a background of suspicions about his involvement in the killing of Imam Abd-al-Majid al-Khu'i, and crowned with the writ to arrest Muqtada al-Sadr in April on charges of assassinating Al-Khu'i inside the Al-Haydari mosque in Al-Najaf on 10 April 2003 -- placed the Al-Mahdi Army in confrontation with the occupation forces in Baghdad and the southern governorates.

The greatest confrontation between this militia and the occupation forces erupted in Al-Najaf in August 2004. The confrontation continued for nearly three weeks, and it ended with the signing of a cease-fire agreement between the two sides. The observers believe that these confrontations bestowed upon the Al-Sadr tendency the mark of an armed resistance to the occupation.

**Imam Ali Bin-Abi-Talib Jihadi Brigades:** This Shiite group appeared for the first time on 12 October 2003. It vowed to kill the soldiers of any country sending its troops to support the coalition forces, and threatened to transfer the battleground to the territories of such countries if they were to send troops. The group also threatened to assassinate all the members of the Interim Governing Council and any Iraqi cooperating with the coalition forces. The group also announced that Al-Najaf and Karbala were the battlegrounds in which it would target the US forces.

### **Third: Factions that adopt abductions and killing:**

In addition to the groups resisting occupation, other armed groups have emerged and resorted to operations of abducting and killing foreigners as a method, in their opinion, that would terrorize the enemy and as a political pressure card to achieve their specific demands. This was what happened when Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo decided to withdraw the Philippine forces acting under US command in Iraq after the abduction of her compatriot Angelo del Cruz on 7 July 2004 and his release at a later time.

The most prominent of these groups are:

**Assadullah Brigades:** The brigades said in a statement, number 50, "The mujahid is entitled to capture any infidel that enters Iraq, whether he works for a construction



company or in any other job, because he could be warrior, and the mujahid has the right to kill him or take him as a prisoner."

The activities of this group are concentrated in Baghdad and its suburbs. The group detained the third most senior diplomat at the Egyptian Embassy to Iraq, Muhammad Mamduh Hilmi Qutb, in July 2004 in response to statements by Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmad Nazif, who announced that Egypt was prepared to offer its security expertise to the interim Iraqi Government. The diplomat was released after nearly a week.

**Islamic Retaliation Movement:** One of the movements that adopt the course of abductions. It abducted the US Marine of Lebanese origin, Wasif Ali Hassun, on 19 July 2004, and then released him.

**Islamic Anger Brigades:** The group that abducted 15 Lebanese in June 2004 and then released them, with the exception of Husayn Ulayyan, an employee of a communications company, whom it killed.

**Khalid-Bin-al-Walid Brigades and Iraq's Martyrs Brigades:** They are believed to be the ones who abducted Italian journalist Enzo Bladoni in August 2004 and killed him.

**The Black Banners Group:** A battalion of the Secret Islamic Army. The group abducted three Indians, two Kenyans, and an Egyptian working for a Kuwaiti company operating in Iraq. The aim was to compel the company to stop its activities in Iraq. The hostages were later released.

**The Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi Group.**

**The Al-Tawhid wa al-Jihad Group.**

**The Islamic Army in Iraq:** A secret organization that adopts the ideology of Al-Qa'ida. The organization abducted Iranian Consul Feredion Jahani and the two French journalists, Georges Malbrunot and Christian Chesnot.

**Ansar al-Sunnah Movement:** The movement abducted 12 Nepalese on 23 August 2004 and killed them.

The last four groups are clearly intellectually close to the beliefs and thinking of Al-Qa'ida Organization and its leader, Usama Bin Ladin.

The first case of slaughter was that of US national Nicholas Berg in May 2004, and the Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi group claimed responsibility for it.

After that, the Al-Tawhid wa al-Jihad Group killed South Korean Kim Il, who was working for a Korean company providing the US Army with military installations.

Following that, the operations of abducting hostages cascaded in Iraq. Some of the hostages were slaughtered, and others were released. And the phenomenon came to the surface.

The total number of hostages killed so far is: two Italians, two US nationals, two Pakistanis, one Egyptian, one Turk, one Lebanese, one Bulgarian, one South Korean, and 12 Nepalese.

*(Description of Source: Baghdad Al-Zawra in Arabic--Weekly published by the Iraqi Journalists Association)*

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## **Resistance Stages Vehicle Parade Through Samarra**

Sep. 28, 2004 Associated Press

**SAMARRA, Iraq – Resistance troops surfaced in force in the central Iraqi city of Samarra on Tuesday for the first time since U.S. troops briefly entered it in a deal with tribal leaders that the Americans had portrayed as a success story in battling the insurgency.**

**Dozens of masked fighters carrying automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades drove through the main streets of Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, in about 20 vehicles.**

**Two of the cars were police pickup trucks that appear to have been confiscated by the insurgents.** The resistance troops stopped some cars and asked passengers to hand over music tapes, giving them tapes with recitations from the Muslim holy book, the Quran, in exchange.

**After a two-hour drive-through, the convoy dispersed around noon and the gunmen could not be seen in the streets.**

*The Americans returned briefly on Sept. 9.*

*U.S. and Iraqi commanders portrayed the deal as a success story*

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## **Five Collaborator Spy Officers Killed In Basra**

28sep04 By Abbas Fayadh in Basra, AP

**A resistance attack killed five members of Iraq's intelligence agency** as they returned a civilian freed from kidnappers to his family today, an intelligence officer said.

The incident occurred in Basra's northern neighbourhood of Gurna, Major Jasim al-Darraji, a member of the General Security Directorate, the nation's top spy agency, said. He said the agents were returning an Iraqi citizen kidnapped last week by a gang.

The man was freed by Iraqi authorities yesterday and as the agents approached his family's residence, the resistance fighters opened fire, killed the five instantly and then fled.

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## Military Supply Truck Driver Killed

2004/09/28 AP

A Turkish truck driver has been killed in an attack near the Iraqi city of Mosul, news reports said today.

Nizamettin Bilir, 46, from southern Hatay province, was killed as he made a delivery Monday near Mosul, private NTV television and the Anatolia news agency reported. His body was brought to Turkey on Tuesday, the reports said.

Anatolia said he had been delivering fuel for U.S. forces.

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## Bush And Allawi Lied: Insurgents Are Mostly Iraqis, U.S. Military Says

Sep 28, By Mark Mazzetti L.A. Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The insistence by interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and many U.S. officials that foreign fighters are streaming into Iraq to battle American troops runs counter to the U.S. military's own assessment that the Iraqi insurgency remains primarily a home-grown problem.

In a U.S. visit last week, Allawi spoke of foreign insurgents "flooding" his country, and both President Bush and his Democratic challenger, Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kerry, have cited these fighters as a major security problem.

But according to top U.S. military officers in Iraq, the threat posed by foreign fighters is far less significant than American and Iraqi politicians portray.

U.S. military officials said Iraqi officials tended to exaggerate the number of foreign fighters in Iraq to obscure the fact that large numbers of their countrymen have taken up arms against U.S. troops and the American-backed interim Iraqi government.

"They say these guys are flowing across [the border] and fomenting all this violence. We don't think so," said a senior military official in Baghdad. "What's the main threat? It's internal."

In interviews during his U.S. visit last week, Allawi spoke ominously of foreign jihadists "coming in the hundreds to Iraq." In one interview, he estimated that foreign fighters constituted 30% of insurgent forces.

"People try to turn this into the mujahedin, jihad war. It's not that," said one U.S. intelligence official. "How many foreign fighters have been captured and processed? Very few."

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

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

# **Truckers Contradict Allawi & Occupations' Optimistic Picture**

September 28, 2004 Borzou Daragahi, Chronicle Foreign Service

**Baghdad** -- The last time Walid Mohammad Waij faced death on the highway, he yelled in its face.

Crammed with light bulbs, flower pots and other assorted made-in-China household goods, Waij's Volvo tractor-trailer was headed toward the Syrian border when armed bandits pulled up alongside and ordered him to stop. It was his third stick-up in as many months, and Waij decided he'd had enough.

"I yelled out the window at them," he recalls. "I told them, 'Even if you fire at my head, I am not going to stop.' "

Luckily, the bandits fell back in search of easier prey. But for Waij, that was it. "I'm getting out of the business," said the 47-year-old. "The roads are too dangerous. Anything is better than getting killed."

**Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, during his visit to Washington last week, said that all but three of Iraq's 18 provinces are safe.**

**But Iraqi truckers who traverse the country's desolate highways tell a different story. Most of Iraq's countryside -- outside the three northern provinces under the control of Kurdish militias since 1991 -- has become a lawless no-man's land, they say, where criminals rob and kill with impunity.**

"God help you if they suspect you're working for the foreigners," said Ra'ad al-Tamimi, a Baghdad truck driver.

**Truckers say the situation is getting steadily worse, despite the more optimistic picture painted by Iraq's interim government.**

Occasionally the ministry assigns armed police escorts to truck convoys. But the truckers have little faith in Iraqi law enforcement. Tamimi, another Baghdad driver, recalled the time they gave police information on the whereabouts of a leading highway robber who was living in a house near Abu Ghraib, just west of Baghdad.

"We went to the police and told the exact location where this gang leader lived," said Tamimi. "They refused to do anything."

"The government must put more checkpoints on the road and road patrols," said Mazen Ali, whose 19-truck firm operates along the Baghdad-Basra route. "We need the government to do something."

**A quarter of his trucks sit idle because he can't enough find drivers willing to brave the roads, said Ali.**

"We're at the end of our line here."

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## **DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**

# **How A Bush Fucked Up In Ancient Greece: Greece: "It's All Greek, To Him"**

**Asshole-In-Chief**



(Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

**(Thanks to Tom Condit, Peace And Freedom Party, who passed this along.)**

LA Times, September 24, 2004 By Barbara Garson, Barbara Garson is the author of the 1960s antiwar play "Macbird" and, most recently, "Money Makes the World Go Round" (Penguin, 2002).

**During a lull in the war between Athens and Sparta, the Athenians decided to invade and occupy Sicily. Thucydides tells us in "The Peloponnesian War" that "they were, for the most part, ignorant of the size of the island and the numbers of its inhabitants. and they did not realize that they were taking on a war of almost the same magnitude as their war against the Peloponnesians."**

**According to Thucydides, the digression into Sicily in 416 BC - a sideshow that involved lying exiles, hopeful contractors, politicized intelligence, a doctrine of preemption - ultimately cost Athens everything, including its democracy.**

**Nicias, the most experienced Athenian general, had not wanted to be chosen for the command. "His view was that the city was making a mistake and, on a slight pretext which looked reasonable, was in fact aiming at conquering the whole of Sicily - a considerable undertaking indeed," wrote Thucydides.**

Nicias warned that it was the wrong war against the wrong enemy and that the Athenians were ignoring their real enemies - the Spartans - while creating new enemies elsewhere. **"It is senseless to go against people who, even if conquered, could not be controlled," he argued.**

Occupying Sicily would require many soldiers, Nicias insisted, because it meant establishing a new government among enemies. **"Those who do this [must] either become masters of the country on the very first day they land in it, or be prepared to recognize that, if they fail to do so, they will find hostility on every side."**

The case for war, meanwhile, was made by the young general Alcibiades, who was hoping for a quick victory in Sicily so he could move on to conquer Carthage. Alcibiades, who'd led a dissolute youth (and who happened to own a horse ranch, raising Olympic racers) was a battle-tested soldier, a brilliant diplomat and a good speaker. (So much for superficial similarities.)

**Alcibiades intended to rely on dazzling technology - the Athenian armada - instead of traditional foot soldiers. He told the Assembly he wasn't worried about Sicilian resistance because the island's cities were filled with people of so many different groups.** "Such a crowd as this is scarcely likely either to pay attention to one consistent policy or to join together in concerted action. The chances are that they will make separate agreements with us as soon as we come forward with attractive suggestions."

**Another argument for the war was that it would pay for itself.** A committee of Sicilian exiles and Athenian experts told the Assembly that there was enough wealth in Sicily to pay the costs of the war and occupation. "The report was encouraging but untrue," wrote Thucydides.

Though war was constant in ancient Greece, it was still usually justified by a threat, an insult or an incident. But the excursion against Sicily was different, and Alcibiades announced a new, or at least normally unstated, doctrine.

"One does not only defend oneself against a superior power when one is attacked: One takes measures in advance to prevent the attack materializing," he said.

When and where should this preemption doctrine be applied? Alcibiades gave an answer of a sort. "It is not possible for us to calculate, like housekeepers [perhaps a better translation would be "girlie men"], exactly how much empire we want to have. The fact is that we have reached a state where we are forced to plan new conquests and forced to hold on to what we have got because there is danger that we ourselves may fall under the power of others unless others are in our power."

Alcibiades' argument carried the day, but before the invasion, the Athenian fleet sailed around seeking allies among the Hellenic colonies near Sicily. **Despite the expedition's "great preponderance of strength over those against whom it set out," only a couple of cities joined the coalition.**

At home, few spoke out against the Sicilian operation. "There was a passion for the enterprise which affected everyone alike," Thucydides reports. "The result of this excessive enthusiasm of the majority was that the few who actually were opposed to the expedition were afraid of being thought unpatriotic if they voted against it, and therefore kept quiet."

In the face of aggressive posturing, Nicias appealed to the Assembly members to show true courage.

"If any of you is sitting next to one of [Alcibiades'] supporters," Nicias said, "do not allow yourself to be browbeaten or to be frightened of being called a coward if you do not vote for war. Our country is on the verge of the greatest danger she has ever known. Think of her, hold up your hands against this proposal and vote in favor of leaving the Sicilians alone."

We don't know how many Athenians had secret reservations, but few hands went up against the war.

In the end, the Athenians lost everything in Sicily. Their army was defeated and their navy destroyed. Alcibiades was recalled early on; Nicias was formally executed while thousands of Athenian prisoners were left in an open pit, where most died.

The Sicilians didn't follow up by invading Attica; they just wanted Athens out. But with the leader of the democracies crippled, allies left the Athenian League. Then the real enemy, Sparta, ever patient and cautious, closed in over the next few years. But not before Athens descended, on its own, into a morass of oligarchic coups and self-imposed tyranny.

**Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and in Iraq, and information about other social protest movements here in the USA. Send requests to address up top.**

## **LOWERING EXPECTATIONS FOR DEBATE, WHITE HOUSE SAYS BUSH HAS I.Q. OF 67**

September 28, 2004 The Borowitz Report

In what some political insiders were calling an attempt to lower expectations in the days leading up to the first presidential debate, the White House today announced that President Bush has an I.Q. of 67.

"The president is far, far less intelligent than is commonly thought," White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters. "Even the simplest tasks remain well beyond his reach."

Reinforcing the impression that the president will be overmatched in Thursday's debate with Sen. John Kerry, Mr. McClellan showed reporters never-before-seen footage of Mr. Bush oafishly tumbling from his mountain bike.

"What a moron," Mr. McClellan said.

The White House spokesman said that Mr. Bush cannot possibly be expected to do well in a debate with Sen. Kerry, who Mr. McClellan said "has an I.Q. of 193" and "is widely considered the best debater on the planet."

But within minutes of the White House press conference, Kerry spokesman Joe Lockhart fired back, telling reporters, "John Kerry is much stupider than he looks."

As evidence of Mr. Kerry's idiocy, Mr. Lockhart referred to the floral-patterned windsurfing pants the senator wears while enjoying his favorite water sport.

"His ass looks enormous in those pants," Mr. Lockhart said. "What kind of a moron would leave the house with his ass looking like that?"

Elsewhere, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said today that it was unfair to compare the upcoming Iraqi elections to those held in America, "except for Florida."

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## **Received:**

To: GI Special

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Could you print this in the next GI Special?

### **She Stood For Peace And Justice**

Michelle Reeves, GSU student, poet and activist, died Sunday. She drowned in her grandparents' lake. She had gone for a swim when she was attacked by an alligator.

My earliest memory of her is from Spring 2003. She was one of the many students who felt compelled to speak for peace and against the war on Iraq. This year, Michelle planned to join me in building a student antiwar organization on campus. She cared deeply about the tragedy and suffering of the thousands of Iraqi and American families who have lost loved ones in the war.

Like them, I am saddened with the death of a friend, but her inspiration will never be lost. My memories of Michelle will help me continue her cause: the fight for peace and justice. She will be missed.

In Memory of Michelle,  
Desmond Gardfrey

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