

## GI SPECIAL 4L22:



VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS DANCED IN HIS HEAD.  
[Thanks to David Honish, Veterans, who sent this in.]

# Huge Majority Of Americans Say Fuck That “Surge” Shit

25 December 2006 Agency France-Press

The idea of having more American soldiers go to Iraq does not sit well with the public, either.

A CNN opinion poll conducted in mid-December showed only 11 percent of respondents supported the plan of boosting the US contingent in Iraq.

That was down from 17 percent, who supported the "surge" in a similar survey conducted jointly by ABC News and The Washington Post just two weeks earlier.

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

## McCain Wants A “Surge”? Just One More Senile Liar In A Suit Trotting Out The Tired Silly Bullshit From 40 Years Ago

MIKE LUCKAICH W/2016 ALIEN &  
ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION



[Thanks to Katherine GY, Military Project, who sent this in.]

[First, McCain's silly raving about how those nasty terrorists want to follow him home.

[Right below it, the same idiotic ravings from when McCain was killing Vietnamese. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Yeah, right, the Vietcong were going to invade California if the U.S. Empire lost the war on Vietnam.

[Just like his deluded mind, or what's left of it, thinks a bunch of Iraqis want to follow him home now.

**[So, this piece of shit wants even more dead U.S. troops and dead Iraqis. Guess the dead Americans in Vietnam weren't enough for him. T]**

December 15, 2006 By John F. Burns, International Herald Tribune [Excerpt]

Without a troop hike, McCain said, "the results are going to be inevitable, in my view" — a defeat for America, and for its Iraqi allies, that would create a terrorist haven that could be used as a base for future attacks in the United States.

**"The fundamental principle on which I function is that, unlike the Vietnam War, when we came home the war was over," he said, whereas the Islamic militants of Iraq "will follow us home" if the American effort fails.**

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**“The Communists Win In Vietnam  
It’ll Just Be Laos, Thailand, The  
Philippines, And Then We’ll Have  
To Fight In California”  
“Either You Fought In Vietnam Or The  
Entire U. S. Population Would Be  
Attacked”**

**In 1968, Michael Herr found such views most pervasive among the top brass, who were fond of asking skeptical journalists questions like, "Would you rather fight them here or in Pasadena?"**

From: WORKING CLASS WAR, by Christian G. Appy, U. Of North Carolina Press, 1984

The justification of the war that new soldiers found most persuasive was a version of the domino theory that emphasized the threat to the United States if communism triumphed in Vietnam.

**The focus was not so much on the potential threat to other nations. Instead, the soldiers were most drawn to interpretations that stressed the necessity of the war to prevent a direct attack on American security.**

**Moskos found these common responses: "The only way we'll keep them out of the States is to kill them here," "Let's get it over now, before they're too strong to stop," "They have to be stopped somewhere," and "Better to zap this country than let them do the same to us."**

**John Sack quotes this statement as typical: "The communists win in Vietnam it'll just be Laos, Thailand, the Philippines, and then we'll have to fight in California."**

**In 1968, Michael Herr found such views most pervasive among the top brass, who were fond of asking skeptical journalists questions like, "Would you rather fight them here or in Pasadena?"**

**("Maybe we could beat them in Pasadena, I'd think, but I wouldn't say it," Herr writes.) Many "lifers" -- career officers and NCOs -- did their best to indoctrinate their troops with this either/or proposition; either you fought in Vietnam or the entire U. S. population would be attacked.**

Soldiers were to believe that even though they were on the other side of the planet, they were truly fighting for the folks back home.

Frank Mathews had his first experience of killing in 1966. After looking at the Viet Cong corpse, he vomited and remained sick and depressed for several days.

**An "old salt" sergeant tried to lift his spirits with these words: "Just figure it this way-that (man you killed) could have been the one that was in the States screwing your mama, or your wife, or your girlfriend, and that's the reason you killed him."**

This psychosexual version of domino theory "made a lot of sense" to the young soldier. He was a gung-ho combat volunteer and remained so through the remainder of his tour.

While his motivation centered on avenging the deaths of buddies who had died, a desire to pay back the enemy, whenever he looked for a larger rationale for the war, he always returned to the sergeant's promise that the war was protecting American women.

**The need to perceive one's wartime service rooted in the protection or liberation of a homeland is commonplace in the history of warfare.**

Survey evidence amassed by Samuel A. Stouffer and his associates reveals that American GIs in World War II were more likely to view that war in terms of individual and national survival than as a moral or ideological mission on behalf of other people.

Though Stouffer's classic study, *The American Soldier*, reveals a significant commitment to defeating fascism abroad, it concludes that the defense of the homeland was a more important motive among American servicemen.

**In Vietnam, some men clung to the belief that it was necessary to fight in Indochina to prevent a war in California, and men like Frank Mathews held to the idea that his efforts were protecting American women.**

**As men moved through their tours, however, that faith became harder to sustain. Micheal Clodfelter, who served in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966, has written, "When pressured, I upheld our presence in Vietnam by a rather feeble belief in the Domino Theory. But often I wondered how that tumbling column of dominoes. . . could possibly complete the chain reaction. . . ."**

**“Try as I could, I simply could not visualize a fleet of North Vietnamese sampans and junks overcoming the U.S. Navy and landing an invasion force on the shores of California.”**

**Doubts were amplified by the recognition that millions of Americans at home felt no threat from Vietnamese communists and that, in fact, a growing number believed U. S. involvement in Vietnam was doing far more to harm the prospects of peace than to protect national security.**

**Most troubling to American soldiers was the awareness that the sacrifices of the war were borne disproportionately by the poor and the working class.**

As one veteran put it, the war demanded no "common sacrifice."

“World War II was the focus of all life at home. You should see the ads in magazines like National Geographic. . . . There's a GI in every ad, or else farmers on tractors with flags or pictures of Hitler being beaten over the head with a corn cob. . . . The theme was we're all making a common sacrifice. Everyone was drafted, including lawyers, doctors; no group or stratum escaped. . . .

**“In Vietnam, the story was completely different. The war was unpopular at home. People were getting fat in America, but there was no common sacrifice. . . . It was a case of business as usual. Instead of everybody getting drafted, people who could go to college often did; it was those who couldn't who went into the military.”**

In 1967, Bob Hope told American soldiers in Vietnam, "I have good news. The country is behind you -- 50%."

**The soldiers laughed, but it was a bitter laughter, founded on the knowledge that they were sent to fight a war without deep popular support. They knew as well that much of the turmoil at home was caused not by a mass mobilization for war or by a common sense of national endangerment but by the fervent debate about the legitimacy of our very involvement in Vietnam.**

Among American soldiers, the antiwar movement generated disturbing and contradictory responses. On one hand, the movement posed fundamental challenges to the official justifications of the war.

While many soldiers were largely unaware of and misinformed about the political and intellectual substance of those challenges, simply to be aware of the existence of a growing antiwar movement made it increasingly difficult to accept uncritically the belief that the war was necessary and its goals legitimate and achievable.

On the other hand, most soldiers perceived that the movement was essentially middle class. The image of the antiwar activist dominating the mass media (including the military's) was that of the college radical.

For working-class soldiers, college symbolized privilege, and quite apart from the context of Vietnam, college students stirred in many a deep set of class-related emotions: resentment, anger, self-doubt, envy, and ambition.

The class gulf was further exacerbated by the knowledge that college students were deferred from the draft. When college students protested the war, many soldiers took it as a personal assault, a social snubbing by those who perceived themselves intellectually and morally superior.

**MORE:**

**“This Argument About Following Us,  
If It Were True, Would Have  
Prevented Us From Ever Withdrawing  
From Anyplace Once We Entered A  
War There”  
“The Argument Is A Crock”**

12/26/06 By Juan Cole, Information Clearing House [Excerpts]

"The Sunni Arab guerrillas in places like Ramadi will follow the US home to the American mainland and commit terrorism if we leave Iraq."

This assertion is just a variation on the invalid domino theory.

**People in Ramadi only have one beef with the United States. Its troops are going through their wives' underwear in the course of house searches every day.**

**They don't want the US troops in their town or their homes, dictating to them that they must live under a government of Shiite clerics and Kurdish warlords (as they think of them).**

If the US withdrew and let the Iraqis work out a way to live with one another, people in Ramadi will be happy.

**They are not going to start taking flight lessons and trying to get visas to the US. This argument about following us, if it were true, would have prevented us from ever withdrawing from anyplace once we entered a war there.**

**We'd be forever stuck in the Philippines for fear that Filipino terrorists would follow us back home.**

**Or how about the Dominican Republic?**

**Haiti? Grenada? France?**

**The argument is a crock.**

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Three Baghdad Soldiers Killed By IED, One Wounded**

Dec. 26, 2006 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061226-18

BAGHDAD – An improvised explosive device detonated near a Multi-National Division - Baghdad patrol, killing three Soldiers northwest of the Iraqi capital Dec. 26.

The patrol was conducting a route clearance mission when a roadside bomb exploded near them, killing three Soldiers and wounding another.

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### **Two Soldiers Killed, One Wounded, By IED Near Baghdad**

Dec. 26, 2006 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061226-06

BAGHDAD – An improvised explosive device detonated near a Multi National Division - Baghdad patrol, killing two Soldiers southwest of the Iraqi capital Dec. 25.

As they conducted their mission, a roadside bomb exploded near one of their vehicles. Another Soldier was also wounded in the explosion.

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### **Soldier Killed, Two Wounded By IED Near Baghdad**

Dec. 26, 2006 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061226-03

BAGHDAD – An improvised explosive device detonated near a Multi National Division - Baghdad patrol, killing one Soldier southwest of the Iraqi capital Dec. 25.

The unit was conducting a dismounted security patrol in the area when a roadside bomb exploded near them; two other Soldiers were also wounded by the explosion.

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# Baghdad Soldier Killed, Another Injured In Vehicle Rollover

Dec. 26, 2006 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20061226-21

BAGHDAD – One Multi-National Division Baghdad Soldier was killed and two others injured when a High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle rolled over along a dirt canal trail during a combat reconnaissance mission south of the Iraqi capital Dec. 26.

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## How Many More For Bush's War?

12/26/06 DoD Identifies Marine Casualty

Lance Cpl. Fernando S. Tamayo, 19, of Fontana, Calif., died December 21 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Tamayo was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force...

12/26/06 DoD Identifies Army Casualties (part 1)

Spc. Joshua D. Sheppard, 22, of Quinton, Okla., died Dec. 22 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his patrol came in contact with the enemy using small arms fire. Sheppard was assigned to the 642nd Engineer Support Company...

12/26/06 DoD Identifies Army Casualties (part 2)

Sgt. Curtis L. Norris, 28, of Dansville, Mich., died Dec. 23 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Norris was assigned to the 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team...

12/26/06 DoD Identifies Army Casualties (part 3)

Spc. John Barta, 25, of Corpus Christi, Texas, died Dec. 23 in Buhritz, Iraq, of wounds suffered from indirect enemy fire during combat operations. Barta was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade...

12/26/06 DoD Identifies Army Casualties (part 4)

Pvt. Evan A. Bixler, 21, of Racine, Wis., died Dec. 24 in Hit, Iraq, of wounds suffered from enemy indirect fire during security operations. Bixler was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division...

12/26/06 DoD Identifies Army Casualties (part 5)

Pfc. Eric R. Wilkus, 20, of Hamilton, N.J., died Dec. 25 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Germany, of a non-combat related injury Dec. 22 in Baghdad, Iraq. Wilkus was assigned to the 57th Military Police Company...

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## Ladue High Grad Is Killed In Iraq



FILE PHOTO: Matt Clark

12/16/2006 By Aisha Sultan, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Marine Lance Cpl. Matt Clark thought about his mother when he filled out his emergency contact form before leaving for Iraq three months ago.

He wrote that he wanted his priest present if his mother had to hear the news dreaded by every parent of a child in the service.

On Thursday night, Msgr. Vernon Gardin accompanied three Marines to break the news that Clark was not coming home. That morning, at 8 a.m. St. Louis time, Clark, 22, was driving a vehicle when he was killed by a roadside bomb, Gardin said.

The word spread through a flurry of calls and e-mail among alumni and faculty members of Ladue Horton Watkins High School, where Clark graduated in 2002. He had transferred from Priory School at the end of his sophomore year and quickly became a key part of a close-knit drama club.

"He was a talented young man," said Kurt Knoedelseder, who had been his theater director in high school and heard the news late Thursday evening. "It knocks the wind out of you."

Clark's friends described a creative and intelligent young man, who loved to hang out at coffeeshops and drive around in his car. Some were surprised when he decided to join the Marines after a few years at the University of Missouri at St. Louis.

"I couldn't believe he was going to do it, but there was no stopping him," said Eden Newmark, who attended high school with him.

He had been kind of different from some of the drama kids — more conservative and very religious. And he had always been interested in the military growing up, Gardin said.

He followed his father into the Marine Corps.

In Clark's senior year, his father died of lung cancer. His mother could not be reached for comment Friday.

Gardin said Clark attended daily Mass during his summer leave. He had already served a tour of duty in Afghanistan and was making plans about the rest of his life, according to his girlfriend, Leah Nuetzel of New York. She said he was a writer. He was considering colleges and graduate school and wanted to study philosophy.

"He was probably the funniest guy I knew," Newmark said. "He was the kind of person you stayed out with until 5 a.m. and didn't even realize it was late." He ate lunch in the theater class and found his niche with the drama club.

He had a role in "Oklahoma!" his senior year, at a time when his father was critically ill. Knoedelseder said the brothers and priests from Priory attended the production to show support.

Clark was an only child.

Funeral arrangements had not yet been made.

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## Family Of Newark Soldier Killed In Iraq Devastated

Dec 20, 2006 Jay Dow, CBS

**NEWARK, N.J. Relatives say 19-year old Army Private Joe Luis Baines joined the military because he felt he had no other choice.**

**"That's the reason he joined the army -- to try to get us out of here. That was his dream, to get us out of Newark," Baines' mother Yolanda Torres told CBS 2 News.**

That dream ended this weekend when army officials told the family Baines was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

Upon hearing the news, Baines' brother James was devastated. "I started crying. That's how I reacted. I don't know what to do now," James said.

**Torres says she still remembers their last telephone calls, and recalls her son sounded scared.**

**He had recently carried a fallen soldier out of battle and knew he could be next.**

**"He was like, 'I'm calling you now because we're about to raid the town the boy was killed in,' and he said basically, 'I'm calling you just in case I don't call you back -- you know what happened,'" she said.**

Baines was no stranger to adversity. He attended a high school for troubled youth in Pennsylvania. After graduation, he came home, but trouble found him quickly. His mother says he got into a fight, and a few weeks later he was shot in the leg just a few blocks from his home.

Torres didn't like the idea of her son joining the army. She says she was "against it 100 percent."

But she says for her son, a tour of duty in Iraq suddenly sounded like a walk in the park, especially if it meant a new start for his family.

"I'm proud of what he did, because that was his dream. That's all he ever talked about -- his mama," Torres said.

Baines was just 19-years old.

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



U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Timothy LaSage of Milwaukee, Wisc., a sniper with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, camouflages his rifle under a bed sheet during a rooftop operation in Ramadi, Iraq, Oct. 31, 2004. A problem since the start of the war, soldiers and senior officers say the threat from snipers has intensified in recent months. Insurgent fighters have honed their skills and acquired better equipment, notably night-vision rifle scopes to target U.S. troops after the sun goes down. (AP Photo/Jim MacMillan)

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## **TROOP NEWS**

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



The casket of Marine Lance Cpl. Clinton 'C.J.' Miller after a funeral ceremony at Nodaway Valley High School in Greenfield, Iowa, Dec. 20, 2006. Miller was killed by an improvised explosive device in Iraq's Al Anbar Province Dec. 11. (AP Photo/Kevin Sanders)

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**Father Of KIA Says “More Than  
Enough Americans Have Died”  
“I Want The Boys To Come Home,  
You Know”  
“Personally, I Can’t See Where We’re  
Really Accomplishing Anything Over  
There Anymore”**

December 26, 2006 By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS [Excerpts]

NEW YORK (AP) -- In a span of a few hours, 2,973 people were killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In a span of 45 months, the number of American troops killed in Iraq exceeded that grim toll as the war continues.

Jonathan Lootens, from upstate New York, joined the Army, telling family members: "This is something I have to do."

"It did impact him and make him feel like he should serve," his father, Robert Lootens, said Tuesday. "He felt that this was his time."

**The 25-year-old sergeant was killed during his second tour of duty when a roadside bomb went off near his vehicle in the city of Kirkuk.**

**His father says more than enough Americans have died in the conflict.**

**"I want the boys to come home, you know," he said. "Personally, I can't see where we're really accomplishing anything over there anymore."**

The rising death toll was an emotional reminder of loss for family members of Sept. 11 victims, some who said the war had gone on long enough. Sally Regenhard's son Christian, a firefighter and a Marine, was killed at the trade center on Sept. 11.

**"I just would like this war to stop in whatever way we need to," Regenhard said. "I can hardly tolerate it when I see these beautiful people. It reminds me of my son. ... These people are being massacred."**

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## **Wonderful, Happy Days For War Profiteers**

12.26.06 New York Times

**These are very good times for military contractors. Profits are up, their stocks are rising and Pentagon spending is reaching record levels.**

Next year's Pentagon budget is expected to exceed \$560 billion, including spending for Iraq. And, sometime this spring, President Bush has indicated he will seek an additional \$100 billion in supplemental spending in 2007 for Iraq and Afghanistan.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **Nationalist Shia Go To War With U.S. Backed Collaborator Pro- Iranian Shia; [A Huge Story And The Clueless Reporter Doesn't Get It]**

December 25, 2006 By Molly Hennessy-Fiske, L.A. Times Staff Writer

Shiite militia fighters clashed with police Sunday in Samawah, a provincial capital in southern Iraq, transforming it into a lawless battleground and exposing rifts that increasingly divide Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority.

Nine people, including four police officers, have died in the violence gripping parts of Samawah since Friday, police said.

On Sunday, police backed by some [pro-occupation] Shiite tribal leaders called in Iraqi soldiers from nearby Diwaniya to help battle the [anti-occupation] militia. The security forces closed entrances to the city, which is about 145 miles southeast of Baghdad, imposed a curfew and shut the schools as they traded fire with militiamen.

**[T]he violence in Samawah underscores the difficulty that Prime Minister Nouri Maliki and other Shiite leaders have had in maintaining order among members of their sect in a country where people's loyalties are divided among political parties, religious groupings and tribes.**

**[Hello? Earth to reporter? Cat got your tongue? Can't mention that some Shia political leaders are for Bush and the occupation, and some Shia political leaders, like Sadr, are against Bush and the occupation? Gee, is that too complicated for you? Or do you just open wide and lap up the shit shoved in front of you by the occupation propagandists?]**

**[OK, we'll make it real simple, so that even a U.S. apologist for the occupation can understand it. A.) Sadr: nationalist politician opposed to the U.S. occupation and dividing up Iraq. B.) Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, or SCIRI: 100% for the invasion and the Occupation, part of every occupation government Bush has created, wants to break up Iraq into three separate regions, organized the first death squads, likes Iran. OK, get it? That's who's fighting it out. Clear now? Duh.]**

Conflicts within Shiite communities have troubled Baghdad and other parts of Iraq in recent weeks, but the violence has been particularly notable in Samawah, capital of the first province handed over by U.S.-led forces to Iraqi control.

The conflict in Samawah began Dec. 1, when gunmen attempted to rescue detainees from a local prison, killing three people, according to local hospital staffers.

**But Qusai Abdul-Wahab, a member of Sadr's party in parliament, blamed the latest conflict on local police, who he said provoked militias Friday by opening fire on Shiite worshipers as they celebrated a religious anniversary. He called the police "provocative and intimidating."**

**"They are dealing with people as if they are still in the Saddam era," he said.**

Jaafar Abdul Razzaq, a spokesman from Sadr's Samawah office, said the militia would not stop fighting until police released about 30 militia members detained since Friday. Police officials said they were negotiating another cease-fire with militia leaders.

**Saad Aziz, a Shiite member of the Samawah city council, said local Shiites were divided by tribe and political party, with some loyal to Sadr's parliamentary bloc, others to another leading Shiite party, the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, or SCIRI.**

**"The Ziad tribe itself is now divided among those who support SCIRI and those who are supporting Sadr," Aziz said, referring to one of the area's major clans. "There is now internal fighting inside the tribe itself."**

The conflict in Samawah began Dec. 1, when gunmen **[translation: anti-occupation soldiers]** attempted to rescue detainees from a local prison, killing three people, according to local hospital staffers.

Abdul Hussein Dhalimi, the acting governor of Muthanna province and a SCIRI **[pro-Bush]** member, said he met Sunday with provincial leaders and with delegates from the nearby holy Shiite cities of Karbala and Najaf to "settle things down in the province."

Muthanna, of which Samawah is the capital, is one of the three provinces out of 18 transferred to Iraqi security control since 2003. British forces handed over control of Muthanna nearly six months ago.

The British left behind an "overwatch battle group" in Muthanna of about 800 Australian soldiers responsible to local and national Iraqi authorities, according to Capt. Tane Dunlop, a British forces spokesman.

Iraqi authorities did not ask for support from Australian forces in Samawah on Sunday, Dunlop said, but the Australian troops were "keeping an eye on the situation."

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## **12,000 Local Occupation Agents Killed Since 2003**

December 25, 2006 Lauren Frayer, Associated Press

Baghdad, Iraq: About 12,000 Iraqi policemen have been killed since the ouster of Saddam Hussein, the country's interior minister said Sunday,

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## **Assorted Resistance Action**

12.26.06 Reuters & Aljazeera & Christopher Torchia (AP)

Three roadside bombs in quick succession killed a police lieutenant colonel and wounded nine in central Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

A bodyguard of Vice President Adel Abdul Mahdi was killed by a "foreigner assailant" on Sunday near the office of Abdul Mahdi in Baghdad, the vice president's office said.

A car bomb near a police station wounded a policeman in the oil refining city of Baiji, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Resistance forces wounded two policemen in a drive-by shooting in a town near Kirkuk.

Police found the body of a policeman on Monday in the town of Riyadh, 70 km (40 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

The body of a was found shot dead on Monday in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Two roadside bombs targeted an Iraqi police patrol in an eastern neighborhood of the capital, killing four policemen

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

## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

**“As They Stand Up, We Shit Our  
Pants”**

**Force Of 150,000 Stood Up By U.S.  
Occupation Command Now Called**

# “Incompetent, Dysfunctional And Subversive”

12.25.06 Washington Post

U.S. military commanders in Iraq are attempting to get the Facilities Protection Service under control, whose 150,000 Iraqi members are paid to guard the 26 Iraqi ministries and serve as personal security to ministers and important government officials but also provide manpower for sectarian party militias and death squads.

The Iraq Study Group highlighted the problem earlier this month, describing members of the FPS as having "questionable loyalties and capabilities," and quoting an unnamed senior U.S. official saying they are "incompetent, dysfunctional and subversive."

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



Abdul-Kareem Hassan Dhamin, center, watches U.S. Army soldiers from Company B of the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, who forced entrance into his home at gunpoint and refused to leave for hours while cordoning off a road on the outskirts of Sadr City, in Baghdad Dec. 26, 2006. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and taking over their homes by armed force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

[But your commanders do know that, don't they? Don't they?]

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

***The Great Iraqi Collaborator  
Troop Training Fiasco Rolls On:  
“It Almost Feels Like ‘What Are We  
Here For?’ The Marine Told Brig.  
Gen. Dana Pittard”***

**Next, A Clueless Captain Completely  
Misses The Point:**

**THE RESISTANCE SOLDIERS DON'T  
HAVE ANY PROBLEMS FIGHTING,  
AND DON'T NEED ANY U.S.  
TRAINING;**

**[But The Clueless Captain Says The  
Problem is “Cultural”]**

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.

December 23, 2006 By Molly Hennessy-Fiske, L.A. Times Staff Writer

CAMP SPEICHER, IRAQ: When Gunnery Sgt. Scott Stalker, one of 5,000 U.S. military advisors in Iraq, arrived at this sprawling base last spring, he was training 80 Iraqi soldiers to fire and maintain their rifles.

Now his class is down to 25.

**"It almost feels like 'What are we here for?' " the Marine told Brig. Gen. Dana Pittard, the Army officer sent to Iraq in June to overhaul the Pentagon's military advisor program. "Now the philosophy is 'Train who's there.' "**

Pittard has been visiting teams at bases across Iraq recently, checking their progress. Other advisors told him similar stories. Progress is slow. Corruption and fuel shortages are endemic.

**And 75% of Iraqi soldiers don't show up for duty.**

"The reason that is given is it's too dangerous," said Marine Lt. Col. Mark Winn, a Pleasanton, Calif., native who leads Stalker's border patrol advisory team in northern Iraq.

"But they get back in time to be paid, right?" said Pittard, a perennially upbeat West Point graduate. "How do they explain that?"

Sitting with the team in a plywood office, Winn said the Iraqi border patrol officers claim they're afraid to work, then on payday claim they're braving militias. "It became an Abbott and Costello routine — who's on first?" Winn said.

**The accepted intelligence is that these small teams, embedded with Iraqi troops and police for a year at a time, will allow U.S. forces to hand over responsibility for security sooner. But if Pittard's visit to the advisor teams this week is any indication, such optimism may be misplaced.**

**Pittard has said publicly that he thinks the advisors will prepare Iraqis to take over security from U.S. forces in March, and that expanding the teams will allow them to fix logistical and security problems.**

**But Winn, the team leader, said he didn't expect Iraqis to be prepared to take control next spring, or even the one after.**

"We're still at the point where if we're not there, trash accumulates, nobody's shaving or wearing uniforms, and we're back where we started," Winn said.

"What would happen if you left now?" Pittard asked.

"They would go right back to where they were within a month," Winn said.

What if they had another year?

"I don't think a year will be long enough to break their bad habits," Winn said. "It gets pretty frustrating when you're hitting it every day that you're not making more progress."

As Ft. Riley churns out 2,000 advisors every two months, those already in Iraq wonder whether Iraqi units are capable of benefiting from their help.

**"Everybody wants to know why the Iraqis aren't further along," said Capt. Daniel Sanchez, Winn's assistant team leader. "But even a transition team of superstars**

couldn't do that. It's not that we haven't had the talent there — it's that the culture is so different. We're at the 30-yard line."

**[The Capt. has a “cultural problem”: he doesn’t have the faintest notion that “his” Iraqis won’t do shit, and the resistance Iraqis fight without U.S. advisors and supplies, because his Iraqis are traitors, motivated by nothing but money, and the resistance fighters are patriots, fighting to free their nation from George W. Bush and his military dictatorship. Get it? It’s not rocket science. But the U.S. commanders can’t handle that truth, so they blindly stumble along, spewing lame bullshit about “cultural problems” and whatever other silly excuses fill their empty heads. T]**

"You mean 30 yards from the end?" Pittard asked.

"No, sir, the 30-yard line." "Not even the 40-yard line?" "No, sir." "Wow."

Later in the day, Pittard sat down with the military advisory team paired with the 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division.

Flipping through a list of Iraqi commanders, Pittard asked who was Sunni, who was Shiite and how effective they had been. Team members said they couldn't be sure of their counterparts' religious affiliations except for one, a Shiite commander who was recently removed.

"He was having militia leaders over for meetings in his office," said the team's leader, Army Maj. Dan Greene.

In addition to militia activity, the advisors said they're hampered by equipment shortages and security concerns.

**They have no cellphones. Their Internet access expires this month. Their six Humvees, all more than 2 years old, have been repeatedly hit by roadside bombs. They're so unreliable, the advisors have had to delay missions and borrow a Humvee from the Iraqis.**

The Iraqi brigade headquarters itself is a security risk, advisors said.

**Located in an old hospital building in nearby Tikrit, it's too close to the street, with minimal security. Recently, the brother of the executive officer of the Iraqi battalion was kidnapped and killed after the officer refused to wear a suicide belt of explosives to work, they said.**

"We're struggling with what's the way ahead," Greene said.

Before leaving the border patrol team, Pittard asked what advice they would offer advisors scheduled to replace them next spring. The group fell silent, trading glances. Jose Zavala, a Marine out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., finally spoke up.

"Patience," he said.

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

## **OCCUPATION PALESTINE/LEBANON**

# **The Zionist State Makes Sure That Sub-Humans Will Not Trouble The Master Race**

December 25, 2006 Joe Mowrey, Dissident Voice [Excerpts]

The Negev is considered to be Israel's "land bank" for future expansion of their population. Consequently, the Bedouins who happen to live on that land need to be removed.

Israel has been kind enough to set up seven Bedouin "Settlements" where these primarily rural-agrarian people are forced to live under extremely crowded urban conditions. They suffer chronic unemployment, economic despair and social dysfunction due to the disruption of their cultural underpinnings. In order to receive funding from the state, schools in these townships are required to teach Bedouin children Hebrew as well as Jewish history. No funding is provided for curriculum related to their own history and culture. But they are generously allowed to teach these subjects as after school electives.

Half the Bedouin population, about 70,000 people, live in these townships, while the other half live in dozens of what are cleverly designated "unrecognized villages."

**Because Israel wants the Bedouin's land in order to expand Jewish population centers, they refuse to provide municipal services such as water, electricity, sewage, and roads to these villages.**

By withholding basic services from tens of thousands of Israeli citizens, issuing home demolition orders and forcibly relocating Indigenous populations based solely on race, Israel has certainly put democracy in motion in the Negev.

Then there is the housing situation in places like the central Galilee, home to about 25,000 Palestinian citizens of Israel.

**Jonathan Cooke, a British journalist based in Nazareth, writes about luxury Jewish communities known as "mitzpim." These "mitzpim" are surrounded by**

**extensive areas of land zoned for construction of new residential housing. Residents of these communities are required by law to screen the applications of anyone who wishes to build there.**

**Surprise, surprise; also by law, non-Jews are not allowed to apply to join these communities.**

**Very clever. The Jewish residents of the "mitzpim" can claim they don't discriminate against Palestinians because no Palestinians ever apply. Why? The law prohibits them from doing so. Plausible deniability is everything.**

**Meanwhile, in Palestinian villages like Sakhnin, also in the central Galilee, Palestinians are denied permits to build on their own land because Israel's Planning and Building Law has rezoned the property in a way that prohibits new construction.**

**Israel's High Court recently upheld a law denying Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza who are married to Israeli citizens the right to live in the country with their spouses.**

**This law applies only to Arab spouses.**

Anyone from any other ethnic group married to an Israeli citizen is entitled to residency.

Israelis married to Palestinians from the West Bank or Gaza will either have to move to the Occupied Territories or live apart from their spouses.

If you happen to be an Israeli citizen, be careful who you fall in love with. Israel's bright and shining democracy is likely to "prevail" over the institution of marriage.

Welcoming the High Court's decision, Israeli Immigration Absorption Minister (yes, there really is such a position) Zeev Boim said, "We have to maintain the state's democratic nature, but also its Jewish nature."

This chillingly racist statement illustrates the cornerstone of Zionism.

In order to preserve the "Jewish character" of Israel, the Arab population must be oppressed and reduced if necessary so that there will never be any threat to Jewish dominance.

Are you tired of this litany of stellar egalitarian practices in Israel?

I'm sure the Palestinian and Bedouin Israelis are tired of experiencing them.

**[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation by foreign terrorists, go to: [www.rafahtoday.org](http://www.rafahtoday.org) The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]**

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**Stay the course? More dead Americans and more dead Iraqis.**

**Surge? We don't have enough troops, and we don't have a strategy for using them anyway.**

**So what's a president to do?**

**W should take heart. This is hardly the first time his administration has faced seemingly intractable problems — and in the past, he's always been able to make those problems ... disappear.**

The investigative reporting blog TPMmuckraker.com offers an excellent list of examples, compiled with the help of countless little blogospheric elves.

For instance, there was this.

**Problem: In 2005, a congressionally mandated annual State Department report on international terrorism showed that terrorism worldwide was on the rise.**

**Solution: The administration announced that future editions of the report no longer would include statistics on international terrorism. See? Presto! Just like that, the problem went away.**

And then there was this.

**Problem: In 2004, data released by the Department of Education showed that public charter schools, promoted by the administration as a solution to public school woes, were lagging regular public schools in performance.**

**Solution: The administration decided to stop collecting data on charter school performance.**

And this.

**Problem: Environmentalists complained that administration land-use plans for our national parks and forests could have long-term negative effects on the environment.**

**Solution: The administration decided it no longer would conduct environmental impact studies to assess the potential consequences of its land-use plans.**

See how easy it is to make a problem go away?

When Congress started asking questions about FBI malfeasance exposed by whistleblower Sibel Edmonds, the administration retroactively classified congressional briefings on the subject.

When it looked like lawyers representing Guantanamo detainee Majid Khan might make a fuss about the abusive "alternative" interrogation methods he had undergone in secret

CIA prisons, the administration announced that Khan couldn't meet with his lawyers to tell them about his treatment because his treatment was itself classified top secret.

**Similar magic tricks have worked for the president before, so who's to say they won't work again with Iraq?**

**The administration's early ban on photos of flag-draped coffins returning from Iraq was a good start, as was the Pentagon's recent decision to classify statistics on the rising number of anti-U.S. attacks in Iraq this fall.**

But these are half-measures, not equal to bringing the current crisis to an end.

**The White House needs to go further. I have a few recommendations for making the president's Iraq problems disappear.**

**Problem: The Joint Chiefs of Staff unanimously oppose a temporary surge in U.S. troops.**

**Solution: Eliminate the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; reduce chiefs in rank by 10 pay grades.**

Problem: Not enough troops exist for an effective surge, and negative media reporting on Iraq makes the problem all too obvious.

Solution: Implement an emergency call-up of all journalists registered under the Selective Service Act. Confiscate their laptops and cameras and recorders and send them to Iraq as part of the surge. (Two birds with one stone!)

**Problem: Iraq is patently not yet an oasis of stability on the Middle East map.**

**Solution: Erase the word "Iraq" from all maps in the White House. Write in "Oasis of Stability."**

**True, you have to believe in magic for these tricks to work. But magic is in the air this Christmas season, and W is full of "a sense of wonder and surprise," as he put it in this year's presidential Christmas message.**

If you're having trouble feeling the magic, urge the president to try one final trick.

**Problem: The troops in Iraq are causing trouble, complaining about a lack of strategy, lack of equipment, lack of clue as to what they're doing there and what they're dying for.**

**Solution: Make our troops disappear from Iraq — by bringing them home.**

**When it comes to solving the president's problems, that last trick might actually work.**

## **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.net](http://www.ivaw.net))



[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

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## ***Run, Do Not Walk, To The Nearest Exit: No-Talent Clusterfuckers In Command***

12/23/06 By Robert Fisk, The Independent [Excerpt]

But for sheer folly, it was impossible to beat the post-Baker debate among the great and the good who dragged the United States into this catastrophe.

**General Peter Pace, the extremely odd chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, said of the American war in Iraq that "we are not winning, but we are not losing".**

**Bush's new defence secretary, Robert Gates, announced that he "agreed with General Pace that we are not winning, but we are not losing".**

**Baker himself jumped into the same nonsense pool by asserting: "I don't think you can say we're losing. By the same token, I'm not sure we're winning."**

**At which point, Bush proclaimed this week that - yes - "we're not winning, we're not losing".**

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## **Bush Selects Drooling Nutcase For Population Post: Silly Quack Doctor Believes Having Sex Is Like Heroin Addiction**

December 15, 2006 By Elizabeth Schulte, Socialist Worker [Excerpts]

RABIDLY ANTI-abortion. Proponent of "abstinence-only" sex education. Opponent of all contraception. These are the credentials of the Bush administration's choice to oversee family planning for the nation's poor.

Last week, George W. Bush named a Massachusetts doctor, Eric Keroack, as deputy assistant secretary for population affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services.

When he takes the post--his appointment doesn't need Senate confirmation--Keroack will be responsible for the Title X family-planning program, which provides health services to more than 5 million poor women in the U.S.

Among anti-abortionists, Keroack is considered a trailblazer in using ultrasounds to try to convince women not to get abortions. "He was one of the first doctors ever to really get involved in the medical aspect of some of these pregnancy resource centers," Raymond Ruddy, president of Gerard Health Foundation, which has given millions to antiabortion and abstinence groups, told the Boston Globe.

At a presentation to the International Abstinence Leadership Conference in Las Vegas in 2003, Keroack gave a PowerPoint presentation that claimed: "PRE-MARITAL SEX is really MODERN GERM WARFARE."

Keroack argued that there was a “scientific” basis for his proposal that premarital sex destroys any hope of a future in relationships.

**Comparing sex to drug use, Keroack claims that the hormone produced by the brain after orgasm eventually diminishes a person’s ability for emotional attachment.**

**“Just as in heroin addiction...the person involved will experience ‘sex withdrawal’ and will need to move on to a...new sex playmate,” he wrote in a 2001 paper for Abstinence Medical Council.**

**This is the man Bush wants in charge of \$283 million in much-needed funds for poor women’s reproductive health.**

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## ***This Is Not A Satire:*** **“The United States Has Begun To Apply Tactics Perfected In The War In Afghanistan To Tighten Control Of The Border With Mexico”**

**[Thanks to Pham Binh, Traveling Soldier, who sent this in. He writes: SINCE THEY ARE USING THE "VIETNAMIZATION" STRATEGY IN IRAQ, WHY NOT THE AFGHANISTAN STRATEGY ON THE MEXICAN BORDER?]**

Dec 20 By Bernd Debusmann, Special Correspondent, (Reuters)

The United States has begun to apply tactics perfected in the war in Afghanistan to tighten control of the border with Mexico, using a mix of age-old hunting techniques and high-tech spy-in-the-sky surveillance.

On the ground, U.S. Border Patrol agents on horseback, on foot, and in all-terrain vehicles scour the desert for the footprints of illegal border crossers so they can pursue and arrest them.

In the air, a civilian version of the Predator drone that made its battlefield debut in Afghanistan, trains sophisticated electro-optical infrared cameras on the border.

Radio communications link agents on the ground with the crew flying the aircraft from a cockpit in a trailer at Fort Huachuca at the edge of an army airfield 30 miles northwest of this border town.

The low-tech, high-tech interaction of men on the ground with pilot-less aircraft is a concept developed by the military in the mid-1990s and employed extensively in Afghanistan.

**There, aerial surveillance in combination with Global Satellite Positioning devices used by Special Forces soldiers on horseback played a decisive role in the war against the Taliban. [It would appear this reporter lives on the far side of Mars, and is therefore completely ignorant of the fact that using the phrase “decisive role” in connection with Afghanistan is one of the more idiotic phrases of 2006.]**

A similar interaction is now playing out along one of the most heavily-crossed -- and most hazardous stretches -- of the 2,000-mile border.

The Border Patrol first started using an unmanned surveillance aircraft last year but the first Predator crashed in April near here.

T.J. Bonner, head of the National Border Patrol Council, the union which represents most of the country's 12,000 border patrol agents, says neither a high technology virtual fence nor border walls will stop Mexicans as long as American employers give them jobs.

**"You turn them back and they try again," he said. "And again, and again, and again." [Yes, finally, somebody got it right. This is indeed exactly like Afghanistan.]**

### **GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out**

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The following have posted issues; there may be others:

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