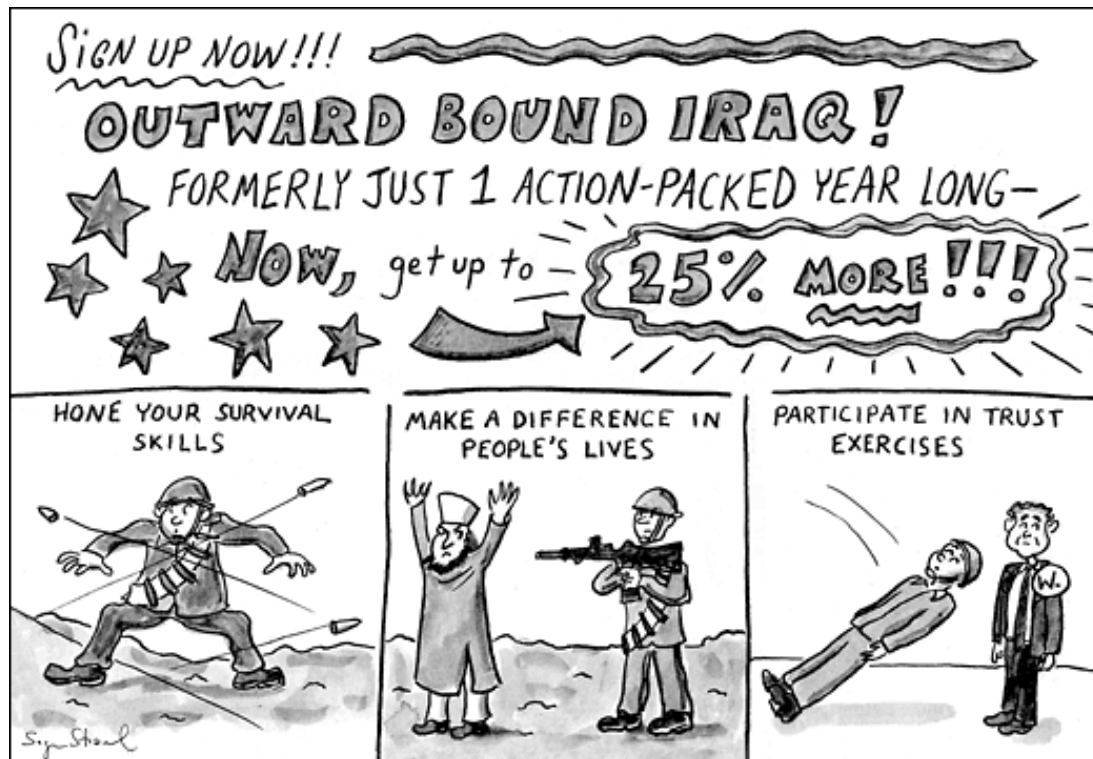


## GI SPECIAL 5K2:



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

**“As Afghan And Foreign Troops Fought The Insurgents Around Gulistan This Week, The Rebels Did Not Flee”**  
**“Instead, They Gained More Ground”**

November 02, 2007 Kelly Cryderman, CanWest News Service

The Taliban have briefly occupied a number of isolated district centres across the centre and south of the country in the past two years, but usually flee the area as soon as Afghan army and foreign troops arrive at the scene.

However, as Afghan and foreign troops fought the insurgents around Gulistan this week, the rebels did not flee.

Instead, they gained more ground and captured the neighbouring district of Bakwa on Wednesday.

“Gulistan district is still controlled by the Taliban,” Ikramuddin Yawar, the police chief for western Afghanistan, told Reuters. “We want assistance from NATO to support us from the air.”

**MORE:**

## ***Occupation Command Tricked: Diversionary Attack On Gulistan Leads To Loss Of Bakwa; Resistance Main Force Of 400 Overruns District Center***

November 01, 2007 Sharifuddin Sharafiyar, Reuters & By FISNIK ABRASHI (AP)

HERAT, Afghanistan -- Taliban rebels have overrun a district centre in western Afghanistan as fighting took place in a nearby area captured earlier this week, a provincial official said on Thursday.

The Taliban have massed in unusually large numbers in the last week in the west and near the main southern city of Kandahar, challenging assertions by Afghan government and foreign troops that they can rout the rebels in any direct engagement.

Some 400 Taliban fighters took over the district centre of Gulistan in the western province of Farah on Monday. While Afghan and NATO-led forces were battling to take it back, the insurgents took over the neighbouring district centre of Bakwa.

“Bakwa district centre fell into the hands of the Taliban in an attack yesterday afternoon,” said Maolavi Yahya, the district chief of neighbouring Delaram.

**“The Taliban wanted to keep Afghan and foreign troops busy (in Gulistan) as another group of Taliban tactically overran the district centre.**

“During the confrontation 14 Taliban insurgents and two Afghan police were killed and the Taliban set the district centre building on fire,” said Yahya.

**Canadian forces in Kandahar said it was one of the most organised Taliban offensives they had seen and said it appeared to be aimed at a move towards the city.**

Prominent Taliban leader Mullah Mansour Dadullah vowed the insurgents would extend their fighting to the north of Afghanistan during the winter.

“Our operations are blazing across the southern provinces, and we shall reach the northern provinces in the same manner,” he said in a video posted on the Internet on Wednesday.

A large number of Taliban have crossed into Farah from neighboring Helmand province and were still in control of Gulistan district.

Police have battled militants for three days in the area, and several guerrillas were killed, said Baryalai Khan, a spokesman for the provincial police chief.

**MORE:**

## ***The Arghandab Offensive:*** **“Even If The Taleban Have Now Retreated, It Has Been A Show Of Strength Which Will Not Be Lost On The Afghan Population”**

1 November 2007 BBC News & By FISNIK ABRASHI (AP) & Jon Hemming, Reuters & AP

**The BBC’s Alix Kroeger in Kabul says the fighting outside Kandahar city has now largely ended. Three policemen and one Afghan soldier also died.**

**But even if the Taleban have now retreated, it has been a show of strength which will not be lost on the Afghan population.**

Many Taleban fighters escaped from Arghandab district, only 12 km (8 miles) from Kandahar, city on Wednesday night.

On Wednesday, a provincial police chief said up to 250 militants were surrounded in the area. There was no sign of militants in the village streets Thursday.

**It was closest the Taleban have come to Kandahar city since 2001.**

Arghandab district lies just 12km (seven miles) north of the city and is an area of walled-off by pomegranate orchards and deep irrigation trenches.

**An American aid worker based in Arghandab described it as perfect terrain for an insurgency, terrible for a standing army.**

**It was where the Mujahideen held off the Soviets in the 1980s, marking the beginning of the defeat of the Soviet invasion.**

Arghandab has been an anti-Taleban stronghold for years, but two weeks ago the pro-government local leader, Mullah Naqib, died of a heart attack.

Earlier this year the Taleban tried to kill him with a roadside bomb.

Our correspondent says his death has left a vacuum in the command of pro-government forces in Kandahar.

Four days ago the Taleban launched their offensive.

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## **IRAQ WAR REPORTS**

### **Three Airmen Killed Near Balad Air Base**

November 2, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory Release Number 2007-1102-01 & AFP

SOUTHWEST ASIA - Three Airmen were killed Nov. 1 while performing combat operations in the vicinity of Balad Air Base, Iraq.

All three were assigned to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations at Balad AB.

The US military's overall losses in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion have now reached 3,848 according to an AFP tally based on Pentagon figures.

**The Pentagon figures also take into account soldiers who die after leaving Iraq for treatment.**

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### **Two U.S. Soldiers Killed In Nineveh; Two More Wounded**

November 1, 2007 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071101-01

TIKRIT, Iraq – Two Task Force Iron Soldiers were killed by an explosion near their vehicle while conducting operations in Nineveh province Oct. 31.

Additionally, two Soldiers were wounded and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

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## **U.S. Soldier Killed In Salah Ad Din**

11.1.07 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20071101-10

TIKRIT, Iraq – A Task Force Iron Soldier was killed by an explosion near his vehicle while conducting operations in Salah ad Din province Oct. 31.

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## **IED Kills Polish Soldier, Three Wounded**

02 Nov 2007 Reuters & By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers & BBC

A roadside bomb hit a Polish patrol, killing one soldier and wounding three others in near Al-Furat neighborhood in midtown Diwaniyah city, 180 km (112 miles) south of Baghdad, a Polish military spokesman said.

Corporal Andrzej Filipek was killed when his convoy struck an improvised explosive device (IED) while patrolling the streets of Diwaniya.

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## **Massachusetts Soldier Killed In Baghdad**



Army Pfc. Kenneth J. Iwasinski, 22, of West Springfield, Mass., died Oct. 14, 2007, in Baghdad when an explosive detonated near his vehicle. (AP Photo/Family Photo)

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## Soldier From Conroe Is Killed While Fighting In Iraq

Nov. 2, 2007 Houston Chronicle

A Conroe soldier has died fighting in the Iraq war, according to a published report in the Courier of Montgomery County.

Army Spc. Brandon W. Smitherman, 21, was a graduate of Montgomery High School. Family members did not know how he died, but said he was stationed in Mosul, Iraq, the newspaper reported..

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## Sturgeon Bay Soldier Killed In Iraq

November 1, 2007 Wisconsin Newspapers

STURGEON BAY — Louis Griese was killed by a roadside bomb while serving his third tour of duty in Iraq with the Army's 101st Airborne Division, his mother said Wednesday.

Susan Frihart of Sturgeon Bay said her son was killed Tuesday while on patrol in Iraq.

Griese's father was in the Army, and the young man wanted to be like his father, Frihart said. He grew up in Algoma and Sturgeon Bay and graduated from Sturgeon Bay High School in the mid-1990s, she said.

**There have been 80 military personnel from Wisconsin killed in the Iraq war.**

Griese served two tours in Iraq before heading over for his third a few months ago, she said.

He also served in Hawaii and Korea. He was stationed in Fort Campbell, Ky., where he lived with his wife, Stephany, and baby daughter, Skylar.

The birth of Griese's daughter four months ago made it difficult for Griese to leave for this tour, Frihart said.

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## Martinsville Man Killed In Iraq

November 1, 2007 By SUSAN ELZEY, Register & Bee staff writer

The latest messages posted on Pfc. Rush "Mickey" Jenkins' MySpace page send prayers and best wishes to his family as they grieve his death.

Just below those comments are more messages wishing him a happy birthday.

Jenkins was killed on his 22nd birthday Tuesday in Iraq. Jenkins' family is from the Grassy Creek community of Henry County, and he was a 2004 graduate of Magna Vista High School.

His brother, Sgt. George "Alex" Jenkins, the spokesman for the family, is unavailable for comment until he arrives home from where he is stationed in the military, according to Bassett Funeral Service spokesman Eric Hunt.

Jenkins, who joined the service 18 months ago, was killed in an ambush, Hunt said.

The Martinsville Bulletin reported Thursday that he was killed when the Bradley fighting vehicle he was riding in ran over an embedded IED, or improvised explosive device.

All the people riding in the back of the vehicle also were killed, the article stated.

Jenkins served with the 3rd Infantry Division.

Jenkins' body will first be flown to Dover, Del., and then to Greensboro, N.C., where the funeral service will pick it up. Online condolences to the family may be left at [www.bassettfuneralservice.com](http://www.bassettfuneralservice.com).

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## **U.S. Copter Fire Kills Collaborator Cops**

October 31, 2007 By KIM GAMEL -- Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD: U.S. helicopters opened fire after a ground patrol came under attack southeast of Baghdad on Wednesday, and Iraqi police said three officers were killed and one wounded in the strike.

The fighting occurred near Salman Pak, a predominantly Sunni area that has been the subject of a U.S. military campaign aimed at routing insurgents from rural strongholds and disrupting the flow of weapons to the capital.

Ground forces called for air support after coming under small-arms fire near the city, some 15 miles southeast of Baghdad, a U.S. military official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the information hasn't been formally released.

A U.S.-Iraqi joint security station in the area had come under fire three times earlier in the day, the official said.

A local policeman, who also declined to be identified because he wasn't authorized to release the information, claimed three officers were killed and one wounded when an Iraqi patrol vehicle was hit in the airstrike.

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# **“Death Toll For American Troops In October Fell To 39, The Lowest Level Since March 2006”**

## **“It’s Temporary Because The United States Cannot Maintain This Number Of Troops In The Areas Where They Are In”**

November 2, 2007 By Joshua Partlow and Naseer Nouri, Washington Post Foreign Service [Excerpts]

The death toll for American troops in October fell to 39, the lowest level since March 2006, and the eighth-lowest total in 56 months of fighting, according to the Web site [icasualties.org](http://icasualties.org), which tracks military fatalities.

“My feeling is that this decrease in the violence is temporary,” said Saleh al-Mutlak, a secular Sunni who leads the Iraqi National Dialogue Front political party.

“It’s temporary because the United States cannot maintain this number of troops in the areas where they are in.”

“Violence has not been reduced. “This year was the bloodiest for all of the people in Kirkuk,” said Hewa Fatih Abdullah al-Shwani, a Kurdish businessman who lives north of the city.

He used to travel south to Baghdad and Basra to coordinate cement shipments, but now deals exclusively with Kurdish colleagues or arranges for his merchandise to come from neighboring Iran and Turkey.

“I do not see any improvement because terrorists keep changing their plans,” he said. “When you arrest a thousand, you will find another thousand more because of unemployment, mistakes, chaos and the weakness of the central government.”

### **MORE:**

## **Like The Man Said, U.S. Occupation “Can’t Maintain This Number Of Troops” In Diyala and Salahaddin Provinces, Command “Pulling Out One Of Its**

# Brigades (About 3,500 Soldiers) In December Without Replacing It”

**Militants have infiltrated both the Army and the police and continue to tip off insurgents to imminent operations, say US officers.**

November 02, 2007 By Sam Dagher, Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor & Gordon Lubold, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

**The end of the US surge is in sight here.**

In two key central Iraqi provinces, American units will soon reduce their forces and modify their role in a region that is a microcosm of the fractured nation.

**This region is home to one of Iraq’s three major oil refineries.**

**The US is pulling out one of its brigades (about 3,500 soldiers) in December without replacing it.**

As the Americans leave, the US plans to give Iraqis more responsibility, an overall strategy the US will employ as it pulls out five brigades – the bulk of the surge forces – by next summer.

**“Are they ready to go it alone? No. We understand that,” says one senior US Defense official. “But if you keep them in spring practice, they will never gain confidence.” [Below, the reporter contradicts this babbling idiocy by reporting they have enough confidence to help the resistance fight the occupation. T]**

The region includes Diyala and Salahaddin provinces, which have large Shiite, Sunni, and Kurdish populations.

Salahaddin’s capital, Tikrit, is Saddam Hussein’s hometown, and residual support for the deceased dictator can be seen spray painted on walls throughout the city (“Long live the hero Saddam”).

US plans for the area remain intentionally murky, and commanders say they may send another US unit to the area if they need to as they redraw the boundary lines that define areas of responsibility for their units there.

In the meantime, the Iraqis will still have the help of an American unit on standby. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division, deployed to Diyala Province, returns home, the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 2nd Division, a “surge” unit already deployed nearby, will assume a greater swath of territory for now. **[Translation: spread thin, 4<sup>th</sup> Stryker Brigade will be a tempting target of opportunity in a huge, well-populated, hostile area. Search-and-avoid would be the most prudent response.]**

**US commanders north of Baghdad are wary about publicizing that there will be fewer forces in the region, even though, under Army Gen. David Petraeus's plan, announced earlier this year in Washington, the US will reduce surge forces by as many as 20,000 by summer. [Right. A huge surprise for the resistance. They would have never heard of the Petraeus plan "announced earlier this year in Washington." Fuck no.]**

**The outgoing senior US commander there told reporters at the Pentagon last week that there would be a net loss of a brigade headquarters – equivalent to about three battalions.**

"After it is all said and done, and the dust settles, I will have a little less force," says Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commander of Multinational Division-North. General Mixon's 15-month tour just ended.

**["After it is all said and done, and the dust settles, I will have a little less force," says Gen. George Armstrong Custer, commander of the 7th Cavalry.]**

**And militants have infiltrated both the Army and the police and continue to tip off insurgents to imminent operations, say US officers.**

On Tuesday, for example, about 450 Iraqi soldiers and policemen and 60 US soldiers, backed by heavy US air support, made their way to villages in the remote northeastern corner of Salahaddin.

**They carried a list of 12 militant-cell leaders they hoped to capture.**

**But when they got there, all they found were women and children: no militants.**

In one case, a woman was questioned about the whereabouts of her sons. She told an Iraqi police officer that they had gone fishing and would be back in two weeks.

The Iraqi officer was not impressed. "Say hello to your sons and tell them sooner or later we will get them," he told her, adding, "Why do you have these weapons in your home?"

"To hunt policemen," quipped another officer standing nearby.

The woman told him not to say such things. "A person who has not done anything is not afraid," she said, standing outside her mud-brick hut as her two tearful daughters and wheelchair-bound son sat nearby.

**The Iraqi police officers threatened to take away her handicapped son unless she confessed to the whereabouts of her other sons.**

**Ultimately, they left the one son alone but rounded up all the military-age men they could find in the village and nearby villages that had been on their target lists.**

**They detained 39 men in total for questioning, but none of the ones on their list.**

Army Lt. Col. David Hsu, who leads the US Army team advising the Iraqis and accompanied them that day, says it's very conceivable that the people on the wanted list were tipped off by Iraqi soldiers.

"It's a huge concern," he says.

"There are elements in Army, police, and (concerned local citizens) that work with insurgents."

"Concerned local citizens" is a catch-all phrase that US forces use to describe tribal leaders and civilians who may have previously sympathized with insurgents or collaborated with them but have now declared their support for US and Iraqi forces.

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## **BEEN ON THE JOB TOO LONG: COME ON HOME, NOW**



9.10.07: US soldiers return to their base following a night patrol along the outskirts of Baghdad. (AFP/David Furst)

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## **AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS**

### **Two Foreign Occupation Soldiers Killed, Three Wounded In Korangal Valley; Nationality Not Announced**

11/02/07 The Canadian Press

KABUL, Afghanistan - Officials in Afghanistan say insurgents ambushed NATO-led forces in the eastern part of the country leaving two alliance troops dead and three others wounded.

A NATO statement says the eastern clash occurred in Korangal Valley in Kunar province late Thursday after insurgents ambushed a joint NATO-Afghan foot patrol.

The wounded troops were transported to a military medical facility and were in stable condition.

NATO did not identify the nationalities of the dead and wounded soldiers.

Most of the troops in that part of the country are American.

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## **Polish Soldier Wounded In Afghanistan**

Oct. 31, 2007 United Press International

WARSAW: A Polish soldier serving with NATO's international forces in Afghanistan was injured when a convoy he was traveling in ran into a land mine.

Maj. Miroslaw Ochyra, a spokesman for the Polish military contingent, said the officer -- whose identity was given as Capt. Artur R. -- suffered leg injuries in an explosion of a land mine trap, Polish Radio reported Wednesday.

The officer was being treated in a hospital in Salerno and doctors say his condition is stable and his injuries are not life-threatening.

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## **Canadian Soldier Wounded As Afghan Situation Remains Tense**

November 02, 2007 Kelly Cryderman, CanWest News Service

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - A Canadian soldier was wounded in an explosion Friday as he patrolled a district north of Kandahar City, where heavy fighting has been seen in recent days.

Several hours after the attack, the soldier was listed in fair condition and was recovering at Kandahar Airfield.

The suspected improvised explosive device - a homemade bomb - went off during a patrol 14 kilometres northeast of the Arghandab district centre, which serves as the government and police headquarters for the area.

The soldier, who was not identified by the military, was travelling in a Leopard, a German-made battle tank.

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## **RESISTANCE ACTION**

November 01, 2007 By FISNIK ABRASHI (AP)

Thursday, Taliban militants attacked a police checkpoint in Nad Ali district, in the southern Helmand province, killing five officers and wounding three others, said Mohammad Hussein Andiwal, the provincial police chief.

There were no reports of militant casualties, but authorities recovered one of the vehicles used in the attack and an assault rifle, Andiwal said.

In western Farah province, six police officers were killed and two others wounded, and 14 Afghan army troops were missing after clashes with Taliban militants on Wednesday, said governor Muhaidin Baluch.

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## **Japanese Government Forced To Quit Afghan Occupation Support**

11/01/07 AP

Japanese warships were ordered home from the Indian Ocean Thursday after opposition lawmakers refused to support an extension of their mission supporting U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan.

The pullback was an embarrassment for Japan's new Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, a strong advocate of the six-year mission who vowed to pass legislation that would give Japan at least a limited role in fighting terrorism in the region.

America's top ally in Asia, Japan has refueled coalition warships in the Indian Ocean since 2001. But opposition parties effectively scuttled the mission by raising concerns in parliament that it was too broad and possibly violated Japan's constitution.

Japan's main opposition party made significant gains in July elections and is pushing to further scale back the country's role in military operations.

Japan provided about 126 million gallons of fuel worth \$520 million to coalition warships in the Indian Ocean, including those from the U.S., Britain and Pakistan, according to the Defense Ministry.

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# **“A Steady Dribble Of American, British And Canadian Casualties Will Continue Until The Western Countries Pull Out”**

October 12, 2007 By Gwynne Dyer, New Zealand Herald [Excerpts]

We have just had the sixth anniversary of the start of US air strikes against al Qaeda and its Taleban hosts in Afghanistan.

It was a very clever politico-military operation, and by December of 2001 all of Afghanistan was under the control of the United States and its local allies for a total cost of 12 American dead.

Then, for no good reason, it fell apart, and now the war is lost.

By mid-December 2001 the United States effectively controlled Afghanistan through its local allies, all drawn from the northern minority groups: Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hazara.

The traditional ruling group and biggest minority, the Pashtun, who had put their money on the Taleban and lost, would have to be brought back into the game somehow, but the usual Afghan deal-making would suffice.

Washington had the wit to make Hamid Karzai, a Pashtun from a clan that never had much to do with the Taleban, its puppet President in Kabul, but it didn't carry through. It froze out all the prominent Pashtun political and religious leaders who had had dealings with the Taleban - which was, of course, almost all of them.

The Taleban had been the Government of Afghanistan for almost five years, and were at the time the political vehicle of the Pashtun ascendancy in the country. If you were a traditional Pashtun leader, how could you not have had dealings with them?

The United States had so closely identified the Taleban with al Qaeda (although bin Laden probably never told the Taleban leadership what he was planning) that it would not talk to Pashtun leaders who had been linked to the Taleban.

The current fighting in the south, the Pashtun heartland, which is causing a steady dribble of American, British and Canadian casualties, will continue until the Western countries pull out.

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**TROOP NEWS**

# Polish Troops Getting Out In 2008: 81% Of Poles Oppose Iraq War

11/02/07 BBC

Poland's Prime Minister-designate Donald Tusk announced this week that he will seek to remove all Polish troops from Iraq next year.

According to a recent poll conducted by Polish research centre, the CBOS Institute, 81% of Poles are opposed to their country's military activities in Iraq.

Donald Tusk's Civic Platform party won a resounding victory in Poland's recent general election after a campaign that included a pledge to end the Polish mission in Iraq.

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**NOT ANOTHER DAY  
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR  
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



Military honor guard members walk alongside the horse-drawn caisson carrying the casket containing the remains of 12 service members killed in a helicopter crash in Baghdad Oct. 12, 2007, during a group funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. Killed in the crash were Army Col. Paul M. Kelly; Army Col. Brian Duane Allgood; Army Lt. Col. David C. Canegata; Army Capt. Michael V. Taylor; Army Capt. Sean Edward Lyerly; Army Command Sgt. Maj. Marilyn L. Gabbard; Army Sgt. Maj. William T. Warren; Army Sgt. 1st Class John G. Brown; Army Sgt. 1st Class Floyd E. Lake, Jr.; Army Staff Sgt. Darryl D. Booker; Army Cpl. Victor Manuel L. Langarcia, and Command Sgt. Maj. Roger W. Haller, (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

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## Uproar At State Dept. Town Hall Meeting:

# **Staff Rage At Compulsory Assignments To Baghdad: “One Woman Said She Returned With Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Only To Find That The State Department Would Not Authorize Medical Treatment”**

Comment: T

Big time dissention inside the heart of the Imperial establishment.

The article below reports at least two tendencies at work:

1. A bunch of whining Imperial bureaucrats fearing they may experience a little bit of what troops go through infinitely more dangerously every day.
2. An organized group of people saying they will bitterly resist being sent to Iraq.

Now if a few National Guard units would take the same step, that would be interesting.

Certainly there will be members watching this news very closely and thinking about it.

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[Thanks to Clancy Sigal, who sent this in.]

November 1, 2007 By Karen DeYoung, Washington Post Staff Writer [Excerpts]

Uneasy U.S. diplomats yesterday challenged senior State Department officials in unusually blunt terms over a decision to order some of them to serve at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad or risk losing their jobs.

At a town hall meeting in the department's main auditorium attended by hundreds of Foreign Service officers, some of them criticized fundamental aspects of State's personnel policies in Iraq.

**They took issue with the size of the embassy -- the biggest in U.S. history -- and the inadequate training they received before being sent to serve in a war zone.**

**One woman said she returned from a tour in Basra with post-traumatic stress disorder only to find that the State Department would not authorize medical treatment.**

Some participants asked how diplomacy could be practiced when the embassy itself, inside the fortified Green Zone, is under frequent fire and officials can travel outside only under heavy guard.

Service in Iraq is “a potential death sentence,” said one man who identified himself as a 46-year Foreign Service veteran. “Any other embassy in the world would be closed by now,” he said to sustained applause.

Harry K. Thomas Jr., the director general of the Foreign Service, who called the meeting, responded curtly. “Okay, thanks for your comment,” he said, declaring the town hall meeting over.

In notices e-mailed to Foreign Service officers around the world late Friday night, Thomas wrote that State had decided to begin “directed assignments” to fill an anticipated shortfall of 48 diplomats in Iraq next summer. Separate e-mail letters were sent to about 250 officers selected as qualified for the posts.

If enough of them did not volunteer, the letters said, some would be ordered to serve there.

**Foreign Service officers swear an oath to serve wherever the secretary of state sends them, but no directed assignments have been ordered since the late 1960s, during the Vietnam War.**

**The notices, which most diplomats first learned about from the news media as the e-mails sat in their office computers over the weekend, appeared to have catalyzed unease that has been swirling through the Foreign Service over issues that include Iraq, underfunding and inadequate recruitment, perceived disrespect from the U.S. military and the job performance of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.**

A poll conducted this month by the American Foreign Service Association found that only 12 percent of officers “believe that . . . Rice is fighting for them,” union president John K. Naland said at yesterday’s meeting, which was first reported by the Associated Press.

“That’s their right. But they’re wrong,” said Thomas, who appeared to grow increasingly agitated as the questioning became more pointed.

“Sometimes, if it’s 88 to 12, maybe the 88 percent are correct,” Naland said.

“Eighty-eight percent of the country believed in slavery at one time. Was that correct?” Thomas responded, saying he was “insulted.”

Rice is fighting hard for them, he said. Amid scattered boos from the audience, Thomas added: “Let no one be a hypocrite. I really resent people telling me that I do not care about other Foreign Service officers.”

**Naland said in an interview that some diplomats sent to Vietnam received four to six months of training.**

Many of those who have gone to Iraq received only two weeks of training, he said.

## **DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE?**

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

# **Controlling Risk Of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Infections: [Warning: May Be Incompatible With Combat Activities In Iraq Or Afghanistan]**

COL Jeff Short  
ATBO-M/2097  
25 Oct 07  
POINT PAPER

1. Purpose. To provide guidance on control measures for communicable diseases including MRSA and influenza.
2. Assessment.
  - a. There has been significant interest in MRSA due to an increased incidence of the disease in the community and several student deaths.

MRSA is a staph infection. It is important to understand that there are two kinds of MRSA: a serious, hospital acquired form and a more common but much less serious, community acquired form.

This distinction is not made by the media.

The much more serious form originated in hospitals and is responsible for critical lung and blood infections and deaths particularly in the elderly and immunocompromised.

As its name implies, MRSA is resistant to the antibiotic methicillin, a cousin of penicillin.

Antibiotic resistance is quite common in bacteria responsible for many commonly diagnosed infections besides MRSA. Again, this fact is not reported by the media which leads to the impression that MRSA is a new, “super” infection because of its resistance.

b. Several years ago a less serious form of MRSA began to show up in communities, particularly in settings where people were in close contact such as schools and locker rooms. This form of MRSA is responsible for the majority of community acquired skin infections and is commonly seen in students, athletes, and service personnel.

It presents as a boil, abscess, or cellulitis.

Frequently, such skin manifestations are attributed to a spider bite though no spider was ever seen. Community acquired MRSA is easily spread through contact with shared objects (seats, towels, door knobs, hand rails, athletic equipment, etc.) or through personal contact.

Unlike hospital acquired MRSA, community acquired MRSA is easily treated with very common, inexpensive oral antibiotics.

MRSA can invade the bloodstream and affect the vital organs and is fatal on rare occasions. In contrast, seasonal flu kills nearly 40,000 Americans every year.

Prevention of MRSA is the key and requires individual accountability and strict personal hygiene.

3. Recommendations: MRSA can be prevented by observing the common personal hygiene measures that we have advocated for years for the prevention of common communicable diseases such as the flu and the common cold.

This includes the following:

**Wash hands with soap and water at every opportunity, after using the latrine; before touching food; after sneezing, blowing your nose, and coughing; and especially after touching common surfaces such as door knobs and hand rails; and after skin-to-skin contact, such as combatives.**

**Leaders should enforce mandatory hand washing/ disinfecting at every opportunity, particularly prior to meals.**

Keep your hands away from your face. Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth; do not share personal items; limit skin-to-skin contact and scratching; and keep skin injuries clean and covered. MRSA and viruses such as the flu and the common cold easily spread back and forth between your hands and your nose, mouth, or eyes.

Cough and sneeze into your sleeve at your elbow and not into your hand. Make everyone around you follow this procedure.

Carry alcohol based, hand sanitizing gel with you at all times and use it to disinfect your hands when soap and water are not available.

Wipe down common surfaces (door handles and strike bars; lavatory faucet and commode flushing handles; and gymnasium equipment/surfaces) with disinfectant, as part of normal housekeeping.

**Provide opportunities and facilities for Soldiers to bathe daily; encourage scrubbing the skin with a washcloth and soap.**

If a pimple or boil develops following a scrape, cut, or stab to the skin, seek medical treatment as soon as possible. Oral antibiotics such as Septra(R) and doxycycline can prevent progression of MRSA.

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## **IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP**

# **“Here, There Are No Longer Any People Who Thank The Americans” “They Think Of The Americans As An Occupying Force”**

02/11/2007 (AFP)

As he strolls through a bustling street in Baghdad's Sadr City, Falah Hassan Shanshal shakes hands, waves to locals on the cafe terraces and beams at everyone he meets.

But to survive in this notorious district of Baghdad, charm is not enough.

Shanshal is an MP for Sadr City, the heart of Shiite radicalism synonymous with misery and a no-go area for many.

He portrays himself as the defender of Iraqi sovereignty confronting the American “occupier”, a theme which has much resonance with the locals of this huge shantytown in northeastern Baghdad, the bastion of anti-American firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

“Here, there are no longer any people who thank the Americans. The people were happy to see the end of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship,” he says. “But today, they think of the Americans as an occupying force.”

On October 21, US ground and air forces pounded the district for six hours keeping the entire 2.5 million residents awake throughout the night.

At the end of the fighting, a US commander announced the death of 49 “criminals”. The Iraqi authorities spoke of 17 dead and more than 50 wounded, including women and children.

Shanshal, 41, his face round and bearded, is still furious at the raid. "The occupying forces carried out a massacre," he charges.

"During the Saddam era, this district was abandoned. There was no drinking water, no sewage system and no electricity. After the Americans arrived, a lot of money was stolen and the suffering continued."

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## RESISTANCE ACTION



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

31 Oct 2007 Reuters & VOI & November 1, 2007 By LAUREN FRAYER (AP) & November 2, 2007 By Hussein Kadhim, McClatchy Newspapers

**Thursday night, a bridge on the motor way between Udhaim and Baquba was bombed in the Udhaim plain blocking the traffic in the area, but no casualties recorded.**

The bodies of three policemen were found shot and burned in two districts in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Six police guards were killed and eight wounded in an attack on Faris al-Umairi, police chief of the town of Balad Ruz, near Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) north of Baghdad. The police chief was not harmed, police said.

A roadside bomb exploded near an administrative building, killing six people and wounding seven in Binoog district of northern Baghdad, police said.

A truck bomber targeting an Iraqi army base killed three soldiers, and wounded 18 in the town of Saadiya, about 150 km (90 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said. There were two more explosions in the town but no further casualties.

Guerrillas wounded an intelligence officer along with his wife and son in a drive-by shooting in the northern city of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Dhahir al-Bayati, chief judge of Kirkuk Appeal Court, escaped an assassination attempt when insurgents opened fire at his car, killing one of his guards and seriously wounding another in the northern city of Kirkuk, 250 km (150 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb killed an off-duty soldier and a policeman and wounded one civilian when it exploded near their car on a main road near Tuz Khurmato, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A member of a tribal council allied to the U.S. was killed and three others were injured when nationalists opened fire on their car on the Kirkuk-Mosul road.

Among those killed in Baghdad violence Thursday were five people lining up outside a shelter used by the Interior Ministry as a police recruiting center.

Six other people were wounded in a roadside bombing, police said, including the mayor of nearby Azamiyah who said he believed his passing convoy had been targeted.

“Insurgents planted a roadside bomb to target my convoy, and when I came to the office, the bomb exploded, hitting a group of visitors,” said Hadi Hmoud Khadhim, whose office was recently moved to the Binouk district, near the police recruiting center, because it was deemed safer than in mostly Azamiyah.

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

## **FORWARD OBSERVATIONS**

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

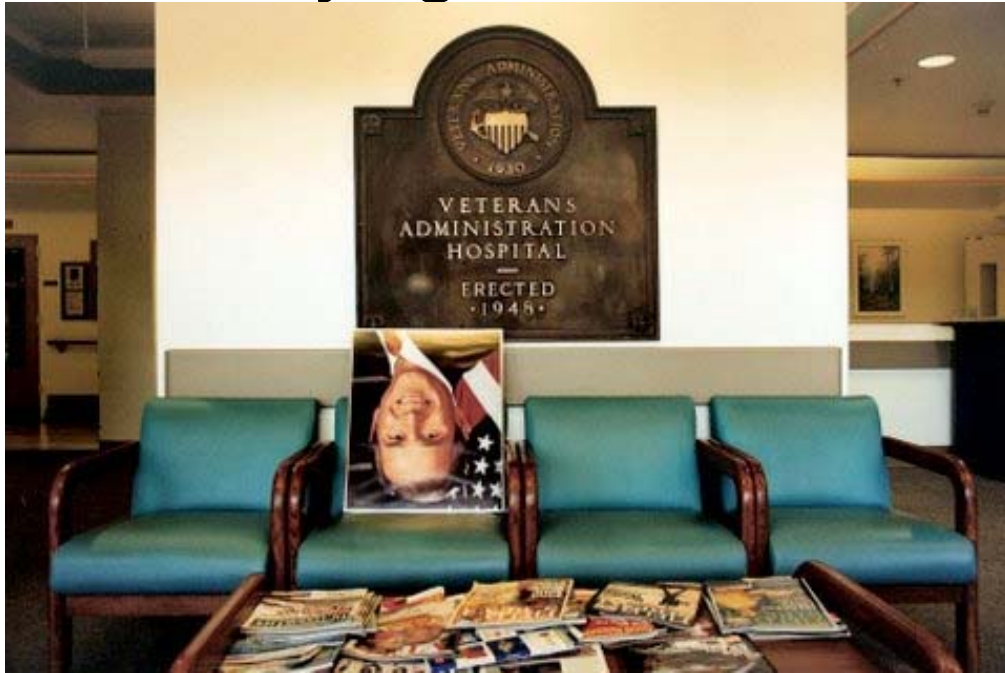
**“What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.”  
Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787.**

**“The mighty are only mighty because we are on our knees. Let us rise!”  
--Camille Desmoulins**

**Troops Invited:  
What do you think? Comments from service men and women,  
and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576**

Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email [contact@militaryproject.org](mailto:contact@militaryproject.org):. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

## Destroying The Evidence



From: Richard Hastie  
To: GI Special  
Sent: November 02, 2007  
Subject: Destroying The Evidence

### Destroying The Evidence

**As I entered the Portland, Oregon VA hospital the other day, an Iraq veteran was just leaving.**

**He was walking, but his face was catatonic. He looked straight through me. He was drooling out of the corner of his mouth. He looked absolutely hopeless.**

**This is what the Bush administration is doing to us.**

**They are destroying the evidence.**

Mike Hastie  
Vietnam Veteran  
November 2, 2007

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

## **Americans Far More Intelligent Than Stupid Elitist Rats Who Sneer At Us As Greedy “Sheeple”**

October 30, 2007 By Matthew Felling, CBS News blog [Excerpt]

**“Poll after poll has found substantial discontent with a war that ranks as the preeminent issue in the presidential campaign”**

**That most Americans oppose the war in Iraq is well established.**

The latest CBS News poll, in mid-October, found 26 percent of those polled approved of the way the president is handling the war and 67 percent disapproved.

It found that 45 percent said they'd only be willing to keep large numbers of U.S. troops in Iraq “for less than a year.”

And an ABC News-Washington Post poll in late September found that 55 percent felt Democrats in Congress had not gone far enough in opposing the war.

Granted, neither poll asked specifically about what this weekend's marchers wanted: An end to congressional funding for the war. Still, poll after poll has found substantial discontent with a war that ranks as the preeminent issue in the presidential campaign.

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## **OCCUPATION REPORT**

### **Stupid U.S. Commanders Caught Lying [As Usual] About Iraqis Killed In October**

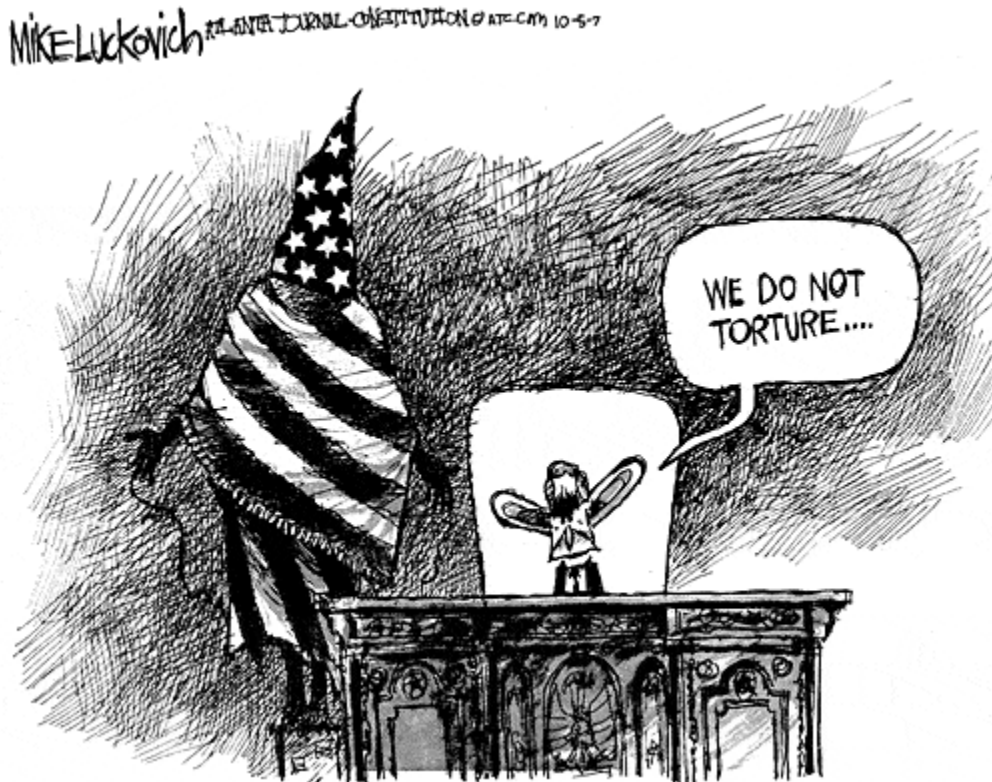
November 2, 2007 By Joshua Partlow and Naseer Nouri, Washington Post [Excerpts]

The U.S. military said about 800 civilians were killed in October, but an unofficial tally by the Health Ministry showed that 1,448 civilians had died violently, including those whose bodies were dumped without identification.

An official provided the data, which showed an increase in deaths compared with September, on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to release it publicly.

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

**DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK**



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<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/gi-special.htm>

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