

GI SPECIAL 2#17



THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME

You're Invited To Help Make History At Ft. Bragg

(The largest anti-war demonstration at a military base since the war started is coming to Fayetteville, North Carolina. Below is a report from Lou Plummer, Bring Them Home Now, about a meeting yesterday of the North Carolina Peace Coalition.)

We have a chance to make a little history here. Would you be willing to help us in Fayetteville with this?

Peace groups from across North Carolina met on Saturday to plan for an action on March 20. **There was near unanimous consent for holding the demo in Fayetteville, near Ft. Bragg, because of the importance of reaching out to members of the armed services.**

Groups represented included local grassroots peace coalitions, campus antiwar groups, Veterans for Peace, Military Families Speak Out, Quaker House and the International Socialist Organization.

I'll be visiting New Bern and Chapel Hill to encourage members of those groups to come to Fayetteville on the 20th.

The message for the event, arrived at by committee, is

Support the Troops for Real; Money for Jobs, HealthCare and Education, not for Wars and Occupations.

The "s" at the end of occupation is because there were several groups there who advocated for more attention for Palestine.

Most present agreed that security and discipline are of paramount importance among our folks at the demo in order to have a safe and successful event.

There was wide support for the speakers from the platform being primarily vets and members of military families, although there will be some time for others as well. We will have folks who wear two hats (like vets who are also trade unionists) to present a dual message.

There are activists from across the state working on this in a spirit of unity wherever possible.

We need your help and participation.

Lou Plummer
Fayetteville Peace with Justice
Military Families Speak Out
Bring Them Home Now!
Feel free to give me a call with questions at (910) 433-9053

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

IRAQ WAR REPORTS:

Three U.S. Soldiers Killed By Mine

January 28, 2004 BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN)

Three Combined Joint Task Force 7 soldiers were killed and three were wounded in a roadside bomb attack near Iskandariyah at 8 p.m. (noon ET) Tuesday.

They were traveling in a convoy when their vehicle struck the device. The wounded soldiers were evacuated to the 28th Combat Support Hospital.

Three More GIs Killed By Coordinated Roadside IED's



Roadside bomb in Khaldiya, west of Baghdad.

By NADIA ABOU EL-MAGD, Associated Press Writer, Jan. 27, 2004

KHALDIYAH, Iraq - A roadside bomb exploded next to a passing U.S. military convoy west of Baghdad Tuesday followed by a second bomb when reinforcements arrived, witnesses said. Three American soldiers and two Iraqi civilians were killed.

A U.S. military spokeswoman said the casualties occurred in a "large explosion," but gave no other details.

He said three American soldiers and one Iraqi civilian were killed and several Iraqis were injured. Hospital staff, however, put the Iraqi death toll at two.

"One of our units was ambushed near Fallujah...involving two coalition vehicles," the military spokesman said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Witnesses, however, spoke of two explosions. The first one hit a Humvee and when more troops arrived at the scene to help the second bomb went off, blasting another military vehicle.

"I saw more than three soldiers in the Humvee on fire," said Emad Abd Salah, 30, who suffered injuries to his hands. He said he saw the soldier riding atop the Humvee fall to the ground.

"The vehicle was lifted from the ground from the explosion," he said at the Ramadi Hospital. American troops fired randomly after the explosion "so I saw nothing," he said.

Abdul Hamid Marzouq, a nurse at the Ramadi Hospital where the casualties were brought, said **two Iraqis were killed -- Hadi Abd Shehab, the director of agriculture of Khaldiya, and Hamd Nayef, a taxi driver.**

Nayef, who was driving by at the time of the explosion, was injured in the head and face, said Marzouq. He said three people were injured.

Marzouq said Shehab died of a gunshot wound to the stomach. **Witnesses said he was shot while standing in his office close the blast scene, and died on way to the hospital. It was not clear who shot him. Nameer Mohammed, who said he was standing about 500 yards away when the attack occurred, claimed American soldiers fired randomly after the blasts.**

Mohammed described seeing a U.S. military vehicle on fire after the first blast.

As more American forces came to the scene, another bomb went off, setting fire to a second vehicle, he said.

Mohammed said he carried several injured people to the hospital.

The last serious attack in Khaldiya took place on Saturday when a car bomb killed three American soldiers at a checkpoint and injured six in addition to several Iraqi civilians. Two other American soldiers were killed in Fallujah the same day.

2 CNN Employees Killed In Attack

January 27, 2004 BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN)

Two CNN employees were killed, and a third was lightly wounded Tuesday afternoon when the cars they were traveling in came under fire.

The employees were returning to Baghdad in a two-car convoy from an assignment in the southern city of Hillah, when they were ambushed on the outskirts of Baghdad.

The CNN vehicles were headed north toward Baghdad when a rust-colored Opel approached from behind. A single gunman with an AK-47, standing through the sunroof, opened fire on one of the vehicles.

That lead CNN vehicle, hit at least five times, managed to escape from the gunman as the CNN security adviser returned fire.

"There is no doubt in my mind, that if our security adviser had not returned fire, everyone in our vehicle would have been killed," said Correspondent Michael Holmes. **"This was not an attempted robbery, they were clearly trying to take us out."**

The crew then drove to a forward operations base of the U.S. 82nd Airborne and the U.S. military sent a team to find the missing CNN employees. Iraqi police found the car with the bodies.

Resistance Attacks Polish Hq In Karbala; Kill More Occupation Cops In Ramadi

By VIJAY JOSHI, The Associated Press, January 27, 2004 & January 28, 2004 (CNN)

Late Monday, gunmen fired at a hotel housing Polish troops in the holy city of Karbala, but were repulsed by Iraqi police, said Karbala police spokesman Rahman Mashawi. He said the police and the attackers fought a gunbattle that left one policeman dead and two others wounded. Assailants drove up to the headquarters of Polish coalition troops and opened fire, according to police sources.

So far, two Polish soldiers have been killed in Iraq.

In Ramadi, gunmen shot dead three additional Iraqi police officers Tuesday outside a police station, according to U.S. Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt.

Iraqi Policeman Killed Near Helicopter Crash

Baghdad, Iraq-AP) Jan. 25, 2004 - An Iraqi police officer has been shot and killed while securing the search area near where a US military helicopter crashed into the Tigris River in northern Iraq.

Witnesses say the Iraqi was killed in a drive-by shooting.

Meanwhile, the search continues for the two pilots on board the helicopter, which went into the river in the city of Mosul.

The helicopter had been part of a search for another American soldier missing since a boat capsized in the river earlier in the day. The soldier had been part of a river patrol with three other soldiers and some Iraqi policemen.

A military spokeswoman says the other soldiers who were on the boat are safe, but two Iraqi police officers and an Iraqi translator were killed.

The spokeswoman isn't saying what caused the crash of the search helicopter.

Seven Police Killed In Ramadi Attacks

Jan. 26, 2004, By ROBERT H. REID, Associated Press Writer

Resistance attacks killed seven Iraqi policemen in a pair of attacks west of Baghdad.

The seven policemen were slain in two separate attacks at checkpoints around the city of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad in the Sunni Triangle, a center of resistance to the U.S.-run occupation. Iraqi police who reported the attacks made no mention of any insurgent casualties.

This week alone there were 13 attacks against local police, nearly the worst single week for attacks against the American-trained force.

Rocket Attacks On Coalition Hq And Base In Kirkuk

Jan. 26, 2004, By ROBERT H. REID & VIJAY JOSHI, Associated Press Writers

Strong explosions reverberated through the heart of this troubled capital about 10:35 p.m., followed by sirens and a recorded message warning those in the coalition headquarters compound known as the green zone to "take cover."

A coalition official said at least one rocket, apparently fired from across the Tigris, exploded near the helicopter landing zone for the palace used by America's top civilian official in Iraq, L. Paul Bremer, and senior coalition staff, the official said on condition of anonymity

The rocket fell in an open parking lot near the Republican Palace used by top U.S. officials in Iraq,. The U.S. command said there were no casualties or damage to equipment.

That explosion was preceded by the sounds of two smaller blasts, but their origin was unclear.

The attack occurred three days after a U.N. security assessment team arrived in Baghdad to determine whether it is safe for the United Nations to return its international staff to Iraq.

Elsewhere, two projectiles exploded for a second straight day Monday at the U.S. military base in Kirkuk, Iraqi police said, but there were no reports of damage or casualties.

Witnesses said a U.S. patrol came under rocket propelled grenade fire in Mosul on Monday but there were no casualties.

Spanish Base Hit

Dow Jones Newswires 26 Jan 2004

NAJAF, Iraq (AP)--Two loud explosions were heard Monday near the Spanish military camp in Najaf, and Spanish troops sealed off the area. **Local residents believed the blast was due to rocket-propelled grenades.**

Shopkeepers near the base said they saw smoke rising from the area shortly afterward.

Efforts to contact the base by telephone were unsuccessful.

"I saw flames and smoke columns coming out from the base," one of the shopkeepers, Mohammed al-Bidairi, told reporters.

Convoy With Japanese Troop Supplies Attacked

BAGHDAD (AFP) Jan. 26, 2004

As full details of Japan's first deployment to a combat zone since World War Two were unveiled, the mission was hit by its first trouble as a truck carrying equipment intended for Japanese use was attacked west of Baghdad.

The incident occurred near Ramadi when the truck was transporting a pre-fabricated housing unit for an officer from Japan's Self-Defence Forces to be stationed in Baghdad, a Japanese defence agency spokesman said.

TROOP NEWS

Raped GIs Get More Cruelty From Command

By Miles Mofeit and Amy Herdy, Denver Post, January 25, 2004. Post researcher Anne Feiler contributed to this report.

Many of the victims are women of high rank. Several are officers. Most were stationed in Kuwait, a common launching point for troops occupying Iraq.

Among the most disturbing trends, say the victim advocates, is a disregard for the women's safety and medical treatment following an assault. Women are being left in the same units as their accused attackers and are not receiving sexual-trauma counseling.

"If you don't even get the victim to a level of medical accessibility, how do you get to anything else, such as evidence collection through forensic exams?" Christine Hansen, executive director of the Connecticut-based Miles Foundation, which has assisted 31 women said. "There appears to be a shortage of criminal justice personnel to help them, too."

The military environment magnifies intense stress for victims, Hansen said. **"Just by virtue of the fact that they have to salute the individual who attacked them adds tremendous emotional trauma."**

Some surveys have shown high rates of sexual abuse and harassment among women troops during past military conflicts.

Nearly 30 percent of 202 female Vietnam veterans surveyed in 1990 said they experienced a sexual encounter "accompanied by force or threat of force," according to the Congressional Record. **And a study of troops in the 1991 Persian Gulf War by Department of Veterans Affairs researchers found that 7 percent of surveyed women reported sexual assaults, while 33 percent reported sexual harassment.**

Susan Avila-Smith, a Washington state-based civilian advocate, assisted Danielle, the rape victim who received congressional help to return home. A military intelligence officer who asked that her full name not be used, Danielle was assaulted Nov. 28 while in Kuwait.

She was stationed with her Fort Lewis, Wash., unit at Camp Udairi, about 15 miles from the Iraqi border, for training before deployment to Iraq. She had just finished guard duty at 2:30 a.m. and was stepping into the latrine on the edge of camp when she was hit on the back of her head and knocked unconscious, she said.

She recalled waking to a man raping her: He had tied her hands with cord, stuffed her underwear into her mouth and wrapped cord around her head, as well. He used a knife to slice off her clothes, cutting her in the process. She was blindfolded. When she began to fight, he threatened to cut open her crotch. He then hit her with an object between the eyes, again knocking her unconscious.

When she awoke, the man, who remains unidentified, had left. Danielle said she ran, naked, bleeding and gagging, into camp. A fellow soldier cut the cords binding her hands and mouth and put his coat around her before waking her commanders.

She was driven to an aid station, where a rape examination was performed. **She received no other treatment for the injuries to her head, back and knees, she says.**

After the exam, a commander drove her to another camp, where she was allowed to stay. She was interviewed for about three hours, she said.

For the first few days, Danielle said, a fellow woman soldier from her old camp remained with her. Then the woman had to leave to resume training, and Danielle was left alone. **Requests to see the chaplain were denied, and she was not given counseling for sexual trauma.**

An investigator scheduled a polygraph exam for her but never followed through. "I was hysterical," she recalled. "There I am, all bruised up and beaten, and somebody in my chain of command wanted me to take a test."

After several more days in isolation, she overdosed on anxiety medication and was hospitalized. Involvement of family and lawmakers enabled her to return to the United States.

Within days of her return, she said, her commanders at Fort Lewis told her to get back to work, even though she still suffered from migraines, blurred vision and pain from back and leg injuries from the assault. Smith, her civilian advocate, intervened, and Danielle was granted leave.

She has been told that a medical discharge could take six months. Meanwhile, she has heard nothing about her case and fears her rapist will return to Fort Lewis. She has requested to be assigned to another base, but so far her request has been refused.

The military's attitude, she said, has been to downplay her assault.

"Just because I came back with all four limbs intact, they're treating me like I'm faking," Danielle said. "I feel like my chain of command betrayed me. I gave four years to that unit, and I feel like it kicked me in the teeth when I was down."

In recent days, Jennifer Bier, a Colorado Springs sexual-trauma therapist, has counseled women soldiers who have been assaulted in the recent war, but citing privacy concerns, did not divulge any information about the cases.

Emotional trauma for the women has been compounded by the war mission, Bier said, because they had no civilian safe havens to turn to after their assaults.

"Such assaults are horrifying by their nature and violate a person at a very core level - their sense of safety," Bier said. "Back home, they can find some safe solace somewhere. But you can't over there."

GET SOME TRUTH: CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation, the cuts to veterans benefits, or the dangers of depleted uranium - is the first reason Traveling Soldier is necessary. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read,

we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.
<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

Longshore Union To Shut Down Port March 20 To Protest “Imperial War”; “Bring Our Troops Home Now!”

Letter from Jack Heyman, ILWU Local 10, San Francisco:

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The San Francisco longshore union voted at our last membership meeting to hold a "stop work" meeting on March 20th to protest the war in Iraq. **We will demand an end to the war, an end to the occupation and the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops now!**

We are trying to organize all ports on the U.S. West Coast to take the same action as Local 10. If they decide to follow our lead, it will send a powerful working class message to the warmongers in Washington that we don't support imperial wars like the one in Iraq.

We used this same tactic successfully in 1999 to shut down West Coast ports to demand freedom for framed black political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Longshoremen in Los Angeles last month used their "stop work" meeting to mobilize support for the striking grocery workers in Southern California.

We hope this action by U.S. longshore workers will help put an end to the needless slaughter in Iraq.

In solidarity,
Jack Heyman,
ILWU Local 10

Troops Going Without Body Armor While Pentagon Soldier-Killers Hide Money

[Wall Street Journal, January 26, 2004]

The General Accounting Office and the Congressional Budget Office are reviewing the scale of Pentagon spending on U.S. operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, **and whether DoD is even using all the money that Congress appropriated.**

Helicopters Vulnerable To Resistance Attacks: (No Shit)

[Atlanta Journal and Constitution, January 26, 2004, Pg. 1]

Recent shootdowns of U.S. helicopters in Iraq have shown that the aircraft are as vulnerable as they are vital to the military. Pilots and flight planners live in a world measured by checklists and inspections, as they try to fend off as many enemy attacks as possible. **MORE:** *Los Angeles Times, January 26, 2004* U.S. military helicopter pilots in Iraq are prime targets for insurgents who attack them with a variety of weapons.

Duh: U.S. Suspects There Are Iraqi Intelligence Agents In Iraq Headquarters

[Washington Times, January 26, 2004]

Senior officials suspect that the Iraqi resistance has managed to penetrate the coalition headquarters in Baghdad and passed information to guerrilla forces.

Stryker Brigade Scores Against Own Side: Kills Occupation Cops

By Robert Hodieme, Army Times staff writer, January 26, 2004

MOSUL, Iraq: A Stryker armored vehicle mistakenly fired upon an Iraqi police vehicle, according to U.S. military police.

The circumstances surrounding the shooting are unclear, but the Stryker soldiers thought they had been fired upon. A third vehicle may have been involved in the gunfight. **One Iraqi policeman died, two others were wounded.**

Strykers Radioactive

[Tacoma News Tribune, January 27, 2004]

The Stryker brigade's bio-chem and nuclear reconnaissance platoon found high levels of radiation on trucks attempting to cross the Iraq-Turkey border. The radiation was detected at the request of Turkish authorities who were suspicious of the vehicles.

Sheep Joining Resistance?

THANKS TO B WHO E-MAILED THIS IN: B WRITES: It's only a matter of time before the sheep join their donkey brothers and sisters in resisting the occupation. Iraq has the worlds second largest wool supply.



Saddam Hussein die-hard sheep surround US troops near Mosul January 26. (Namir Noor-Eldin/Reuters).

Guantanamo Spy Cases Evaporate

[Washington Post, January 25, 2004, Pg. 3]

A chaplain and a translator assigned to Guantanamo Bay's prison will face much less charges than originally expected. **Army Capt. James Yee won't be brought up on charges of mutiny, sedition, spying and aiding the enemy. Instead, he will be charged with mishandling classified material and adultery. USAF Senior Airman Ahamad Halabi, originally held on espionage charges, will also face lesser allegations.**

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

**Top Shiaa Leader Condemns U.S. Plans;
Sistani Says U.S.-Backed Caucuses And
Puppet Council Both Illegitimate**

[Miami Herald, January 26, 2004]

Iraq's top Shiite Muslim leader, Ali al Hussein al Sistani, says that U.S. plans for a caucus-based political system are illegitimate because the idea came from an illegitimate body---the U.S.-appointed Governing Council.

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

The Bremer Follies Roll On: Splits On Iraqi Council Imperil U.S. Plan

[New York Times, January 26, 2004]

Demands for a quick election by a powerful Iraqi cleric has delayed the drafting of an interim constitution and caused a considerable split in the Iraqi Governing Council, **further undermining Bush administration plans for a political transition in Iraq.**

Anti-U.S. Tunes Big Hits

[Washington Times, January 26, 2004, Pg. 1]

The bazaars of central Iraq are hot markets for sellers of CDs that promote violence against U.S. interests.

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

Iraq/Vietnam ‘We Are The Redcoats’

Daniel Ellsberg January 27, 2004, The Guardian

After 17 months observing pacification efforts in Vietnam as a state department official, I laid eyes upon an unmistakable enemy for the first time on New Year's Day in 1967. I was walking point with three members of a company from the US army's 25th Division, moving through tall rice, the water over our ankles, when we heard firing close behind us. We spun around, ready to fire. I saw a boy of about 15, wearing nothing but ragged black shorts, crouching and firing an AK-47 at the troops behind us. I could see two others, heads just above the top of the rice, firing as well.

They had lain there, letting us four pass so as to get a better shot at the main body of troops. We couldn't fire at them, because we would have been firing into our own

platoon. But a lot of its fire came back right at us. Dropping to the ground, I watched this kid firing away for 10 seconds, till he disappeared with his buddies into the rice. After a minute the platoon ceased fire in our direction and we got up and moved on.

About an hour later, the same thing happened again; this time I only saw a glimpse of a black jersey through the rice. I was very impressed, not only by their tactics but by their performance.

One thing was clear: these were local boys. They had the advantage of knowing every ditch and dyke, every tree and blade of rice and piece of cover, like it was their own backyard. Because it was their backyard. No doubt (I thought later) that was why they had the nerve to pop up in the midst of a reinforced battalion and fire away with American troops on all sides. **They thought they were shooting at trespassers, occupiers, that they had a right to be there and we didn't. This would have been a good moment to ask myself if they were wrong, and if we had a good enough reason to be in their backyard to be fired at.**

Later that afternoon, I turned to the radio man, a wiry African American kid who looked too thin to be lugging his 75lb radio, and asked: "By any chance, do you ever feel like the redcoats?"

Without missing a beat he said, in a drawl: "I've been thinking that ... all ... day." You couldn't miss the comparison if you'd gone to grade school in America. **Foreign troops far from home, wearing helmets and uniforms and carrying heavy equipment, getting shot at every half-hour by non-uniformed irregulars near their own homes, blending into the local population after each attack.**

I can't help but remember that afternoon as I read about US and British patrols meeting rockets and mines without warning in the cities of Iraq. As we faced ambush after ambush in the countryside, we passed villagers who could have told us we were about to be attacked. Why didn't they? First, there was a good chance their friends and family members were the ones doing the attacking. Second, we were widely seen by the local population not as allies or protectors - as we preferred to imagine - but as foreign occupiers. Helping us would have been seen as collaboration, unpatriotic. Third, they knew that to collaborate was to be in danger from the resistance, and that the foreigners' ability to protect them was negligible.

There could not be a more exact parallel between this situation and Iraq. Our troops in Iraq keep walking into attacks in the course of patrols apparently designed to provide "security" for civilians who, mysteriously, do not appear the slightest bit inclined to warn us of these attacks. This situation - as in Vietnam - is a harbinger of endless bloodletting. I believe American and British soldiers will be dying, and killing, in that country as long as they remain there.

As more and more US and British families lose loved ones in Iraq - killed while ostensibly protecting a population that does not appear to want them there - they will begin to ask: "How did we get into this mess, and why are we still in it?" And the answers they find will be disturbingly similar to those the American public found for Vietnam.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to the E-mail address up top. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

OCCUPATION REPORT



Coils of razor wire used to protect the U.S. headquarters in Saigon—OOPS--in central Baghdad Jan. 25, 2004. Lots of luck. (AP Photo/Muhammed Muheisen)

Unexploded Car Not Bomb Found At U.S. HQ

27 January, 2004 Reuters & January 28, 2004 (CNN)

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - An unexploded car bomb has not been discovered close to the coalition headquarters in Baghdad, says a U.S. military spokesman.

Reporters on the scene said the bomb was believed to be in a vehicle in a car park used by visitors to the coalition compound in the "Green Zone", one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces which has been taken over by the U.S.-led military and civilian administration in Baghdad.

"There is an unexploded car bomb. Soldiers from the 1st Armoured Division are working to dispose of it," the spokesman said. All roads in the area were sealed off.

Later, the military said authorities who were checking a car for explosives near Iraq Governing Council offices Tuesday did not find a bomb. According to the military, the

car went through a checkpoint, and a bomb-sniffing dog indicated it might contain explosives. The area was cordoned off, but soldiers did not find explosives.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Imperial Democrats And Imperial Republicans Agree: More Soldiers Needed To Die Imperial Deaths

[Atlanta Journal-Constitution, January 25, 2004]

The administration, led by DoD Secretary Rumsfeld, resists calls for increasing the size the American military. **Republican and Democrats on both sides of Capitol Hill are pushing plans to add full-time troops and increase the active duty military.**

(For more on Democratic Party trickery, see the article "The Dean Deception," by Karen Rosenthal at www.isreview.org.)

White House Split On Iraqi

[Philadelphia Inquirer, January 27, 2004]

The Bush administration is split over how to derail opposition to a U.S.-backed plan for restoring self-rule to Iraq and prevent even more instability. One option is to go along with demands by Shiite cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani that the assembly be directly elected.

Bush Regime Quit Silly WMD Hunt Last Fall

[Wall Street Journal, January 26, 2004]

David Kay resigned as chief weapons hunter in Iraq because Pentagon and intelligence officials made it clear last fall that they no longer considered the weapons search a priority and appeared doubtful that there would be any major weapons discoveries.

A Real Dilemma

Thanks to M who sent this item:

Here's a dilemma for you.... With all your honor and dignity what would you do? This test only has one question, but it's a very important one.

Please don't answer it without giving it some serious thought. By giving an honest answer you will be able to test where you stand morally. The test features an unlikely, completely fictional situation, where you will have to make a decision one way or the other.

Remember that your answer needs to be honest, yet spontaneous. Please Scroll down slowly and consider each line - this is important for the test to work accurately.

You're in Florida...In Miami, to be exact. There is great chaos going on around you, caused by a hurricane and severe floods. There are huge masses of water all over you. You are a CNN photographer and you are in the middle of this great disaster. The situation is nearly hopeless.

You're trying to shoot very impressive photos. There are houses and People floating around you, disappearing into the water. Nature is showing all its destructive power and is ripping everything away with it.

Suddenly you see a man in the water, he is fighting for his life, trying not to be taken away by the masses of water and mud. You move closer. Somehow the man looks familiar.

Suddenly you know who it is - it's George W. Bush!

At the same time you notice that the raging waters are about to take him away, forever. You have two options. You can save him or you can take the best photo of your life.

So you can save the life of George W. Bush, or you can shoot a Pulitzer prize-winning photo, a unique photo displaying the death of one of the world's most powerful men.

And here's the question (please give an honest answer):

Would you select color film, or rather go with the simplicity of classic black and white?

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

“Liberation” In Action: Bush Puppets In Afghanistan Say No Women Singing On TV

[New York Times, January 26, 2004]

Afghanistan's Supreme Court didn't waste much time when it came to violating the word and spirit of the country's new constitution. **It ruled that a singing performance by a woman on Kabul television was un-Islamic and therefore illegal.**

Bomb Kills Canadian Soldier



Canadian soldiers carry away the weapons and helmet from the victim of an explosion in Kabul January 27, 2004. **A Canadian soldier was killed and three countrymen wounded** bomb attack the Taliban later said it had organized. An Afghan civilian died of wounds inflicted in **the attack near the Canadian base on the southern outskirts of the capital, Kabul.** (Ahmad Masood/Reuters)

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