

## Deadliest Day for US Troops in Iraq (Thursday, January 27, 2005)

### WARM UPS

**CHAT:** Talk about Iraq / being a soldier / fighting for your country / President George W. Bush / security and democracy in Iraq / Iraq's new security forces / ...

**MY COUNTRY:** Talk about the armed forces and the special forces in your country with your partner / group. Have you or any of your family members served in the military? Is there compulsory military service in the your country?

**OPINIONS:** Discuss the following opinions with your partner / group. Find out which are the most commonly held opinions:

- (a) American soldiers are putting their lives on the line for their beliefs in freedom. Too many people around the world unfairly criticize the soldiers.
- (b) George W. Bush has shown honor in keeping his promise to the Iraqi people of bringing security and democracy to them.
- (c) There will never be security in Iraq as long as coalition forces are on the ground.
- (d) The US military should provide information more quickly in tragic events such as this.
- (e) Iraqi prosperity and liberty will encourage change in other regimes around the world.
- (f) The War on Terror cannot be won Mr. Bush's way.
- (g) The democratic Iraqi elections on Sunday (Jan 30th) will be prove the operation in Iraq was worthwhile.
- (h) The USA should never have become militarily involved in Iraq.

### PRE-READING

**WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries, or a search engine, to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'deadly', and 'day'.

**TRUE / FALSE:** Predict from the headline whether these statements are true or false:

- (a) The invasion of Iraq was nearly three years ago. T / F
- (b) 36 U.S. Marines died in a helicopter crash. T / F
- (c) The Marines will not comment on the possible cause of the crash. T / F
- (d) There was reported to be bad weather in the area. T / F
- (e) An investigation will not be held into the cause of the tragedy. T / F
- (f) The story today is going to be very discouraging to the American people. T / F
- (g) Mr. Bush said the United States may now end its mission to establish security and democracy in Iraq. T / F
- (h) Mr. Bush has doubled the number of U.S. troops stationed in Iraq. T / F

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |     |              |                   |
|-----|--------------|-------------------|
| (a) | at least     | signs             |
| (b) | troops       | upsetting         |
| (c) | invasion     | lament            |
| (d) | border       | soldiers          |
| (e) | indications  | domestic          |
| (f) | in progress  | a bare minimum of |
| (g) | discouraging | under way         |
| (h) | weep         | grieve            |
| (i) | mourn        | attack            |
| (j) | home grown   | frontier          |

**DEFINITIONS:** Match the following words with the most likely definitions:

(a) **troops** (n)

- (i) what happens when a plant or flowers begin to die because it has no water
- (ii) a group of soldiers

(b) **invasion** (n)

- (i) putting the flowers that have had no water into a pot full of water
- (ii) the act of entering another country with an armed force to conquer or take it over

(c) **involved** (adj)

- (i) keeping a secret from someone about a tragic event
- (ii) to be or play an active part in some event, action, committee etc

(d) **stabilization** (n)

- (i) to make calm and peaceful
- (ii) to turn some old farm warehouses into a place in which horses can live

(e) **border** (n)

- (i) a dull person who is so boring everyone else around him/her falls asleep
- (ii) the line or area separating geographic regions such as cities, states or countries

(f) **indications** (n)

- (i) signs that something has happened or will happen
- (ii) the blinking lights at the sides of a car to tell other road users the car will turn left or right.

(g) **fired** (v)

- (i) the launch of a bullet, missile, rocket etc
- (ii) to put the bark of evergreen trees on your flowerbeds to stop weeds growing

(h) **weep** (v)

- (i) to express grief or anguish for
- (ii) to fire back at someone or something that is trying to shoot you

(i) **mourn** (v)

- (i) the opposite time of the day to eve, or evening
- (ii) to feel or express grief or sorrow

(j) **forces** (n)

- (i) the plural of fork, those that are used along with knives for eating a meal
- (ii) A unit of a nation's military, especially one sent to fight, or in combat

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases based on the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| (a) making it                               | defend herself    |
| (b) helicopter                              | the deadliest day |
| (c) about 150 kilometers from the Jordanian | is in progress    |
| (d) possible cause                          | to do the job     |
| (e) An investigation                        | lose their life   |
| (f) news                                    | the same time     |
| (g) we mourn when soldiers                  | border            |
| (h) enable Iraq to                          | conference        |
| (i) long enough                             | crash             |
| (j) and at                                  | of the crash      |

**GAP-FILL:** Put the missing words under each paragraph into the gaps.

### **Deadliest Day for US Troops in Iraq (Thu 27 Jan)**

**VOA:** At \_\_\_\_\_ 36 U.S. troops died in Iraq Wednesday, making it the deadliest day \_\_\_\_\_ the invasion nearly two years ago. Of the 36, 31 of the \_\_\_\_\_ are U.S. Marines, who died in a helicopter crash in western Iraq. The Marine Corps says the transport helicopter was involved in what it \_\_\_\_\_ "security and stabilization operations" about 150 kilometers from the Jordanian border. The Marines will not comment on the possible \_\_\_\_\_ of the crash, but there was reported to be bad weather in the area, and there are no indications that anyone fired on the helicopter. An investigation is in \_\_\_\_\_.

*dead    cause    least    progress    calls    since*

At a news conference at the White House, President Bush commented on Wednesday's deaths.

President Bush

"The \_\_\_\_\_ today is going to be very discouraging to the American people. I understand that. We value life. And we weep and mourn when soldiers \_\_\_\_\_ their life," said Mr. Bush. But the president said the United States will continue with its mission to \_\_\_\_\_ security and democracy in Iraq. "That mission is to enable Iraq to defend herself from terrorists, \_\_\_\_\_ grown or terrorists that come in from outside of the country," he added. The president said enough U.S. troops will \_\_\_\_\_ in Iraq long enough to do the job, and at the same time training will \_\_\_\_\_ for Iraq's new security forces.

*home    lose    increase    establish    remain    story*

### **DISCUSSION:**

- (a) What is your reaction to this tragedy?
- (b) Do you think you have become desensitized to hearing of large numbers of people dying?
- (c) Would you let you son or daughter fight in a war in a far away country?
- (d) What is your image of the US Marines?
- (e) What do you think everyday life is like for a soldier in Iraq?
- (f) Have you ever been in or considered joining the army?
- (g) What would the world be like without armies?
- (h) Is George W., Bush doing a good job in Iraq?
- (i) When do you think US forces will leave Iraq forever?
- (j) When do you think the war on terror will end?
- (k) Do you think America is planning to invade Iran?
- (l) Teacher / Student additional questions

## INTERNET / WEB LINKS:

Voice of America website:

<http://www.voanews.com/english/>

Official website for the US Marine Corps:

<http://www.usmc.mil/>

All you need to know about the US Marines

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Marine\\_Corps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Marine_Corps)

For news of the war in Iraq from the US Department of Defense:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/>

BBC Iraq election log: read world opinion or enter your own:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in\\_depth/middle\\_east/2004/iraq\\_log/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/middle_east/2004/iraq_log/default.stm)

## HOMEWORK

**IRAQ WAR POSTER:** Create a poster with a timeline about the war in Iraq.

**LETTER TO MARINE:** Write a letter to a US Marine telling him about your thoughts on his job, mission and future.

## FULL TEXT

### **Deadliest Day for US Troops in Iraq (Thu 27 Jan)**

**VOA:** At **least** 36 U.S. troops died in Iraq Wednesday, making it the deadliest day **since** the invasion nearly two years ago. Of the 36, 31 of the **dead** are U.S. Marines, who died in a helicopter crash in western Iraq. The Marine Corps says the transport helicopter was involved in what it **calls** "security and stabilization operations" about 150 kilometers from the Jordanian border. The Marines will not comment on the possible **cause** of the crash, but there was reported to be bad weather in the area, and there are no indications that anyone fired on the helicopter. An investigation is in **progress**.

At a news conference at the White House, President Bush commented on Wednesday's deaths.

President Bush

"The **story** today is going to be very discouraging to the American people. I understand that. We value life. And we weep and mourn when soldiers **lose** their life," said Mr. Bush. But the president said the United States will continue with its mission to **establish** security and democracy in Iraq. "That mission is to enable Iraq to defend herself from terrorists, **home** grown or terrorists that come in from outside of the country," he added. The president said enough U.S. troops will **remain** in Iraq long enough to do the job, and at the same time training will **increase** for Iraq's new security forces.