

Emailed to National Public Radio in response to a news item on August 3rd, 2007.

Re: Mortar fire into the Green Zone

Hello NPR,

In the lead story on the 8:30am news today, it was reported that a US military official had stated that insurgent mortar and rocket fire into the Green Zone was now more accurate and then it was claimed that this was because of training by the Iranians. No evidence was offered to support this assertion.

If it was the lead story, surely it should have been sought and if none were available, that should have been made clear. I am disturbed because it seems to me that a "case" is being built up against Iran as a pretext for a future attack and that we are falling into the same trap that got us into war - the government made unsubstantiated claims that Iraq possessed WMD and the media, NPR included, passed them on without verification or skepticism.

Perhaps a more likely explanation for the insurgents' improving accuracy is that they have now had 4 years of practice.

- Peter