Why Does the BBC Make These Little 'Mistakes'?

It's not a big thing in itself. But it has a very big **context**. Anyway, judge for yourselves.

First, the facts: Engineers at the Technion Institute of Technology in Israel have designed a remote-controlled version of the D-9 armoured bulldozer. In the Technion's **press release** last week, they explained the purpose of this modification:

> Engineering Corps officers and those from the Technological-Logistical Unit of the IDF's Technology Division stated that this innovative development is intended to enable the bulldozer to be operated under fire while the operator controlling it from afar remains behind safe cover. Today, bulldozer operators are exposed to high risks when they demolish buildings in which **terrorists** are hiding …

(Boldface ours.)

But the BBC **reported the story with a different quote**:

> "Today the bulldozer drivers are exposed to great danger when they knock down buildings that have **militants** hiding in them," Israel's Technion Institute of Technology, which developed the robot version, quoted an unnamed army officer as saying.

(Boldface ours; quotes in original.)

Did the Technion report the officer as saying "militants" or "terrorists"?

The BBC claims to be quoting the Technion. So, did the Technion make two contradictory claims about what the officer said, one to the BBC and one in their own press release? Or is there some innocent explanation for the BBC changing the quote – such as a translation error that just happened to introduce a politically significant change? Or was the BBC flat-out lying? If so, why? Seriously: why would they lie? Note our **previous posts** on this issue, and the comments on them.

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not paying attention?

when people enter lists of names into the computer, Elliot often becomes Elliott

-- Elliot Temple
http://www.curi.us/

by **Elliot Temple** on Thu, 05/13/2004 - 18:42 | **reply**