

# CURRENT NEWS

## EARLY BIRD



October 9, 2007

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### IRAQ

1. **Pentagon Is Pressed On Killings Of Iraqis**  
(*Boston Globe*)....Farah Stockman  
The firestorm over the Sept. 16 shooting of more than a dozen unarmed Iraqis by members of Blackwater USA, a private security firm, has sparked renewed calls for the US military to release its own records related to the killing of Iraqi civilians at checkpoints or near convoys.
2. **Britain To Cut Its Force In Iraq By Half**  
(*New York Times*)....Jane Perlez  
Prime Minister Gordon Brown told the House of Commons on Monday that he would remove half of the 5,000 British troops in Iraq by next spring, and left open the strong possibility that all British soldiers would leave Iraq by the end of 2008.
3. **Britain To Cut Troops In Iraq To 2,500 By Spring, Brown Says**  
(*Washington Post*)....Kevin Sullivan  
...He said an additional 500 support troops would be stationed in the region, but outside of Iraq. Analysts said they would most likely be based in Kuwait.
4. **Iraq Lists Demands In Fatal Shootings**  
(*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*)....Steven R. Hurst and Qassim Abdul-Zahra, Associated Press  
Iraqi authorities want the U.S. government to sever all contracts in Iraq with Blackwater USA within six months and they want the firm to pay \$8 million in compensation to each of the families of 17 people killed when the firm's guards sprayed a traffic circle with heavy machine gun fire last month.
5. **First Ospreys Land In Iraq; One Arrives After 2 Setbacks**  
(*Philadelphia Inquirer*)....Jay Price, McClatchy Newspapers  
The V-22 Osprey has arrived in a combat zone for the first time.
6. **Blasts, Other Violence Kill 37 Iraqis**  
(*Los Angeles Times*)....Alexandra Zavis  
At least 37 Iraqis were killed in bomb blasts and other attacks in two days of violence, including a car bomb that exploded near the Polish Embassy. Two U.S. service members also were killed in separate incidents, authorities said.
7. **Bombs Kill At Least 24 In Attacks Across Iraq**  
(*New York Times*)....Associated Press  
...A suicide car bomber also struck a police checkpoint in Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown, 80 miles north of Baghdad, killing three officers and one civilian and wounding 10 other people.
8. **Iran Reopens Border With Northern Iraq**  
(*Los Angeles Times*)....Alexandra Zavis  
Iran reopened its border Monday with Iraq's northern Kurdish region, which it closed last month to protest the detention of an Iranian official there by U.S. forces.

9. **With U.S. Help, Warlords Gain New Power**  
(*Newsweek*)....Kevin Peraino  
...The U.S. military discovered too late that Iraq's tangled network of tribal leaders is a major key to security. Yet over the past year, "government from the bottom up" has become one of Ambassador Ryan Crocker's favorite catchphrases.
10. **Russia On Its Mind, Georgia Flexes Its Muscle In Iraq**  
(*New York Times*)....Andrew E. Kramer  
The United States has found an unlikely ally in the struggle to block what American commanders suspected to be Iranian weapons smuggling in this rural agricultural region south and east of Baghdad: soldiers from the former Soviet republic of Georgia.
11. **Iraqis Divided By Constitution's Treatment Of Women**  
(*Los Angeles Times*)....Tina Susman  
Supporters say Article 41 will keep the state out of civil affairs. Critics say it will usher in Sharia.

## DEFENSE DEPARTMENT

12. **Big Demand For A Very Specialized Set Of Skills**  
(*U.S. News & World Report*)....Kevin Whitelaw  
The Pentagon's special ops warriors eye larger paychecks.
13. **Emotions High As 68 Sailors, Marines Become Americans**  
(*Pacific Stars and Stripes*)....Chris Fowler  
They came from 22 countries to bear arms in behalf of the United States.

## ARMY

14. **U.S. Weighed Radioactive Poisons**  
(*Washington Post*)....Robert Burns, Associated Press  
Early in the Cold War, the U.S. Army explored the potential for using radioactive poisons to assassinate "important individuals" such as military or civilian leaders, according to newly declassified documents.
15. **Autopsy Performed On Guard Member**  
(*Boston Globe*)....Unattributed  
...Durkin's death, from a gunshot wound on a secure base, is under investigation by the Army, which classified it as "noncombat related" but has not made further details public.

## MARINE CORPS

16. **200 Marines Who Extended Their Iraqi Tour Return Safely**  
(*Los Angeles Times*)....Tony Perry  
...When 200 members of the 800-member 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment extended their enlistments earlier this year so they could accompany the Two-Five back to Iraq, their decision was numerically significant. No infantry battalion has had as many Marines extend their tours as the Two-Five -- troops who were "short-timers" and could have ended their service with comfy stateside billets but chose instead to return to Iraq to help less-experienced Marines navigate the dangers.

## GUANTANAMO

17. **Military Courts For Terror Suspects In Disarray**  
(*Newsweek*)....Dan Ephron  
Military commissions were supposed to ensure easy terror convictions, but that hasn't been the case.

## BUSINESS

18. **Spy Drone Maker Is Sold**  
(*Baltimore Sun*)....Laura Smitherman, Andrea K. Walker and David Wood

Hunt Valley-based United acquired by rival Textron.

19. **At The Army Expo, It's A Gorge Zone**

*(Washington Post)*....Dana Milbank

...These may be hard times for the troops. But the military-industrial complex continues to show the kind of innovation and adaptability that makes America great. Hundreds of defense contractors have filled the Washington Convention Center this week, and they have brought with them an arsenal of promotional materiel to distribute to military procurement officers and other conventioners.

20. **NetFires Delivers Missile Launchers For Testing**

*(Arizona Daily Star (Tucson))*....Arizona Daily Star

A joint venture of Tucson-based Raytheon Missile Systems and Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control has delivered for testing the first component of the U.S. Army's Future Combat Systems, a launch system for small precision-guided missiles.

21. **Alcoa Gets Army Pact Worth \$31.7 Million**

*(Baltimore Sun)*....Unattributed

Alcoa Inc. won a contract valued at \$31.7 million to supply aluminum armored plate for Army vehicles designed to resist improvised explosive devices. More than 1 million pounds of metal will be delivered per month during the contract, with shipments starting in November and running through June 2008, Alcoa said yesterday.

## CONGRESS

22. **Democrats Seem Ready To Extend Wiretap Powers**

*(New York Times)*....Eric Lichtblau and Carl Hulse

Two months after insisting that they would roll back broad eavesdropping powers won by the Bush administration, Democrats in Congress appear ready to make concessions that could extend some crucial powers given to the National Security Agency.

23. **Socom General Criticized**

*(Tampa Tribune)*....James W. Crawley, Media General News Service

...Rep. Walter B. Jones, R-N.C., requested last week that Defense Secretary Robert Gates order an investigation into Lt. Gen. Frank Kearney, deputy commander of Special Operations Command at Tampa's MacDill Air Force Base.

24. **Iraq Stretches Military Thin, Lawmaker Says**

*(St. Petersburg Times)*....Wes Allison

A Florida congressman who has been leading bipartisan attempts to change course in Iraq says he saw progress during his visit to Baghdad over the weekend, but not enough.

## AFGHANISTAN

25. **Afghan Government Executes 15 Prisoners**

*(Washington Post)*....Amir Shah, Associated Press

...The mass execution is likely to complicate relationships between Afghanistan and some NATO members with military forces in the country. International troops often take suspected fighters prisoner and later hand them over to the Afghan government, but some foreign governments would bar that if Afghanistan uses capital punishment.

26. **Australian Soldier Dies In Bombing**

*(Boston Globe)*....Associated Press

A roadside bomb exploded next to an Australian armored vehicle in south-central Afghanistan yesterday, killing one, the first combat death suffered by Australia's military contingent, the country's government said.

27. **Soldiers Bring Aid To Afghan Village**

*(Columbia (SC) State)*....Chuck Crumbo

S.C. Guard unit offers physicals to men, women in area where help is rare.

## MIDEAST

28. **As Mideast Realigns, US Leans Sunni**

(*Christian Science Monitor*)....Howard LaFranchi

...To contain Tehran, Washington is now reaching out to Saudi Arabia, other Gulf states, Egypt, and Jordan, in the form of large arms deals and new talks on such issues as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which in the eyes of most Arabs and many others remains the greatest source of tension – and extremist support – in the region.

## ASIA/PACIFIC

### 29. **Copter Escorting Musharraf Crashes**

(*New York Times*)....Salman Masood

Four people were killed and five others injured Monday when one of the three helicopters escorting the Pakistani president to Kashmir crashed, military officials said.

### 30. **Bhutto's Return Warrants Tight Security**

(*Washington Times*)....Isambard Wilkinson, London Daily Telegraph

Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is expected to get American-trained guards and the latest electronic security equipment amid fears that she could be assassinated when she returns home to contest parliamentary elections.

### 31. **15 Troops Missing After Battle In Pakistan**

(*Los Angeles Times*)....Associated Press

As many as 15 Pakistani troops were missing after several days of fierce fighting with pro-Taliban militants near the Afghan border that left scores dead, the army said today.

### 32. **Ex-Detainee Gets Release Counseling**

(*Miami Herald*)....Carol Rosenberg

David Hicks, the lone Guantánamo captive convicted of a war crime, is getting special counseling ahead of his December release from a prison in his native Australia, the Adelaide Advertiser reported Monday.

## TERRORISM

### 33. **Leak Severed A Link To Al-Qaeda's Secrets**

(*Washington Post*)....Joby Warrick

...The founder of the company, the SITE Intelligence Group, says this premature disclosure tipped al-Qaeda to a security breach and destroyed a years-long surveillance operation that the company has used to intercept and pass along secret messages, videos and advance warnings of suicide bombings from the terrorist group's communications network.

## TECHNOLOGY

### 34. **Security: Whacking Hackers**

(*Newsweek*)....Mark Hosenball

In a single case this summer, an attack by hackers disabled a reported 1,500 Pentagon computers. And the siege is continuing. The Defense Department detects 3 million unauthorized "scans"—or attempts by would-be intruders to access official networks—on its computers every day, according to a Pentagon spokesman.

### 35. **Dragonfly Or Insect Spy? Scientists At Work On Robobugs**

(*Washington Post*)....Rick Weiss

...No agency admits to having deployed insect-size spy drones. But a number of U.S. government and private entities acknowledge they are trying.

### 36. **Military Tech Goes Sci-Fi In Scottsdale**

(*Arizona Daily Star (Tucson)*)....Donna Hogan, East Valley Tribune

The Land Warrior, a "Star Wars"-like combat detection and notification system, run by a "dismounted" military leader connected to his team through his computer and devices imbedded in their body armor, is getting even more far-out features.

## OPINION

### 37. **Iraq: The Lonely War**

(*New York Post*)....Rich Lowry

...This is the lonely war. No one cares about it as much or understands it as well as the men and women here on the ground, who feel - understandably - that they're the only ones even remotely engaged in the fight.

38. **A Decent Outcome For Iraq**

(*U.S. News & World Report*)....Fouad Ajami

...American determination to see this war to a decent outcome, and the fatigue of the Iraqi protagonists, have transformed the landscape. We have been burned before, and progress has often vanished like a desert mirage, but there can be no denying the change that has come to Iraq.

39. **Building For The Real Future**

(*New York Post*)....Mackubin T. Owens

LAST Friday, the Senate approved the nomination of Marine Lt.-Gen. James Mattis as the next commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command. This is great news - because it means the Pentagon can start getting "transformation" right.

40. **A Navy LOST?**

(*Washington Times*)....Frank J. Gaffney Jr.

Irony of ironies: The principal champion of the Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST) is the United States Navy. Yet predictably few organizations would suffer more than America's naval forces from a supranational government of the oceans empowered by U.S. accession to that treaty.

41. **Rewards Of Hiring Veterans**

(*Washington Times*)....Thomas Lynch and Michael O'Hanlon

...If we are going to ask so much of our men and women who voluntarily serve under arms, it is only fair that we take good care of them. Fortunately, military pay as well as health and retirement benefits have improved substantially in modern times. But young people leaving the service need more than benefits.

42. **Anthropology And War -- (Letter)**

(*New York Times*)....Roger N. Lancaster

...The identification of anthropology with military operations, intelligence gathering and "armed social work" augurs ill for the future of a discipline that studies populations distrustful of power — many of which have had unhappy past experiences with American invasion, occupation or support for corrupt dictatorships.

43. **A LOST Cause -- (Letter)**

(*Washington Times*)....Rear Adm. Richard B. Schiff

Although I am not especially fond of the idea of having retired naval officers carry out a debate in the media, I do not want to let Adm. James Lyons' piece "U.S. LOST at sea?"(Commentary, Friday) stand as the last word.

Boston Globe  
October 9, 2007  
Pg. 1

## 1. Pentagon Is Pressed On Killings Of Iraqis

*Lawmakers, ACLU want records on civilian deaths*  
By Farah Stockman, Globe Staff

WASHINGTON - The firestorm over the Sept. 16 shooting of more than a dozen unarmed Iraqis by members of Blackwater USA, a private security firm, has sparked renewed calls for the US military to release its own records related to the killing of Iraqi civilians at checkpoints or near convoys.

Many hundreds of Iraqi civilians have been killed or injured by US forces for getting too close to checkpoints or convoys over the past four years, according to US military documents and officials.

Private security contractors such as Blackwater and US soldiers are authorized to fire at vehicles that get too close to convoys or checkpoints, after giving a series of warnings known as "escalation of force."

US military officials say they have launched a successful effort to reduce the number of such shootings by training soldiers to give more visible warnings, but the Pentagon so far has declined to release data to back up the assertion. That refusal has sparked a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union seeking copies of military reports on such escalation-of-force shootings. Key members of Congress have also called for the release of the documents.

"Without these documents being released, we don't really know how well the military is doing," said Jon Tracy, a former judge advocate general in Iraq who now works for CIVIC, a Washington-based group that seeks to curb civilian deaths. "We don't know how often this happens, and when it does happen. We

can't know if a soldier reasonably had fear or was the soldier was just trigger-happy?"

Senator Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat who has been an outspoken advocate of civilian victims in Iraq and Afghanistan, has renewed calls for the Pentagon to create a declassified database of civilian deaths.

"Such a database would assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the Pentagon's efforts to reduce civilian casualties and in determining appropriate compensation for the victims' families," Leahy said in a statement to the Globe last week. "It would also help to credibly refute inaccurate claims of civilian deaths."

Military officials who worked on the effort to reduce civilian deaths say that the information Leahy and the ACLU are seeking is classified. Military spokesmen reached in Baghdad said they would release statistics on escalation-of-force killings when they become available but did not provide statistics for this report.

Civilian shootings by Blackwater and other contractors have come under scrutiny since the Sept. 16 episode. Blackwater has reported involvement in 195 shootings since 2005, 80 percent of which were deemed "escalation of force incidents" in which Blackwater fired without being fired upon. But contractors are not required to complete the same rigorous investigations of shootings that the US military conducts.

Initial reports suggest that the Sept. 16 event was sparked when a driver unwittingly came too close to the Blackwater convoy and was shot by Blackwater personnel. As the dead driver's car continued rolling toward the convoy, Blackwater security reportedly continued to shoot, killing at least 14 people and sparking an uproar in the Iraqi government and on Capitol Hill.

Similarly, hundreds of shootings at US checkpoints and near convoys have ignited simmering outrage among Iraqis for years and taken hundreds of lives, although they have not gotten the attention in the United States that the Blackwater shooting has received.

"Many hundreds are killed and their cases are not even recognized," said Karzan Sherabayani, an Iraqi living in London who made a documentary about his struggle to find out what happened to his 75-year-old uncle, whose car was hit with more than 80 bullets when he tried to turn around at a checkpoint in Kirkurk. "I wanted to know if somebody had been given responsibility for this."

Of 500 claims for compensation filed by Iraqi families and released after an ACLU court action, 133 were allegedly killed for driving too close to a convoy, while 59 were allegedly killed at checkpoints.

Those cases include allegations that US soldiers, on several occasions, shot at random from convoys, killing bystanders; a case in which soldiers allegedly fired 200 rounds into a car that did not stop soon enough at a checkpoint, killing two parents and injuring their two young children; and an allegation that US soldiers had fired on a car carrying a pregnant woman who was on her way to the hospital to give birth, killing her.

In the vast majority of cases, soldiers were deemed to have acted within their rights to fire at the vehicles that they feared posed a threat. Soldiers were found negligent in only a tiny handful of cases. In many cases, the claims were denied because the event had not been reported up the chain of command.

Military officials say soldiers are under tremendous pressure at checkpoints and in convoys, and often have only a few seconds to decide if a

vehicle is a threat. Sometimes, they say, soldiers err on the side of killing an innocent driver instead of risking death to himself and fellow soldiers.

"They are 19, 20 years old and we are asking them to make some pretty big decisions, and they are doing a great job," said Colonel Kent Crossley, former chief of Analysis and Integration at the Center for Army Lessons Learned at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., who served multiple tours in Iraq. Crossley cochaired a conference earlier this year on how to rewrite the handbook on "escalation of force" procedures in a way that could reduce civilian deaths.

He said the military was trying to give soldiers the tools to avoid such killings, including nonlethal tactics, and better, more visible signs which can be understood by Iraqis who do not speak English.

"Just because you have the right to use lethal force, it doesn't mean you should. That's what we are trying to teach these soldiers," he said.

When General Peter Chiarelli arrived in Iraq as the number-two US military official in 2006, he announced that every "escalation of force" shooting that resulted in a death or injury should be investigated and reported up the chain of command in what is known as a "15-6" report.

Within months, the number of reported checkpoint shootings dropped dramatically, from one per day to one a week, military officials said, heralding a major success.

But in July, the McClatchy news service reported that the number of "escalation of force" shootings had spiked with the increase of US troops in recent months, with 429 civilians killed or wounded in checkpoint and convoy shootings over the past year.

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## 2. Britain To Cut Its Force In Iraq By Half

By Jane Perlez

LONDON, Oct. 8 — Prime Minister Gordon Brown told the House of Commons on Monday that he would remove half of the 5,000 British troops in Iraq by next spring, and left open the strong possibility that all British soldiers would leave Iraq by the end of 2008.

Mr. Brown said the cuts were possible because of what he described as the progress made in training Iraqi security forces. He described the situation in Basra in southern Iraq, where the British troops are based, as “calmer.”

Since President Bush has made clear that American troops will remain heavily committed in Iraq at least through his administration’s end in January 2009, it appears that the tight alliance on Iraq forged between Mr. Brown’s predecessor, Tony Blair, and Washington is fraying. Indeed, a hallmark of Mr. Brown’s three months as prime minister has been the relative distance he has established with the American president.

The timetable of reductions appears to fit neatly into the calculus of a British general election that is now expected to be held in 2009. Britain’s role as America’s largest military partner has been highly unpopular among voters, and as Mr. Brown spoke, thousands of protesters gathered outside Parliament chanting slogans calling for immediate withdrawal.

Mr. Brown visited British troops stationed at their base outside Basra last week, and announced then that 1,000 troops would be going home.

But that declaration, apparently aimed at a possible general election next month, backfired after Mr. Brown was accused of playing politics. It also turned out that some of the troops he described as being withdrawn were already home, and others had already been

announced as heading back.

In his formal statement to Parliament, Mr. Brown said a decision would be made in the spring as to how long the reduced force of 2,500 would remain in Iraq.

At a briefing at the Foreign Office after Mr. Brown’s statement, a senior British official said of the 2,500 troops that “there was no guarantee they will be there beyond the end of 2008.” The official said Britain was on a “glide path” of irreversible reductions. The official spoke on condition of anonymity under Foreign Office rules.

In his response to Mr. Brown in Parliament, the leader of the opposition Conservative party, David Cameron, seemed to sum up the content of Mr. Brown’s statement, saying, “Now the troops are coming home.”

Though Mr. Brown pronounced himself satisfied with the security situation in Basra, others said the British were leaving behind a lawless, violent place.

Toby Dodge, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, said the Iranian influence in southern Iraq would only increase as the British scaled back. The Iraqi police around Basra have been “heavily infiltrated by Islamic militia,” Mr. Dodge said.

In essence, he said, the British had been “driven out by Islamic radicals with nothing more than rocket-propelled grenades and mortars.”

Explaining his rationale, Mr. Brown told Parliament, “The Iraqis are now able to take responsibility for the security themselves.” He described a two-phase process of handing over responsibility for security in Basra Province, where the British have been based since the war’s start.

It would start with British forces training and mentoring Iraqi security forces, securing supply routes to the Iranian border and providing backup to local security forces. In the

second phase, starting in the spring of 2008, British troops would retain a more limited ability to intervene by force, the prime minister said.

The troop level would be reduced from the approximately 5,000 now in Basra to 4,500 and then to 4,000, and then to 2,500 by spring, Mr. Brown said.

At the Foreign Office briefing, the senior British official said the drawdown of British troops, including the reduction to 2,500, had been discussed in detail with the American commander, Gen. David H. Petraeus. “It is a number with which General Petraeus is content,” the official said.

The 2,500 British troops in the final phase of the British deployment would be stationed outside the city of Basra at the Basra Air Station, and they would be almost completely involved in instructing the trainers of two divisions of Iraqi soldiers, the official said.

About 500 British troops, serving support roles to those still in Iraq, would be based in a neighboring country, the official said. He indicated that those support troops would be based in Kuwait.

In determining the size of the reduction of the British troops, Mr. Brown has had to deal with three constituencies: the British electorate; the British Army, whose commanders have complained about the Iraq deployment stretching the military too thin; and the White House.

Despite statements by the British that the Pentagon was satisfied, Mr. Dodge said he believed that the “White House is deeply uneasy” about the decision. He cited remarks by Gen. Jack Keane, a retired Army vice chief of staff and an architect of the American “surge,” who has expressed frustration at the disengagement of British forces in Basra.

In his statement to Parliament, Mr. Brown also sought to defuse an outcry over

the future of Iraqi civilians who have worked with the British troops. Those Iraqis who have worked alongside the British for more than 12 months would be eligible for aid and emigration to other countries, possibly including Britain, he said.

At a news conference at 10 Downing Street before his statement to the House of Commons, Mr. Brown was pummeled with questions about why he allowed speculation over an election announcement to reach a fever pitch before backing away from calling an election.

“Yes, I did consider holding an election,” Mr. Brown said. “Yes, I looked at it.”

But in the end, he said he followed his “first instinct” to take more time to show voters his vision for the country, particularly in housing, education and health.

The British news media reported Monday that Mr. Brown probably would have won a November election, but the current majority of more than 60 seats would most likely have shrunk substantially.

The surveys showed the electorate to be volatile after both the Labor Party and the Conservative Party held their conferences.

Mr. Brown said Monday that an election was “not likely” in 2008. He must call an election by 2010.

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Washington Post

October 9, 2007

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## 3. Britain To Cut Troops In Iraq To 2,500 By Spring, Brown Says

By Kevin Sullivan,  
Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, Oct. 8 -- Britain will cut its troop strength in Iraq by half in the coming months, from just over 5,000 now to 2,500 next spring, Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced Monday.

Speaking in the House of Commons on the opening day of Parliament's fall session, Brown said the reduction was possible because of improving security in Iraq, particularly what he called a "calmer" situation around Basra, the southern city where British troops are based.

Brown disclosed the troop reductions as hundreds of antiwar protesters marched outside and opposition lawmakers grilled him over Britain's role in the extremely unpopular Iraq war.

"The harsh truth is that Britain's involvement in Iraq has been a catastrophe," said Liberal Democrat leader Menzies Campbell, who said Britain should completely withdraw from Iraq as soon as possible.

In his first major parliamentary address on Iraq since he took office in June, Brown rejected calls to set a timetable for a complete withdrawal of troops. He said any further cuts would be based on an assessment by military commanders of conditions in Iraq.

Brown said Britain's security role in Iraq was changing to one of strictly "overwatch" functions: training Iraqi soldiers and police officers, protecting supply routes into the country and patrolling the border with Iran. He said troops would also be available for a "re-intervention" to help Iraqi forces if necessary.

He said that by next spring, British forces would operate almost exclusively as trainers. As that shift occurred, he said, Britain would decrease its troops from 5,500 -- the level at the beginning of September -- to 4,500 by the end of the year, then to 4,000 and eventually 2,500 in spring.

He said an additional 500 support troops would be stationed in the region, but outside of Iraq. Analysts said they would most likely be based in Kuwait.

Brown also said Iraqis

who had worked as interpreters and translators for British forces would be eligible for financial and other help to relocate to Britain or other countries where they felt safe. Brown said about 450 Iraqis who had worked for British forces for at least a year would be eligible immediately.

Opposition lawmakers repeatedly attacked Brown, with several saying that as a top cabinet official under his predecessor, Tony Blair, also of the Labor Party, he should have done more to prevent the war. Conservative Party lawmaker Malcolm Rifkind called the Iraq war "the greatest error in British foreign policy in recent times."

Brown repeatedly deflected criticism about the war's origins and stressed Britain's "obligation" to remain in Iraq to achieve security, political reconciliation and economic reconstruction.

The Conservatives criticized Brown for his trip last week to Iraq, where he visited with British troops and announced the initial reduction of 1,000 troops by Christmas.

Conservative leader David Cameron denounced that move as political opportunism and said it was designed to steal the limelight during the Conservatives' annual party conference.

In the Commons on Monday, Cameron said Brown should have made his initial announcement in Parliament, not in Iraq. Cameron said it was "not an acceptable way for a prime minister to behave."

"I make no apologies for visiting our troops in Iraq," Brown said to loud jeers from Conservative lawmakers. "If we are to have a responsible politics in this country," he continued, "then ministers who hold responsibility for the safety and security of our armed forces must visit our armed forces, listen to what they say, draw on their advice and then make their decisions -- which is what I am announcing today."

Brown, facing his toughest political struggle since taking office, has been harshly criticized by opposition politicians and the British news media for how he handled his recent decision not to call a general election this fall.

After considering the idea for two weeks, Brown announced Saturday that he had decided against an early election. Opposition leaders said Brown had lost his nerve when new polls showed the Conservatives gaining on his Labor Party, following Conservative pledges to reduce inheritance and other taxes.

At his monthly news conference Monday morning, Brown denied his decision was based on the poll results. He said he listened to those who argued that a snap election could bolster Labor's majority in Parliament. But ultimately, he said, he decided to give his policies more time to achieve results before calling an election.

Of his decision, Brown told reporters: "I could have done it earlier, maybe I should have done it earlier -- that's the reality of the situation."

Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
October 9, 2007

#### **4. Iraq Lists Demands In Fatal Shootings**

*Officials: U.S. must cut Blackwater ties*

By Steven R. Hurst and Qassim Abdul-Zahra, Associated Press

Baghdad--Iraqi authorities want the U.S. government to sever all contracts in Iraq with Blackwater USA within six months and they want the firm to pay \$8 million in compensation to each of the families of 17 people killed when the firm's guards sprayed a traffic circle with heavy machine gun fire last month.

The demands--in an Iraqi government report on its investigation of the killings--also call on U.S. authorities to hand over the Blackwater security agents

involved in the Sept. 16 shootings for possible trial in Iraqi courts.

The tone of the report appears to signal further strains between Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government and the White House over the deaths in Nisoor Square--which have prompted a series of U.S. and Iraqi probes and raised questions about the use of private security contractors to guard U.S. diplomats and officials.

The report also highlights the differences in death tolls and accounts of events as the Blackwater-protected convoy raced back toward Baghdad's Green Zone after a nearby bombing, while a second team in four gun trucks sped into the square to provide back-up.

The Iraqi investigation charges the four Blackwater vehicles called to the square began shooting without provocation. Blackwater contends its employees came under fire first.

The government, at the conclusion of its investigation, said 17 Iraqis died. Initial reports put the toll at 11. It said the compensation--totaling \$136 million--was so high "because Blackwater uses employees who disrespect the rights of Iraqi citizens."

The U.S. military pays compensation to the families of civilians killed in battles or to cover property damage, but in far lower amounts.

The United States has not made conclusive findings about the shooting, though multiple investigations are under way and Congress has opened inquiries into the role of private security contractors.

The Iraqi government report said its courts were the proper venue in which to bring charges.

It said Blackwater's license to operate in Iraq expired on June 2, 2006, meaning it had no immunity from prosecution under Iraqi laws set down after the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

The government report

also challenged a claim that a decree in June 2004 by then-Iraqi administrator L. Paul Bremer granted Blackwater immunity from legal action in incidents such as the one in Nisour Square.

The report also found that Blackwater guards had killed 21 Iraqi civilians and wounded 27 in previous shootings since it took over security for U.S. diplomats in Baghdad after the U.S. invasion. Iraq did not say whether it would prosecute in those cases.

Philadelphia Inquirer  
October 9, 2007

## 5. First Ospreys Land In Iraq; One Arrives After 2 Setbacks

By Jay Price, McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD-- The V-22 Osprey has arrived in a combat zone for the first time.

It was an epic trip for the tilt-rotor plane, one that took more than 25 years of development and cost 30 lives and \$20 billion. Even the last short hop - from an aircraft carrier into Iraq - went awry, U.S. military officials said yesterday.

A malfunction forced one of the 10 Ospreys that were deployed to land in Jordan on Thursday. The Marines flew parts to it from Iraq and repaired it. After it took off again Saturday, the problem recurred, and it had to turn back and land in Jordan a second time, said Maj. Jeff Pool, a U.S. military spokesman in western Iraq. The Osprey finally was repaired and arrived at Asad air base in western Iraq late Sunday afternoon.

Maj. Eric Dent, an Osprey spokesman at Marine headquarters in Washington, declined to identify the problem.

"The nature of the malfunction was a minor issue, but our aircrews are top-notch when it comes to safety," Dent said in an e-mail. "Rather than

continue, the aircrew opted to land at a predetermined divert location and further investigate the issue."

Now the Osprey is on the world stage, and the burden of proving it is safe and effective in combat lies with the North Carolina-based Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263, nicknamed the "Thunder Chickens." The unit's mission will be transporting troops and cargo in western Iraq.

It will perform that mission in ways that no other military transporters have done in combat. The Osprey - which costs \$110 million each, including development costs - takes off and lands like a helicopter but tilts its engines forward to fly like an airplane. It is jointly produced by the Boeing Co. in Ridley Township, Delaware County, and Bell Helicopter Textron of Fort Worth, Texas.

Its arrival in Iraq is aviation history, said Bob Leder, a spokesman for the Bell-Boeing partnership.

"This is a big thing - the introduction of a new type of aircraft into combat, totally different from the way things have been done before," he said.

Leder said the company believed that the Osprey and the squadron would do well but that years of criticism and heavy media attention were putting huge pressure on the unit to perform.

The aircraft's problems have generated a gallery of vocal detractors, who say that not only is it too expensive and too dangerous but that it performs poorly and has become little more than an extraordinarily expensive bus.

The Osprey made the cover of Time magazine last week in a highly critical article that called it "A Flying Shame."

The problem with the flight into Iraq recalled one of the V-22's first big journeys, a transatlantic flight last year to an English air show. One Osprey suffered engine

problems and had to make a precautionary landing in Iceland.

The aircraft has had worse moments, though, including three fatal crashes:

In 1992, seven crew members died when a tilt-rotor crashed into the Potomac River.

In April 2000, a V-22 with 19 crew and Marine passengers aboard crashed in Arizona, killing all.

In December 2000, a mechanical problem compounded by a software glitch caused a crash in North Carolina that killed the crew of four.

Los Angeles Times  
October 9, 2007

## 6. Blasts, Other Violence Kill 37 Iraqis

*The government reportedly asks the U.S. to pay \$8 million per victim in last month's Blackwater shootings.*

By Alexandra Zavis, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

BAGHDAD — At least 37 Iraqis were killed in bomb blasts and other attacks in two days of violence, including a car bomb that exploded near the Polish Embassy. Two U.S. service members also were killed in separate incidents, authorities said.

Two car bombs targeting a mosque and the home of the police chief killed 14 people and wounded 30 today in the northern town of Baiji, Reuters news service reported. The police chief was wounded in the attack, which killed four of his guards, the news service reported.

The U.S. military announced the deaths of a Marine killed in combat Monday in Anbar province and a soldier killed Friday near Baiji. At least 3,817 U.S. personnel have been killed since the start of the Iraq war in 2003, according to the website icasualties.org, which tracks military deaths.

The U.S. command says violence in Iraq has dropped

overall since President Bush ordered the deployment of nearly 30,000 additional troops this year. But officers concede there has been a recent increase in attacks by Sunni insurgents timed to coincide with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

In a separate matter causing strain in U.S. and Iraqi relations, the Associated Press reported that Iraqi authorities have asked the U.S. government to hand over the Blackwater USA security guards involved in a shooting last month to face possible trial in an Iraqi court.

Iraqi officials also want the U.S. government to pay \$8 million per victim to the families of the 17 people they say were killed when the private security firm's guards opened fire at a busy intersection Sept. 16, and to sever all ties with the company within six months. Blackwater says its guards were ambushed while protecting a U.S. Embassy convoy, but Iraqi officials concluded they fired without provocation.

The demands are contained in an Iraqi government report obtained by AP, one of several probes into an incident that has raised questions about the use of largely unregulated contractors to protect U.S. officials.

Aides to Prime Minister Nouri Maliki said they were not aware of the demands reported by AP.

In the most deadly of Monday's attacks, a suicide truck bomber killed 13 people and injured 26 in an assault on the Dijla police station near Samarra, a mostly Sunni city about 60 miles north of Baghdad. The blast ripped through stores and cars, and most of the casualties were civilians, police said.

In Baghdad, four explosions shook the Polish Embassy in the city's upscale Karada neighborhood, the acting Polish ambassador, Waldemar Figaj, told Reuters news agency. He described the

first blast as "very, very powerful," but said it caused no damage. "I don't believe we were targeted. We just felt the impact," he said.

An official at the Iraqi Interior Ministry said a car bomb exploded on a nearby street. The U.S. military said its aircraft dropped a series of bombs into an area of dense palm groves along Dora's fringes that has been used to ambush and shell U.S. and Iraqi forces. No casualties were reported, the military said in a statement.

Polish Ambassador Edward Pietrzyk was injured in an attack Wednesday that killed one of his bodyguards. Poland is a staunch supporter of U.S. forces in Iraq and has vowed to maintain its 900-strong presence in the south. But the country plans to move its diplomatic mission inside the fortified Green Zone for safety.

Also Monday, U.S.-led forces killed five gunmen and detained three suspects during a raid targeting Shiite militants said to be involved in kidnappings and bombings using sophisticated armor-piercing rounds, the military said. Iraqi police said the raid happened in Baghdad's Sadr City.

Police in Baghdad also announced that they had recovered seven bodies with gunshot wounds.

*Times staff writer Saif Hameed contributed to this report.*

New York Times  
October 9, 2007  
Pg. 12

## 7. Bombs Kill At Least 24 In Attacks Across Iraq

BAGHDAD, Oct. 8 (AP) — A suicide bomber drove his truck into a police station north of Baghdad on Monday, crumbling the squat concrete building in the deadliest of a series of blasts that killed at least 24 people across Iraq.

Nobody claimed responsibility for the attacks in the capital and two northern areas.

The blast at the police station in Dijla, a village in the Sunni heartland 60 miles north of the capital, also tore through a nearby empty school and several stores. At least 13 people — 3 officers and 10 civilians — were killed, and 22 people were wounded, the police said.

The station, built in the 1980s, was poorly protected. It was surrounded by concrete barriers less than a yard high, even though it had been ambushed less than a month ago by dozens of gunmen.

A suicide car bomber also struck a police checkpoint in Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown, 80 miles north of Baghdad, killing three officers and one civilian and wounding 10 other people.

In the capital, a bomb in a parked car exploded at a market near the technology department of Baghdad University, killing five civilians and wounding 15.

A car bombing near the Polish Embassy killed two Iraqis and wounded five, police officials said. The attack was carried out five days after the Polish ambassador, Gen. Edward Pietrzyk, was wounded in an ambush.

The Polish chargé d'affaires, Waldemar Figaj, said he heard a series of explosions around the embassy on Monday morning but that the closest appeared to be about 200 yards away. The embassy had no reason to believe it "was targeted in any way," Mr. Figaj said.

All police officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they said they feared retribution.

An American soldier was killed in fighting Friday near the northern Iraqi city of Baiji, the military said. At least 3,816 members of the United States military have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003, according to The Associated

Press.

Iran, meanwhile, reopened five border-crossing points with the Kurdish-run region of northern Iraq.

The border crossings had been closed Sept. 24 to protest the detention of an Iranian official by American forces.

The military has said the official is a member of Iran's paramilitary Quds Force, which is accused of providing arms and training to Shiite extremists. But Iraqi and Iranian authorities have said the detained Iranian, Mahmoud Farhadi, was in Iraq on official business, and they have demanded his release.

A spokesman for the Kurdish regional government in northern Iraq, Jamal Abdullah, said he hoped the resumed flow of traffic and goods would help stem the rising prices plaguing the region since the closings.

Los Angeles Times  
October 9, 2007

## 8. Iran Reopens Border With Northern Iraq

*Crossings were closed last month to protest U.S. detention of an Iranian official.*

By Alexandra Zavis, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

BAGHDAD — Iran reopened its border Monday with Iraq's northern Kurdish region, which it closed last month to protest the detention of an Iranian official there by U.S. forces.

Iran agreed to reopen the five border crossings after the Kurdish regional authorities sent a delegation to Tehran to argue that they should not be punished for a dispute with the United States.

In a deal announced Sunday, the two sides pledged to crack down on Iranian Kurdish rebels who are using Iraq as a base to launch attacks against Iran, and Iraqi militants who are using Iran as a base to attack Kurdish regional authorities.

The landlocked Kurdish-run region depends on

two-way trade with Iran, which supplies key goods and provides an export route for local products.

Iranian foodstuffs, medicines, construction materials and other goods account for about 60% of what is used in the region, said Hassan Baqi, who heads the Chamber of Commerce in the Kurdish city of Sulaymaniya. The closure of the nearby Bashmakh crossing alone affected the livelihoods of about 3,000 Iraqi drivers, laborers and merchants, he said.

In northern Iraq, trucks rolled across the border Monday at the five crossings for the first time since Sept. 24, Baqi said.

Iran had closed the border posts after U.S. forces detained an Iranian official they accused of helping to supply weapons and training to Shiite Muslim militants on behalf of the elite Quds Force of the Islamic Republic's Revolutionary Guard.

Iraqi and Iranian officials have said the man detained in Sulaymaniya, Mahmoud Farhadi, was part of an official delegation; they have demanded his release. He is one of at least six Iranians held by U.S. forces in northern Iraq.

Iraq has struggled to balance relations with its two most important allies, the United States and Iran. This year, Iraq played host to two meetings between U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and his Iranian counterpart, Hassan Kazemi-Qomi. But Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, accused Kazemi-Qomi over the weekend of being a member of the Quds Force, a charge denied by Tehran.

U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Mirembe Nantongo said Monday that it would be "premature to talk about any more talks" until Iran ceases to provide weapons, funding and other backing to militants accused of attacking U.S. forces in Iraq.

Iran denies doing so, and the U.S. military has released no conclusive evidence that the Iranian weapons it has found in Iraq were supplied by authorities in Tehran.

*A special correspondent in Irbil, Iraq, contributed to this report.*

Newsweek

October 15, 2007

## 9. With U.S. Help, Warlords Gain New Power

By Kevin Peraino

Kanan al-Sadid was not yet 10 years old on the afternoon that his father opened the trunk of the family car and Saddam Hussein popped out. It was the early 1960s, and the future dictator was hiding out from the Iraqi authorities, who accused him of plotting to assassinate the country's then strongman, Gen. Abdul Karim Qassim. Kanan's uncle was a member of Saddam's revolutionary Baath Party clique; when the conspirators needed to lie low, they would disappear to the Sadid family estate near the Syrian border. Once, when Syrian soldiers came looking for the men, Saddam and the boy's father ducked into a linen closet. Another time, as the family Volkswagen approached an Iraqi Army checkpoint, Saddam ordered all the children in the car to blow on the windows, steaming them up to conceal the fugitives. While visiting a family home in Baghdad one afternoon, Kanan's father told his sons to get into the car; they were going to a park to play. But after driving around for a while, the car stopped, the boy's father opened the trunk and Saddam Hussein—curled up and dressed in a dishdasha—stepped out and walked off. Kanan's father drove away in silence. "When are we going to the park?" the deflated boy asked. "Keep your mouth shut," his father replied.

Almost 50 years

and with Saddam in his grave—Kanan's hometown of Tikrit is still a nest of intrigue. As head of one of the most powerful branches of Iraq's massive Shammer tribe, Kanan, 49, can urge thousands of men to take up arms—or, with a few words, keep them at home. After the U.S. invasion, he rounded up some 1,200 loyalists and helped them enlist in the new Iraqi Army. In recent years Kanan—who wears a silver pinkie ring and snaps the lapels of his pin-striped suit coat when he's punctuating a point—has founded a satellite television station, launched a construction company and renovated a nearby sports stadium. ("Olympic pool," he says, his eyes widening.) Yet the necessary tactics for survival as a strongman in modern Iraq sometimes seem to change from hour to hour. Iraqis, he says, are once again looking for the kind of martinet he knew as a boy. "They want somebody strong like Saddam," Kanan told NEWSWEEK last week in an interview near Tikrit. "Power and money—that's how you [rule] Iraq. If I became like the Prince of Dubai, I would control Iraqis like a remote control."

The U.S. military discovered too late that Iraq's tangled network of tribal leaders is a major key to security. Yet over the past year, "government from the bottom up" has become one of Ambassador Ryan Crocker's favorite catchphrases. As violence has declined in Sunni enclaves like Ramadi and Fallujah in recent months, commanders have tried to replicate the apparent success of the region's Anbar Salvation Council elsewhere. Last summer American military commanders spent millions of dollars on "concerned local citizens" programs—essentially paying off tribal sheiks to keep their followers from planting roadside bombs. In Tikrit's

Salah Ad Din province, the Army has spent more than \$5 million to buy the loyalty of 26 different sheiks. (Kanan is not among them, although another sheik from the same family is.) With Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's central government weaker than ever—unable to provide basic services even to Baghdad—power brokers in the provinces are enjoying something of a renaissance. That's fine with Kanan al-Sadid. "We have to get rid of central control," he says, exhaling a cloud of French-cigarette smoke.

Yet "government from the bottom up" is not without risks. Critics say empowering regional strongmen is creating a warlord state in Iraq, with tribal and religious leaders operating increasingly independently—and often unconstitutionally. At best, the breakdown into local fiefdoms is not necessarily consistent with political reconciliation at the center, the strategic goal of U.S. diplomats. At worst, power struggles among local leaders—particularly in the southern Shiite heartland—could erupt into all-out civil war. "If nobody wins, you could end up with different groups in charge of different cities," says Vali Nasr, an Iraq expert at Tufts University. In a sense, it's happening already. Even as Iraqis furiously denounce the nonbinding U.S. Senate resolution that suggested dividing their country into three relatively autonomous parts, Iraq has splintered into a hundred pieces.

Kanan al-Sadid notes that no politician in Baghdad could rival his degree of credibility in Tikrit. His reputation, he says, depends partly on keeping his distance both from U.S. forces in the city and from the most vicious local insurgents. The strongman spends a lot of time in Syria—the better to stay above the fray, he believes. He argues that Iraqis have a right to fight U.S. troops in his country, yet he also decries the

foreign "terrorists" he sees as responsible for ruining Tikrit's economy. (According to U.S. military statistics, attacks in Salah Ad Din province roughly doubled over the year ending in July, though commanders say they have come down somewhat since the "concerned citizens" program began.) When another sub-sheik from the Shammer tribe in Tikrit decided to sign up for the U.S. military's program last summer, Kanan says he had only small technical objections to the way the program was being run. Nobody can truly be a strongman in modern Tikrit without U.S. support, he says. But he also acknowledges that the alliance has caused disagreements within the family; looking like an American puppet is not necessarily good for a man's reputation among Tikritis. "They're scared to take [the money]," Kanan says. "A sheik should always have some credibility."

In other parts of Iraq, working closely with U.S. forces has clearer advantages. Consider Gen. Qais Hamza Aboud, the local police chief in the mostly Shiite city of Hillah, about 50 miles south of Baghdad. A former fighter pilot in Saddam's Air Force, Qais is now probably the most powerful individual in Babil province—more influential than either the governor or local Iraqi Army commanders. He was working as a car salesman in 2003 when U.S. military officials helped him form an elite paramilitary police unit, now known as the Scorpion Battalion. Flush with American cash and weapons, Qais's Scorpions have since swelled to roughly 800 troops. U.S. officers in Hillah refer to Qais simply as "the Godfather." Asked about the nickname during a recent visit to a U.S. military base outside Hillah, General Qais stared down a NEWSWEEK reporter for 10 seconds or so, and then replied: "Yeah, that's right."

At a recent meeting

attended by U.S. officers, diplomats and Iraqi security officials, Qais sat at the head of a horseshoe-shaped table facing a slide projector. The general, who looks somewhat like a plump Albert Einstein, listened as the Americans talked about the need to incorporate 200 or so of Babil's own "concerned local citizens" into his police force. The "citizens" program, in Hillah as elsewhere, can be problematic. Legally, for instance, participating citizens are not supposed to carry weapons outside their homes, a ban that is often ignored, leading to clashes between the U.S.-supported guardians and other local armed groups. "What we're seeing is the de facto establishment of a militia," said a State Department official at the meeting, who declined to speak to NEWSWEEK on the record without embassy authorization. "We need to be very careful that we remain constitutionally correct." Another U.S. officer at the meeting, Col. Michael Garrett, added: "We've never addressed the fact that we're putting citizens outside what is now the current law." Qais said he agreed. "We don't want this group to become another militia," he said quietly. After the meeting, one American diplomat, who was not authorized to speak on the record, referred to the project derisively as a "guns and whisky" strategy.

As the meeting ended, Qais leaned over a tactical map with a smaller clutch of U.S. and Iraqi officers, making final preparations for a raid on a suspected Mahdi Army office. "We're going to shut those f--ers down," the general said, to titters from his U.S. military counterparts. American officers mostly consider his personal bravado endearing. Yet they also recognize that relying on charismatic individuals for security carries its own risks. Qais's authority derives largely from "a personal allegiance to the general," says Lt. Col.

Thomas Roth, an American officer who works closely with the police chief. The Scorpion Battalion might fall apart completely if the chief were to be assassinated, as enemies have tried to do several times in recent years. U.S. officers also worry about the health of the general, who is significantly overweight. "Give him anything, he'll drink it," says Roth, adding that Qais's brand of whisky is Jack Daniel's. "He'll smoke anything." If the general fell ill, Roth says, the local security effort could be set back significantly. "He's one-man deep," says the American officer. "There's nobody else."

If Hillah's security is one-man deep, Basra's political scene is stacked with competing actors, many of them sworn enemies. Perhaps the best-known warlord figure in the city is Muhammad al-Waeli, the provincial governor from the Islamist Fadhila party. Al-Waeli's men control the city's significant oil resources, protecting the facilities with a powerful militia. Yet a number of other militant groups compete with the governor for authority, including the 17,000-strong Mahdi Army and the Hakim family's Badr Corps. Earlier this summer the British military's remaining 5,500 soldiers withdrew to near the Basra airport, leaving the city's security largely in the hands of the various rival militias. Some observers believe the British military's "light touch" throughout the occupation has also contributed to the fragmentation of the city's local political scene.

Last week NEWSWEEK visited one of the city's most powerful young warlords, an Islamist in his early 40s named Yussef al-Mussawi, who leads Basra's Thar'Allah ("God's Revenge") Party. At the organization's heavily guarded complex a couple of miles north of the city, bodyguards milled about carrying Iraqi-made Tariq pistols; one

guard had stationed himself inside an air-conditioning duct above the building's front door. In a reception room near the parking lot, supplicants queued up to ask the leader for favors. A group of four young men said they had come to get his help in finding their kidnapped brother. Upstairs in his office, Mussawi—dressed entirely in black and wearing a pinkie ring—sat at a desk covered with letters from petitioners asking his help. "The Iraqi government is weak and the Parliament is shallow," Mussawi told a caller. Later, when another caller asked for the Islamist's advice about a property dispute, Mussawi replied: "The sword is the solution"—meaning he believed force was the only thing that would get the man's property back.

Even to ambitious local sheiks like Kanan al-Sadid in Tikrit, the warlords' rise is a troubling development. "What century are we in?" he asks. "If we go back to the tribes—say goodbye to democracy." The businessman says he would prefer to hold an elected position in a modern, liberal state—provincial governor, perhaps. Yet he also acknowledges that with Tikrit's security still in chaos, that prospect seems a long way off. "Since the beginning," the sheik explains, "the tribes have depended on weapons. At first it was for the wolves. Then it was for humans." He smiles to himself, stamps out a Gauloise Blonde and then steps into his nearby BMW, which is always occupied by three armed guards.

*With Larry Kaplow in Baghdad and an Iraqi staff reporter in Basra.*

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October 9, 2007  
Pg. 12

## **10. Russia On Its Mind, Georgia Flexes Its Muscle In Iraq**

By Andrew E. Kramer

KUT, Iraq, Oct. 8 — The United States has found an unlikely ally in the struggle to block what American commanders suspected to be Iranian weapons smuggling in this rural agricultural region south and east of Baghdad: soldiers from the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

At a time when other countries are pulling troops out, Georgia has more than doubled its troop levels in Iraq, to 2,000 soldiers from 850, and agreed to send them from the safer Green Zone in Baghdad to this area along the Iranian border. That gives Georgia, a tiny Caucasus mountains nation, the second-largest troop presence among American allies in Iraq, behind Britain.

At a ceremony marking the formal start of their mission on Monday, soldiers knelt and were sprinkled with holy water by their Eastern Orthodox priest.

But it is hardly fear of Iran that impels the Georgians to contribute so significantly to the war. As the United States is searching for allies, so is Georgia, which aspires to NATO membership as a security guarantee against Russia.

"As soldiers here, we help the American soldiers," Cpl. Georgi N. Zedguidze explained, peering past the sun-scorched checkpoint where he was guarding a bridge over the Tigris River. "Then America as a country will help our country."

The United States supports NATO membership for Georgia, but neither nation has formally linked the deployment in Iraq with that. Georgian officials play down the idea of even an informal quid pro quo. They say that after their initial decision to send troops in 2003, the current contingent reflects a commitment to maintaining security.

"We should show everyone that we are not stepping back and running away from a difficult situation," Georgia's president,

Mikheil Saakashvili, said March 9 when he announced the troop buildup.

However, for Georgian soldiers risking their lives to interdict what is described as the southern Shiite trafficking in bombs made with explosively formed penetrators, the sense of making a down payment on their own security is strong. The penetrators are armor-piercing weapons that are a leading cause of death for American soldiers.

A dozen or so of the Georgians said in interviews that they understood their service in Iraq as directly linked to their own security — as a means of helping Georgia join NATO when Russia's international ambitions are stirring again.

Sgt. Koba Oshkhereli, looking out of the dusty gate of Forward Operating Base Delta at the trash-strewn streets of Kut and all the danger it holds, put it this way: "The bear was sleeping. Now the bear is awake and stomping his feet."

The Georgians are not the first former Soviet or Eastern Bloc soldiers to arrive in Iraq with those notions. Of the 25 nations contributing troops to Iraq, 18 are in one or the other of those categories, including Poland, Ukraine and small nations like Estonia, according to a tally by the Brookings Institution in Washington. A majority are either new members of NATO or aspirants to membership.

Within Georgia, opposition parties have criticized Mr. Saakashvili's use of the deployment to receive American counterinsurgency training for the army, saying it is a sign that he intends to use military force to regain control of two Russian-supported separatist regions in Georgia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Extending NATO membership to Georgia would entangle the alliance in those two conflicts on Russia's unstable southern border and along the export routes for

Caspian basin oil, in a region Russia considers within its sphere of influence. Just this year, Georgia has twice accused Russia of releasing rockets from aircraft that had flown into Georgian airspace.

Meanwhile, support for American operations in Iraq is dwindling. Foreign troops peaked at 25,600 in January 2004 and were down to 12,300 in September, according to the Brookings tally. Prime Minister Gordon Brown of Britain said Monday that he would reduce the British presence by half, to 2,500 troops, by spring. The United States currently has about 165,000 troops in Iraq.

Wasit, a large province south of Baghdad where Georgia is now the main troop contributor, is 98 percent Shiite but is divided in its loyalties between two groups fighting for dominance: the Badr Organization, a party with origins among Iraqi defectors to Iran during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, and the group led by the anti-American cleric Moktada al-Sadr. American commanders say Iran is backing both.

The Georgians here — a rough-hewn group of Caucasus mountain men, many of them veterans of one or another post-Soviet conflict — carry Kalashnikov rifles with scuffed wooden stocks. The brigade has adopted a strategy based on contacts with the local population and tribal sheiks, an approach also being used now by American commanders.

The Georgian soldiers, who arrived in late August although the formal deployment began on Monday, have taken to giving medical treatment to Iraqis with non-life-threatening ailments showing up at their checkpoints. The patients are typically children with burns from kerosene lamps, common in a country whose electric service is only intermittent.

Capt. Mamuka Tskrialashvili, who trained at an elite Russian paratrooper

school, credited the free clinics with creating a buffer of good will among residents. But he conceded that such efforts go only so far. In the spring, on an earlier mission here, Georgians guarding a checkpoint on a bridge befriended a man who drove past often and always waved. One day, the man drove to the middle of the bridge and blew himself up, collapsing the span.

"He waved when he went past," Captain Tskrialashvili said.

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October 9, 2007

## 11. Iraqis Divided By Constitution's Treatment Of Women

*Supporters say Article 41 will keep the state out of civil affairs. Critics say it will usher in Sharia.*

By Tina Susman, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

BAGHDAD — It has been nearly 30 years since she got married, but Iraqi legislator Samira Musawi still bristles at what she considers the ultimate indignity: a law requiring witnesses to certify the rite.

She and her husband-to-be grabbed a couple of strangers, gave them each about \$10 and were legally wed.

"I didn't even know these people; they could have been thugs," Musawi said of the men who validated the 1979 civil ceremony in a west Baghdad court.

That memory is one reason Musawi, who heads parliament's Women, Family and Childhood Committee, supports Article 41, a clause in Iraq's interim constitution that supporters say will prevent state meddling in civil affairs by allowing Iraqis to marry, divorce, decide inheritances and settle other personal issues according to their religious sect. For example, under Shiite law, no witnesses are required for a marriage, but Sunnis require two.

But a fight over the article's potential effect has

presented a stumbling block to lawmakers trying to finalize a constitution by year's end.

Article 41 is just one line in the 16-page document, but to critics, it is the worst.

Opponents, including women's rights activists and legal scholars, say the one poorly worded sentence opens the door to rule by draconian interpretations of Islamic law that could sanction the stoning of adulterous women, allow underage girls to be forced into marriage and permit men to abandon their wives by declaring, "I divorce you," three times.

In the southern city of Basra, there are already signs of religious extremism being used to rein in women. Police say gangs enforcing their idea of Islamic law have killed 15 women in the last month. "There are gangs roaming through the streets ... pursuing women and carrying out threats and killing because of what the women wear or because they are using makeup," the Basra police commander, Maj. Gen. Abdul Jaleel Khalaf, said this month.

Sometimes notes are left on the women's bodies saying they were killed for violating religious law or social traditions.

"This is a mockery for us, when you speak about freedom," said Hanaa Edwar, who heads the Iraqi Amal Assn., a human rights group opposing Article 41. "There will be no choices for women if a man makes a decision that he wants to live a certain way. Step by step, we will end up in a religious state."

The controversy highlights the broader debate here over how large a role religion should play in Iraqis' lives. It also underscores shortfalls of the original constitution, which was drafted in 2005 by newly elected Iraqi legislators facing a U.S.-imposed deadline. Redrafting the document is one of the benchmarks sought by the Bush administration to set the stage for an eventual U.S.

troop withdrawal. But it has been delayed three times as lawmakers haggle over issues such as provincial powers, religious and cultural freedoms, and distribution of oil revenue.

There are only two women on the 25-member committee in charge of rewriting the constitution. They face formidable opposition from the Shiite Muslim lawmakers who dominate Iraq's parliament, including Humam Hamoodi, who heads the panel.

Hamoodi, whose robes and turban attest to religious devotion, scoffs at opposition to Article 41. "You're considering it a big deal!" he said, laughing. "This is a kind of liberty and freedom. This is the age of democracy."

Musawi agreed. A Shiite who wears a prim black tunic and a leopard-print head scarf, Musawi says she does not want non-Muslims to be governed by her beliefs. Article 41 ensures this cannot happen, she said.

But, she said, it also recognizes the reality in post-Saddam Hussein Iraq, where most lawmakers, including many of the 75 women in the 275-seat parliament, represent Shiite religious parties.

"If you ask me if I want a theocratic society, I will tell you no. But at the same time, I cannot ignore the fact that religion is part of our existence, and we have to accept that," Musawi said.

For many Iraqi women, the reminder of what is at stake became clear in May when a video circulated of a 17-year-old girl being dragged through a mob of braying men, who pelted her to death with rocks and paving stones. The girl, whose gruesome death was captured on several cellphone cameras, had violated the rules of her minority Yazidi sect by having a relationship with a Muslim man. Her killing and the reprisal attacks on Yazidis that ensued illustrate the problems

inherent in not having a single law covering all Iraqis' domestic affairs, critics of Article 41 say.

Three of the girl's cousins are in prison awaiting trial in connection with her death. Many Yazidis have condemned the incident but also say it is an internal tribal issue that does not warrant attention from the media or outsiders. That attitude troubles women's rights activists, who say that religion and tribal culture could be used as shields for perpetrators of such violence.

"I am sure we will be hearing stories like this over and over again," said Luma Ali, a 23-year-old engineering student who opposes any role for religion in government. "I cannot believe this is still happening to us women."

"It is really an insecure world for women in Iraq," said a female friend, who was afraid to give her name. "Everything is subject to development in Iraq -- everything except the way women should live, marry and die."

Supporters of Article 41 say criminal law and international human rights agreements would prevent the Yazidi girl's killers from using the provision to justify their actions. But opponents are not willing to take that chance.

At a news conference in Baghdad in August, 10 female legislators suggested that Article 41 be replaced with the old family law under Hussein, which drew on Islamic teachings and tribal traditions but was considered radically liberal for the Middle East.

First passed in 1959 and later amended, the law allowed a man to have as many as four wives, but only after obtaining his first wife's permission and convincing a judge that he was capable of supporting more than one woman. Daughters were guaranteed inheritance equal to that of sons, and custody of children in the event of divorce did not automatically fall to the father. Women were allowed to

divorce abusive husbands, and forced marriage was banned.

Officially, Iraq is an Islamic republic: The constitution declares Islam the state religion and "a fundamental source of legislation." Laws are made in a representative legislature, enforced by an executive branch and weighed by a judiciary.

Culturally, the roots of a religious state are becoming evident: The streets of Baghdad are seas of cloaked women, and billboards featuring the country's most influential Shiite leaders are common. Nongovernmental organizations are hampered in their attempts to improve women's education and vocational training. Human rights groups say so-called honor killings, though not widely reported, are common in remote regions.

Isobel Coleman of the Council on Foreign Relations, who advised women's groups during the drafting of the constitution, said she warned that Sharia law could seep into Iraqis' daily lives.

"It's not as if these issues were not debated and hashed out, but they were shoved under the rug, by everybody," she said. "Everybody wanted to leave them."

"I would say to them, 'What are you going to say about Sharia in the constitution?' And they would say, 'There won't be Sharia in the constitution.' I think there was a sense of denial among some of the more secular women's groups, and perhaps a disconnect between their world and the world of the religious Iraqis coming into power," she said.

Since then, Iraq's security problems have severely hindered activists' ability to stage protests, as they did in 2003, when the interim Governing Council first tried to replace the Hussein-era edicts.

"There are too many fears now," said Alia Nasayif Jassim, one of the two women

on the constitutional review committee, who became visibly frustrated when discussing her inability to force change. "Our voices are simply too weak."

Jassim, a Shiite, says it is a challenge to speak out against Article 41 without being seen as defending Hussein's law. "There are fears of everything connected to the old regime," she said.

Activists say they hold little hope for help from the United States, which vetoed an attempt in 2003 to impose Islamic law.

"It's hard for us to lobby strongly and say this is wrong, this is right," said a Western diplomat. "If you put it across too strongly, it comes across as you're not sensitive to their religion or their history."

Edwar said her organization had appealed for help from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) but had not received a reply to a letter it sent in May.

*Times staff writers Zeena Kareem and Wail Alhafith contributed to this report.*

U.S. News & World Report  
October 15, 2007

## 12. Big Demand For A Very Specialized Set Of Skills

*The Pentagon's special ops warriors eye larger paychecks*  
By Kevin Whitelaw

Like other private security contractors, Blackwater USA tends to draw heavily from the ranks of retired U.S. military personnel, particularly special operations forces, for missions in Iraq. But hiring by Blackwater and other security firms has put added pressure on Pentagon officials who increasingly worry about soldiers leaving the military early to take advantage of lucrative private offers. While a U.S. Army sergeant's annual pay ranges from \$51,100 to nearly \$70,000, contractors guarding vehicle convoys can

make two to three times as much, about \$13,000 per month. The highest salaries, for former special operations soldiers guarding high-level officials, can reach \$33,000 per month, according to the Government Accountability Office.

In Baghdad, U.S. officials have long worried about what they consider to be the propensity of private contracting companies to recruit special operations soldiers—who each cost the Pentagon hundreds of thousands of dollars to train. Last month before Congress, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates brought up the possibility of establishing some sort of "noncompete clause" to limit the ability of contractors to recruit active-duty soldiers. "I worry that sometimes the salaries that they are able to pay in fact lure some of our soldiers out of the service to go to work for them," Gates said.

**Cowboys.** Hard numbers, however, are hard to come by. When the GAO studied the question in 2005, it was not able to determine whether recruiting by private contractors was having any particular effect on attrition rates. And the Pentagon has been trying to counter any appeals by increasing re-enlistment bonuses. During his appearance before Congress, Blackwater Chairman and CEO Erik Prince denied trying to recruit active soldiers but worried that new restrictions could backfire. "I think it'd be upsetting to a lot of soldiers if they didn't have the ability to go use the skills that they've accumulated in the military to go work in the private sector, because you could make the same case about aviation mechanics, jet engine mechanics, guys that work on a reactor on a submarine," he said.

Few military officials can envision a noncompete clause, but they do anticipate greater oversight and vetting of contract employees. "I'm glad

to see it coming out," says one U.S. soldier who, like many in Baghdad, routinely jokes about the over-the-top swagger of paid private guards in Iraq. "They come in here all cowboied up," says one military officer. Contractors also enjoy more freedoms while serving in Baghdad, including access to alcohol while off duty. "Our troops are much more disciplined," one soldier says. "There's no love lost between Blackwater and the military, that's for sure."

*With Anna Mulrine in Iraq*

Pacific Stars and Stripes  
October 9, 2007

### 13. Emotions High As 68 Sailors, Marines Become Americans

By Chris Fowler, Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — They came from 22 countries to bear arms in behalf of the United States.

They all vowed to support and defended the Constitution, and without reservation they became U.S. citizens.

Sixty-eight sailors and Marines took the Oath of Allegiance, some with tears welling up in their eyes, during a ceremony Friday at Yokosuka's Chapel of Hope.

Stacy Strong, from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security, officiated during the ceremony.

"I'm so impressed," Strong said. "All this time, they have been putting their lives on the line for another country. If anyone deserves to be naturalized, it is them."

For Petty Officer 2nd Class Deon Callendar, from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 14, the journey to citizenship began on the island nation of Trinidad.

"After eight years in the Navy I am finally able to become a citizen," Callendar said.

Deployments and other

operational commitments made him the last member of his family to earn citizenship, he said. "This is my third try."

Rear Adm. James Kelly, commander of Naval Forces Japan, lightened the mood.

"This is like a rock concert," he said, nodding at the servicemember. "You are the rock stars."

Kelly then challenged everyone to listen to the oath and help make the nation a better place.

"Help us carry the torch and light the way," Kelly said.

Atsugi-based Petty Officer 2nd Class Angel Salazar put the ceremony into perspective.

"I've always served with honor, but now, as the final member of six in my family to earn citizenship, I can serve with more pride," he said.

Temporarily lost for words, Salazar then added: "I am really happy."

Washington Post  
October 9, 2007  
Pg. 8

### 14. U.S. Weighed Radioactive Poisons

*Cold War Papers on Potential Assassination Methods Unveiled*

By Robert Burns, Associated Press

Early in the Cold War, the U.S. Army explored the potential for using radioactive poisons to assassinate "important individuals" such as military or civilian leaders, according to newly declassified documents.

Approved at the highest levels of the Army in 1948, the effort was a well-hidden part of the military's pursuit of a "new concept of warfare," using radioactive materials from atomic-bomb production to contaminate swaths of enemy land or to target military bases, factories or troop formations.

Military historians who have researched the broader radiological warfare program said in interviews that they had never before seen evidence that it included pursuit of an

assassination weapon. Targeting public figures in such attacks is not unheard of; last year an unknown assailant used a tiny amount of radioactive polonium-210 to kill Kremlin critic Alexander Litvinenko in London.

No targeted individuals are mentioned in references to the assassination weapon in the government documents, declassified in response to a Freedom of Information Act request filed by the Associated Press in 1995.

The decades-old records were released recently, heavily censored by the government to remove specifics about radiological warfare agents and other details. The censorship reflects concern that the potential for using radioactive poisons as a weapon is more than a historic footnote; it is believed to be sought by present-day terrorists bent on attacking U.S. targets.

The documents give no indication whether a radiological weapon for targeting high-ranking individuals was ever used or even developed by the United States. There is no clear indication how far the Army project went. One memo from December 1948 outlined the project, and another memo that month indicated it was underway. The main sections of several subsequent progress reports in 1949 were removed by censors before release to the AP.

The broader effort on offensive uses of radiological warfare apparently died by about 1954, at least in part because of the Defense Department's conviction that nuclear weapons were a better bet.

Whether the work migrated to another agency, such as the CIA, is unclear. The project was given final approval in November 1948 and began the following month, one year after the CIA's creation in 1947.

Assassination of foreign figures by agents of the U.S.

government was not explicitly outlawed until President Gerald R. Ford signed an executive order in 1976 in response to revelations that the CIA had plotted in the 1960s to kill Cuban President Fidel Castro, including by poisoning.

Boston Globe  
October 9, 2007

## 15. Autopsy Performed On Guard Member

Quincy, MA--An independent medical examiner performed an autopsy Sunday on Ciara Durkin, the 30-year-old member of the Massachusetts National Guard who died in Afghanistan on Sept. 28. The autopsy was done at the request of the Quincy woman's family, said Doug Bailey, a spokesman for the family. Durkin's death, from a gunshot wound on a secure base, is under investigation by the Army, which classified it as "noncombat related" but has not made further details public. Bailey said the results of the family autopsy, and an earlier autopsy performed by the military, will not be available for several weeks. Durkin's funeral was Saturday.

Los Angeles Times  
October 9, 2007

## 16. 200 Marines Who Extended Their Iraqi Tour Return Safely

By Tony Perry, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

CAMP PENDLETON -- The U.S. involvement in Iraq is often judged by numbers -- the number of boots on the ground, the number of dead.

When 200 members of the 800-member 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment extended their enlistments earlier this year so they could accompany the Two-Five back to Iraq, their decision was numerically significant.

No infantry battalion has had as many Marines extend their tours as the Two-Five --

troops who were "short-timers" and could have ended their service with comfy stateside billets but chose instead to return to Iraq to help less-experienced Marines navigate the dangers.

As the Marines from the Two-Five returned to Camp Pendleton early Monday, they had a new significant number to boast about: zero.

In seven months of patrolling the streets of Ramadi, once the most violent city in Anbar province, the 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment had no Marines or sailors killed and only one injured. In its previous deployment, the battalion's numbers were 15 killed and more than 200 wounded.

No one is saying that the presence of the 200 Marines who had extended their tours was the crucial factor in the battalion's returning with no fatalities. No one is saying it wasn't.

"One-hundred percent accountability. Everybody came home alive," said Staff Sgt. Joe Flores, 33, as he embraced his wife, Yadira. "One-hundred percent."

Hundreds of family members waited in the cool night air, welcome home banners at the ready. Shortly before 2 a.m., the first buses arrived, carrying Marines whose flight from Iraq had landed at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County.

For Wendy Hill of Phoenix, it was the end of the longest seven months of her life. Her son, Cpl. Joshua Bodnovits, 22, was on his first tour. She had taken comfort in the fact that so many of his fellow Marines had opted to return with him.

"I prayed every day that they wouldn't have any casualties," she said. "It was hard at first. Then it got easier.

"But as the date for them to come home got closer, I got scared something was going to happen."

Barbara Porter's son, Cpl. Jesse Porter, 22, was one of the

200 who responded to an appeal from his commanding officer and sergeant-major to make another trip to Iraq before returning to civilian life.

"It scared me to death, but it wasn't surprising," said Barbara Porter, also of Phoenix. "He couldn't stand to let them go without him."

Jo McDaid of Kalamazoo, Mich., was similarly unsurprised when her son, Sgt. Matthew McDaid, 22, announced he was returning to Iraq, voluntarily.

"He's a sniper, so he has skills he thought he could use to protect his brothers," she said.

There are outside factors, of course, in the Two-Five returning with no troops killed in action. The Iraqi security forces are taking a more active role in Ramadi, and Sunni tribal sheiks' support for the United States has been strong.

Cpl. Taren Hicks, 22, from Idaho, was among the 200 who returned. "He's a Marine doing his job, end of story," said his grandfather, Ken Ohls, of Idaho, a former Marine.

Lt. Col. Bob McCarthy, executive officer of the 5th Marine Regiment, said no one should be surprised at the high extension number.

"It's all about, 'If my buddies are going, I'm going too,'" he said.

As the Marines stepped from the buses, many were able to hold children born in their absence.

One new father was Cpl. Saul Mellado, whose wife, Kirsten, gingerly handed him Christopher, his 5-month-old son.

As they left the parade deck, the Marines and their families had special plans -- barbecues, trips to Las Vegas, a beach outing in the California sun.

One Oklahoma family had a surprise for their returning Marine: tickets for the Texas-Oklahoma State football game.

Wendy Hill had plans too for what to do after celebrating

her son's return: "I'm going to get the best night's sleep in seven months," she said.

Newsweek  
October 15, 2007

## 17. Military Courts For Terror Suspects In Disarray

*Military commissions were supposed to ensure easy terror convictions, but that hasn't been the case.*

By Dan Efron

By the time he quit, Col. Morris Davis had endured more than his share of abuse. As chief Guantánamo Bay prosecutor for the past two years, he suffered a crushing Supreme Court defeat and a series of smaller setbacks in the quest to bring terrorist suspects to trial in military commissions. His own Pentagon boss, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, spoke out in favor of shutting the detention facility in Cuba even as Davis was extolling its virtues in a Yale Law Journal article titled "In Defense of Guantánamo Bay." Rights groups routinely accused him of partaking in a legal system that tramples due process. And last week, as he prepared charges against more prisoners, Davis lost a turf battle with a superior officer. "I may not be here much longer," he told NEWSWEEK on Thursday, a day before submitting his letter of resignation to the Office of Military Commissions.

The spat is the latest sign of disarray in a legal system that critics say is close to dysfunctional. In the six years since the military commissions were established by presidential decree, just one detainee has been convicted (Australian David Hicks, last March) and only after a plea deal that guaranteed his freedom by the end of this year; two other cases have been hung up in procedural wrangling. Davis wanted to try about 80 of the 330 prisoners held at Guantánamo. He told NEWSWEEK at least six new

cases would be referred to the commission in the coming weeks, possibly including that of 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. But Mohammed's trial is sure to produce more legal scuffling—this time regarding the admissibility of evidence obtained through alleged torture. The other cases could go on for years. "This is what happens when you try to start a justice system from scratch," says Lt. Cmdr. William Kuebler, an OMC defense lawyer.

The commissions were supposed to help the Bush administration win convictions against suspects rounded up after the 9/11 attacks by lowering standards of evidence and allowing such court no-nos as hearsay. Kuebler, who represents Gitmo detainee Omar Khadr, says the administration had another objective: to obscure the CIA's "special interrogation methods." Khadr was arrested at 15 for allegedly killing a U.S. soldier in an Afghanistan battle. A Canadian citizen, Khadr told Amnesty International through his lawyers that he was subjected to torture during interrogations in Afghanistan and later at Guantánamo, including beatings and painful shackling. (A CIA spokesman said in response: "The United States does not conduct or condone torture.") Under existing law, any information gleaned through the use of torture is inadmissible in all courts, including the military commissions. But the commissions *are* allowed to consider evidence obtained through the use of coercion—although the distinction between coercion and torture is still a matter of debate. "You have a procedure that essentially launders the interrogation system," says Kuebler.

Davis said the existing courts would not have worked for Guantánamo detainees, whose captures did not include

the trappings of traditional arrests: the advisement of rights, the tagging of evidence and a paper trail showing custody transfers. He said Gitmo prisoners are accorded more legal privileges than the United States offered Nazis at the Nuremberg trials, including the right to appeal. He also said the cases he was preparing against Mohammed and 14 other "high-value detainees" transferred to Guantánamo from secret CIA detention facilities earlier this year will not rely solely on confessions. To avoid an argument over admissibility, Davis had tried to build some cases without using the interrogation log at all. "There are some instances where we can prove the charges beyond a reasonable doubt without using anything that the individual ever said or anything derived from what he said."

But that approach further slowed the process. To ensure the trials could be open to the press, Davis had set about declassifying a trove of documents, sometimes requiring approval from multiple intelligence agencies. The sluggish pace appears to have irked Davis's superior officer, Brig. Gen. Thomas Hartmann, the legal adviser to the administrator overseeing the trials. Davis said Hartmann pushed for quicker indictments and might have been negotiating more plea bargains behind his back—possibly with Osama bin Laden's driver, Salim Ahmed Hamdan, whose Supreme Court appeal last year roiled the military commissions process. In a formal complaint to the Pentagon inspector general, Davis charged Hartmann with interfering directly in cases. (A Pentagon spokesman denied NEWSWEEK's request to interview Hartmann but said an internal investigation had ruled in the general's favor.) Now that Davis is out, a successor might be hard to find. Already, two chief prosecutors have come and gone since 2004. As

job listings go, this one will have avoid stamped all over it.

Baltimore Sun  
October 9, 2007  
Pg. 1

## 18. Spy Drone Maker Is Sold

*Hunt Valley-based United acquired by rival Textron*

By Laura Smitherman, Andrea K. Walker and David Wood, Sun reporters

The \$1.1 billion deal announced yesterday to sell Hunt Valley-based United Industrial Corp. to a competitor is a measure of how much the U.S. military depends on unmanned spy planes to spare soldiers in two intractable wars.

United Industrial, whose Shadow drone is deployed over battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan, will be acquired by Textron Inc., a corporation based in Providence, R.I. Textron produces Bell helicopters and Cessna aircraft and also makes golf carts, auto parts and surveillance systems. Under the agreement, United Industrial shareholders get \$81 a share in cash.

The deal caps the 57-year history of United, a company that has dabbled in several industries but grew into a favorite in the defense sector when it focused on unmanned flight and became a technological linchpin in the post-Sept. 11 wars. In the past five years, its revenue has more than doubled to almost \$700 million. Its stock followed the same trajectory, up 310 percent during that time. United Industrial shares climbed \$4.77, or 6 percent, to \$80.39 in trading yesterday. Textron shares fell \$1.37, or 2 percent, to \$64.01.

The company's 1,400 workers in Hunt Valley will likely remain in place as part of the deal, Textron executives said.

"The importance and success of unmanned aircraft systems in Iraq and Afghanistan strongly suggests

that this technology will continue to grow for many years to come," said Ted R. French, Textron's chief financial officer, in a conference call with analysts yesterday. He said he expects unmanned systems to be "the first into and the last out of areas of future conflict."

The Shadow, manufactured by United Industrial's principal subsidiary, AAI Corp., has flown more than 200,000 hours, mostly in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each of the 18 Army brigades operating in Iraq, and the two brigades in Afghanistan, has four drones with hydraulic launchers and air-conditioned trailers that contain the operating stations.

Officials with both companies said they do not expect changes to United Industrial's 2,500-person work force and that its operations would be integrated into a Textron group that works with the defense, homeland security and aerospace markets. The combination with Textron will help it to expand, said James H. Perry, chief financial officer at United.

"Becoming part of an international organization like Textron that has resources makes it easier for us to compete in the marketplace," Perry said. "We expect the operations to stay here. Combining with Textron, hopefully, will facilitate more growth and opportunity here in Baltimore."

Perry said it has been difficult for a company of United Industrial's size to compete for government contracts that are tailored toward small or much larger companies. A lot of United Industrial's business comes from subcontracting with other companies, such as Boeing Co. He said United Industrial is looking to hire 150 people.

United Industrial was close to a takeover several years ago when activist investor Warren G. Lichtenstein, a major

shareholder who now serves as chairman of the board, threatened to wage a battle for control unless management moved aggressively to sell the company. But after a year on the auction block, during which at least one proposed deal came within a signature or two of completion, the company said it was no longer for sale.

Instead, the company decided to pare itself to the AAI subsidiary. It sold a transportation division and its Detroit Stoker Co. energy business, which had been weighed down by thousands of claims related to asbestos-filled parts made by third parties and used in the company's products before 1981.

United Industrial has other divisions, repairing helicopter engines and designing factory test equipment for aircraft and satellites. But more than half its business is in unmanned aircraft systems. Its "One System" enables the Army to control various unmanned aircraft from a single video console, whether the drone was built by AAI or a competitor.

The Shadow epitomized a technologically savvy military that former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said could overwhelm opponents with fewer soldiers. The drones are considered a key "force multiplier" in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars with no defined front lines and hard-to-pinpoint insurgents.

The Army boasts that the spy plane was developed in a record 33 months because the need for it on the battlefield was so great that much of the normal bureaucracy was cut from the development process. The Shadow is controlled by ground combat commanders and puts "hot" tactical intelligence directly to use in the field. AAI has an exclusive contract with the Army for the Shadow fleet.

Until recently, ground commanders had little access to overhead imagery from spy drones, or UAVs (unmanned

aerial vehicles). Most of the UAVs were Predators, piloted over the battlefield by Air Force personnel at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. The imagery from Predators was beamed through the Air Force to senior military command headquarters and only later available to ground commanders.

Brigades typically have about 3,500 soldiers and cover several hundred square miles. Having a Shadow overhead, with its intelligence "feed" coming directly into brigade headquarters, enables the unit to maintain what the military calls a "staring eye" over this large space, with the imagery and other data going directly to the combat commander who is making decisions about how and where to deploy his forces.

For example, a commander may want to keep a watch on a stretch of road where insurgents have planted bombs to try to catch bomb-planters in the act, or to maintain surveillance on a house suspected of being used by insurgents, or to scan the route ahead of a convoy.

UAVs are among the fastest-growing segments of the aerospace industry, though only a handful of companies manufacture them, including Northrop Grumman Corp. Many are hoping to expand into commercial and domestic markets, such as border and port security.

Last year, AAI purchased Aerosonde, an Australian firm that has contracts with the U.S. government to fly its drones in commercial airspace. Its small UAVs have flown through tropical storms and collected pictures for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Competitor General Atomics' Predator drone has patrolled the U.S.-Mexico border for the Department of Homeland Security.

"But it's still a number of years off before we actually see commercial opportunities emerge," said Michael Lewis,

an analyst who follows United Industrial for BB&T Capital Markets.

The Textron-United Industrial deal, which is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to be completed by the end of the year, follows Textron's acquisition last year of Overwatch Systems, which provides sensors that collect intelligence for the military.

Textron had an eye on AAI for years. AAI had helped Textron to develop Eagle Eye, the first-ever unmanned tilt-rotor aircraft, which combines the vertical lift of a helicopter with the speed and range of an airplane. Textron officials said yesterday that the Shadow could be used to deliver its sensors or "smart" munitions or to augment data feeding into its intelligence software.

AAI would be "the glue that binds our products together," said Frank Tempesta, president of Textron Systems. "We would be able to more fully address and more successfully integrate each link in the precision engagement continuum from sensor to shooter."

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Washington Post

October 9, 2007

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Washington Sketch

## **19. At The Army Expo, It's A Gorge Zone**

By Dana Milbank

It is frequently said that the Army is "stressed" by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Fortunately, Boeing has a solution.

The defense contractor, at yesterday's annual meeting of the Association of the United States Army, handed out hundreds of green foam "stress balls" made in the shape of hand grenades. Just squeeze whenever you're feeling tense -- but don't try to take it through airport security. "Then you'll be really stressed," said the guy handing out the grenades.

The squeezable grenade was a popular idea -- General Kinetics, another defense contractor, handed out similar ones with its own logo -- and so were stress balls generally. The Army Corps of Engineers offered stress balls in the form of hard hats, and Picerne Military Housing gave out stress balls shaped like single-family homes with roofs and chimneys.

These may be hard times for the troops. But the military-industrial complex continues to show the kind of innovation and adaptability that makes America great. Hundreds of defense contractors have filled the Washington Convention Center this week, and they have brought with them an arsenal of promotional materiel to distribute to military procurement officers and other conventioners.

A quick walk-through of the exhibit hall yesterday produced 20 pounds of swag: three coffee mugs, three calculators, five Koozies, three bandannas, six canvas tote bags, three ChapSticks, a clock that projects the time onto a wall, a pair of sunglasses with a visor clip, a piggy bank, a grooming kit, a jar opener, a shoe polisher, a screwdriver, a flashing yo-yo, a football, a golf ball, two Frisbees, a bullet casing, a "tuberculocidal" wipe, 35 pens, a few dozen key chains, flashlights and lanyards, and sundry stickers, chip-bag clips, pads, calendars, mints, mirrors, mouse pads, bracelets, magnifiers, luggage grips and cellphone holders.

"I go home with a couple hundred pounds of stuff," said Bill Veilleux, staffing a booth for Teledyne Reynolds. "Anyone who's done work for me -- they get a bag of stuff." The Teledyne booth features a \$50,000 "helmet tracker" system, but conventioners are showing more interest in Teledyne's baseball caps, beer coolers, pen-and-pad sets, and sewing kits with 10 colors of thread. "If somebody has

cooler stuff, I trade," Veilleux said.

The collecting of freebies is part of the culture of military conventions like the Army association's annual gathering. In an early start to the trick-or-treat season, officers in uniform join teenage boys in a trek up and down the aisles of the exhibition floor with bags full of goodies.

And the biggest haul is yet to come. At Wednesday night's black-tie dinner, General Dynamics will give away Camelbak hydration backpacks. In past years, one ammunition company gave out "shot" glasses with tequila, while Oshkosh Truck has offered hanging toiletry bags, self-charging flashlights and camp chairs with coolers. And this Wednesday's gift? "It's classified," said Joaquin Salas, an Oshkosh marketing manager.

Of course, even the most lavish of these trinkets cost little for the several hundred defense contractors that laid out tens of thousands of dollars to get their wares in front of military purchasers at this week's convention.

By that standard, the freebies are peanuts -- sometimes literally. Oberon Associates had vacuum-packed peanuts, while Vectronix and L-3 splurged on Swiss chocolates. The makers of the C-27S popped fresh popcorn. The Army Materiel Command supplied pizza combos, beef jerky and caffeinated chewing gum. Tadiran provided espresso and soft drinks, while Goodyear distributed bottled water. But Hesco Bastion had the most popular booth: It offered free bottles of Budweiser. Hundreds of beers had been consumed before yesterday's lunch hour had ended.

It's not entirely clear, however, that handing out really cool pink plastic propellers, as Northrop Grumman did, would make somebody more likely to buy one of the company's \$6

million helicopters, one of which was on the exhibition floor yesterday. "We'd get more people" if we served beer, said Mark Powers, working the Day & Zimmermann booth. "I don't know if we'd get more customers."

Still, it's hard not to think less of Cummins, which offered passersby a single red golf tee, than Edo, which provided pouches with six tees and two ball markers. Likewise, practically every booth gave out pens, but Baldor Generators provided three-color highlighters.

Woe to the vendor who didn't offer freebies. SealSkinz, a maker of waterproof socks and gloves, had nothing to give away, so one conventioner picked up a pair of socks from the exhibit table and walked off -- forcing a company representative to demand the return of the merchandise.

Some tried to arrange a quid pro quo. Medpros offered a foldable Frisbee -- but only to those who watched the demo. And others kept a private reserve behind the counter, bringing out the best freebies only for swag-seekers who knew to ask for it -- the military convention's equivalent of ordering off the menu.

At the Drash booth yesterday, the off-the-menu swag was a 128-megabyte flash drive on a deluxe lanyard. On a signal from her boss, a woman at the Drash booth lifted a curtain and exposed the stash. "Only for special people," she said.

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Arizona Daily Star (Tucson)  
October 9, 2007

## 20. NetFires Delivers Missile Launchers For Testing

By Arizona Daily Star

A joint venture of Tucson-based Raytheon Missile Systems and Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control has delivered for

testing the first component of the U.S. Army's Future Combat Systems, a launch system for small precision-guided missiles.

NetFires LLC delivered the first two container launch units for the Non Line-of-Sight-Launch System (NLOS-LS) to Army Evaluation Task Force soldiers in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Informally dubbed "missiles in a box," the NLOS-LS formerly called NetFires, is a system of self-contained missiles and launch containers that can be adapted to a variety of military platforms, including Army Humvees and coastal Navy vessels.

Two types of missiles still under development, the Raytheon-made Precision Attack Missile (PAM) and Lockheed's Loitering Attack Missile (LAM), can be fired from the NLOS-LS launchers.

The 7-inch diameter, 117-pound PAM is equipped for precision targeting with a dual-mode infrared and semi-active laser target seeker, as well as Global Positioning System satellite guidance and inertial guidance.

The similar-sized LAM, uses a laser radar seeker and is designed to loiter for up to half an hour over a target area.

Both missiles are designed to relay data and images and can be remotely retargeted in mid-flight as part of a "networked battlefield" concept being designed into the Pentagon's Future Combat Systems initiative.

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Baltimore Sun  
October 9, 2007

## 21. Alcoa Gets Army Pact Worth \$31.7 Million

Alcoa Inc. won a contract valued at \$31.7 million to supply aluminum armored plate for Army vehicles designed to resist improvised explosive devices. More than 1 million pounds of metal will be

delivered per month during the contract, with shipments starting in November and running through June 2008, Alcoa said yesterday. Alcoa will supply the plate for use in a new armored vehicle designed to survive ambush and explosive attacks. The material will be produced at a factory in Davenport, Iowa, and mostly sent to Army facilities in Rock Island, Ill.

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New York Times  
October 9, 2007

Pg. 1

## 22. Democrats Seem Ready To Extend Wiretap Powers

By Eric Lichtblau and Carl Hulse

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8 — Two months after insisting that they would roll back broad eavesdropping powers won by the Bush administration, Democrats in Congress appear ready to make concessions that could extend some crucial powers given to the National Security Agency.

Administration officials say they are confident they will win approval of the broadened authority that they secured temporarily in August as Congress rushed toward recess. Some Democratic officials concede that they may not come up with enough votes to stop approval.

As the debate over the eavesdropping powers of the National Security Agency begins anew this week, the emerging measures reflect the reality confronting the Democrats.

Although willing to oppose the White House on the Iraq war, they remain nervous that they will be called soft on terrorism if they insist on strict curbs on gathering intelligence.

A Democratic bill to be proposed on Tuesday in the House would maintain for several years the type of broad, blanket authority for N.S.A. eavesdropping that the administration secured in

August for six months.

In an acknowledgment of concerns over civil liberties, the bill would require a more active role by the special foreign intelligence court that oversees the interception of foreign-based communications by the security agency.

A competing proposal in the Senate, still being drafted, may be even closer in line with the administration plan, with the possibility of including retroactive immunity for telecommunications utilities that participated in the once-secret program to eavesdrop without court warrants.

No one is willing to predict with certainty how the question will play out. Some Congressional officials and others monitoring the debate said the final result might not be much different from the result in August, despite the Democrats' insistence that they would not let stand the extension of the powers.

"Many members continue to fear that if they don't support whatever the president asks for, they'll be perceived as soft on terrorism," said William Banks, a professor who specializes in terrorism and national security law at Syracuse University and who has written extensively on federal wiretapping laws.

The August bill, known as the Protect America Act, was approved in the final hours before Congress went on its summer recess after heated warnings from the administration that legal loopholes in wiretapping coverage had left the country vulnerable to another terrorist attack. The measure significantly reduced the role of the foreign intelligence court and broadened the security agency's ability to listen to foreign-based communications without court warrants.

"We want the statute made permanent," a spokesman for the Justice Department, Dean Boyd, said Monday. "We view this as a healthy debate. We

also view it as an opportunity to inform Congress and the public that we can use these authorities responsibly. We're going to go forward and look at any proposals that come forth. But we'll look at them very carefully to make sure they don't have any consequences that hamper our abilities to protect the country."

House Democrats overwhelmingly opposed the bill in August and said the administration had forced them into a corner.

As Congress takes up the new bills, a senior Democratic aide said, House leaders are working hard to ensure that the administration does not succeed in pushing through a bill that would make permanent all the powers it secured in August.

"That's what we're trying to avoid," the aide said. "We have that concern too."

The bill to be proposed on Tuesday by the Democratic leaders of the House Intelligence and Judiciary Committees would impose more controls over the powers of security agency, including quarterly audits by the Justice Department inspector general. The measure would also give the foreign intelligence court a role in approving, in advance, "basket" or "umbrella" warrants for bundles of overseas communications, a Congressional official said.

"We are giving the N.S.A. what it legitimately needs for national security but with far more limitations and protections than are in the Protect America Act," said Brendan Daly, a spokesman for Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Democrat of California.

Perhaps most important in the eyes of Democratic supporters, the House bill would not give retroactive immunity to the telecommunications utilities that participated in the eavesdropping. That has been a top priority of the administration. The temporary measure gave the utilities

immunity for future acts, but not past deeds.

Private groups are trying to prove in federal court that the utilities violated the law by participating in the program.

A former senior Justice Department lawyer, Jack Goldsmith, seemed to bolster their case last week when he told Congress that the program was a "legal mess" and strongly suggested that it was illegal.

The House bill would also require the administration to disclose details of the program. Democrats say they plan to push the administration to turn over internal documents laying out the legal rationale for the program, something the administration has refused to do.

In the Senate, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, John D. Rockefeller IV, Democrat of West Virginia, is working with his Republican counterpart, Christopher S. Bond of Missouri, a main proponent of the August plan, to come up with a compromise.

Wendy Morigi, a spokeswoman for Mr. Rockefeller, said that retroactive immunity for the utilities was "under discussion" but that no final proposal had been developed.

The immunity issue may prove to be the crucial sticking point between whatever proposals the House and Senate ultimately pass. Representative Jerrold Nadler, a New York Democrat who was among the harshest critics of the temporary bill, said in an interview he would vigorously oppose any effort to grant retroactive legal protection to telecommunications utilities.

"There is heavy pressure on the immunity, and we should not cave an inch on that," Mr. Nadler said.

Mr. Nadler said that he was worried the Senate would give too much ground to the administration in its proposal, but that he was satisfied with the bill to be proposed on

Tuesday in the House.

"It is not perfect, but it is a good bill," he said. "It makes huge improvements in the current law. In some respects it is better than the old FISA law," a reference to the foreign intelligence court.

Civil liberties advocates and others who met House officials on Monday on the proposed bill agreed that it was an improvement over the August plan but were less charitable in their overall assessment.

"This still authorizes the interception of Americans' international communications without a warrant in far too many instances, and without adequate civil liberties protections," said Kate Martin, director of the Center for National Security Studies, who was in the group that met House officials.

Caroline Frederickson, director of the Washington legislative office of the American Civil Liberties Union, said she was troubled by the Democrats' acceptance of broad, blanket warrants for the security agency rather than the individualized warrants traditionally required by the intelligence court.

"The Democratic leadership, philosophically, is with us," Ms. Frederickson said. "But we need to help them realize the political case, which is that Democrats will not be in danger if they don't reauthorize this Protect America Act. They're nervous."

"There's a 'keep the majority' mentality, which is understandable," she said, "But we think they're putting themselves in more danger by not standing on principle."

Tampa Tribune  
October 9, 2007

### **23. Socom General Criticized**

By James W. Crawley, Media General News Service

WASHINGTON - The No. 2 commander of U.S. Special Operations troops has stepped

into the cross hairs of a North Carolina congressman, who wants an investigation of the general.

Rep. Walter B. Jones, R-N.C., requested last week that Defense Secretary Robert Gates order an investigation into Lt. Gen. Frank Kearney, deputy commander of Special Operations Command at Tampa's MacDill Air Force Base.

The congressman is mad about Kearney's decision to punish troops involved in two incidents involving Army and Marine Corps Special Operations forces in Afghanistan.

In a telephone interview, Jones criticized public statements by Kearney about the Green Berets and Marines.

'This whole issue of what happened in Afghanistan has become a public display by the Army and Lt. Gen. Kearney,' the congressman said.

'I think the benefit of the doubt should go to these service members,' he added.

In one incident, Kearney ordered an Article 32 hearing, akin to a civilian grand jury, for two Army Special Forces soldiers - a captain and a master sergeant from Fort Bragg, N.C. - who were accused of murder in a sniper incident.

Before Kearney's order, two investigations were conducted. The first report suggested a crime had been committed, while the second cleared the soldiers.

Last week, after the Article 32 hearing, another general declined to charge the soldiers. Afterward, Kearney released a statement saying the Article 32 investigation resolved the conflicting findings.

In the other case, Kearney expelled a 120-man Marine Corps special operations unit from Afghanistan in March after a firefight that followed a car bomb attack. Afghan officials think the Marine unit killed 19 civilians during the counterattack.

Kearney said there was no evidence the Marines were under enemy fire when they killed the civilians. He said the Afghan reaction to the incident made it impossible for the Marine unit, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., to continue operating in Afghanistan. The Marines were transferred to Iraq.

Jones suggested Kearney's actions caused improper influence of investigations into the incidents, which is prohibited by military law.

Acknowledging he has no direct evidence that Kearney improperly influenced the investigations, Jones said: 'The process raises questions in my mind.' He added, 'My gut is telling me something is wrong.'

The congressman also complained about apologies from an Army colonel and so-called condolence payments made to families of civilians killed in the second incident.

Jones said the general and colonel should have waited until the Naval Criminal Investigative Service completed a full investigation. That report has not been approved by top Marine commanders yet.

Efforts to reach the Marines' attorneys were unsuccessful.

The Special Operations Command had no comment.

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St. Petersburg Times  
October 9, 2007

Pg. 5

## **24. Iraq Stretches Military Thin, Lawmaker Says**

By Wes Allison, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON - A Florida congressman who has been leading bipartisan attempts to change course in Iraq says he saw progress during his visit to Baghdad over the weekend, but not enough.

Rep. Allen Boyd, a North Florida Democrat and leader of the conservative Blue Dog

Coalition, also said his meetings with U.S. generals in Iraq and Qatar, including Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq, convinced him the military is spread dangerously thin.

U.S. commanders have recently testified to that effect on Capitol Hill. But talking to generals one on one convinced Boyd that the military believes it is in a precarious position.

"We can't respond to a serious crisis in another part of the world if we have to," Boyd said by phone from the U.S. Air Force base in Ramstein, Germany.

Boyd led a bipartisan group of five House members on the five-day trip, which took them to Qatar, Baghdad, Jordan and Germany. They met with Petraeus, Ambassador Ryan Crocker and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

In Baghdad, they donned flak jackets and helmets and, accompanied by U.S. infantry, toured a market that once had only about 30 vendors. Now it has some 400, and shopkeepers and customers said security has greatly improved.

"The military is performing their job in a very wonderful and professional manner, and I think the morale is generally high. But I am totally convinced that what we're doing over there is not a job that we would consider normally a military job," said Boyd, who served in the infantry in Vietnam.

"We are policing the streets of Baghdad and we are refereeing a civil war between different Muslim sects over there," he said.

He was doubtful the U.S. military could maintain peace enough for the Iraqi government to establish itself before America's patience expires.

Boyd was among 14 Democrats and 14 Republicans who late last month created the Bipartisan Compact on Iraq Debate, which set principles for finding ways to improve U.S. policy and outcomes in

Iraq.

Boyd noted similarities between this war and his war: "You've gotten yourself entangled halfway across the world in a military engagement you can't win."

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Washington Post

October 9, 2007

Pg. 14

## **25. Afghan Government Executes 15 Prisoners**

By Amir Shah, Associated Press

KABUL, Oct. 8 -- Afghanistan executed 15 prisoners by gunfire, including a man convicted of killing three Western journalists and an Afghan photographer, the chief of prisons said Monday. It was the first time the country had carried out the death penalty in more than three years.

The mass execution took place Sunday evening according to Afghan law, which calls for condemned prisoners to be shot to death, said Abdul Salam Ismat, the prisons chief.

During the 1996-2001 rule of Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban government, executions were carried out in public, many of them at the war-shattered Kabul stadium, but the practice stopped after the Islamic extremist movement was ousted from power in a U.S.-led invasion.

The previous execution, in April 2004, had been denounced by the London-based human rights group Amnesty International, which said President Hamid Karzai had assured the group he would institute a moratorium on the death penalty.

Karzai's spokesman, Humayun Hamidzada, would not comment Monday but said last week that the president "has been holding on to these cases because he wants to make sure that justice is served and due process is complete."

The mass execution is likely to complicate

relationships between Afghanistan and some NATO members with military forces in the country. International troops often take suspected fighters prisoner and later hand them over to the Afghan government, but some foreign governments would bar that if Afghanistan uses capital punishment.

The official announcement said Karzai ordered the executions following a decision by a special commission he had set up to review rulings by the Supreme Court.

Tom Koenigs, head of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, said the world body has expressed its concern over use of the death penalty many times.

"The United Nations in Afghanistan has been a staunch supporter of the moratorium on executions observed in Afghanistan in recent years," Koenigs said.

Among those executed was Reza Khan, sentenced for adultery and the slaying of the three foreign journalists and the Afghan photographer in 2001. The four were pulled from their cars, robbed and shot near the eastern city of Jalalabad while traveling toward Kabul, six days after the Taliban had abandoned the capital following heavy U.S. bombing.

Also executed was Farhad, who like many Afghans goes by one name. He was convicted of involvement in the 2005 kidnapping of an Italian aid worker, Clementina Cantoni.

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Boston Globe  
October 9, 2007

## 26. Australian Soldier Dies In Bombing

KABUL - A roadside bomb exploded next to an Australian armored vehicle in south-central Afghanistan yesterday, killing one, the first combat death suffered by Australia's military contingent, the country's government said.

A second soldier suffered serious wounds. Australia has about 1,000 soldiers in Afghanistan, but had not sustained any deaths from attacks.

--AP

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Columbia (SC) State  
October 8, 2007

Pg. B1

## 27. Soldiers Bring Aid To Afghan Village

*S.C. Guard unit offers physicals to men, women in area where help is rare*

By Chuck Crumbo

SAWZADA QALACHA, Afghanistan - Old Glory waved proudly as a convoy of Humvees and pickups rolled into this rural village.

It was the first time since the start of the 6-year-old Afghanistan war that U.S. troops, in this case S.C. National Guard members, had delivered humanitarian aid to the village.

The mud-walled village of about 500 had been off-limits because it is in Kandahar Province, the buckle of the Taliban belt, an area where insurgent fighters rule by terror. In some areas, Taliban rebels have robbed and murdered people who accepted aid from the United States and its allies.

However, Albari, a village elder, predicted there would be no reprisals here. "Nothing will happen," he said.

Many of Albari's neighbors seemed unconvinced, however. They kept their distance as U.S. troops and Afghan police officers prepared for the day's work of dispensing aid.

Any aid would be useful. The village is poor.

While some villagers grow crops - primarily wheat - most of the men work on construction projects in nearby Kandahar City, Albari said. The villagers own only two cars, so contractors pick up the workers and haul them to the construction sites, he said.

There is no medical clinic,

and the only education offered is provided by the mullah at the local mosque. The mullah teaches only boys and instructs them only about Islamic books, Albari said. Girls are not allowed to study. A school for all children is on the village's wish list, he added.

Men and children ventured out of their huts and gathered around Albari as he continued to talk with soldiers. Some of the children even posed for pictures that the S.C. troops snapped with their digital cameras.

The village's women, though, remained out of sight.

Sensitive to the Afghan culture, which divides women and men, the women were led to a separate area to be examined by female medics and physician's assistants, said Capt. Maureen Sevilla of the S.C. National Guard's Company C, 163rd Support Battalion, headquartered in Darlington.

The men were not modest. They marched into an examination room and complained about arthritic knees, bad backs and general grouchiness.

The soldiers handed out ibuprofen to soothe pain and attributed the men's irritability to a lack of food. The Afghans have been fasting during the day for the past three weeks in observance of Ramadan, a religious holiday.

Many of the villagers' health problems can be traced to poor nutrition, said Maj. Charles Blankman of Omaha, Neb.

"We treat them with vitamins and Tylenol, and so be it," Blankman said.

After seeing the medics, the villagers lined up to receive food, shoes, blankets and even coloring books, handed out by Afghan police officers.

Sevilla of Fayetteville, N.C., said the presence of the Afghan police was important to the aid effort.

"We want to show them as good guys to their own people - that they're here to help,"

Sevilla said.

The Afghan police are intended to be the most visible local representatives of the country's central government. But the police often are seen as corrupt contributors to the country's festering security problems.

In some instances, police have set up roadside checkpoints to rob motorists. In other cases, they have aided drug smugglers or collaborated with the Taliban, according to U.S. commanders.

By day's end in this small town, however, the police had helped about 130 men, women and children get medical and humanitarian aid.

The mission was an important step in helping U.S. and Afghan forces win over the people of Sawzada Qalacha, Sevilla said.

"It's important for us to show we're not here to hurt but to help."

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Christian Science Monitor  
October 9, 2007

Pg. 1

## 28. As Mideast Realigns, US Leans Sunni

*The White House is reembracing Sunni authoritarian regimes to counter the rise of Shiite Iran.*  
By Howard LaFranchi, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON --

Americans are hearing much less from the Bush administration about democracy for the Middle East than they did a year ago. As Shiite Iran rises, the White House has muted its calls for reform in the region as it redirects policy to reembrace Sunni Arab allies - who run, to varying degrees, authoritarian regimes.

The invasion of Iraq in 2003 shifted the balance of power in the Middle East, delivering a Shiite-led government to a country that had for decades been dominated by its minority Sunnis. That, in turn, opened

the door to Iranian expansion.

To contain Tehran, Washington is now reaching out to Saudi Arabia, other Gulf states, Egypt, and Jordan, in the form of large arms deals and new talks on such issues as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which in the eyes of most Arabs and many others remains the greatest source of tension – and extremist support – in the region.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice travels again to the region next week, underscoring the administration's drive for progress on Middle East peace.

Also, a significant US shift toward Iraq is under way. American policy is moving from bolstering the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki as a way to force action on political issues to a "bottom-up" approach. This has led to the funding and arming of Sunni tribes and communities in Anbar Province that until recently targeted US forces.

"If you look at it in the context of this Sunni-Shia sectarian divide and the fault line that divides the region, we are in effect adjusting our position," says Martin Indyk, a former US diplomat now at the Brookings Institution in Washington, referring to the broader implications of the new American path in Iraq.

Having paved the way for Iraq's Shiites to take power, he says, "We find ourselves in a situation where that plays to Iran's advantage and to the disadvantage of our erstwhile Sunni Arab allies in the Arab world."

The result of this belated realization, Mr. Indyk says, is that "we are adjusting ourselves to the point where we line up with the Sunnis against the Shias in this broader sectarian divide."

Some experts in the region suggest the reaffirming of ties to America's traditional Arab allies is not so much a sectarian question as more simply a reemphasis on longtime US

security interests in the region.

The Bush administration has concluded that those interests – energy security, counterterrorism, and stability – are best served by working with the Arab regimes that happen to be Sunni, they say, but not because of some Sunni-over-Shiite shift.

"It's more Arab-Persian than it is Sunni-Shia," says Jon Alterman, director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, highlighting the effort to contain Persian Iran that underpins interests. "It's not sectarian," he adds, "it's realpolitik."

Others agree that the US adjustment has more to do with a retreat from grand goals in the face of Iran's rise, than with changing sides in a sectarian divide.

"We have Condoleezza Rice backing off from supporting democratic reform in the region, and the more messianic goals of the first Bush administration have been abandoned, but that's because they don't work," says Michael Hudson, a specialist in international relations at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University in Washington.

"When you talk to diplomats from places like Saudi Arabia and Jordan, it's not Shiites, it's Iran and the power vacuum it's filling that worries them, and that's what the US is tapping into," he says.

That said, Arab leaders, including Jordan's King Abdullah, have raised concerns about the rise of a "Shiite arc" in the region as a Shiite-dominated government friendly to Iran took the reins in Baghdad. And Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah warned Vice President Dick Cheney during a visit last year that his country could enter the Iraqi conflict on the side of Iraqi Sunnis if the US left Iraq and abandoned them.

It is in that context that

some experts like Brookings's Indyk see at least part of the US motivation for arming some of the same Sunni tribesmen, in places like Anbar, whose doors US troops were kicking down not so long ago.

"We find ourselves regionally in a situation which is somewhat similar to what we are doing in Anbar Province," he says. "We are lining up the Sunnis to better take on the Iranians."

But another explanation for that support has more to do with turning Iraq's Sunnis against Al Qaeda-associated forces in Iraq – which are also Sunni, others note.

"I would call what we are doing in Anbar more of a tactic than a strategy, and it is not something we are doing because they are Sunnis, but because they are tribesmen – and tribesmen who are against other Sunnis who are called Al Qaeda," says Mr. Hudson.

CSIS's Mr. Alterman says Saudi Arabia is "using sectarian proxies to fight a national war in Iraq," but he says it does not follow that the US is working with Anbar's Sunnis out of sectarian motivations.

"We're not doing that for them, we're doing it for us" in pursuit of our fight with Islamist extremists, he says.

Some in the US government are using the "progress" the US has made in Anbar to argue specifically for creation of a Sunni-dominated region within a united Iraq.

In a statement last month following the appearance of Gen. David Petraeus before Congress, US Sen. Sam Brownback (R) of Kansas called on the US to promote the development of a Sunni region to help Sunnis move forward with a greater reliance on local, rather than national, institutions.

"We should not wait for national reconciliation to take advantage of the bottom-up political progress in Anbar and create a Sunni region that

would play an integral role in a united Iraq," said Senator Brownback, who is a Republican candidate for president.

Brownback joined Sen. Joseph Biden (D) of Delaware, who is also a candidate for president, in cowriting an "Iraq Federalism Amendment" that passed with overwhelming Senate support (75 to 23) on Sept. 26.

The amendment calls for the US to press Iraqis to employ the federalism enshrined in their own constitution and divide the country into sectarian regions. The bill specifically calls on the administration to convene a conference for Iraqis to reach a comprehensive political settlement – widely recognized as the key to ending Iraq's strife – based on federalism.

Senator Biden unveiled last year his plan for Iraq to be divided into three autonomous regions – Shiite, Sunni, and Kurd – under a federal government. After the Senate endorsed that plan last month, both the Maliki government and the US Embassy in Baghdad criticized it as an imposition on Iraq's sovereignty and a recipe for Iraq's partition.

Biden counters that the plan is a realistic response to political conditions on the ground in Iraq "and in fact the only hope for keeping Iraq together."

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New York Times

October 9, 2007

Pg. 14

## **29. Copter Escorting Musharraf Crashes**

By Salman Masood

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, Oct. 8 — Four people were killed and five others injured Monday when one of the three helicopters escorting the Pakistani president to Kashmir crashed, military officials said.

The president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, was traveling by helicopter to the region to mark the second anniversary of an

earthquake that devastated Kashmir, a Himalayan region disputed between Pakistan and India. He safely reached Muzaffarabad, the capital of the Pakistani-controlled part of Kashmir, 60 miles northeast of Islamabad.

Maj. Gen. Waheed Arshad, the spokesman for Pakistan's military, ruled out the possibility of an assassination attempt, attributing the crash to a technical problem. General Musharraf, an important ally of the United States in its campaign against terrorism, has survived several attempts to kill him.

On Saturday, after months of political crisis over his dual role as political and military chief, he won re-election from Parliament and the provincial and national assemblies. But the Supreme Court has yet to rule on whether he was eligible to run.

In July, unidentified gunmen fired on his plane as it took off from the garrison city of Rawalpindi as government forces laid siege to a mosque complex in nearby Islamabad, where Islamic militants were holed up. The general escaped unhurt.

The helicopter that crashed Monday, a Puma operated by Pakistan's military aviation, tried to make an emergency landing at 11:15 a.m. near Garhi Dopatta, in the Pakistani-administered part of Kashmir, but caught on fire, according to a military news release.

Villagers gathered around the debris of the helicopter after the crash.

"The helicopter was burning," said a local resident, Tayyab Shah, 25, according to Agence France-Presse. "We were worried because we knew the president was to visit Muzaffarabad and we did not know who was on board. We dragged several injured people out and they were taken away by the army."

Those killed in the crash included Brig. Zahoor Ahmed;

two soldiers; and a cameraman for state-run television.

Among the injured was Rashid Qureshi, a retired major general who is the spokesman for General Musharraf. He and the four others who were injured were taken to hospitals in Muzaffarabad and Rawalpindi.

The earthquake in 2005 killed more than 70,000 people, some in the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir but most in the Pakistani-controlled portion, and left hundreds of thousands homeless high in the mountains in brutal winter weather. General Musharraf inaugurated a park in Muzaffarabad and said the government had converted the challenge posed by the earthquake into opportunity, local news media reported.

In Rawalpindi, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, the newly appointed vice chief of the Pakistani military, assumed charge of his office. General Kayani, a trusted Musharraf ally, was the head of Pakistan's powerful spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence, before being nominated to his new post by General Musharraf.

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Washington Times  
October 9, 2007  
Pg. 11

### **30. Bhutto's Return Warrants Tight Security**

*Exiled former official subject of death threats from militants*  
By Isambard Wilkinson,  
London Daily Telegraph

ISLAMABAD — Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is expected to get American-trained guards and the latest electronic security equipment amid fears that she could be assassinated when she returns home to contest parliamentary elections.

Mrs. Bhutto, who is scheduled to return to Pakistan on Oct. 18 after eight years in self-imposed exile, already has received death threats from Islamic militants. Her security

adviser, Rehman Malik, said he had asked Pakistan's government to provide her with security.

"We have demanded that the government give Benazir Bhutto security on a par with that afforded to President Pervez Musharraf," Mr. Malik said. "We want to make it quite clear that the government is fully responsible for Mrs. Bhutto's security."

Gen. Musharraf, who has survived three assassination attempts, is protected by a U.S.-trained security unit that uses U.S.-supplied heat-seeking sensors and electronic jamming shields.

Last weekend, Gen. Musharraf signed an amnesty clearing Mrs. Bhutto of corruption charges as part of a power-sharing deal backed by the U.S. and Britain.

Asked whether the Americans would assist in protecting Mrs. Bhutto, a Western diplomat said: "Efforts are being made in all directions to work with the Pakistan government to make sure they have the highest level of security for her."

Mrs. Bhutto already has made some security preparations of her own. After several weeks of haggling with authorities in the volatile port city of Karachi, where she is scheduled to land, her Pakistan People's Party has received permission to import a bulletproof car.

Last week, Baitullah Mehsud, a pro-Taliban commander based in the tribal area of South Waziristan, said he would dispatch a "suicide squad" to greet Mrs. Bhutto.

Ikram Sehgal, the chairman of a private security company working with the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, said: "Frankly speaking, Benazir Bhutto is at a very high risk in Pakistan because she has riled religious conservatives. It will be a very tough job to protect her."

Mrs. Bhutto's father was hanged in 1979, and a conservative faction within the

army conspired to topple her first government. Her two brothers were killed.

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Los Angeles Times  
October 9, 2007

### **31. 15 Troops Missing After Battle In Pakistan**

By Associated Press

MIRAM SHAH, PAKISTAN — As many as 15 Pakistani troops were missing after several days of fierce fighting with pro-Taliban militants near the Afghan border that left scores dead, the army said today.

The troops disappeared after militants attacked security posts and a foot patrol near the town of Mir Ali in the North Waziristan region, the military said.

The fighting came as Gen. Pervez Musharraf tries to secure another term as president, vowing to shore up Pakistan's troubled effort against Islamic extremism.

It also coincides with a change of command in Pakistan's army, which is suffering heavy losses in confrontations with militants who have seized control of loosely governed tribal territory near the border.

The army said earlier that about 150 suspected militants and 45 soldiers had died in three days of fighting in North Waziristan.

A security official in Miram Shah, the region's main town, said army helicopters and jets bombed militant positions in several villages.

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Miami Herald  
October 9, 2007

### **32. Ex-Detainee Gets Release Counseling**

*The lone war-on-terror captive convicted by Military Commission at Guantánamo*

*Bay is getting special counseling in Australia ahead of his New Year's Eve release.*

By Carol Rosenberg

David Hicks, the lone Guantánamo captive convicted of a war crime, is getting

special counseling ahead of his December release from a prison in his native Australia, the Adelaide Advertiser reported Monday.

Hicks, 36, is now in Adelaide's Yatala jail under a March agreement that let him plead guilty to supporting terrorism and serve out his nine-month sentence in his homeland.

Before that, he was held five-plus years at the remote U.S. Navy base in southeast Cuba as an al Qaeda foot soldier who fought the 2001 U.S. invasion of Afghanistan.

Now, in advance of a New Year's Eve release, the newspaper said he has been assigned psychiatrists and other counselors to prepare him for his reentry into Australian society.

All prisoners at Yatala jail get reintegration advice, the newspaper said. In addition, it said, Hicks is getting a "tailored assistance package from the state government" that includes "regular one-on-one doctor and psychiatry visits and assistance to help him complete high school."

Australian media have characterized Hicks as a one-time outback cowboy and former kangaroo skinner who traveled the world as a soldier of fortune.

U.S.-allied Northern Alliance troops captured Hicks and handed him over to American forces in 2001.

As a native English speaking Christian convert to Islam, he was one of the best known captives in the prison camps -- notoriety he got in part because of his outspoken U.S. military defense attorney, Marine Maj. Dan Mori.

Mori had said that Hicks staged occasional hunger strikes and spent a significant chunk of his five-year stay in Guantánamo in solitary confinement.

Prison camp officials have denied the solitary confinement characterization, saying that while Hicks was at times kept apart from other detainees, he

saw guards, health workers and his attorneys.

The Pentagon today houses about 330 detainees at the base in southeast Cuba, as "enemy combatants."

At Yatala prison, Hicks has also been assigned a social worker to "assess his ability to assimilate into the community before the end of the year" and will get two months of counseling with psychiatrists, the paper said.

He is also being provided with Australian government information "about how he can access taxpayer-funded health, housing, education, and employment services," the Advertiser said.

Washington Post  
October 9, 2007

Pg. 1

### **33. Leak Severed A Link To Al-Qaeda's Secrets**

*Firm Says Administration's Handling of Video Ruined Its Spying Efforts*

By Joby Warrick, Washington Post Staff Writer

A small private intelligence company that monitors Islamic terrorist groups obtained a new Osama bin Laden video ahead of its official release last month, and around 10 a.m. on Sept. 7, it notified the Bush administration of its secret acquisition. It gave two senior officials access on the condition that the officials not reveal they had it until the al-Qaeda release.

Within 20 minutes, a range of intelligence agencies had begun downloading it from the company's Web site. By midafternoon that day, the video and a transcript of its audio track had been leaked from within the Bush administration to cable television news and broadcast worldwide.

The founder of the company, the SITE Intelligence Group, says this premature disclosure tipped al-Qaeda to a security breach

and destroyed a years-long surveillance operation that the company has used to intercept and pass along secret messages, videos and advance warnings of suicide bombings from the terrorist group's communications network.

"Techniques that took years to develop are now ineffective and worthless," said Rita Katz, the firm's 44-year-old founder, who has garnered wide attention by publicizing statements and videos from extremist chat rooms and Web sites, while attracting controversy over the secrecy of SITE's methodology. Her firm provides intelligence about terrorist groups to a wide range of paying clients, including private firms and military and intelligence agencies from the United States and several other countries.

The precise source of the leak remains unknown. Government officials declined to be interviewed about the circumstances on the record, but they did not challenge Katz's version of events. They also said the incident had no effect on U.S. intelligence-gathering efforts and did not diminish the government's ability to anticipate attacks.

While acknowledging that SITE had achieved success, the officials said U.S. agencies have their own sophisticated means of watching al-Qaeda on the Web. "We have individuals in the right places dealing with all these issues, across all 16 intelligence agencies," said Ross Feinstein, spokesman for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

But privately, some intelligence officials called the incident regrettable, and one official said SITE had been "tremendously helpful" in ferreting out al-Qaeda secrets over time.

The al-Qaeda video aired on Sept. 7 attracted international attention as the first new video message from the group's leader in three

years. In it, a dark-bearded bin Laden urges Americans to convert to Islam and predicts failure for the Bush administration in Iraq and Afghanistan. The video was aired on hundreds of Western news Web sites nearly a full day before its release by a distribution company linked to al-Qaeda.

Computer logs and records reviewed by The Washington Post support SITE's claim that it snatched the video from al-Qaeda days beforehand. Katz requested that the precise date and details of the acquisition not be made public, saying such disclosures could reveal sensitive details about the company's methods.

SITE -- an acronym for the Search for International Terrorist Entities -- was established in 2002 with the stated goal of tracking and exposing terrorist groups, according to the company's Web site. Katz, an Iraqi-born Israeli citizen whose father was executed by Saddam Hussein in the 1960s, has made the investigation of terrorist groups a passionate quest.

"We were able to establish sources that provided us with unique and important information into al-Qaeda's hidden world," Katz said. Her company's income is drawn from subscriber fees and contracts.

Katz said she decided to offer an advance copy of the bin Laden video to the White House without charge so officials there could prepare for its eventual release.

She spoke first with White House counsel Fred F. Fielding, whom she had previously met, and then with Joel Bagnol, deputy assistant to the president for homeland security. Both expressed interest in obtaining a copy, and Bagnol suggested that she send a copy to Michael Leiter, who holds the No. 2 job at the National Counterterrorism Center.

Administration and intelligence officials would not

comment on whether they had obtained the video separately. Katz said Fielding and Bagnal made it clear to her that the White House did not possess a copy at the time she offered hers.

Around 10 a.m. on Sept. 7, Katz sent both Leiter and Fielding an e-mail with a link to a private SITE Web page containing the video and an English transcript. "Please understand the necessity for secrecy," Katz wrote in her e-mail. "We ask you not to distribute ... [as] it could harm our investigations."

Fielding replied with an e-mail expressing gratitude to Katz. "It is you who deserves the thanks," he wrote, according to a copy of the message. There was no record of a response from Leiter or the national intelligence director's office.

Exactly what happened next is unclear. But within minutes of Katz's e-mail to the White House, government-registered computers began downloading the video from SITE's server, according to a log of file transfers. The records show dozens of downloads over the next three hours from computers with addresses registered to defense and intelligence agencies.

By midafternoon, several television news networks reported obtaining copies of the transcript. A copy posted around 3 p.m. on Fox News's Web site referred to SITE and included page markers identical to those used by the group. "This confirms that the U.S. government was responsible for the leak of this document," Katz wrote in an e-mail to Leiter at 5 p.m.

Al-Qaeda supporters, now alerted to the intrusion into their secret network, put up new obstacles that prevented SITE from gaining the kind of access it had obtained in the past, according to Katz.

A small number of private intelligence companies compete with SITE in scouring

terrorists' networks for information and messages, and some have questioned the company's motives and methods, including the claim that its access to al-Qaeda's network was unique. One competitor, Ben Venzke, founder of IntelCenter, said he questions SITE's decision -- as described by Katz -- to offer the video to White House policymakers rather than quietly share it with intelligence analysts.

"It is not just about getting the video first," Venzke said. "It is about having the proper methods and procedures in place to make sure that the appropriate intelligence gets to where it needs to go in the intelligence community and elsewhere in order to support ongoing counterterrorism operations."

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Newsweek  
October 15, 2007

### **34. Security: Whacking Hackers**

In a single case this summer, an attack by hackers disabled a reported 1,500 Pentagon computers. And the siege is continuing. The Defense Department detects 3 million unauthorized "scans"—or attempts by would-be intruders to access official networks—on its computers every day, according to a Pentagon spokesman. Now the Bush administration, worried particularly about computer attacks from China, is aiming to beef up American defenses. According to officials in the cybersecurity industry, who like several sources quoted in this article did not want to be named discussing confidential programs, the White House is quietly preparing a major "cyberdefense" initiative to be announced later this year.

It won't be the first such effort. Shortly before the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the White House announced a new cybersecurity strategy that eventually founded,

according to Roger Cressey, a former counterterrorism adviser in both the Clinton and current administrations. Given the recent success that hackers have had penetrating U.S. government networks, says Cressey, a new campaign to bolster security is "overdue."

The hackers are hunting for vulnerabilities at government agencies both in the United States and abroad. A European security official says that investigators have succeeded in identifying attackers who hit computers in the office of a European head of government: specific units of the Chinese military—the People's Liberation Army—in Shanghai and Beijing. But the official says that when Chinese leaders were confronted about the case, they denied any involvement.

The new U.S. program is a work in progress. But measures under consideration include giving authority to the National Security Agency to monitor private computer systems—which could prompt new domestic-spying concerns—and purchasing network routers that are more secure. Spokespeople for the NSA, the director of National Intelligence and the Pentagon—all of whom are expected to play a role in the new plan—referred questions to the Department of Homeland Security. DHS spokesman Russ Knocke also declined to discuss any forthcoming computer-security plan.

— Mark Hosenball

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Washington Post  
October 9, 2007  
Pg. 3

### **35. Dragonfly Or Insect Spy? Scientists At Work On Robobugs**

By Rick Weiss, Washington Post Staff Writer

Vanessa Alarcon saw them while working at an antiwar rally in Lafayette Square last month.

"I heard someone say, 'Oh my god, look at those,' " the college senior from New York recalled. "I look up and I'm like, 'What the hell is that?' They looked kind of like dragonflies or little helicopters. But I mean, those are not insects."

Out in the crowd, Bernard Crane saw them, too.

"I'd never seen anything like it in my life," the Washington lawyer said. "They were large for dragonflies. I thought, 'Is that mechanical, or is that alive?'"

That is just one of the questions hovering over a handful of similar sightings at political events in Washington and New York. Some suspect the insectlike drones are high-tech surveillance tools, perhaps deployed by the Department of Homeland Security.

Others think they are, well, dragonflies -- an ancient order of insects that even biologists concede look about as robotic as a living creature can look.

No agency admits to having deployed insect-size spy drones. But a number of U.S. government and private entities acknowledge they are trying. Some federally funded teams are even growing live insects with computer chips in them, with the goal of mounting spyware on their bodies and controlling their flight muscles remotely.

The robobugs could follow suspects, guide missiles to targets or navigate the crannies of collapsed buildings to find survivors.

The technical challenges of creating robotic insects are daunting, and most experts doubt that fully working models exist yet.

"If you find something, let me know," said Gary Anderson of the Defense Department's Rapid Reaction Technology Office.

But the CIA secretly developed a simple dragonfly snooper as long ago as the 1970s. And given recent advances, even skeptics say

there is always a chance that some agency has quietly managed to make something operational.

"America can be pretty sneaky," said Tom Ehrhard, a retired Air Force colonel and expert in unmanned aerial vehicles who is now at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a nonprofit Washington-based research institute.

Robotic fliers have been used by the military since World War II, but in the past decade their numbers and level of sophistication have increased enormously. Defense Department documents describe nearly 100 different models in use today, some as tiny as birds, and some the size of small planes.

All told, the nation's fleet of flying robots logged more than 160,000 flight hours last year -- a more than fourfold increase since 2003. A recent report by the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College warned that if traffic rules are not clarified soon, the glut of unmanned vehicles "could render military airspace chaotic and potentially dangerous."

But getting from bird size to bug size is not a simple matter of making everything smaller.

"You can't make a conventional robot of metal and ball bearings and just shrink the design down," said Ronald Fearing, a roboticist at the University of California at Berkeley. For one thing, the rules of aerodynamics change at very tiny scales and require wings that flap in precise ways -- a huge engineering challenge.

Only recently have scientists come to understand how insects fly -- a biomechanical feat that, despite the evidence before scientists' eyes, was for decades deemed "theoretically impossible." Just last month, researchers at Cornell University published a physics paper clarifying how dragonflies adjust the relative

motions of their front and rear wings to save energy while hovering.

That kind of finding is important to roboticists because flapping fliers tend to be energy hogs, and batteries are heavy.

The CIA was among the earliest to tackle the problem. The "insectohtopter," developed by the agency's Office of Research and Development 30 years ago, looked just like a dragonfly and contained a tiny gasoline engine to make the four wings flap. It flew but was ultimately declared a failure because it could not handle crosswinds.

Agency spokesman George Little said he could not talk about what the CIA may have done since then. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Homeland Security and the Secret Service also declined to discuss the topic.

Only the FBI offered a declarative denial. "We don't have anything like that," a spokesman said.

The Defense Department is trying, though.

In one approach, researchers funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) are inserting computer chips into moth pupae -- the intermediate stage between a caterpillar and a flying adult -- and hatching them into healthy "cyborg moths."

The Hybrid Insect Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems project aims to create literal shutterbugs -- camera-toting insects whose nerves have grown into their internal silicon chip so that wranglers can control their activities. DARPA researchers are also raising cyborg beetles with power for various instruments to be generated by their muscles.

"You might recall that Gandalf the friendly wizard in the recent classic 'Lord of the Rings' used a moth to call in air support," DARPA program

manager Amit Lal said at a symposium in August. Today, he said, "this science fiction vision is within the realm of reality."

A DARPA spokeswoman denied a reporter's request to interview Lal or others on the project.

The cyborg insect project has its share of doubters.

"I'll be seriously dead before that program deploys," said vice admiral Joe Dyer, former commander of the Naval Air Systems Command, now at iRobot in Burlington, Mass., which makes household and military robots.

By contrast, fully mechanical micro-fliers are advancing quickly.

Researchers at the California Institute of Technology have made a "microbat ornithopter" that flies freely and fits in the palm of one's hand. A Vanderbilt University team has made a similar device.

With their sail-like wings, neither of those would be mistaken for insects. In July, however, a Harvard University team got a truly fly-like robot airborne, its synthetic wings buzzing at 120 beats per second.

"It showed that we can manufacture the articulated, high-speed structures that you need to re-create the complex wing motions that insects produce," said team leader Robert Wood.

The fly's vanishingly thin materials were machined with lasers, then folded into three-dimensional form "like a micro-origami," he said. Alternating electric fields make the wings flap. The whole thing weighs just 65 milligrams, or a little more than the plastic head of a push pin.

Still, it can fly only while attached to a threadlike tether that supplies power, evidence that significant hurdles remain.

In August, at the International Symposium on Flying Insects and Robots, held in Switzerland, Japanese

researchers introduced radio-controlled fliers with four-inch wingspans that resemble hawk moths. Those who watch them fly, its creator wrote in the program, "feel something of 'living souls.'"

Others, taking a tip from the CIA, are making fliers that run on chemical fuels instead of batteries. The "entomopter," in early stages of development at the Georgia Institute of Technology and resembling a toy plane more than a bug, converts liquid fuel into a hot gas, which powers four flapping wings and ancillary equipment.

"You can get more energy out of a drop of gasoline than out of a battery the size of a drop of gasoline," said team leader Robert Michelson.

Even if the technical hurdles are overcome, insect-size fliers will always be risky investments.

"They can get eaten by a bird, they can get caught in a spider web," said Fearing of Berkeley. "No matter how smart you are -- you can put a Pentium in there -- if a bird comes at you at 30 miles per hour there's nothing you can do about it."

Protesters might even nab one with a net -- one of many reasons why Ehrhard, the former Air Force colonel, and other experts said they doubted that the hovering bugs spotted in Washington were spies.

So what was seen by Crane, Alarcon and a handful of others at the D.C. march -- and as far back as 2004, during the Republican National Convention in New York, when one observant but perhaps paranoid peace-march participant described on the Web "a jet-black dragonfly hovering about 10 feet off the ground, precisely in the middle of 7th avenue ... watching us"?

They probably saw dragonflies, said Jerry Louton, an entomologist at the National Museum of Natural History. Washington is home to some large, spectacularly adorned dragonflies that "can knock

ur socks off," he said.

At the same time, he added, some details do not make sense. Three people at the D.C. event independently described a row of spheres, the size of small berries, attached along the tails of the big dragonflies -- an accoutrement that Louton could not explain. And all reported seeing at least three maneuvering in unison.

"Dragonflies never fly in a pack," he said.

Mara Verheyden-Hilliard of the Partnership for Civil Justice said her group is investigating witness reports and has filed Freedom of Information Act requests with several federal agencies. If such devices are being used to spy on political activists, she said, "it would be a significant violation of people's civil rights."

For many roboticists still struggling to get off the ground, however, that concern -- and their technology's potential role -- seems superfluous.

"I don't want people to get paranoid, but what can I say?" Fearing said. "Cellphone cameras are already everywhere. It's not that much different."

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Arizona Daily Star (Tucson)  
October 9, 2007

### 36. Military Tech Goes Sci-Fi In Scottsdale

By Donna Hogan, East Valley Tribune

The Land Warrior, a "Star Wars"-like combat detection and notification system, run by a "dismounted" military leader connected to his team through his computer and devices imbedded in their body armor, is getting even more far-out features.

Scottsdale-based General Dynamics C4 Systems team is the general contractor for the \$260 million Land Warrior system.

The company was awarded a \$250,000 U.S. Army contract to add sensors that detect sniper fire and can

pop out an icon on soldiers' helmets showing the shooter's location, said Mark Showah, C4 Systems manager for integrated systems.

Showah spoke about the new feature Monday from Washington, D.C., where he was showing off the system in an Army drill operation. He said the new Land Warrior option is a big hit with the Army brass.

About 200 soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan currently have Land Warrior devices, Showah said.

The equipment allows them to detect one another and the enemy, he said, and make split-second, front-line battle decisions with confidence.

"This has proved itself to be the most capable military piece of equipment to prevent fratricide," said Army Capt. Jack Moore in a video on the system.

The new sensors, dubbed Boomerang and produced by Cambridge, Mass.-based BBN Technologies, take the identification of the enemy a step further by pinpointing the origin of small-arms fire, Showah said.

The new contract included six sensors for the Army to place at its discretion in war zones, he said.

The Boomerang is a product of the Edge, "an open, collaborative area that allows the industry, military and academia to get together and (brainstorm) the best technology," Showah said.

The high-tech think tank and design arena is located at General Dynamics' facility near Hayden and McDowell roads in Scottsdale, he said.

General Dynamics was able to integrate the Boomerang into the Land Warrior systems with only \$250,000 and a few weeks of work because of the company's familiarity with the Land Warrior system and front-end participation in the design effort that began at the Edge, Showah said.

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New York Post  
October 9, 2007

### 37. Iraq: The Lonely War

*Our Troops' Thankless Task*  
By Rich Lowry

BAGHDAD--A WAR has probably never been so debated and so little understood as the one in Iraq. "The domestic political debate has nothing to do with what we're doing here," says one U.S. officer. It's a representative comment - offered not in a spirit of bitterness, but of cold fact.

This is the lonely war. No one cares about it as much or understands it as well as the men and women here on the ground, who feel - understandably - that they're the only ones even remotely engaged in the fight.

The U.S. government has never brought to bear its resources in a truly national effort to win; the State Department has left almost the entire nonmilitary aspect of the war to the military; the Pentagon's slow-moving procurement program has an internal clock still set to peacetime and the top brass worry more about relieving the strain on the ground forces than achieving success on the ground. And the Bush administration hasn't been willing - until too late - to begin to provide a bigger force that would relieve that strain.

On top of this are the members of Congress and senators who show up for visits that seem more about saying that they've been to Iraq than truly grappling with the war; the journalists whose reports tend to reflect whatever is the conventional wisdom about the war back in their newsrooms - and supporters and opponents of the war who support their clashing narratives of victory and defeat with gross simplifications.

The word that one hears again and again here, but is so rare in the domestic political debate, is "complex." The war

is changing at least every six months, and every area of the country - even every neighborhood in Baghdad - has a different dynamic. An officer at Forward Operating Base Justice in northwestern Baghdad explains that one translator who works there has to take three or four different taxis to get to the base, with a different faction ready to kill him from neighborhood to neighborhood.

Sometimes our supposed allies in the Iraqi National Police work against us - and sometimes our enemies can be leveraged against our even-more-lethal enemies. Navigating this multidimensional, ever-shifting chessboard are the leaders of U.S. combat brigades who have to run local governments, train Iraqi forces, manage relations with Baghdad and engage in graduate-level anthropology - all while fighting a war.

South of here in the rural Sunni area known as the "Triangle of Death," there are 137 tribes and subtribes - what an officer of the 2nd Brigade of the Army's 10th Mountain Division calls "an archipelago of complex societal islands." We have begun to master them. The tribes have produced thousands of volunteers to police the area, and violence has plummeted.

But the story hasn't gotten out. Troops laugh about a reporter who refused to get off an aircraft upon learning that it had alighted in the dreaded Triangle of Death.

That kind of disconnect with press coverage and the debate back home is a constant theme. The Senate recently passed a resolution sponsored by Sen. Joe Biden (D-Del.), calling for splitting Iraq in three. A colonel here scoffs that the Senate managed to agree on the *one* step that basically no one in Iraq wants to take.

President Bush doesn't seem much more relevant. In discussions of what motivates

Iraqis, Bush's favorite theme of freedom never comes up. It's always survival, fear, power or pride - or some combination of them all. Bush has been famously resolute, but one wonders how much - even after four grueling years - he truly understands the war on which he has staked his presidency.

Americans here don't talk so much of victory, but of achieving an acceptable outcome and forestalling the catastrophe that failure would bring.

The burden for doing that falls, of course, on our troops, who have managed for now to reverse Iraq's downward slide. They might be lonely, but they are brilliant and unbelievably brave.

U.S. News & World Report  
October 15, 2007

### **38. A Decent Outcome For Iraq**

By Fouad Ajami

Peace has not come to the streets of Baghdad, but the center holds. Our very American "benchmarks" for measuring the progress of Iraq can't capture the reality of that land. There is no "oil law," it is true, but the oil bounty is being shared equitably across the regions. The Iraqi government, through a relentless insurgency, maintains and meets a payroll for 3.4 million of its citizens. And in the provinces, there is a scramble for budgets and economic projects. "A year ago, we could not give money to the provincial governors; they could not use it. Now they are in competition for funds, and economic life stirs," Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh, who oversees the service sector of the government, said to me.

We ask of the Iraqis "national reconciliation" and bemoan their inability to offer it in ways we can recognize, but a broad, subtle national accord is settling upon the land. The Kurds want (and have) their autonomy but have no eagerness to break out on

their own to face alone the schemes of the Iranians, the Turks, and the Syrians. The Shiites have prevailed in the war for Baghdad; primacy in the government is increasingly theirs. The Sunni Arabs know that they have lost their war against this new Iraq, that the bet they placed on al Qaeda and neighboring Sunni Arab nations has been lost.

**New realism.** Beyond their pride, and the fury of their feuds, Iraqis of all stripes have now come to terms with their country's desperate need of American protection and patronage. Ignore the pollsters who tell you that Iraqis have had their fill of the American presence. There is a realism that comes to men and women who know calamities, and this realism teaches Iraqis that this American project is their country's chance for a way out of a history of grief and terror.

In late August, on a day of unsparring heat, I shadowed Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, our second most senior commander in Iraq, as he toured a Baghdad neighborhood that had once been a Saddamist stronghold. In a market undergoing extensive renovation, he was besieged by petitioners. Men spoke to him of their plans for this market; a new restaurant was being readied with a front porch overlooking the river, and its owner pressed his case for a generator to provide the electricity he needs. A man with some flair and humor pointed to his old, dusty car and asked if the Americans, in their power and benevolence, might replace it with a new one.

It has not been pretty, this expedition to Iraq, and the man in that neighborhood will not get a new car. But the American determination to see this war to a decent outcome, and the fatigue of the Iraqi protagonists, have transformed the landscape. We have been burned before, and progress has often vanished like a desert mirage, but there can be no denying the change that has

come to Iraq. The dispatches cite a recent "downward trend in violence." In September, 1,654 civilians were killed, a 29 percent decline from the 2,318 killed in August. The U.S. military fatalities dropped to 63 from 84 in August. A fight still rages in Iraq. This is not a country at peace, and all its furies have not burned out, but a measure of order has begun to stick on the ground.

It appears that the American debate has been transformed as well. There is to it the quiet that follows a big storm. Two men of great talent and devotion came home to report about Iraq—our military commander, Gen. David Petraeus, and our diplomatic envoy, Ambassador Ryan Crocker. They told of achievements, and of frustrations. Above all, they delivered a sobering message about the consequences of failure: We are there under Arab and Iranian eyes; we can't quit the place, cede it to chaos and radicalism. And there came a startling and overdue message delivered by President Bush that there will be an "enduring" U.S. presence in Iraq. The Pax Americana, which has "security arrangements" with the regimes in Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, will now add Iraq into its orbit.

We shall not have anywhere near the current 160,000 military personnel, but there shall be a substantial U.S. presence for many years to come. In public, Iraqi leaders say that they don't wish to see their country as a battleground between America and Iran. But behind closed doors, there is an acceptance by Iraq's political class of an American presence on the Iran-Iraq frontier. We may sugarcoat the truth, but Iran shall be monitored from Iraq. And the American presence in Araby—historically in Sunni lands—now extends to a republic led by Arab Shiites.

New York Post  
October 9, 2007

### **39. Building For The Real Future**

*Smart Turn On Military Transformation*

By Mackubin T. Owens

LAST Friday, the Senate approved the nomination of Marine Lt.-Gen. James Mattis as the next commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command. This is great news - because it means the Pentagon can start getting "transformation" right.

Joint Forces Command is the nerve center for "force planning" - that is, for setting priorities and doctrines for building our future military. And Mattis (who'll get a fourth star along with his new job) will also serve as NATO's top commander for transformation.

For the last decade or so, the U.S. military (as well as its allies) has faced an imperative to "transform" from a Cold War force to one better able to handle the challenges of the post-Cold-War world. But the Pentagon under Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld viewed new technology as the one-size-fits-all solution to all future military problems - a panacea that would render traditional war-fighting wisdom obsolete.

If nothing else, Iraq and Afghanistan have demonstrated that success in war depends on a great deal more than technological prowess.

In this context, Mattis is a highly significant choice for Joint Forces Command - because he has earned a reputation as perhaps the finest Marine combat leader since the legendary Chesty Puller.

Mattis served as the commander of the Naval Task Force that seized an advanced airbase at the opening of the Afghanistan campaign. And during the initial phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom, then-Maj.-Gen. Mattis commanded the storied First Marine Division.

Gen. Mattis is a highly

respected, beloved and inspirational commander. He also has a remarkable and probing intellect - as I learned first-hand when he was one of my students at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College many years ago.

What is to be gained by placing such a competent operational commander in charge of something as fuzzy as "transformation"? A great deal.

As a seasoned combat commander who has fought the kind of wars we're likely to face in the future, Gen. Mattis is well placed to break the "technology as panacea" culture that has long dominated Joint Forces Command.

He's on record as a vocal critic of what he sees as the unchallenged assumptions of much contemporary defense planning. And he has denounced the idea, advanced by some prominent commentators on security issues, that advances in technology have "changed the very nature of war."

Mattis places the human element of war at the center of his thinking. As such, he takes his bearings from Carl Von Clausewitz, the "philosopher of war," who (among much else) stressed the seeming impossibility of eliminating uncertainty from war and the critical importance of "moral factors" - two truths that have been much neglected in recent years at Joint Forces Command.

In his new job, Mattis will resist the dangerous tendency of the military's transformation bureaucracy to impose dubious dogma on force planning.

The perils of dogma were illustrated in 2002 during a massive war game conducted by Joint Forces Command. This exercise, named "Millennium Challenge," was designed to prove a number of technology-driven concepts (e.g., "Joint Vision 2002," "Effects Based Operations" and "Rapid Decisive Operations"). The "blue team" was expected

to use such tools to roll over the "red team."

But the leader of the game's "red team," Marine Gen. Paul Van Riper (ret.) refused to play along. Taking his role seriously - doing his best to realistically test the subject concepts - he employed asymmetric tactics and commercial off-the-shelf technologies to inflict heavy losses on the "blue team" - essentially bringing the game to a halt.

As Van Riper said later, "Neither the construct nor the conduct of the exercise allowed for [these concepts] to be properly assessed." In other words, rather than a "free play" exercise that would really test the new concepts, Millennium Challenge was meant to merely rubber-stamp them. Van Riper's "revolt" revealed the flaws in the "tech-as-panacea" vision of transformation.

Gen. Mattis understands that assumptions must be questioned - otherwise, our forces can be blind-sided by changes in the security environment. He realizes that it is impossible to perfectly predict and fully control the actions of potential adversaries - that the world is dynamic and characterized by uncertainty.

In short, Mattis is the right man at the right time to ensure that the transformation of the U.S. military is grounded in reality.

*Mackubin T. Owens is a professor of national-security affairs at the Naval War College.*

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October 9, 2007  
Pg. 15

## 40. A Navy LOST?

By Frank J. Gaffney Jr.

Irony of ironies: The principal champion of the Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST) is the United States Navy. Yet predictably few organizations would suffer more than America's naval forces from a supranational government of the oceans empowered by U.S.

accession to that treaty.

The absurdity of this situation was on display last week as the Navy's former senior officer, retired Chief of Naval Operations Vernon Clark, testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Adm. Clark waxed on about LOST as "a Magna Carta for the oceans that guarantees navigation freedoms throughout the world's largest maneuver space." The committee's ranking Republican, Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, declared in about as many words that, if the Navy wants the treaty, the Senate should give it to them. Period.

Fortunately, a necessary corrective was offered the next day by another distinguished retired four-star, Adm. James "Ace" Lyons. In an article in *The Washington Times'* Commentary pages, the former Pacific Fleet commander in chief declared: "It is inconceivable to this naval officer why the Senate would willingly want to forfeit its responsibility for America's freedom of the seas to the unelected and unaccountable international agency that would be created by ratification of LOST."

Adm. Lyons appreciates a reality apparently overlooked by those promoting the Navy's official line on LOST: The treaty entails obligations that are at odds with the U.S. sea services' routine operations; involve sweeping commitments to protect the "marine environment" the Navy will almost certainly contravene; and institute several tribunals to prosecute complaints that arise in these or other areas.

Of all institutions, the Navy should be alive to the dangers that such a treaty entails. After all, the service's civilian leader, Secretary Donald Winter, for one has expressed grave concerns about the impact domestic environmentalists and their litigiousness currently have on

Navy and Marine Corps' operations.

Such challenges are likely to pale by comparison with the edicts handed down by multilateral tribunals whose deciding votes are, in every instance, selected by international bureaucrats (in the case of one arbitral panel, by the U.N. secretary-general himself). A recent paper written by Dr. Jeremy Rabkin for the American Enterprise Institute under the provocative title, "Do We Really Want to Place the U.S. Navy Under International Judicial Supervision?" makes clear that, by so doing, we would open ourselves to expanded attacks via "Lawfare" — the technique of using treaties, courts and international law as an asymmetric weapon against us:

"It is estimated that the United States has more practicing lawyers than all other countries put together. Separation of powers and an active, independent judiciary invite challenges to decisions of officials in the executive branch, just as we scrutinize and challenge so many other institutions in our society. What that means is that it is much harder for the United States to shrug off international legal claims than it may be for more centralized or repressive countries such as China."

Faced with this worrisome prospect, the Navy's lawyers blithely contend the Law of the Sea Treaty permits "military activities" to be exempted from the mandatory dispute resolution mechanisms. On this basis, they believe the U.S. can continue with impunity practices flatly prohibited by various treaty provisions. (These include, for example, requirements that the seas be used and marine research be performed exclusively for peaceful purposes; submarines transit territorial waters on the surface; and no collection of intelligence take place within those waters).

What would happen if, despite our protests, the treaty's

arbitral panels wind up being used as other LOST enthusiasts clearly intend, as a means of interfering with the Navy's activities? How about if the arbitrators assert their jurisdiction and judge the Navy — or perhaps, as Adm. Lyons suggested, civilian contractors essential to equipping its forces or their logistics — to be violating one or more provisions of the accord? A uniformed lawyer recently had a remarkable, if wholly impracticable, answer: "We'll abrogate the treaty."

Could it be that the Navy's official stance on LOST is less an accurate indication of the merits of that treaty than a measure of the increasingly parlous state of the nation's sea service? In a characteristically insightful Sept. 21 New York Times op-ed, best-selling author and visiting professor at Annapolis, Robert Kaplan wrote: "China[s]... production and acquisition of submarines is now 5 times that of America's. Many military analysts feel it is mounting a quantitative advantage in naval technology that could erode our qualitative one. Yet the Chinese have been buying smart rather than across-the-board. In addition to submarines, Beijing has focused on naval mines, ballistic missiles that can hit moving objects at sea, and technology that blocks G.P.S. satellites. The goal is 'sea denial': dissuading American carrier strike groups from closing in on the Asian mainland wherever and whenever we like."

The fact Adm. Ace Lyons felt compelled to do the almost unthinkable — break ranks with Navy colleagues of decades duration — is a shot across the proverbial bow: Those in the Senate tempted to justify their inattention to the details of the Law of the Sea Treaty on the grounds that the military "wants" it now must fulfill their constitutional responsibility to provide rigorous quality control on this

accord. If they do so, they are bound to act as Ronald Reagan did and reject this defective treaty, sparing both the Navy and the nation its negative repercussions.

*Frank J. Gaffney Jr. is president of the Center for Security Policy. His testimony at last week's Foreign Relations Committee hearing can be reviewed at [www.RejectLOST.org](http://www.RejectLOST.org).*

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## 41. Rewards Of Hiring Veterans

By Thomas Lynch and Michael O'Hanlon

Seldom if ever has America asked so much of so few for so long. Its soldiers and Marines are being deployed around the world at breakneck pace, accepting significant sacrifice, often at great personal risk.

If we are going to ask so much of our men and women who voluntarily serve under arms, it is only fair that we take good care of them. Fortunately, military pay as well as health and retirement benefits have improved substantially in modern times. But young people leaving the service need more than benefits.

If they are leaving the active-duty force, they need new jobs and careers. If they are returning from reservist duty, they need the right to reclaim their former positions, or help restoring their own businesses that probably suffered during their absence. The private sector and government both need to keep looking for more ways to assist.

Modern American military veterans bring many distinctive talents to careers in the private sector. Several stand out.

(1) Military veterans display a propensity toward leadership. They often possess practical, hands-on management experience. Many will have led teams of a dozen

or more individuals during the course of even a short, three-year enlistment.

(2) Military veterans also possess a strong sense of loyalty. Loyalty is a core value in today's military services, and is instilled from basic training. Military veterans can be expected to approach a business opportunity with pride and professionalism that understands loyalty as a two-way street, prepared to give their commitment to a firm in return for the opportunity to produce bottom-line results for that company.

(3) Most of today's military veterans possess exceptional information technology know-how and technical expertise. A young private on an Army personnel carrier or a Marine Corps tank will be trained to use, maintain and understand the basics of nearly a dozen high-tech instruments imbedded in these modern military vehicles from computer-generated thermal images, to global positioning navigation systems tied to satellite tracking devices, to digital-data graphics and movement presentations relayed between moving vehicles via wireless control. The onetime "low-tech" world of the infantryman and tank crewman are long gone.

(4) Our veterans are used to working successfully in an ethnically diverse environment. They have formal training and personal experience in an employee system that values ethnic diversity and that trains and demands adherence to equal opportunity for all workers.

(5) Our modern military has seen extensive overseas deployments since well before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Thus, the average separating military veteran will have personal experience with international environments and international partners. Many will also have conversational skills in at least one foreign language.

Tragically, of course, some of our veterans will return to the workplace handicapped physically or mentally. Not every possible job will be right for all of them. But the U.S. military health and veterans' care systems are getting better all the time at helping diagnose and treat such conditions. They can also help employers understand the challenges faced by some of our soldiers and Marines, even before hiring decisions are made. And while some are indeed seriously injured, most veterans will arrive in the civilian work force in good health and with a greater propensity than most toward a healthy lifestyle featuring exercise and smart eating habits.

While our focus here has been on those veterans separating from the active duty U.S. military force, American businesses have an equally critical role in supporting our Reservists and Guardsmen. Federal law protects members of the military from losing their jobs while they are mobilized to active duty. Many, if not most, American firms and industries are honoring this legal obligation. But some are not, and must.

Moreover, no such federal job safety net exists for Reserve & National Guard troops who own their own businesses. According to the National Guard Bureau, about 5 percent of all 1 million members of the National Guard and Reserves are self-employed. Preferential loans or even modest, temporary subsidies may be appropriate for those whose businesses can be shown to have suffered during their absence.

An amendment to the 2008 Defense Authorization Bill sponsored by Sens. Olympia Snow, Maine Republican, and John Kerry, Massachusetts Democrat, provides federal legislation that will mandate much of this vital support. If signed into law by the

president, this legislation will still require the good faith implementation by the nation's bankers and businessmen to assure its desired effect.

If you have a story to share about a military veteran working for or with you, and are willing to share it in brief form, please e-mail us. We would like to write another column with such inspirational stories.

*Thomas Lynch, a U.S. Army colonel, is a military fellow at the Brookings Institution. The views expressed are his own. Michael O'Hanlon is senior fellow at Brookings and directs Brookings' Opportunity08.org project.*

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## 42. Anthropology And War

To the Editor:

As an American on a Fulbright fellowship, I spent the last year conducting anthropological research in Mexico. Invariably, one of the first questions I was asked when I tried to begin an interview was, "Are you here to spy on us?"

Even after full disclosure of my university employment, publications and current research design, I found myself blocked out of some potentially useful interviews. Headlines like "Army Enlists Anthropology in War Zones" (front page, Oct. 5) will make future research all the more difficult.

The identification of anthropology with military operations, intelligence gathering and "armed social work" augurs ill for the future of a discipline that studies populations distrustful of power — many of which have had unhappy past experiences with American invasion, occupation or support for corrupt dictatorships.

Anthropologists thus need not be antiwar or skeptical of

the Bush administration to oppose the enlistment of anthropologists in counterinsurgency operations. All one needs is a clear view of the discipline's bottom line.

**Roger N. Lancaster,**  
Fairfax, Va., Oct. 5, 2007

The writer is director of the cultural studies doctoral program at George Mason University.

**Editor's Note:** The article by David Rohde appeared in the *Current News Early Bird*, October 5, 2007.

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## 43. A LOST Cause

Although I am not especially fond of the idea of having retired naval officers carry out a debate in the media, I do not want to let Adm. James Lyons' piece "U.S. LOST at sea?" (Commentary, Friday) stand as the last word.

It must be understood that most retired senior naval officers who have spent time with the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea — including, apparently, the former chiefs of naval operations — support U.S. approval. The same is true of the Navy League and the Military Officers Association of America, among others. As recently as the Senate hearing on Thursday, the retired vice chief of naval operations strongly urged the Senate to sign us up.

At those hearings, it also emerged that the opposition has adopted a "drag and die" approach. Adm. Lyons echoes that tactic when he complains that the convention is being fast-tracked. The convention has been in Washington since 1982. It has been before the Senate for advice and consent for a dozen or so years. Multiple hearings have been held, and uncounted point papers and briefings have been produced. It is inconceivable to me that there is anything new to say on either side of the

debate at this point.

I do not know that it is useful to debate the text of the convention in this forum. Most of us who have worked real-time issues with the convention believe it will not reduce the operational flexibility of our ships and aircraft.

We are at a crucial junction. Deliberations are under way to resolve continental-shelf claims, including those of Russia in the Arctic. The United States needs to have a seat at the table, and we won't if we aren't party to the convention. We must either resolve these issues peacefully or spend the next hundred years using force to get access to the oceans' resources.

It is true that we will have to deal occasionally with the international community under the convention and that we will not always have things our way. Nonetheless, the great weight of expert opinion, particularly among those with a genuine stake in the process, supports the proposition that our long-term security will be advanced by participating in the convention. It is time to give up opposition as a LOST cause and to get on with the business of protecting our oceans' interest under the convention.

**REAR ADM. RICHARD B. SCHIFF, Judge Advocate General's Corps, Navy (Retired), Alexandria**

**Editor's Note:** The article referred to appeared in the *Current News Early Bird*, October 5, 2007.