

## THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM



Spc. Nick Hawkins of the U.S. Army National Guard leaves an outpost after guarding a busy street intersection in Baghdad on Jan. 28, 2005. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff on Tuesday told the Senate Armed Services Committee that Reserves and Guard will see an 11 percent reduction of troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan next year.

# Official: Guard, Reserves to see smaller role in wars

## Rumsfeld: Continued corruption in Iraq could damage creation of democracy

By LOLITA C. BALDOR  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### WASHINGTON

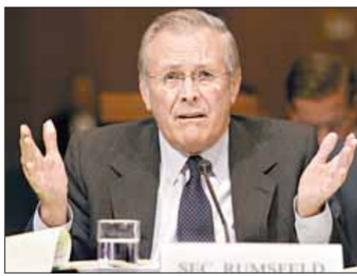
The National Guard and Reserves will play a much smaller role next year in Iraq and Afghanistan, dropping to less than one-fifth of overall U.S. forces there, the nation's top military officer told senators Tuesday.

In response to repeated questions about the strain on reserve forces on the front lines, Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that Guard and Reserves will make up just 19 percent of the forces deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan over the next year.

Currently they make up about 30 percent of U.S. forces in those countries, Pace said. That means the planned reduction would lower the reserves' proportion of total American forces in Iraq and Afghanistan by about one third.

There are now about 138,000 American troops in Iraq and 19,000 more in Afghanistan.

The planned reduction in reserves comes as Bush administration officials have been saying they hope to reduce the numbers of U.S. troops in Iraq this year, assuming the



Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld spoke in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday in Washington.

Iraqi government and its forces can take a wider role in the war and keeping order.

The Bush administration has been under pressure to bring more American troops home. A study commissioned by the Pentagon said last month that the wear and tear of the U.S. deployment in Iraq was beginning to wear down the Army and questioned how much longer it could continue operating there at full effectiveness.

Reserve forces have made up as much as 40 percent of U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The number of Army National Guard soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan peaked at 69,416 last September, with most in Iraq.

Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the top Army officer, told the senators that heavy use of the Guard and Reserve has given the Army time to reorganize and prepare for its regular troops to take on a broader role beginning in March.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, meanwhile, told the panel that continued corruption in Iraq could damage efforts to create a democracy there and it is up to the Iraqis to seize control and take more responsibility for their country.

"It's true that violence, corruption and criminality continue to pose challenges in Iraq" and are "so corrosive of democracy," he said.

"It's critically important that it be attacked and that the new leadership in that country be measured against their commitment to attack corruption," he added.

Committee chairman John Warner, R-Va., said the next six months would be critical in Iraq and will be key to the eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops and coalition forces. He said increasing problems with corruption in Iraq make it more difficult for coalition forces.

### OTHER NEWS

A suicide bomber on a motorcycle plowed into a guard post Tuesday at a police headquarters in Kandahar, Afghanistan, killing 13 people and wounding 11; most were Afghan police.

On Tuesday, the U.S. military said four Marines died in separate explosions in western Iraq and masked gunmen killed a Sunni Arab cleric who headed the city council in the city of Fallujah.

International peacekeepers clashed Tuesday with Afghans protesting drawings of the Prophet Muhammad, leaving three demonstrators dead. Iran suspended all trade and economic ties with Denmark, where the drawings were first published.

# Funding options for cities in doubt

## Daniels offers support for plan

By MIKE SMITH  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### INDIANAPOLIS

Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels joined mayors in a renewed pitch Tuesday for giving local governments new taxing options, but a top state senator said major changes still seemed unlikely to pass the General Assembly this year.

Daniels and Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, a Democrat, promoted funding alternatives to property taxes during a Statehouse news conference.

It was conducted shortly before the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns pitched a proposal before the Senate Tax Committee and its chairman, Republican Luke Kenley of Noblesville.

Kenley floated his own proposal but took no action on any plan, and he cast doubt on whether any significant proposal could pass this session.

He said that was because there was still reluctance in the Republican-controlled House for allowing local governments to raise some new taxes in order to make major reductions in property taxes.

The GOP-controlled Senate approved new options last year, but they were rejected in the House. And separate plans by Daniels and IACT went nowhere in the House during the first half of this session, which is to end by March 14.

Daniels and Peterson sparred last year over legislation to set up funding for a new Colts stadium and expansion of the downtown Convention Center in Indianapolis, but they were on the same side Tuesday promoting fiscal flexibility for local governments.

Kenley commended Daniels and city officials for standing behind alternative funding plans and did not declare meaningful reform completely dead.

"I'm holding out hope that people will want to deal with it, but the political reality of an election year is going to make that difficult," he said.

### STATEHOUSE DEVELOPMENTS

Penalties would increase against home repair people who scam the elderly and others under a bill a Senate committee advanced Tuesday.

The Senate Corrections, Criminal, and Civil Matters Committee unanimously advanced a bill Tuesday that requires repair people to give clients their real names, addresses and phone numbers. Repairs are also not allowed to misrepresent potential problems with a client's home.

Most AARP members in Indiana oppose legislation that would deregulate telephone service, according to a survey released Tuesday by the organization. 824 AARP members were surveyed. 57 percent of respondents said they strongly oppose legislation that would allow phone companies to set their own rates. 21 percent said they somewhat oppose legislation.

Nine percent either strongly supported or somewhat supported legislation to allow phone companies to set their own rates.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

# Scientists discover 'Lost World' in remote Indonesian jungle



By ROBIN McDOWELL  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### JAKARTA, Indonesia

Soon after scientists landed by helicopter in the mist-shrouded mountains of one of Indonesia's most remote provinces, they stumbled on a primitive egg-laying mammal that simply allowed itself to be picked up and brought to their field camp.

Describing a "Lost World," one apparently never visited by humans, members of the team said Tuesday they also saw large mammals that have been hunted to near-extinction elsewhere and discovered dozens of exotic new

species of frogs, butterflies and palms.

"We've only scratched the surface," said Bruce Beehler, a co-leader of the monthlong trip to the Foja Mountains, an area in the eastern province of Papua with roughly 2 million acres of pristine tropical forest.

"There was not a single trail, no sign of civilization, no sign of even local communities ever having been there," he said in a telephone interview from Washington, D.C.

The December expedition was organized by U.S.-based Conservation International and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, and funded by the National Geo-

graphic Society and several other organizations.

Minutes after the small team of American, Indonesian and Australian scientists were dropped into a boggy lake bed and set up camp near the mountain range's western summit, they said they encountered a new species of bird: a red-faced and wattled honeyeater.

The next day they saw Berlepsch's Six-wired Bird of Paradise, described by 19th century hunters and named for wires that extend from its head in place of a crest.

Papua is one of Indonesia's most remote regions geographically and politically, and access by foreigners is tightly restricted.

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