

THE WAR IN IRAQ

Senate proposal would force troop withdrawal



A U.S. Army soldier stakes out a position during a joint operation with the Iraqi army in Buhriz, Iraq, last week. Democratic legislation

in the Senate would revoke the president's authority to fight the war in Iraq and require withdrawing U.S. troops from the country.

White House: Revoking war authority would bring chaos

By JENNIFER LOVEN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Brushing aside criticism from the White House, Senate Democrats said Friday their next challenge to President Bush's Iraq war policy would require the gradual withdrawal of U.S. combat troops beginning within 120 days.

The draft legislation also declares the war requires principally a political solution rather than a military one.

The provisions are included in a measure that would repeal the authority that lawmakers gave Bush in 2002, months before the invasion of Iraq, and replace it with a far more limited mission.

Democrats have said they are likely to

seek a vote on the proposal within two weeks. The odds against it ever becoming law are high, and the White House and Senate Republicans were quick to denounce it.

White House spokesman Tony Fratto said the administration "of course" would oppose an attempt to alter the existing authorization, and he warned that a pull-out of U.S. troops could bring chaos to Iraq. "We're operating under a mandate," he said.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky dismissed the proposal as an attempt by Democrats to produce "what could best be described as a Goldilocks resolution: one that is hot enough for the radical left wing, but cool enough for party leaders to claim that

they are for the troops."

A spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said the White House is not only confused, but in denial.

"They can spin all they want, but the fact is that President Bush is ignoring a bipartisan majority of Congress, his own military commanders, and the American public in escalating the war," said Jim Manley. "The American people have demanded a change of course in Iraq and Democrats are committed to holding President Bush accountable."

As currently drafted, the Democratic legislation says the military "shall commence phased redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq not later than 120 days" after the bill's enactment. The goal is to complete the withdrawal by March 31, 2008.

Indiana National Guard unit could be sent overseas again in 2008

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS

The Indiana National Guard is notifying soldiers in the 76th Infantry Brigade that they may be called to serve in Iraq in the first half of next year, earlier than previously announced.

However, mobilization of the 3,500 troop brigade isn't certain, said Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, who is in charge if

Indiana's National Guard troops.

Every unit in the 76th Infantry Brigade has seen duty in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The soldiers had been told they would not be deployed again until at least 2010. Last month, the Defense Department moved the deployment up a year. On Wednesday night, Guard officials said deployment could be as early as the first half of 2008.

"You hate to tell soldiers and families on rumor," Umbarger said, "but the comment

to me (from the Defense Department) was, 'This isn't certain, but we're looking at your unit.'"

Umbarger said the brigade needs to be resupplied first.

"We're short on night-vision goggles and some machine guns, vehicles and communication equipment," he said.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Baron Hill said he is urging the Bush Administration to reconsider the deployment.

Former police chief: Officers will need to heal emotionally

By ANNIE GOELLER
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The shootings of two Greenwood officers will be a reminder to their colleagues of the training that some received decades ago.

Greenwood police officers' senses will be heightened, and they'll be thinking about safety more following the shootings of officers Eric McElhaney and Jay Arnold, the agency's former chief said.

"They're gonna be on their toes a little more," said Albert Hessman, who worked with both officers.

"It's just like getting out of the law enforcement academy again," said Greenwood police Sgt. Tim McLaughlin, who's been with the department 22 years. "Safety is the first thing on your mind."

Over the next few weeks and months, officers will remember the shooting every day on the job. Everyone, including the officers, will need to heal, Hessman said.

"When we go out there every day, the idea is not that we kill or hurt people. We're not programmed to kill folks," Hessman said.

McElhaney and Arnold will recover from the shooting, he said, but he still worries about them.

As the shock and the initial whirlwind of attention fade, the officers will have to deal with what happened and their emotions.

"I have a deep concern for the both of them. I worry about them, not only physically, but psychologically," said Hessman, who now runs the county's community corrections department. He was

Greenwood police chief until 2004.

Hessman visited Arnold on Thursday at his home and said the officer is doing well. Arnold received a minor leg wound in the shooting.

Arnold told Hessman he used his military training to help him handle the incident Wednesday.

"The next few days will be the toughest, once all the attention fades off," Hessman said.

Hessman suggested Arnold take some time off work and offered to listen if the officer wants to talk.

Both officers will have a long road to recovery, Hessman said.

Besides dealing with physical injuries, they will need to handle the emotional trauma of killing someone.

"I know that when they went to work that night, that was the farthest thing from their minds," Hessman said.

Officers were shocked when they heard the news, McLaughlin said.

"You don't expect that sort of thing in Greenwood," he said.

The shooting will heighten his and other officers' senses and will make safety an even bigger concern than it already is, he said.

Officers don't forget their training but can drop their guard the longer they are on the job, Hessman said.

"Let's face it, these things don't happen every day," he said.

A shooting such as the one Wednesday makes officers think about safety. Their fellow officers who have been injured will be on their minds often, and they'll wonder what would have happened had they responded to that same call.

"It could have been anybody. If it wasn't them that night, it could be the next officer in two weeks," Hessman said.

• Gun

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

"He's got a substantial injury. It's not like he's just got a little scratch or a wound," said Albert Hessman, former Greenwood police chief, who visited McElhaney in the hospital Thursday.

"He's got some hurdles to jump." Arnold was treated for a minor leg wound and released. Hessman also visited him Thursday and said the officer is doing well.

Investigators learned Friday that the gun Kyle Collins, 18, Indianapolis, used to shoot the officers was reported stolen from a home on Indianapolis' west side. Police don't know or aren't

releasing information about how many shots hit Collins, who was killed by the officers, where he was hit, detailed information about what the shooting investigation will include, what was found in the teen's apartment during a search Thursday and whether the teen or the driver were given breath tests.

They will be meeting to discuss the case over the coming days and weeks and will release information after they have done a full investigation, Pitcher said.

Assistant Chief Rick McQuerey said the department also is trying to focus on caring for their officers and their families.

He said the department is facing a staffing issue and trying to help officers who are dealing with the shooting.

House approves slot machines at tracks

By DEANNA MARTIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

The House passed a bill Friday that would allow up to 5,000 slot machines at Indiana horse racing tracks, a proposal supporters say would boost the racing industry and bring the state millions of dollars in tax money.

The legislation, which passed 54-39, would allow each of the state's two race tracks to pay a \$100 million fee to install up to 2,500 slot machines. The money the machines bring would be taxed at a rate of 37.5 percent.

Thirty-five percent of the tax revenue would be distributed to Indiana counties without race tracks or riverboat casinos. Five percent of the tax revenue from Madison County's race track would go to county and local governments there, while 5 percent of the taxes from Shelby County's

track would be distributed there. The rest of the tax revenue would go to the state's main account.

The tracks and horse racing industry, starting in 2009, would give up the \$27 million a year in subsidies they currently share from riverboat gambling revenue. That money would instead be funneled into a health-care fund that is not specifically outlined in the legislation.

The bill also would give tax breaks to the new French Lick casino, which some worried would face competition from the slot machines at race tracks. The tax breaks will last for five years while the casino gets its feet on the ground, said bill sponsor Rep. Trent Van Haaften, D-Mount Vernon.

Supporters said slot machines would breathe life into the struggling race tracks at Anderson and Shelbyville, while providing the state with much-needed revenue. Rep. Eric Gutwein, R-Rensse-

laer, said the horse racing industry provides thousands of jobs across the state.

"Those jobs are truly at risk without the passage of this legislation," he said.

But Rep. Chet Dobis, D-Merrillville, said the state should not bail out the failing horse racing industry.

"It's a loser in every race track in this country," he said.

The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Senate President Pro Tem David Long, R-Fort Wayne, said he would like the bill to have a hearing in the Senate. He said some Republican senators might be more inclined to support the proposal if the tax money were directed toward a specific policy or program, not just used to plug holes in the state's budget.

"That's going to be an important part of this whole discussion," Long said.

• Officers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

awards for stopping drunken drivers.

"(McElhaney) was very experienced, sharp, and he paid attention to everything," Swint said.

Arnold learned his job quickly. By three years on the job, he could be training new officers, McLaughlin said.

The men's former boss, former police chief Albert Hessman, said he never received a complaint about either one.

The officers were shot and wounded by an Indianapolis teen Wednesday night.

Arnold received a minor leg wound and was treated and released. McElhaney was shot as many as four times and is still in the hospital.

Neither officer needs to be reminded to do his job, said McLaughlin, who usually works the

"These are two of the hardest-working guys you'll ever meet."

Sgt. Tim McLaughlin
Greenwood police officer on two fellow officers who were injured in a shootout with an Indianapolis man Wednesday evening on the southside

day shift but has supervised the two during their shift at night.

They respond to calls that are nearby, even if they weren't asked. They are always there to provide back-up for their fellow officers. And they go out of their way to do extra jobs that are asked of them, such as checking an area for speeders, McLaughlin said.

He never has to worry that their paperwork will be incomplete or have errors, he said.

"When (McElhaney or Arnold) turns in something, you know it's going to be right or better," he said.

Hessman worked with both officers and hired Arnold. He said

they are good officers.

McElhaney made a name for himself, receiving awards from Mothers Against Drunk Driving for the number of drunken drivers he stopped, Hessman said.

The officers are serious about their jobs, but both have a good sense of humor, and Arnold is outgoing, McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin will jokingly ask Arnold, who served in the military, to teach him to march.

"He just laughs," McLaughlin said.

McElhaney is funny too, said Johnson County sheriff's deputy Anthony Meziere, a friend of McElhaney's.

"He's always kind of a character," he said.

The two will joke around when they see each other, and Meziere describes McElhaney as happy-go-lucky.

But what stands out to him is his work ethic and how hard he works at his job, he said.

"He's pretty dedicated to do his job and to do it right," he said.

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