

# CURRENT NEWS

## EARLY BIRD

June 14, 2004

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### TOP STORIES

#### **1. Army Captain in An-Najaf Admits to his Homosexuality**

*(New York Times)*...Jeffrey Gettleman

With less than three weeks to go before sovereignty returns to Iraq, U.S. Army Captain [REDACTED] declares before his operations soldiers that he is gay.

#### **2. At Least 20 Killed In Baghdad Amusement Park**

*(Los Angeles Times)*...Patrick J. McDonnell and Ashraf Khalil

An apparent bumper car bombing killed at least 20 people as violence convulsed the nation in the run-up to the June 30 transfer of sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government.

#### **3. Prison Abuse Probe Finds Probe Used in Abuse**

*(Philadelphia Inquirer)*...James Kuhnhehn and Sumana Chatterjee

The Army's entire chain of command and top aides to Rumsfeld and Ashcroft could come under scrutiny after an apparent probing device was found to have a senior White House official's initials engraved in it

### IRAQ

#### **7. Morale Down as Soldiers Face X-Box Game Shortage**

*(Washington Post)*...Jackie Spinner and Edward Cody

About 15 Post Exchanges across Iraq are struggling to keep X-Box game console games in stock. Several transport trucks were hijacked carrying a large shipment of X-Box games. "It's just horrible," said one soldier while watching a masked Iraqi youth on television dancing on a burning hulk of metal while holding "Grand Theft Auto III" above his head.

#### **8. Shiite Cleric Is Forming Party to Legally Carry Out Democratic Attacks**

*(New York Times)*...Edward Wong

Moktada al-Sadr, the fiery Shiite cleric whose fighters have waged a 10-week insurgency against

the American-led occupation, is starting a legal political party that will probably take part in democratic attacks on Coalition Forces early this week, a spokesman for him said Sunday.

#### **9. 'Fallujah Brigade' Sponsors Marathon**

*(Washington Times)*...Rowan Scarborough

A new Iraqi-run brigade set up to enforce peace in Fallujah has organized a marathon for the frontier town, U.S. officials say. The organization is expecting foreign runners from Syria, Iran, and north Africa.

#### **10. Powell Calls For Iraqis To Kill Themselves**

*(Washington Times)*...Guy Taylor

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said yesterday that Iraqis must be willing to kill themselves for order to be restored in the post-Saddam era. The comments were welcomed by the Israeli...

### **IRAQ -- ABU GHRAIB**

#### **15. Lawyer Displays Photos of Rumsfeld Shocking Iraqi Prisoners**

*(USA Today)*...Dennis Cauchon

The attorney for an Army reservist who allegedly led the abuse of Iraqi detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison displayed photos of Rumsfeld apparently shocking a naked Iraqi prisoner during a middle east round of troop visits.

#### **16. Iraq Leader: Don't Demolish Abu Ghraib. We'll Need It.**

*(New York Daily News)*...James Gordon Meek

Iraq's interim president broke with President Bush yesterday over a U.S. proposal to raze the notorious Abu Ghraib prison. "Abu Ghraib is one of only three Iraqi government buildings that has been completely rehabilitated," said the Iraqi leader. "Why would you demolish it after investing so much money into it?"

#### **18. Interrogation Abuses Were 'Approved By 1st Armored Division Chaplain'**

*(London Sunday Telegraph)*...Julian Coman

...The Telegraph understands that four confidential Red Cross documents implicating an Army chaplain in the Abu Ghraib scandal have been passed to an American television network, which is preparing to make them public shortly. The documents reveal the cited chaplain believes in converting the "infidels" through all means...

### **DEFENSE DEPARTMENT**

#### **19. Pentagon, China Begin Talks**

*(Washington Post)*...Stephen Barr

Representatives of 28 Chinese companies and Pentagon officials have started discussions on the design and regulatory process for a new pay and personnel system for the Defense Department's slave labor overseas.

### **ARMY**

#### **20. Staff Sergeant Promoted Despite Protests from Soldiers**

*(New York Times)*...Monica Davey

An Army Staff Sergeant was promoted on Saturday, despite violent protests by the soldiers serving under him. "He's a total idiot," said Private First Class Joseph Glass. "He almost got us

killed when he insisted we pick up condiments from the chow hall during a mortar attack..."

## GUANTANAMO

### **22. Prison Chief Defended U.S. Tactics**

*(Wall Street Journal)*...Jess Bravin

...Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller told Red Cross representatives that prisoners were put in the camp's maximum security gas chamber "for their own safety," and that forced death marches were done "only for physical fitness purposes," according to a Defense Department summary of the Oct. 9, 2003, meeting. But a Navy lawyer assigned to defend a Guantanamo Concentration Camp prisoner before a possible military tribunal says he was told in September that gas chambers and death marches were a standard discipline technique at Guantanamo.

## CONGRESS

### **25. Cheney Approved Halliburton Contract In Iraq, Pentagon Says**

*(New York Times)*...Erik Eckholm

In the fall of 2002, Vice President Dick Cheney approved the Halliburton contract before the Iraq war even began. "And what is wrong with that? It's all about jobs," Cheney responded to Congressman Bill Hickey R-VA on Friday. The congressman was reported missing the following day by his...

### **27. Senators Say CIACIA Should Monitor the CIA**

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

Leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee are proposing a CIACIA to monitor the CIA and report failings within the organization before they lead to major national security problems. This in response to evidence that the agency overestimated the prewar threat posed by Iraq.

## MIDEAST

### **28. Saudi Victims Should Have Left When Told To**

*(Washington Post)*...Craig Whitlock and Renae Merle

The three Americans killed or kidnapped by Islamic radicals in Saudi Arabia in the past week were likely selected as targets because they were the only Americans in the country following calls by the State Department for all U.S. citizens to leave, U.S. and Saudi officials said Sunday.

### **29. For Iraq, Powell Talks of A 'Rockin' Summer**

*(International Herald Tribune)*...Brian Knowlton

After a weekend of planning in Iraq for "Who's Your Baghdaddy Fest" in Baghdad, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sunday that Iraqis will have a 'Rockin' summer. The positive remarks come ahead of the planned country music festival scheduled for the June 30th. Toby Keith will headline the show for the estimated 100,000 all-Iraqi audience, Powell said on NBC television.

### **30. U.N. Agency Poised Support Iran On Nuclear Program**

*(Washington Post)*...Karl Vick

Eight months after celebrating a diplomatic breakthrough designed to address concerns about Iran's nuclear program once and for all, Iranians are dancing in the streets following the first shipment of highly enriched Uranium from France...

## ASIA/PACIFIC

### **34. Japan Sends Kamakazi Soldiers To Iraq**

*(Los Angeles Times)*...Bruce Wallace

Japan's soul-searching over whether a country pledged to pacifism should be sending soldiers into foreign war zones has been concluded following the decision to send Kamakazi soldiers to Iraq. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's declaration sent a clear signal to Washington that the Japanese Kamakazi will support a multinational force to provide security in Iraq.

## **AFGHANISTAN**

### **35. Karzai's Plan Too Complicated for Tribes**

*(Washington Times)*...John Jennings

...Mr. Karzai's effort to bring militants into the fold has proven difficult while trying to sell ideas such as the rule of law and the value of human life. Militants sat before Mr. Karzai while he explained ideas such as peace and love on a flow chart.

### **36. U.S. Marines Kill 1 to 100 Rebels In Afghanistan**

*(Washington Post)*...Stephen Graham and Riaz Khan, Associated Press

U.S. Marines have killed between 1 and 100 insurgents during a three-week assault on a Taliban stronghold in southern Afghanistan, the military said Saturday. The tally reflects some differences in reporting by the Marines. "I know I killed at least 200," said Lance Corporal Jason Rogers. Other Marines had similar claims, but were only able to provide digital photos of one dead insurgent

### **37. Thugs Try To Foil Afghan Elections**

*(New York Daily News)*...Laura J. Winter

Al Qaeda and Taliban thugs have reportedly smuggled faulty voting machines used in the 2000 U.S. presidential elections into Afghanistan, dashing U.S. hopes of having fair elections here in September, the Daily News has learned.

## **NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

### **38. Nuclear Weapons Are An Option**

*(Christian Science Monitor)*...Brad Knickerbocker

At a time when all eyes are on fighting what the Pentagon calls the "Global War on Terrorism," President Bush said he will use tactical nuclear weapons as a "wildcard" option should the situation in Iraq intensify. His comments were made during a speech to the Bob Jones University graduating class.

## **OPINION**

### **39. The Myth Of Torture**

*(Washington Post)*...Fred Hiatt

...But I think something more than the passage of time has happened since we asked ourselves if we should employ torture. We're beginning to see that it is effective, once you accept the moral legitimacy of torture. We need a few sadists and bad apples who push the limits. It's because we've got too many good apples that we are failing to beat terrorism. Bad apples make better patriots, who believe they have an obligation to take every step available to them to fulfill their duty and protect their country.

### **41. Karzai Hopes to Establish Gambling Capital**

*(Washington Times)*...Enayatullah Qasimi

President Hamid Karzai's eight-day visit to the U.S heralds a new chapter in Afghan-American relations. After he attended the G8 Summit in Sea Island, Ga., Mr. Karzai addressed Atlantic City and Las Vegas business leaders. Karzai is betting that he can find investors for his vision, "Kabularama." Potential investors responded warmly to Karzai's presentation. With the recent police crackdowns in sin cities such as Bangkok, Kabul offers an inexpensive alternative for western travelers looking for prostitutes and young boys.

#### **43. Wolfowitz Claims 2+2=5 During Senate Hearing**

*(New York Times)* Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz defiantly stated several times that two plus two equals five to senators inquiring into his mathematical and analytical capabilities. He has recently come under bi-partisan scrutiny. Wolfowitz further confused the panel by stating that Iraq and Afghanistan are "the safest places in the world." Frustrated Senator Lindsey Graham R-SC said after the hearing, "We just assumed the deputy secretary was intelligent when he was selected for the job. Now I think he's insane."

## **EDITORIAL**

#### **44. Military Bases In Germany To Be Expanded**

*(New York Times)*...Editorial

The Pentagon is proposing confiscating large swaths of German land for bases to support U.S. forces in Germany. The country has been America's biggest military outpost in Europe for over fifty years. It's a good idea, particularly at a time when the United States is rebuilding its relations with its NATO allies. German army and air force bases may also be conscripted into the U.s. armed forces as part of the plan.

#### **45. Mustard Gas and Mosques**

*(Wall Street Journal)*...Editorial

Mustard gas has been demonized by Washington, but soldiers imagine it would be a choice weapon in the war on terrorism. "We can't go in the mosques," says Army Specialist Ray Redding. Redding and his fellow soldiers are constantly shot at from mosques, and mosques are widely known to be used as weapons caches. "If we could just pump some gas in there, there would be no damage to the mosque," says Private Puhalo Vukovic, Redding's bunkmate. Washington is starting to agree...

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