



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

U.S. military Task Force support flood victims in Ethiopia

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – (CJTF-HOA Public Affairs- A convoy of American Naval Engineers (also known as

“Seabees”) traveled from Camp Lemonier, Djibouti to Dire Dawa, Ethiopia on August 18 to provide humanitarian relief assis-

tance to the population affected by the recent flooding that has killed hundreds and left thousands without homes.



Navy Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, assigned to Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa set up tents to house approximately 6,000 displaced victims of a devastating flood that hit Dire Dawa. (U.S. Navy photo by Robert Palomares).

Responding to an appeal from the Ethiopian government and the U.S. Chargé d’Affaires in Addis Ababa to work with the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and non-governmental organizations to provide emergency assistance in the flood-devastated region, the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-5, from the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa

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United States Condemns Killing of African Union Troops

Washington (August 21)- The United States Government condemns the attack by unknown assailants on August 19, 2006, that killed two African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) soldiers and wounded several others, said Acting State Department Spokesman,

Gonzalo R. Gallego, on Monday.

The U.S. has called on the Sudanese government to cooperate fully with AMIS, to arrest those who participated in the attack, and prosecute them. They have also called upon all groups in

Darfur to refrain from violent attacks, recognize their responsibilities, and abide by the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and the N’djamena Cease-Fire Agreement.

This violence is another indication of the lack of

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U.S., U.K. Submit Resolution on U.N. Peacekeepers for Darfur

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations -- The United States and the United Kingdom introduced a draft U.N. Security Council resolution August 17 for the "expeditious deployment" of a U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur.

After a private meeting with the Security Council to present the resolution, U.S. Ambassador Jackie Sanders said, "Hopefully, we'll get a resolution adopted quickly and unanimously."

"We hope the government of Sudan will do its part," said Sanders, the deputy U.S. envoy to the United Nations.

The African Union has informed the United Nations that it cannot continue to field its 7,000-troop mission in Darfur and has agreed that the United Nations should take over operations with a greatly enlarged, more robust peacekeeping mission in the area, where the security conditions continue to



U.S. Ambassador Jackie Sanders
Deputy U.S. envoy to the United Nations

worsen. However, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has opposed any U.N. mission in the region.

Sanders said there are a number of high-level talks going on with Sudan, including discussions with the United States, and the United

Kingdom is sending an envoy to speak to al-Bashir. "All the countries of the [Security] Council and any country that has any influence with this government is welcome and encouraged to use its influence to get the president" to agree to the peacekeeping mission, she added.

The ambassador said that, according to the draft resolution, the consent of Sudan is not required, but "practically speaking, it's going to be useful to have the government on board" to get the U.N. mission operational.

"It's becoming more violent on the ground, and the humanitarian situation is getting worse as well. So we really need to move this forward," Sanders said.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the Security Council earlier in August that there has been an upsurge in violence in recent weeks. Indiscriminate killings, rapes and abductions of civilians continue, he reported.

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security that exists in Darfur, which continues to result in the deaths of innocent civilians and aid workers and hinders the distribution of life-saving humanitarian assistance to areas of Darfur.

The U.S. is working with its international partners at the UN Security Council to finalize the resolu-

tion for the UN peacekeeping force in Darfur, consistent with the African Union's request. The UN force must deploy without delay. Only a large, mobile, fast-reacting, and robust UN force, with African Union forces forming its core and to include Africans in key leadership positions, is capable of: stopping the fighting; protecting civilians and humanitarian workers; allowing for continued

and full implementation of the DPA; and providing a safe and secure environment wherein internally displaced persons and refugees of Darfur can return to their homes.

The United States calls on the government of Sudan to do its part to enable this transition to move forward.♦

U.S. Military, African Allies Deliver Humanitarian Aid

By David McKeeby
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The United States military is partnering with members of the East African Community (EAC) to deliver medical assistance and humanitarian aid as part of “Natural Fire 2006,” a 10-day multilateral military exercise.

The mid-August exercise, the first to be conducted between the United States and EAC since 2000, focuses on military-to-military coordination, crisis response training and humanitarian aid delivery. Kenyan army Brigadier General Leonard Ngondi will command forces participating in the exercise, supported by a joint military staff comprised of Kenyan, Tanzanian, Ugandan and U.S. officers.

“The objective of Natural Fire is to enhance crisis response effectiveness through increased interoperability between each of the EAC nations and the United

States,” said Rear Admiral Richard Hunt, head of the U.S. Central Command’s Combined Joint Task



Rear Admiral Richard Hunt
Head of the U.S. Central Command's Combined
Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa

Force – Horn of Africa.
Unlike many military exercises,

where forces simulate their response to a fictional scenario, Natural Fire 2006 not only will help the region improve its ability to respond to humanitarian crises, natural disasters, and other emergencies. It also will help rural African communities in need.

In joint operations across in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, approximately 1,000 military personnel will provide medical care for rural communities, veterinary assistance for village livestock and engineering support to help area residents repair and rebuild damaged infrastructure.

In Soroti, Uganda, on August 13, some 40 U.S. military medics worked with their counterparts from the Uganda People’s Defense Force (UPDF) to deliver medical care to 1,200 area residents.

“I am very impressed by the cooperation, professionalism and knowledge of the Ugandan medics,” said Major Jose Cabrera, a

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(CJTF-HOA) mobilized a team of 35 service members. The team erected 52 tents to accommodate some of the estimated 6,000 people who lost their homes and were being housed in local schools in the area. The Seabees will also construct sanitation facilities. The value of this assistance is approximately 900,000 U.S. dollars.

Officials have said that the priorities for relief assistance at this time are shelter and sanitation. However, CJTF-HOA is poised to provide additional relief assistance at the request of the Ethiopian government. Civil Affairs medical teams are coordinating with local authorities and NGOs in the area to determine what medical assistance may be needed.

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Visit CJTF-HOA online at <http://www.hoa.centcom.mil/www.hoa.centcom.mil>.♦

Local Organizations Contribute to U.S. AIDS Relief

By Charlene Porter
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Steadily increasing the delivery of care and treatment to people with HIV/AIDS is a key objective of U.S. assistance to nations battling the epidemic, but building the involvement, talents and skills of grassroots organizations to sustain the long-term campaign against the disease is another goal.

“At least one quarter of our resources go to capacity-building in the public and private health sectors -- physical infrastructure, training and support for work force,” said Global AIDS Coordinator (GAC) Dr. Mark Dybul in recent testimony before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. “And 80 percent of our partners are local organizations, which support more than 15,000 project sites for prevention, treatment and care.”

Audiences in Toronto and Washington met a few partners working on projects in Kenya via a digital videoconference August 8 arranged by the Office of the GAC.

Kenya is a target nation receiving special assistance under the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which helps 120 nations worldwide. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Kenya’s adult population stands at 6 percent, which represents about 1.2 million persons living with the virus and its consequences. The current national prevalence rate is a marked improvement from a high around 12 percent some years ago, according to a leading U.S. official working in Nairobi, Kenya, but some provinces still cope with extreme epidemics.

“[P]arts of Kenya -- particularly Nyanza Province on the shores of Lake Victoria -- prevalence rates exceeding 30 or even 40 percent are more like South Africa or Zambia,” said Warren “Buck” Buckingham, the country coordinator for PEPFAR, participating in the videoconference from Nairobi.

PEPFAR has enabled local people concerned about the epidemic to establish contacts, mobilize, organize and begin to help others, according to Buckingham. He introduced Elsa Ouko, the founder of KENEPOTE, the Kenya Network of [HIV] Positive Teachers, as one of those people.

Ouko said that HIV-positive teachers, as a group, were being stigmatized and discriminated against because of their disease, denied promotions and opportunities by administrators, who thought the teachers faced an early death. She recalled colleagues who were so weakened by AIDS that friends carried them in wheelbarrows to receive treatment when it became available through PEPFAR.

“The impact has been tremendous,” said Ouko, who described colleagues who have regained their health, are teaching again and even pursuing advanced degrees. “We are alive, and powerful, beautiful, very happy and a big fan to PEPFAR.”

PREVENTION AT THE GRASS ROOTS

There is a broad consensus among AIDS experts that prevention of further infections is the best strategy to stop the epidemic from exploding in the future. The United States is supporting prevention

with a variety of approaches in Kenya, including blood and injection safety, prevention of mother-to-child infection and of transmission through intravenous drug injections.

The 2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, published by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) says that effective prevention programs are likely to reduce by half the number of new infections that will occur by 2015.

The report also finds that prevention programs in many nations are failing to reach young people who need information. One survey of 18 nations finds that fewer than 50 percent of young people have access to prevention services to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection.

Alice Wambugu is involved with a Kenyan youth information campaign known as NimeChill.

“It’s a simple slang word that Kenyan youth use,” Wambugu explained to the videoconference audience. “Chilling is basically abstaining.”

Nime Chill began as a mass media campaign, and is now working in 1,000 schools, Wambugu said, trying “to delay the sexual debut among urban and periurban youth by changing their social norms, reducing peer pressure and making abstinence look cool, smart and responsible.”

HIV prevention messages are delivered to younger Kenyans by the Girl Guide Rangers. PEPFAR is supporting a \$200,000 program for

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training girl guides -- 14-18-years-old -- to be peer educators, encouraging youngsters to choose abstinence. Millicent Achieng, a Girl Guide Ranger, says the counseling encourages young girls to focus on schoolwork.

"I think when you delay the sexual debut until you get married, you're able to concentrate on one area and that is academics," said Achieng.

In Kenya and many other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, ensuring that

girls are educated and have a path to opportunity is another strategy to help lift women from poverty, elevate their social position, reduce their subservience and thus protect them from HIV infection. More than 60 percent of persons living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya are women, according to the 2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic compiled by the U.N. AIDS agency.

The amount the United States is investing in AIDS relief activities in Kenya climbed from \$34 million in 2003 to \$208 million this year, said Buckingham. Treatment pro-

grams have expanded to include 75,000 Kenyans.

"I'm a happy grandmother who was supposed to die three years ago," said Ouko, "but I'm living."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

U.S., U.K. Submit Resolution on U.N. Peacekeepers . . .

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Calling July "a harrowing month" for relief workers, the secretary-general said that there were 36 attacks on aid operations and nine staff members were killed. As a result of the fighting and attacks on aid workers, only 50 percent of civilians affected by the fighting are getting help, he said.

Since its Security Council presidency in February, the United States has been pressing for the handover of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) to the United Nations before the end of 2006.

In late June, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton noted that the U.N. target for taking over the peacekeeping operations in Darfur was January 2007, but Bolton said the United States believes "the handover can and should take place before that."

The United States is working to strengthen the existing AMIS mission, but Bolton said that "the sooner the U.N. takes control of the mission in Darfur the better

The U.S.-U.K. draft resolution would authorize up to 17,300 military personnel, 3,300 civilian police personnel and 16 uniformed police units. Initial troop deployment would begin no later than October 1. It also asks the secretary-general to use existing and additional U.N. resources to strengthen AMIS prior to and during the transition, including using air and mobile ground units.

The U.N. mission would be deployed in key areas such as buffer zones and inside camps for displaced persons "to discourage violence, in particular by deterring use of force," the resolution said. It would "facilitate and coordinate, within its capabilities and in the areas of deployment, the voluntary

return of refugees and internally displaced persons and humanitarian assistance ... by helping to establish the necessary security conditions in Darfur."

The mission also would monitor cross-border activities of armed groups along Sudan's borders with Chad and the Central African Republic.

The Security Council will begin reviewing the resolution August 18, but no date has been set for a vote.

For further information, see Darfur Humanitarian Emergency (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>).

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The ABCs of Kenya's War on AIDS: Strategies for HIV/AIDS Prevention

By Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed and Dr. Mark Dybul

The following op-ed, co-authored by Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed, director of Kenya's National AIDS/STI [sexually transmitted infections] Control Program, and Dr. Mark Dybul, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, appeared in the Toronto Star August 16, 2006. There are no republication restrictions.

The challenges of HIV/AIDS prevention in the developing world are daunting. To turn back the rising tide of infection, we need a public health approach that respects the people we serve so they can make their own decisions.

The HIV/AIDS strategy of the government of Kenya emphasizes an evidence-based approach rooted in "ABC: " Abstain, Be faithful, and the Correct and Consistent use of Condoms. Americans, through President George W. Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, support Kenya's prevention strategy.

In much of Africa, HIV/AIDS is a generalized epidemic affecting all age groups and segments of society.

A comprehensive approach is needed to combat a generalized epidemic.

The evidence is clear -- in such an epidemic, all three components of ABC are essential to combat HIV/AIDS. In concentrated epidemics -- Thailand and Brazil, for example -- more targeted approaches can be effective.

The Kenyan health ministry estimates that HIV prevalence has dropped markedly from 1998 to 2003. While the causes are complex, the data point to:

-Increased male faithfulness - among men aged 20 to 24, the percentage who reported more than one sexual partner dropped from more than 35 per cent to 18 per cent.

-Delayed sexual debut, with median age for first sex among women rising from 16.7 years of age to 17.8.

-High levels of both primary and secondary abstinence (people who were sexually active who have abstained for at least one year) in teenagers of both sexes.

-Increased condom use among women who engage in risky activity.

Similarly, a study published this year in the journal *Science* reported sharp declines in HIV prevalence in eastern Zimbabwe, associated with striking changes in sexual behaviour.

As Dr. Peter Piot, head of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, remarked, "[T]he declines in HIV rates have been due to changes in behavior, including increased use of condoms, people delaying the first time they have sexual intercourse, and people having fewer sexual partners."

As data from these and other nations such as Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi and South Africa demonstrate, ABC is good public health.

It also respects local culture - ABC was developed in Africa, not in North America - and respects the people whom we serve.

To focus programs on only one component of ABC would be dangerous and patronizing, reflecting an assumption that intelligent people who care about themselves and their families cannot make decisions for themselves.

ABC provides hard data so people can decide how to protect themselves: the only 100 per cent effective way to avoid HIV is to abstain or to be faithful to a single, HIV-negative partner, while correct and consistent use of condoms reduces risk by approximately 90 per cent.

With that knowledge, if one chooses risky behavior, condoms must be made available to that person.

Kenyan policy promotes the common sense, public health approach of ABC, which the U.S. government supports throughout the world.

In generalized epidemics, however, other interventions, in addition to ABC, are needed.

The Kenyan strategy recognizes this by promoting programs to minimize gender inequality, which often makes it difficult for women to negotiate A, B or C.

Kenya is also increasing HIV counseling and testing to ensure that HIV-negative couples maintain fidelity and that HIV-discordant couples [one positive and one negative

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U.S. Sports Star Returns to Congo To Open Hospital

By Judy Aita
Washington File Staff Writer

New York -- American basketball star Dikembe Mutombo is returning to his hometown of Kinshasa in September to open the Democratic Republic of Congo's first new hospital in more than 40 years, a hospital he helped build.

In 1997, Mutombo decided to use his celebrity, wealth and energy to improve the health conditions in his homeland. The 300-bed Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital and Research Center, named in honor of his late mother, will open on September 2.

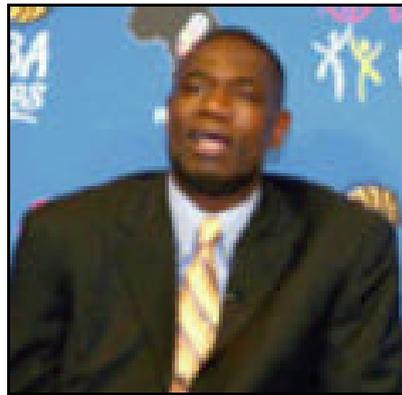
The hospital is the result of the athlete's tireless efforts to raise \$29 million and set out a vision for a facility that not only will provide desperately needed health care, but also will have a special pediatric wing, surgery suites and a women's center, and train a new generation of doctors for the Congo.

"We are happy such a big step has been taken on the continent. I cannot wait until I get off the plane in Kinshasa and get the opportunity to cut the ribbon for opening the new hospital," Mutombo said at a press conference August 16 in New York. "Whatever I accomplish, wherever I go, my heart remains there."

The basketball star, who originally went to the United States to study at Georgetown University to become a doctor, has donated more than \$15 million to the project, while private donations from other celebrities, average Americans and corporate partnerships have helped offset the cost of construction,

equipment and supplies. He also raised half of the money needed to run the hospital for a year and hopes to raise enough to keep it running for the first five years.

Mutombo will be joined on his trip to Africa by other basketball players from the National Basketball Association (NBA). They not only will open the hospital but also will continue a tradition, started in 2001, of conducting sports clinics for boys and girls around the world as part of the NBA's "Basketball Without Borders" program.



Dikembe Mutombo
American Basketball Star

Kathleen Behrens, senior vice president of community and player programs for the NBA, said the program "allows us to not only grow and celebrate the game of basketball around the world but also to use the power and celebrity of our game and of our players to deliver important, lifesaving messages to kids about the importance of education, the importance of living an active, healthy and safe lifestyle."

Basketball Without Borders will be conducting sports clinics in South Africa and Botswana from September 6 to September 10. Other

2006 programs were held in Shanghai, China, in June and in Vilnius, Lithuania, in July.

The clinics, Behrens said, provide an opportunity for young people to discover how success in sports can be transformed into the development of life skills, with emphasis on the value of teamwork, respect and leadership.

The program also creates "lasting legacy projects -- reading and learning centers for kids, dorms where kids can live safely and protected from the dangers they face on the street," she said.

Behrens hailed Mutombo as a "great humanitarian for the NBA and the world," adding that he is "personally inspiring for everyone in the United States and hopefully the entire continent of Africa."

The hospital and Mutombo's participation in the Basketball Without Borders program are "not just about the Congo. This is really about Africa at large and ensuring the future health and well-being of the people of Africa," she said.

NBA players, the players' union and the league itself contributed money for the hospital "because they care," Mutombo said.

Fund raising was "slow at the beginning for the fact that Congo was still undergoing civil unrest and it was tough to raise money," he said. "As we see peace coming in the Congo, that made the things go more smoothly."

Americans are so generous, Mutombo said. "They believe in giving you \$10 or \$20 that will treat

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physician with the U.S. Air National Guard. "Without them, it would have been impossible to facilitate this project."

"We are so grateful that we are receiving free treatment," said Emitu Nathan, a local school-teacher.

Meanwhile, U.S. Marine Corps engineers from the 6th Engineering Support Battalion are working with the UPDF on multiple construction projects to renovate the local medical clinic, including structural repairs to the children's ward, the nurses and nuns residence and the kitchen.

"This has been a great opportunity to partner with the UPDF," said U.S. Marine Corps Major Mark Gerhard, commanding officer of 6th Engineering Support Battalion, Uganda Detachment. "We've not only had the chance to share our techniques with their engineers, but they have shown us some basic fundamentals and efficient ways of getting the job done."

"The people here are very happy to see the Americans working here with the UPDF," added Nathan. "This is a true sign of unity. The people here used to be afraid of the military but now they see that they are very friendly."

In Nginyang, Kenya, on August 16, nearly 800 people from surrounding communities traveled for miles to receive medical treatment. Local health care providers said the health center usually serves an average of only 20 patients per week.

"The people travel long distances to receive a little bit of help," said U.S. Air Force Major Dai Tran, a physician and civil action team leader. "My team is happy to be here and very happy to help as many people as we can."

"Medicine is not always available for people in this area," said John Kaladwo, a Nginyang villager. "We see this exercise as a gift from above."

Another Nginyang villager, Lokasa Samut, agreed. "We are very much happy about the way you

worked together. We see this as good assistance and something not to be forgotten."

"Natural Fire is an excellent opportunity to build personal relationships, work together as a team and to help enhance the capacity of the EAC nations," said Hunt.

A photo essay (<http://www.defenselink.mil/photoessays/PhotoEssay.aspx?ID=82&Page=1&Count=8>) featuring images from Exercise Natural Fire 2006 is available on the U.S. Department of Defense Web site.

For more information, see Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/>) and International Security (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/>).

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a child, that will give a woman a chance to deliver her baby in a hospital instead of delivering at home," he explained.

Mutombo added that many doctors from the United States and Europe are interested in working at the hospital for short periods -- a week or two or a month. He

also wants to lure Congolese doctors who are working elsewhere into returning home.

"Scores of Congolese die each day unnecessarily due to the lack of access to health care and modern medicine," Mutombo said. "This hospital will be equipped with cutting-edge technology, and will go a long way toward diminishing the shortage of doctors and

medical experts in Congo." For further information, see the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation Web site (<http://www.dmf.org/>).

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President Bush Issues Women's Equality Day Proclamation

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
August 21, 2006

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, 2006

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The ratification of our Constitution's 19th Amendment on August 26, 1920, marked a turning point for America as women were guaranteed the right to vote. On Women's Equality Day, we celebrate this milestone and pay tribute to the inspiring individuals who stepped forward and asked our Nation to live up to its founding principle of equality for all.

The struggle for women's rights is a story of strong women joining together to break down the barriers to equality. With courage and determination, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and other suffragists inspired generations of women and helped change the path of our Nation's history. The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 sparked a mass movement for women's voting rights that gained support from women of all ages and backgrounds. In 1890, Wyoming became the first State whose constitution allowed women to vote, and by 1918, women could vote in 14 additional States. Two years later, women secured nationwide suffrage with the passage of the 19th Amendment. By demanding par-

ticipation in the democratic process, these visionaries helped spread freedom, justice, and hope for generations to come.

Women today are continuing the suffragists' legacy of leadership and strength. They are shaping the future through their contributions to all aspects of American life, including science, law, business, education, athletics, and the arts. They are serving our Nation with honor and distinction in our Armed Forces. American women have served as examples for women in other countries in their efforts to increase their participation in civic and political life. Our Nation remains committed to advancing the equality of women in the world's newest democracies and fighting threats to women around the globe.

The courage of American suffragists made our Nation a stronger and more hopeful place, and we will continue to build an America where the dignity of every person is respected and where opportunity is within reach of all our citizens. On Women's Equality Day, we honor the contributions and accomplishments of women throughout our history, and we pay tribute to all those who helped bring equality to women in America.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August

26, 2006, as Women's Equality Day. I call upon the people of the United States to celebrate the achievements of women and observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

Biometric Checks Expanded to New U.S. Ports of Entry

Visitors to the United State are subject to biometric screening at two new points of entry in California and Louisiana, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

As of August 15 biometric measures are being used at Fresno Yosemite International Airport in Fresno, California, and at the recently constructed Erato Street Cruise Terminal in New Orleans, Louisiana. DHS also plans to introduce biometric screening at the new pre-flight inspection center at Halifax International Airport in Halifax, Canada.

Biometric entry procedures to the United States were introduced in 2004 under US-VISIT (United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology) program to increase border security yet "keep America's doors open," according to the programs motto. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Jan/11-654952.html>).)

The procedures consist of digital, inkless finger scans and digital photographs as a routine, primary inspection process at airports and seaports with international arrivals, in the secondary inspection areas of U.S. land border ports of entry, and at U.S. consulates around the world.

US-VISIT program is designed to allow border officials to quickly establish if a particular visitor should be prohibited from entering the United States; whether the visitor can receive, extend, change or ad-

does not apply to most Canadian travelers.

In most cases biometric screening has in fact decreased processing time at U.S. borders, according to DHS officials. Since the program's inception more than 62 million people have been processed through US-VISIT. The program helped to stop over 1,200 criminals and immigration violators from entering the United States, DHS says.

For more in formation, see Visas and Passports (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/immigration.html) and US VISIT ([http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/content_multi_image/](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/content_multi_image/content_multi_image_0006.xml)

[content_multi_image_0006.xml](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/content_multi_image_0006.xml)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)



Biometric screening stations at border entry points have been in use since 2004. [file photo] (©AP/WWP)

just immigration status; whether the visitor has overstayed the visa; and whether he or she needs special protection.

For those entering the United States for legitimate purposes and with proper documents the system is designed to facilitate their travel while respecting privacy laws and policies, DHS says.

US-VISIT currently applies to most visitors entering the United States regardless of country of origin or whether they are traveling with or without a visa. However, US-VISIT

U.S. Arrests One of World's "Most Violent" Drug Lords

By Eric Green
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- U.S. law enforcement authorities say they have arrested Francisco Javier Arellano Felix, whom they call one of the world's "most violent drug criminals" and one of its "most wanted fugitives."

At an August 16 news conference in Washington, U.S. officials said Arellano Felix headed the "largest and most violent drug-trafficking organizations" operating in Mexico's Tijuana-Baja California area. U.S. authorities captured him on August 14 as a result of what the U.S. officials said was "extraordinary coordination and cooperation between the governments of Mexico and the United States."

Paul McNulty, the U.S. Justice Department's deputy attorney general, said Arellano Felix and 10 other individuals, representing the top hierarchy of the drug organization, were named in an indictment unsealed July 8 in the southern district of California, which includes the city of San Diego. The charges against the Arellano Felix organization include allegations that it carried out 20 murders in the United States and Mexico.

McNulty said the defendants were also charged with racketeering, conspiracy to import and distribute cocaine and marijuana, and for conspiracy to commit money laundering. The indictment could result in penalties up to life in prison and possible forfeiture of almost \$300 million.

The indictment also alleges that the leadership of the Arellano Felix organization negotiated directly with Colombian cocaine trafficking organizations, including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia



Francisco Javier Arellano under arrest

(FARC), for the purchase of multi-ton shipments of cocaine, and received those shipments by sea and air in Mexico, and then arranged for smuggling of the drug into the United States. The U.S. State Department has designated the FARC as a foreign terrorist organization.

Michael Braun from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said his agency arrests "a lot of high-level drug traffickers. That's nothing new." But Braun, the DEA's assistant administrator for operations, said Arellano Felix was "one of the 45 most notorious, most wanted drug traffickers in the

world. So this is not your average arrest, and [Arellano Felix] is not your average drug trafficker."

Braun said that by capturing Arellano Felix, U.S. authorities "feel like we've taken the head off the snake. That's not to say that there may not be one or more members within the [drug] organization that are capable of stepping up and taking over and running operations. That's yet to be seen." But Braun said U.S. and Mexican authorities are working hard "to do as much damage as we possibly can against" the drug organization.

Braun said the arrests of Arellano Felix and the members of his organization, "combined with a number of the other efforts that have preceded it, will have a noticeable impact, not just on Mexico, but also in the United States, in terms of the ability to bring drugs into the country and the violence that has occurred" on the U.S. side of the border with Mexico.

U.S. authorities said they were able to capture Arellano Felix after they received information August 14 that he and other associates were expected to use a fishing vessel about 15 nautical miles off the shore of La Paz, Mexico. Acting on this lead, the DEA requested that the U.S. Coast Guard interdict the vessel.

Following the interdiction of the vessel in international waters, the U.S. Coast Guard boarded the boat, and eight adults and three ju-

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U.S. Considers Additional U.N. Resolution To Disarm Hezbollah

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations -- The United States is considering an additional U.N. Security Council resolution clarifying the mandate of the U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon to include the disarming of Hezbollah, President George Bush said August 21.

At a press conference in Washington, President Bush said the need for an international force in Lebanon is urgent. The force will help ensure the cease-fire holds, help the Lebanese army secure its borders and stop Hezbollah from acting as a state within a state, and give the displaced in both Lebanon and Israel the confidence to return home, the president said.

"An international force requires international commitment," he continued. "The international community must now designate the leadership of this new international force, give it robust rules of engagement, and deploy it as quickly as possible to secure the peace."

The United States will provide logistic support, command and control, communications and intelligence, Bush said. The United States plans to work with the U.N. force once it is deployed "to ensure that the United States is doing all we can to make this mission a success."

Asked if the United States would demand that the peacekeepers disarm Hezbollah, the president said "there will be another resolution coming out of the United Nations, giving further instructions to the international force."

Under Resolution 1701, which was passed by the Security Council on August 11, the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is to be expanded from the current level of 2,000 troops to 15,000.

Vigorous efforts are under way quickly to deploy U.N. peacekeepers to cement the fragile, weeklong



President George W. Bush
Aug. 21, 2006, during a news conference at the White House Conference Center Briefing Room
White House photo by Paul Morse

cease-fire in southern Lebanon. U.N. officials have met with more than 70 potential troop-contributing countries to outline the specific rules of engagement in an effort to get 3,500 to 7,000 troops on the ground by August 28.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Secretary-General Kofi Annan is confident he will get the troops needed. "He has to knock on doors, but we are confident we will get them," he said.

DISARMING HEZBOLLAH KEY TO PEACE IN LEBANON, BOLTON SAYS

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said that "timing here remains critical. There's no question about it." Bolton said "we should keep our

eye focused on the objective, which is that the combined efforts of the government of Lebanon and UNIFIL in southern Lebanon should result in the government of Israel being able to withdraw and no security vacuum being created by these parallel operations -- no security vacuum into which Hezbollah can re-infiltrate."

"As long as Hezbollah fighters remain armed in the south or elsewhere in the country -- whether the arms are visible or are hidden under mattresses -- the international peacekeeping force ... will be vulnerable if Hezbollah orders additional attacks," he said.

Countries deciding whether to send their soldiers into such a dangerous situation want to be sure that their troops will have the maximum opportunity to defend themselves, the ambassador added.

Bolton said that disarming Hezbollah, which is key to establishing the government of Lebanon's control over the entire territory and a stable peace in the region, was not specifically addressed in Resolution 1701.

"Disarming Hezbollah ... was going to have to be addressed if not in the first resolution [1701], in due course. So that's one of the elements we're working on," he said. "That should be coming shortly."

Resolution 1701 specifically says that the council would consider changes and enhancements to an expanded UNIFIL, Bolton pointed out. "So the question of dealing with Hezbollah, or whether they deal with themselves by becoming

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U.S. Considers Additional U.N. Resolution To . . .

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a real political party instead of a terrorist group, is obviously on the agenda. But there is no timetable," he said.

Bolton said that there is no reason why the second resolution should hold up UNIFIL deployment.

The "road map" for Lebanon is the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1559, which calls for disarming all militias in Lebanon, the ambassador said. "If 1559 had been fully implemented, we probably wouldn't be here today. And that's why ... preventing the re-supply of Hezbollah is so important."

The United Nations has troop commitments from Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Nepal, U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Mark Malloch Brown said August 18. But he appealed to Europe to provide troops for the first deployment so that UNIFIL will have a "multinational, multilateral character so that it enjoys the confidence of both sides."

U.N. spokesman Dujarric said U.N. officials set out the rules of engagement according to Security Council Resolution 1701.

UNIFIL will not go in as an offensive force, but to police a political accord, Dujarric said. However, it will have "the authority to use

force where combatants forcefully resist demands from UNIFIL to disarm. It will have authority to use force in its duties" to implement the resolution.

For further information, see Middle East and North Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/>).

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U.S. Arrests One of World's "Most Violent" . . .

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veniles were discovered onboard and detained. One of the individuals aboard the vessel, who was traveling under an alias, later identified himself as Arellano Felix. U. S. authorities said Arellano Felix will be arraigned "in the very near future." An arraignment involves bringing an individual before a court to answer to an indictment.

The Justice Department's McNulty said he wanted to especially thank Mexican Attorney General Daniel Cabeza de Vaca "for his leadership and partnership" in the effort to capture and arraign Arellano Felix.

"It takes team work like this in order to accomplish such a significant arrest," McNulty said.

DEA Administrator Karen Tandy said in a separate statement re-

leased by her agency that Arellano Felix, the "last stronghold at the top" of the drug cartel, is a "violent drug kingpin wanted in the United States for numerous drug trafficking, conspiracy, and money laundering charges. He is considered threatening enough to our nation to warrant a 5 million dollar State Department reward for his capture. His arrest topples a dynasty built on violence and drugs and puts a chokehold on the destruction this brutal organization has caused in both the United States and Mexico."

The capture of Arellano Felix is another example of what U.S. officials say is the Mexican government's "forceful actions" to put drug criminals behind bars.

Anne Patterson, the State Department's assistant secretary for in-

ternational narcotics and law enforcement affairs, said in March 30 U.S. congressional testimony that in 2005 "Mexican forces took forceful action against a number" of drug cartels and that "most of the leadership of the Arellano Felix Organization, for example, is now behind bars."

In 2005, the Mexican government extradited 41 fugitives to the United States, including a number of Mexican nationals, said Patterson in her remarks to the House International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

Bush Pledges \$230 Million in U.S. Aid to Lebanon

By Stephen Kaufman
White House Correspondent

Washington -- President Bush pledges the United States will increase its humanitarian and reconstruction aid to Lebanon to \$230 million to help the country recover after weeks of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah.

Speaking at the White House August 21, Bush said the funds would help the Lebanese people return to their communities and rebuild their homes, restore infrastructure such as bridges and roads and rehabilitate schools in time for the beginning of the fall school year.

"Our nation is wasting no time in helping the people of Lebanon," he said. "America is making a long-term commitment to help the people of Lebanon because we believe every person ... deserves to live in a free, open society that respects the rights of all."

More than half of the \$50 million in U.S. aid committed since the outbreak of Israel-Hezbollah hostilities has been distributed to the Lebanese people, Bush said, adding that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has "led the diplomatic efforts" to establish humanitarian corridors, reopen Beirut's airport, and ensure a steady fuel supply to the country's power plants and automobiles for the facilitation of relief convoys and the transport of humanitarian aid.

The president also said 25,000 tons of U.S. wheat will be delivered to Lebanon in the coming weeks, and an oil spill response team is being sent to help the

Lebanese government clean up an oil slick that is endangering communities along the Lebanese coast.

Other proposed U.S. assistance includes a \$42 million package to help train and equip Lebanon's armed forces, and an upcoming presidential delegation of private-sector leaders that will visit the country to identify ways in which American businesses and nonprofit organizations can help. The funds

force, as called for by U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, which he said is "essential to peace in the region" and to Lebanese freedom. He said the international force is needed to maintain the cease-fire and prevent Hezbollah from re-establishing itself as "a state within a state."

"The need is urgent. The international community must now designate the leadership of this new in-



President George W. Bush gestures as he thanks the White House media for its hospitality Monday, Aug. 21, 2006, at the start of a news conference in the temporary press briefing room at the White House Conference Center.
White House photo by Paul Morse

will be drawn from existing State Department resources, according to U.S. government sources. For Israel, whose infrastructure was damaged by Hezbollah rocket attacks, the president said he would work with the U.S. Congress to extend the availability of loan guarantees to provide funds for rebuilding.

President Bush also urged the rapid deployment of an international

force, give it robust rules of engagement and deploy it as quickly as possible to secure the peace," Bush said. The United States, although not contributing troops to the 15,000-member force, will help with "logistic support, command and control, communications and intelligence." Bush also said his administration will work with the force's leadership after it is estab-

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Syria, Iran Must Stop Arming Hezbollah, U.S. Says

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- Deeply concerned about the fragile peace in Lebanon, the United States has called on Syria and Iran to cut Hezbollah's weapons supply.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said August 22 that in order to have peace in Lebanon, Hezbollah must stop operating as a state within a state, which is now made possible by support from Syria and Iran. The Security Council must address the situation, he said, or face renewed fighting in the region.

The backing by Damascus and Tehran of Hezbollah "in the form of financing, training, and supply of armaments does not just perpetuate this crisis -- it sustains it. Cutting off these supply lines, as mandated in [Resolution] 1701, is a matter that can no longer be ignored," Bolton said during a Security Council debate on the Middle East.

"The United States calls upon Iran and Syria to comply immediately with Resolution 1701," the ambassador said.

Resolution 1701, which was passed by the Security Council on August 11, established the cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah, expanded the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to assist the Lebanese army in gaining control of southern Lebanon and imposed a total arms embargo on all weapons going into Lebanon except those for use by the government of Lebanon. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/>

display.html?p=washfileenlish&y=2006&m=August&x=20060812102805atiayduj0.6109234).)

Bolton warned that it is both "impossible and dangerous" to attempt to address the causes of the recent fighting without dealing with Hezbollah's arms suppliers.

"If the international community applies only a temporary band-aid solution to the problem and allows Hezbollah to regroup and re-arm, then the suffering of the people of Lebanon and Israel may very well intensify in the near future," he said.

Bolton said that the United States is concerned with the attitude of Syria and Iran in this crisis, "states whose leaders have both respectively called for the destruction of Israel in recent days."

Bolton stated that Israel's one military operation since implementation of the cease-fire was directed at arms shipments in the Bekaa Valley headed for Hezbollah from Iran and Syria. Such arms shipments are prohibited by the embargo established under Resolution 1701.

"All states must comply with their obligation to observe this embargo, which, if not strictly observed, will significantly enhance the risk of further hostilities. This burden of abiding by the arms embargo, and the world's attention, falls especially on Syria and Iran," the ambassador said.

During his August 21 press conference President Bush said that the United States is considering a new U.N. resolution on UNIFIL's mandate that could include disarming Hezbollah, an issue that was not specifically addressed in Resolution 1701. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenlish&y=2006&m=August&x=20060821175338ndyblehs0.6978571>).

Resolution 1701 specifically says that the council would consider changes and enhancements to an expanded UNIFIL, Bolton said August 21. "So the question of dealing with Hezbollah -- or whether they deal with themselves by becoming a real political party instead of a terrorist group -- is obviously on the agenda."

For further information, see Middle East and North Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/>).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)



Security in Baghdad Improving, Say Coalition Officials

By David McKeeby
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Iraq’s security situation is gradually improving, says the Coalition Force’s top leadership.

“We’ve seen a positive trend over the past five weeks,” said U.S. Army General George Casey, commander of the Multi-National Force – Iraq in an August 22 interview with National Public Radio. “The operations we’ve been doing have had a positive impact.”

Approximately 3,000 Iraqi civilians were killed in terrorist attacks and ongoing sectarian violence last month despite the efforts of the Iraqi government to improve security. As a result, some critics have concluded that Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s Baghdad security plan, known as “Operation Together Forward,” is insufficient to keep Iraq from edging closer to a civil war.

President Bush rejected this assessment in an August 21 press conference, praising Iraqis for their courageous pursuit of a peaceful, unified country and pledging the continued support of the United States.

“The strategic objective is to help this government succeed,” Bush said. “I have given our commanders all the flexibility they need to adjust tactics to be able to help the Iraqi government defeat those who want to thwart the ambitions of the people.”

Casey, the president’s top military commander in Iraq, told NPR that Baghdad is safer two months into “Operation Together Forward,” but acknowledged that much work remains to be done.

SECURITY IMPROVING, BUT CHALLENGES REMAIN

In an August 22 operational briefing from Baghdad, coalition forces



U.S. Army General George Casey
Commander of the Multi-National Force

spokesman U.S. Army Major General William Caldwell told journalists that over the previous week Iraqi and coalition forces launched 22 successful operations across the capital against insurgents, terrorists, and militants engaged in sectarian violence, detaining more than 100 individuals and seizing several caches of illegal weapons and bomb-making equipment. In all, more than 28,000 buildings have been searched and secured since the beginning of the security

effort in early June. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=June&x=20060616161512idybeekcm0.6912805>).)

Iraqi army and police forces were also successful in preventing a large-scale attack during this week’s celebration of the Shi’a festival of Musa, attended by more than 1 million people. Caldwell stated that when attackers fired on the religious pilgrims, Iraqi security forces demonstrated their increasing effectiveness by rapidly responding to the attack, killing six and detaining 19 others.

“The government of Iraq has shown its commitment to providing the conditions by which religious freedom can be practiced without fear of persecution or attack,” Caldwell said. “This was a tremendous demonstration of the increased capabilities of the Iraq security forces and the leadership of the government of Iraq.”

In addition, he reported, progress continues to be made in a series of civil works projects in Baghdad’s secured neighborhoods. Iraqi and coalition forces have worked with district councils in Dura, Ghazalia and Amiriyah to fund trash removal, sewer system repairs, and other public endeavors to help area residents take back their community. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile->

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U.S. Says Iran's Response on Uranium Program is Under U.N. Review

By David Shelby
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Iran appears to have formally rejected the U.N. Security Council's call for an immediate suspension of its uranium enrichment program, but U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said the council would study Tehran's response before moving ahead with sanctions.

"We will obviously study the Iranian response carefully, but we are also prepared, if it does not meet the terms set by the Perm 5 foreign ministers [China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States], to proceed here in the Security Council, as the ministers have agreed, with economic sanctions," Bolton told reporters in New York August 22. "If, on the other hand, the Iranians have chosen the path of cooperation, as we've said repeatedly, then a different relationship with the United States and the rest of the world is now possible."

Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, met in Tehran August 22 with the ambassadors of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and Switzerland, which represents U.S. interests in Tehran, to deliver Iran's response to a proposed package of incentives for abandoning its nuclear enrichment activities. According to news reports, Iran is refusing to suspend its nuclear activities but proposes further discussions with the interested parties.

The five permanent Security Council members – China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States – along with Germany (the P5+ 1) offered Tehran a package of incentives and disincentives in June to persuade it to abandon its nuclear ambitions. According to U.S. officials, the incentives involved economic, political and technological benefits, including assistance in developing a civilian nuclear power program free of any weapons proliferation risk. The primary disincentive was the threat of economic and/or political sanctions. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2006/Jun/05-828881.html>).)

During an August 21 press conference in Washington, President Bush called for decisive action from the Security Council if Iran rejected the P5+ 1 package.

"In order for the U.N. to be effective, there must be consequences if people thumb their nose at the United Nations Security Council, and we will work with people in the Security Council to achieve that objective," he said.

Bush reaffirmed his commitment to seeking a diplomatic solution to the matter. "I certainly want to solve this problem diplomatically, and I believe the best chance to do so is for there to be more than one voice speaking clearly to the Iranians," he said. "And I was pleased that we got a resolution, that there was ... a group of nations willing to come together to send a mes-

sage to the Iranians; nations as diverse as China and Russia, plus the EU-3, and the United States."

In a November 2004 agreement with France, Germany and the United Kingdom (the EU-3), Iran pledged to suspend its uranium enrichment activities. In August 2005, however, Tehran abandoned its pledge and resumed uranium conversion at its Isfahan facility. Despite demands from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it suspend all nuclear reprocessing activities, Iran resumed full-scale nuclear research and development at its Natanz facility in January 2006.

Tehran insists that its nuclear activities are aimed at developing peaceful civilian nuclear energy capabilities. While IAEA inspectors have been unable to determine the precise nature of Iran's nuclear program, there is widespread concern in the international community that the uranium conversion and enrichment capabilities Iran is developing could be used to produce weapons-grade fissile material.

The IAEA referred the matter to the U.N. Security Council in February, and the council issued a presidential statement demanding that Iran comply with the IAEA requests in March. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=March&x=20060329195145mbzemog0.8491785>).

Security in Baghdad Improving, Say Coalition . . .

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english&y=2006&m=August&x=20060818154353idybeekcm0.7698023).)

"We are cautiously optimistic and encouraged by all the indicators we are seeing," he said. "What we are seeing in these areas is life coming back to some normalcy."

SECTARIAN CONFLICT NOT A CIVIL WAR, SAYS BRITISH GENERAL

With violence restricted to only four of the country's 18 provinces and an elected government firmly in control, Iraq is experiencing an "intense sectarian conflict," but not a civil war, said Lieutenant General Sir Robert Fry, deputy commander of coalition forces and the United Kingdom's top officer in Iraq.

"I know what a civil war looks like from experience in the Balkans and parts of Africa. I also know what

sectarian violence looks like from all the time that I've spent in Northern Ireland," Fry told reporters via videoconference from Baghdad.

Instead, Fry explained, the conflict can be largely attributed to a "process of settlement," as Iraq's Shi'as come to terms with decades of discrimination under Saddam Hussein's rule, and some former Sunni elites respond violently to a perceived loss of privilege.

"I do not see that as civil war, and neither do I draw glib differences between civil war and sectarian conflict," the British general said, "I think the difference is very substantial and still in existence in Iraq today."

As in Northern Ireland, military force can buy time for the new Iraqi government's efforts to hasten the healing process begun under its National Reconciliation and Dialogue project, Fry said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/Archive/2006/Jun/27-239223.html>).)

gov/mena/Archive/2006/Jun/27-239223.html).)

"The government is making every attempt that it possibly can to accelerate that process," he said, "And I think our function is here to provide the framework to permit that to happen."

A transcript (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/08/20060821.html>) of President Bush's August 21 press conference is available from the White House Web site.

For more information, see Iraq Update (http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle_east_north_africa/iraq.html).

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When Iran failed to comply, the P5+1 drafted the proposed package of incentives and extended the threat of sanctions should Iran continue to defy the council's demands. When Iran failed to respond to the package by July 12, the five permanent council members set August 31 as the date for the council to return to the matter and consider moving ahead with

sanctions. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=July&x=20060712135504ndyblehs0.556286>).)

For additional information, see Arms Control and Non-Proliferation (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/arms_control.html).

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Preventing Attacks Central to Effective Counter Terrorism Strategy

By David McKeeby
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – The disruption August 10 of a trans-Atlantic terrorist plot to blow up U.S. air carriers highlights the international community's progress in preventing attacks before they occur, says U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

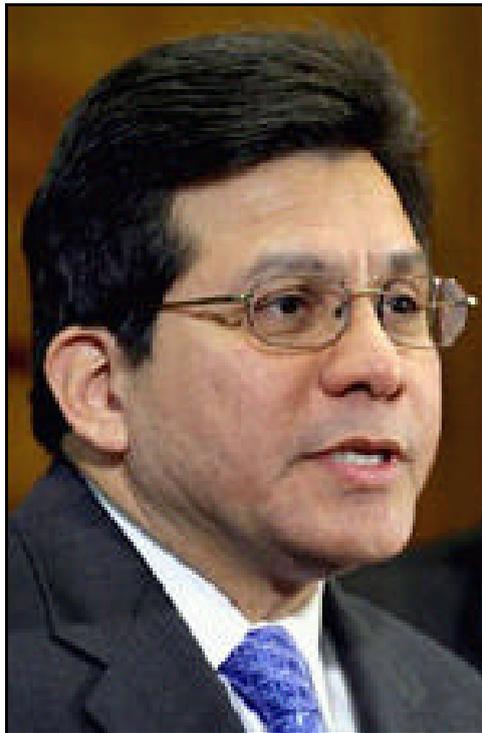
"Prevention is the goal of all goals when it comes to terrorism, because we simply cannot and will not wait for these particular crimes to occur before taking action," Gonzales said in an August 16 speech to the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh.

As attorney general, Gonzales serves as the top U.S. law enforcement officer, providing legal advice to the president and overseeing the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The war on terrorism, the attorney general said, highlights the challenges of confronting an enemy who takes advantage of the laws and legal protections that allow open, free societies to operate. The need, therefore, of closely integrated international partnerships to detect and defeat terrorist activities against democracies is of vital importance, he said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile->

[english&y=2006&m=August&x=20060810101148idybeekcm0.7115747](http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=August&x=20060810101148idybeekcm0.7115747)).)

More than 200 FBI agents worked with their British counterparts in the lead-up to the arrest of more than two-dozen suspects since August 10 in the plot to detonate liq-



Attorney General Alberto Gonzales

uid explosive on board U.S.-bound airliners, and several U.S. agents remain actively engaged in the ongoing investigation.

"The level of cooperation between the United States and our foreign counterparts is outstanding and is

truly the untold story of the war on terror," Gonzales said.

PREVENTION STRATEGY BUILT ON FOUR PILLARS

The department's strategy of prevention, he said, is built on four pillars. The first is to conduct intensive, targeted national security investigations using every tool available under U.S. law to prevent terrorism.

Since the September 11, 2001, attacks on America, Gonzales said, the United States has utilized long-standing laws, like the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, to monitor suspected terrorists, and new laws, such as the Patriot Act, to increase coordination among U.S. national, state and local law enforcement and intelligence agencies, allowing them to share information more effectively and to stop terrorist attacks before they occur. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2005/Dec/02-750955.html>).)

The FBI also has undertaken a massive reorganization to confront the terrorist threat, he said, establishing the Directorate of Intelligence, hiring more officers, and implementing new training programs to help its agents spot potential terrorist activities. Analysts, linguists and surveillance specialists are formed into special

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Federalism Combines Autonomy with Unity in Democracies

By Stephen Kaufman
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Modern nation-states often have been formed to unite various peoples under a single political authority -- sometimes despite long-standing differences in language, religion, history or culture.

However, rather than impose the characteristics of the dominant group on the whole country under a unitary system and spur alienation and separatism among the minorities, or to form a confederation of co-equal states that easily can break down due to conflicting interests, many countries have opted for federalism as a constitutional way to provide aspects of local independence, while maintaining the strategic and economic benefits of having a unified country.

There are many examples around the world that show how federalism serves both the interests of national unity and the rights of individuals. One of the oldest and most famous of these is Switzerland, founded in 1291. The Swiss system combines speakers of German, French, Italian and Romansh languages, as well as Christian Protestants and Catholics, into a unified state for their mutual protection against powerful neighbors and for economic well-being.

Modern federalism arose in the early 17th century, when Johannes Althusius (1557-1630) argued in 1603 for a separation of powers between his local authorities in the German town of Emden, under the

control of Protestant provincial rulers, and the Catholic Holy Roman Empire.

In the midst of the religious feud between the two, Althusius argued that state intervention in his town should be prohibited even for the purposes of "promoting the right faith," and that the principle of accommodation of dissent and diversity should outweigh any desire to subordinate his provincial government's political powers to a state religion or vice versa.

In the federalist system, power is distributed between the central government and the various provinces or states, and the citizens enjoy a form of "dual citizenship" that allows them to belong to a community in which their majority language, religion, or other characteristics predominate, yet also participate in a larger political body better suited to provide for the common defense and to manage a diverse and competitive economy.

One of the results of this distribution of powers in a federation is that neither local nor central authority can wield as much power as can the government of a unitarian or nonfederal state. The powers of local government can limit the central government's ability to infringe on the citizens' rights, and vice versa. The sharing of power also inevitably slows down legislative decision making, thereby preventing laws from being enacted precipitously.

The United States Constitution of 1787 was enacted after the failure of a confederation system. By es-

tablishing a more powerful central government, the authors of the Constitution decided at the same time that all powers not specifically given to that government -- such as collecting taxes, regulating commerce or fighting wars -- would be assigned to the individual states. Making the different levels of government take precedence over each other depending on the issue at hand was seen as a way to check governmental power, as well as preserve many aspects of local rule. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2005/Aug/30-354107.html>).)

However, over the course of U.S. history, it became necessary to amend the Constitution in order for the central government to assert itself over the states when those unspecified powers were being used to deny or delay the rights of citizens. The most notable example concerns the rights of African Americans: It took central federal power and constitutional amendments to force states to outlaw the practice of slavery and to grant African Americans full civil rights.

The federalist system today is providing the context for many contentious legal issues in the United States, such as capital punishment, doctor-assisted suicide, gay rights and the medical use of marijuana.

One of the most critical tests for federalism in today's world is the case of Iraq, with many Iraqis in traditionally Shi'a, Sunni and Kurdish areas seeking to balance their

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Preventing Attacks Central to Effective Counter . . .

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intelligence groups operating at all 56 FBI field offices across the United States. These groups are also networked into 103 joint terrorism task forces, which work with state and local police departments to watch for potential terrorists.

"Like tiny but important pieces of a complicated puzzle, we can now take the most innocuous, seemingly unrelated pieces of information and connect the dots of a complex terrorist plot," Gonzales said.

Because both domestic and foreign partnerships are essential to defeating terrorist networks, building cooperation is the second key component of the U.S. counterterrorism strategy. The London incident demonstrated the value of prosecuting attorneys coming together to train, exchange intelligence and share information, he said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2006/May/05-682554.html>).)

The third pillar, he said, is to arrest and prosecute terrorist suspects, which requires a complex balance between allowing investigators to gather sufficient evidence without allowing the suspect's to execute their planned attack.

While no two cases are the same, Gonzales emphasized that all investigations adhere strictly to U.S. civil liberties guarantees and the rule of law. "[W]e are fighting terrorists according to our constitution," he said.

The fourth pillar of the department's prevention strategy, the attorney general concluded, is an effort to counter radicalization.

While the international community significantly has weakened al-Qaida by destroying its training camps, freezing its assets and bringing its leaders to justice, the terrorists have turned to the Internet, where as many as 6,000 Web sites distribute propaganda and encourage individuals to join together to plan their own "homegrown" terrorist attacks. Others seeking to incite violence have infiltrated mosques, community centers and prisons to identify potential new recruits, Gonzales said.

The U.S. is working with its friends and allies to "develop the tools we need to investigate [terrorists'] actions and intentions with the help of our partners, and prosecute those who travel down the road of radicalization."

With the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks approaching, the recent terror plot was "a chilling re-

minder of the threats that continue to exist," Gonzales said.

"[F]or those of us in government whose job it is to protect our country from terrorism, every day is September 12th." (See related e-Journal (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0806/ijpe/ijpe0806.htm>).)

A transcript (http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/speeches/2006/ag_speech_060816.html) of the attorney general's speech is available on the Department of Justice Web site.

For more information, see International Security (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/>) and Response to Terrorism (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism.html).

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U.S. Still Seeks Market-Opening Pact, Trade Representative Says

By Howard Cincotta
Washington File Special Correspondent

Washington -- Despite recent setbacks in World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda, the United States continues to pursue an agreement that will open markets significantly, cut domestic agricultural subsidies and substantially increase trade flows, according to U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab.

The development agenda, also known as the Doha Round, was initiated at the WTO's fourth ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar, in 2001 and has sought to liberalize trade and enhance market access for agricultural products, manufactured goods and services. Negotiations fell into stalemate early on, largely over agricultural trade disputes.

In a C-SPAN television interview on August 20, Schwab said that she is conducting an intensive round of bilateral talks with other trade ministers to determine if it is possible to find sufficient "convergence" on the key issues to restart more formal negotiations.

"We are trying everything humanely possible to see if an agreement is possible," she said.

Schwab spoke prior to a trip August 22-29 that will take her to a meeting of economic ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and bilateral meetings with officials in Singapore and China. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/>

[xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=August&x=20060817171927ajesrom0.725567](http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=August&x=20060817171927ajesrom0.725567)).)

WTO AND AGRICULTURE

Schwab characterized the major division in the trade talks as one between countries that want only a small or conservative agreement that would not increase overall trade flows significantly, and those -- like the United States -- that believe only an ambitious market-opening agreement would benefit developing and developed countries alike.

The United States was the only nation to bring more and different proposals to the most recent negotiations in Geneva, she pointed out.

During the last session of Doha Round negotiations, the United States made clear it was ready to show more flexibility in cutting trade-distorting domestic support spending on its farmers even further than the 60 percent cuts it proposed in October 2005, but only if the European Union (EU) and rapidly expanding developing countries would open their markets further to agricultural imports. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=July&x=20060725145404ebysesdo0.1271784>).)

"The United States has been clear and on the record that we are prepared to move on domestic subsidies if and only if there is significantly more market access on the table," Schwab said. Schwab noted that U.S. agricultural tariffs currently average 12

percent -- half of the 24 percent rate for the EU, and far below the 62 percent average tariff rate for the rest of the world.

FREE-TRADE AGREEMENTS

The United States is continuing active negotiations for bilateral free-trade agreements (FTAs) with a number of nations, even though the congressional trade-promotion authority (also known as "fast track" authority) is set to expire in July 2007, Schwab said.

She noted that the United States currently has 15 free-trade agreements, plus two more -- Colombia and Peru -- that have been completed but not yet approved by the U.S. Congress. The United States also is supporting Vietnam's accession to the WTO. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfileenglish&y=2006&m=August&x=20060801130001ebysesdo0.6888849>).)

Negotiations on FTAs with Korea and Malaysia are under way, she said. Schwab expressed optimism that, despite difficult issues ahead, the talks could be completed by the end of the year and submitted to Congress before the expiration of "fast track" authority.

"Trade with our FTA partners is so much stronger than our trade with the rest of the world that you really want to keep pushing ahead," she said.

CHINA

The role of China in trade negotiations is critical for the entire world, according to Schwab. "China

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U.S. Still Seeks Market-Opening Pact, Trade . . .

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needs to be an active, engaged, and constructive partner in the Doha Round," she said.

She characterized the U.S.-China bilateral trade relationship as one of "good news and bad news." The bad news is that the United States continues to run a large and unsustainable trade deficit with China, she said. The good news, however, is that U.S. exports to China have been rising by 20 percent or more annually over the last four to five years. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/Archive/2005/Mar/03-588739.html>).)

The key question is whether China is providing a "level playing field" and meeting its WTO obligations, Schwab said. Recently, the United States has raised the issue of tariffs on auto parts as

well as long-standing concerns over intellectual property rights (IPR).

"Quite frankly, I'd rather not litigate in the World Trade Organization," Schwab said. "I would rather have China fix the problem, whether it's a market access problem or a problem related to intellectual property."

The United States is not yet satisfied with China's protection and enforcement of IPR, she said. On the other hand, according to Schwab, the growing importance of Chinese movies, music and entrepreneurial activity means that "the Chinese are slowly beginning to understand that it is in their best interest to do a better job of protection intellectual property." Schwab cited China's recent decision to load software onto all new computers before they leave the

factory as a major step in combating software piracy.

For more information, see USA and the WTO (http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/WTO.html), Protecting Intellectual Property Rights (http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/intellectual_property.html), and The United States and China (http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east_asia_pacific/china.html).

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Federalism Combines Autonomy with Unity . . .

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desire for a strong central government that is able to protect the population and encourage economic growth with the right to practice their religion freely and observe their customs without state interference.

Under the country's 2005 constitution, Iraq allows its various provinces to unite with each other and form regional governments to share power with the central government in Baghdad. Iraq's regional authorities, like U.S. states, enjoy all powers that the constitu-

tion does not specifically give to the central government. This has allowed local provinces to retain control over regional customs, such as language, electrical power, environmental policy, public planning, health and education.

Continuing sectarian violence has prompted some to call for partition of the country into three independent states, but others, fearing that a divided country would be weakened vis a vis its neighbors, are seeking to retain and strengthen the country's federal system. They believe that federalism can continue to offer solutions to accom-

modate differences among national populations divided by ethnic, language or cultural difference, but seeking a common political order for their mutual benefit.

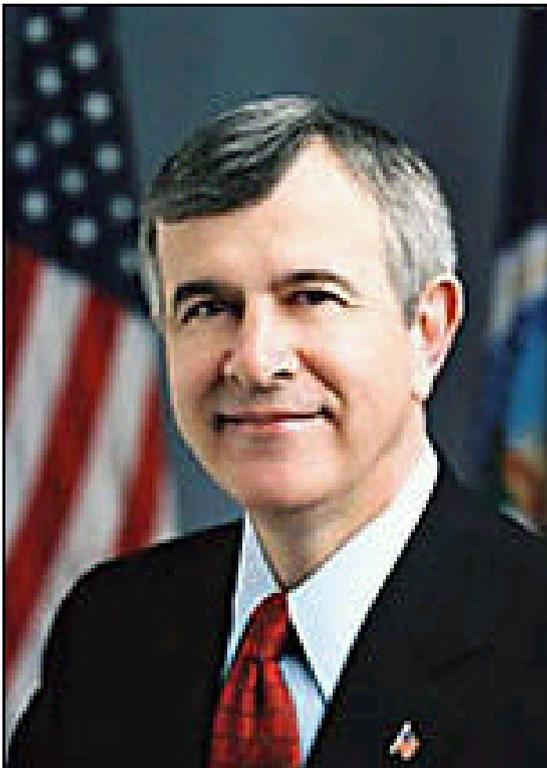
For additional information about American government, see U.S. Legal System (http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/u.s._legal_system.html).

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Genetically Altered Rice Found Safe, Agriculture Secretary Says

By Howard Cincotta
Washington File Special Correspondent

Washington – Trace amounts of a genetically engineered rice strain have been found in U.S. supplies of commercial long-grain rice, but authorities have determined that there is no danger to human health, food safety, or the environment, according to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns and other senior officials, speaking at a press conference on August 18.



Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns

Johanns said that the company Bayer CropScience notified the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that it had found small amounts of the genetically engineered (GE) rice strain called LLRICE 601 in commercial long-grain rice. The 601 strain is one of

several products designed to resist certain types of herbicides.

Two similar rice strains have already been evaluated and approved for use in food but have not been commercialized. Although LLRICE 601 has not been through a similar approval process, both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have determined that the GE rice is safe for humans and the environment.

"The protein found in LLRICE 601 is approved for use in other products," Johanns said. "It has been repeatedly and thoroughly scientifically reviewed and used safely in food and feed, cultivation, import and breeding in the United States, as well as nearly a dozen other countries around the world."

In a separate fact sheet, USDA pointed out that genetically engineered crops have long been developed for a variety of traits that benefit both farmer and consumers around the world.

"For example, GE crops can tolerate drought conditions and herbicides, resist insects and viruses, and provide enhanced quality and nutrition for consumers. GE crops are being developed by private companies, universities, and other researchers," according to the fact sheet.

Asked about countries that import U.S. rice, Johanns said, "The best

way to deal with trade issues is to deal very, very directly with your trading partners, and we are doing that. We are engaging them. I have indicated to them that we will provide whatever information they need."

The U.S. produces more than 100 commercial varieties of rice valued at almost \$1.9 billion, according to USDA statistics. About half of all U.S. production is exported, amounting to 12 percent of world rice trade.

The United States currently ranks fourth in world rice exports behind Thailand, Vietnam, and China, although India has exported more rice than the U.S. in some years.

For more information, see the USDA Web site for more information, including Johanns' statement (http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_10B?codonly=true&contentid=2006/08/0307.xml) regarding genetically engineered rice, transcript of remarks (<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/pcontentidonly=true&contentid=2006/08/0308.xml>) by Johanns and Dr. Robert Brackett, director of the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, and the fact sheet (http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_10B?contentidonly=true&contentid=2006/08/0306.xml) on genetically engineered rice.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)**

Women Star in Cosmic Quest

By Carolee Walker
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – While other girls her age were mixing flour, butter, eggs and sugar to make cookies, pretending to be pioneers, astronaut Shannon Lucid was thrilled in the fourth grade when she discovered that one could mix gases and make water. Lucid, too, dreamed

Sally Ride and Anna Fisher. In 1983, Ride became the first American woman in space; Sullivan was the first woman to walk in space.

Lucid says she was usually the only female student in her chemistry classes in college and graduate school. In eighth grade, when space exploration was in its in-

(Linda Hamm) and the communicator between Mission Control and the crew, known as the CapCom (Susan Still), were all female. Nearly two-thirds of the flight control team for NASA's space shuttle launch that year was female.

A veteran of five space flights, logging 223 days in space, Lucid holds the international record for the most flight hours in orbit by



Shannon Lucid
Astronaut



Rhea Seddon
Astronaut



Kathryn Sullivan
The first woman astronaut to walk in space

of being a pioneer – just not in the kitchen.

Undaunted by obstacles facing girls and women prior to the 1960s in America, Lucid set her sights on space exploration.

NASA, the American space agency, invited women to qualify for space travel in 1978, and Lucid was among the first six women to join NASA's astronaut program. The others were Rhea Seddon, Kathryn Sullivan, Judith Resnik,

fancy, she wrote about her future career as a rocket scientist. Her teacher felt she had not fulfilled the assignment because the essay was not supposed to be science fiction.

Today, 33 percent of all NASA employees -- and 19 percent of the agency's scientists and engineers -- are women. In 1998, for the first time in the history of spaceflight, the launch commentator (Lisa Malone), the ascent commentator (Eileen Hawley), the flight director

any American, and any woman in the world. During her 188 days on the Russian space station Mir in 1996, Lucid said she "never got tired of looking out the window and looking at our Earth – it was just so beautiful."

In 1998 she wrote in Scientific American that she viewed the Mir mission as the perfect opportunity to combine two of her passions: flying airplanes and working in laboratories. Lucid received her pi-

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Women Star in Cosmic . . .

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lot's license when she was 20 years old and, before she became an astronaut, she was a biochemist working at the University of Oklahoma. Lucid's three children were grown by the time she was working on Mir. Her husband visited her in Russia during her one-year training.

the NASA space program from the U.S. Air Force. Thirty years after astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to step on the moon, Collins became the first woman to command a space shuttle in 1999.

Then-NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin, who initiated changes to transform America's aeronautics and space program to include

In addition to the achievements and successes of women in the U. S. space program, there have been tragedies. Two women died when space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after take-off on January 28, 1986 – mission specialist Judith Resnik and schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe. Two women – mission specialists Kalpana Chawla and Laurel Blair Salton Clark –



Judith Resnik
Astronaut



Sally Ride
First American woman
astronaut in space



Anna Fisher
Astronaut

Lucid was awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor in 1996.

EXPANDING ROLES FOR WOMEN IN AEROSPACE MISSIONS

In 1992, Mae C. Jemison, a physician, was the first black woman to fly in space when she joined the space shuttle Endeavor as science mission specialist, conducting experiments in life sciences, material sciences and bone cell research.

Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Collins, who was the first woman to pilot a space shuttle in 1995, entered

training and education of women, said of Collins' mission, "This is great, but it is not enough."

"I'm glad that I've had the opportunity to be part of bringing those barriers down," Collins was quoted as saying in published reports. "I'm honored to be the first woman to have an opportunity to command the shuttle."

Since then, women have assumed prominent roles in the space program. For example, NASA's Countdown Status Briefing in June featured Debbie Hahn, payload manager, and Kathy Winters, shuttle weather officer.

were aboard space shuttle Columbia when it broke up on re-entering the Earth's atmosphere on February 1, 2003.

Additional information (http://questdb.arc.nasa.gov/content_search_women.htm) on women in space is available on NASA's Web site.

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Bush Pledges \$230 Million in U.S. . . .

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lished to ensure United States is doing all it can "to make this mission a success."

He added that the United States is working with its international partners to organize and deploy the force. Citing France's understanding of regional issues and historical ties with Lebanon, Bush said he hopes France will contribute more troops.

IRAQ

Regarding Iraq, Bush said the United States has moved a brigade of troops from Mosul to Baghdad to try to quell the violence in the Iraqi capital and support the government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

The president said the people of Iraq "are showing incredible courage," and desire a peaceful, unified country. He said the country's security forces "remain united" behind the

leadership, which is "determined to thwart the efforts of the extremists and the radicals and al-Qaida."

Bush said it would be "a disaster" to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq before its government "has a chance to defend herself, govern herself and ... and answer to the will of the people."

"We're not leaving so long as I'm the president. That would be a huge mistake," he said.

For additional information on U.S. policies, see *The Middle East: A Vision for the Future* (http://usinfo.state.gov/mena/middle_east_north_africa/me_vision.html).

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Strategies for HIV/AIDS Prevention . . .

(Continued from page 6)

partner] receive counseling and condoms.

Beyond sexual transmission, Kenya is focusing on prevention of mother-to-child transmission, blood safety, safe medical injections and other key issues.

The U.S. government supports this comprehensive approach to prevention in generalized epidemics in Kenya and many other countries.

Treating people with respect by providing them with HIV prevention education and services is good public health. It fosters the democratic value of personal responsibility that leads to healthy behaviors.

The governments of Kenya and the United States, together with our partners in civil society, will remain committed to providing people with the information and tools they need to protect themselves from HIV infection.

As Kenya is demonstrating, only a comprehensive, public health approach will turn the tide against HIV/AIDS.

For more information, please visit the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator's (<http://www.state.gov/s/gac>) Web site, or contact the Coordinator's office by phone (202) 663-2802 or e-mail PughKA@state.gov (<mailto:PughKA@state.gov>). President George W. Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is the

largest commitment ever by a single nation toward an international health initiative -- a five-year, \$15 billion, multifaceted approach to combating the disease in more than 120 countries around the world.

(Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed is director of Kenya's National AIDS/STI Control Program. Dr. Mark Dybul is U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.)

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