

U.S. releases new Iraqi wanted list

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The U.S. military Tuesday issued for the first time a wanted list of dozens of key figures suspected of leading the anti-U.S. insurgency in Iraq.

In Tikrit, three Iraqis, including a 10-year-old, were killed Tuesday when a 120 mm mortar fired by U.S. soldiers landed on their house. The U.S. base at Tikrit has been receiving fire from insurgents over the past few nights, the military said.

The list of 32 wanted people included suspected cell leaders, former members of Saddam Hussein's military and regional Baath leaders thought to be helping the insurgency, said Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, deputy operations chief.

At the top of the list, with a \$1 million reward, is Mohammed Yunis al-Ahmad, a former top Baath Party official. Rewards between \$50,000 and \$200,000 were offered for the others.

The military has been compiling the list as it built up a better understanding of the insurgency, Kimmitt told reporters.

Soon after Hussein's ouster in April, the military published a list

of 55 most-wanted members of his regime. All but 10 of them have been captured or killed. Not all were believed to have played major roles in the insurgency.

Until now, U.S. officials have not made public a list of suspected leaders of the insurgency that erupted after the regime's collapse and has killed more U.S. soldiers than did the invasion that toppled Hussein. The violence, blamed on Hussein loyalists and foreign Islamic militants, has persisted despite the Iraqi leader's capture in December.

Three U.S. soldiers were killed and six wounded by roadside bombs in Baghdad and two cities to the north Monday, the military announced. Four U.S. soldiers were wounded and one insurgent was killed Monday in a firefight that ended in the arrest of a suspected cell leader and eight others, the military said. The cell leader was not on the list released Tuesday.

The latest U.S. deaths brought to 541 the number of U.S. service members who have died since President Bush launched the war March 20. U.S. administrators are

facing mounting opposition to their plan to use regional caucuses to put together the new government. The method was losing support on the Iraqi Governing Council, several council members said.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Tuesday he hopes to report this week on whether the United Nations believes it's possible to hold elections to pick a new government by June 30. If he decides a vote isn't possible, as appears likely, he is expected to recommend other possible options.

The military's new most wanted list set new rankings of rewards for the fugitives. A \$200,000 reward was set for 11 former regional military and political leaders from Saddam regime suspected of "associating" or "providing support" to insurgent cells, Kimmitt said.

On Monday, U.S. troops launched a raid south of the city of Fallujah hunting for two suspected cell leaders. The raid sparked a gunbattle in which one Iraqi guerrilla was killed and nine others were captured, including one of the suspects. The two men were not on the newly issued list.

Lawsuit blasts Justice Dept.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Justice Department is exaggerating its performance in the war on terrorism, has interfered with a major terror prosecution and compromised a confidential informant, a federal prosecutor alleges in an extraordinary lawsuit against Attorney General John Ashcroft.

The lawsuit by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Convertino is the latest twist in the Bush administration's first major post-Sept. 11 terrorism prosecution, a Detroit case jeopardized over allegations of prosecutorial misconduct.

Convertino was the lead prosecutor on the case, in which the government did not provide defense attorneys a letter alleging that a prosecution witness lied until long after a trial had ended.

In his lawsuit, Convertino says the Justice Department is retaliating against him because he has complained publicly about "the lack of support and cooperation, lack of effective assistance, lack of resources and intradepartmental infighting" in terrorism cases.

According to the suit, a senior official in the Justice Department's terrorism and violent crimes section informed Convertino that news reports concerning the department's anti-terror efforts were not accurate and that the "press gives us more credit than we deserve."

Convertino says he complained repeatedly to the Justice Department in Washington that it placed "perception" over "reality" to the detriment of the war on terror. Convertino came under internal

Justice Department investigation last fall after telling a Senate committee of his concerns. Regarding the Detroit case, which Convertino handled, the government late last year turned over a jail inmate's letter to defense lawyers. In it, the inmate alleged that prosecution witness Youssef Hmimssa had lied.

A lawyer for Convertino has said he believes his client made the right decision in not disclosing the evidence because it wouldn't have affected the trial's outcome.

Months before the government turned over the letter, a jury found two defendants guilty of document fraud and conspiracy to provide material support for terrorism. One other was found guilty of document fraud but acquitted of terror charges. And the fourth was acquitted on all counts.

THE Daily Crossword

By Stanley B. Whitten

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ACROSS

- 1 Turned on the water-works
- 6 Repair
- 10 Green shade
- 14 Clay or Frick
- 15 Toward shelter
- 16 Hertz competitor
- 17 Penny postcard, e.g.
- 20 Tidal wave
- 21 Exaggerate
- 22 That man
- 23 Eyelash cosmetic
- 26 Bond creator Fleming
- 27 Literary bits
- 28 Practical trainee
- 29 MX divided by V
- 30 "Olympia" painter
- 32 A few
- 33 Olin or Horne
- 34 Headed up
- 36 OJ trial letters
- 38 Facts
- 41 Arabian sultanate
- 45 Rapidly
- 49 Warning sign
- 50 Attorney
- 52 Camera letters
- 53 Start-up buttons
- 54 Of blood poisoning
- 55 Male heir
- 56 Way around
- 58 Copious
- 60 37-cent

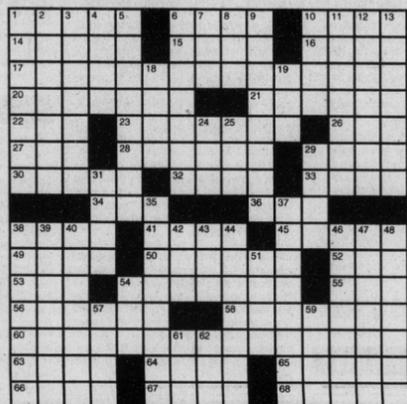
DOWN

- 1 Neighbor of Windsor, Ontario
- 2 Greek wine
- 3 Monstrous
- 4 ... go brag!
- 5 Powerful explosive
- 6 Red Guard members
- 7 Santa's helper
- 8 Snare
- 9 Disarmed, as a bull
- 10 Quip
- 11 Cupidity
- 12 Look down on

- 13 Neighbor of Latvia
- 18 FBI agent
- 19 Zsa Zsa Gabor's sister
- 24 Business bigwig
- 25 Upper limb
- 29 Applaud
- 31 Distinctive flair
- 35 Mournful, musically
- 37 Addictive, soporific drug
- 38 Trinkets
- 39 Loss of memory
- 40 Examining
- 42 Wright of "Air"

- 43 Profound dread
- 44 Of beautiful maidens
- 46 Takes on
- 47 Nearest
- 48 Tubb and Hemingway
- 51 Homeland of the Irish
- 54 Large cask
- 57 S-shaped molding
- 59 Rover's brother?
- 61 In favor of
- 62 Three in Trieste

FISTS LOLL PARE
UNLIT IDEA ASIA
RAISEONESIGHTS
OWN APES TWEEZE
REGIMEN IGOR
BIN TRA SWAP
SKIER MOIST ENO
LIFTONESSPIRITS
ALF NOTCH EERIE
YOYO MEA ACE
LEAR WILDCAT
TSHIRT TADA RBT
ELEVATEONESMOOD
RILE EGAD PANDA
IMPS RODS STEEL



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