

Iraq

(Continued from Page 14) come men of military age with few other job or educational prospects," Gumbel said. While there has not been much discussion of Iraqi civilian deaths, an American and British research group has estimated them to be in the range of 8,000 to 10,000 and approximately 20,000 injured, according to www.iraqbodycount.net.

The rising death toll, along with the uncertainty of U.S. soldiers' return home, has caused considerable frustration among family members and the troops themselves.

A message posted on January 1 on www.bringthemhomenow.org reads, "Even with the capture of Saddam, many of them [U.S. soldiers]

are still in a war that they don't agree with and don't want to be a part of."

Bringthemhomenow.org is an Internet site for military families, veterans, active duty personnel, reservists and others opposed to the war in Iraq.

The Pentagon has authorized rotating troops as a means to deal with low morale among them. Approximately 125,000 troops currently serving in Iraq are due to be relieved by 110,000 new troops, mostly from National Guard and Reservists units. This has raised some concern about U.S. vulnerability to attacks from Iraqi insurgents during the exchange.

Some Americans doubt the ability of U.S. troops to be successful in Iraq under

any circumstances. The current situation has been compared to the Vietnam War, where the U.S. suffered a military defeat.

The number of soldiers evacuated from Iraq for psychological or physical reasons is a "toll the country has not seen since Vietnam," said Aseneth Blackwell, former national president of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., a support group for people who lose a spouse from war.

In an e-mail to United Press International, Army Medical Command Spokesman Jaime Cavazos said it was important to remember that evacuations were for "both serious and not-so-serious" problems, but provided no detail.

Overtones

(Continued from Page 5) ing questions about CAPPs 2.

"There are procedural and operational questions that need to be worked out," says Charles Peña, a defense policy analyst for the CATO Institute, a Libertarian, non-profit research foundation in Washington, D.C.

"I'm all for catching criminals, but is this a counter-terrorism measure or is this a crime-fighting measure? The more you blur the two, the more you're on a slippery slope," says Peña. "And racial profiling is a concern that we cannot dismiss."

Profiling of Muslims after Sept. 11 will also add to the profiling of Blacks, says LaShawn Warren, legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union.

"The Muslim faith is the fastest growing religion among African-Americans," Warren says. "And so, our concern is that this is going to unfairly impact African-Ameri-

cans and it's going to target them." The expansion of CAPPs 2 can be stopped in several ways, all requiring a coalition of people taking stands, say activists:

- Citizens contacting members of Congress and even local and state legislators could put pressure on the TSA to reconsider the plan;
- Congress could decide to make a law to defund the program and simply say no money can be spent on it;
- Airlines could rebel, saying they fear losing customers to other forms of transportation and;
- Boycott and divest in companies and reservation systems that are used in conjunction CAPPs 2.

"I'm not saying there's not a problem. I'm saying that this is not a solution," says Sobel. "There's really no way to implement this. This system needs to be stopped."

Brutality

(Continued from Page 1) police department. "And when I began to quietly ask questions about it, my colleagues - Black and White - thought that was a taboo subject."

Police brutality is a topic that is no longer taboo. And from New York to California, cities are being forced to deal with brutal cops.

Earlier this month in Louisville, Ky., Michael Newby, 19, was fatally shot four times in the back. Authorities said the shooting incident grew out of an undercover drug bust.

In Cincinnati, the beleaguered police department was in the news again over the beating death of Nathaniel Jones in Cincinnati, the 18th Black man to be killed by police in that city since 1995. In Columbus, Ga., police came under fire for the shooting death of 39-year-old Kenneth Walker. The unarmed man was shot twice in the head by a Muscogee County sheriff's deputy when he didn't show both hands inside his car.

Amadou Diallo, 22, was also unarmed in New York City when he was shot to death in a hail of 41 bullets on Feb. 4, 1999. New York police opened fire on him after they claimed to mistake his wallet for a gun. His mother was awarded a \$3 million dollar settlement this month.

The 1968 Kerner Commission, formed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to investigate widespread racial violence in major cities that erupted following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., reported that nothing was likely to spark an urban rebellion quicker than

an incidence of police brutality.

Thirty six years later, authorities are still struggling to curb police brutality, trying everything from community policing to deployment of civilian review boards.

"Civilian complaint review boards: They get sort of nervous results. But they create the sense in communities where they're working that there's someone looking over your shoulder," says Ronald Hampton, executive director of the Washington D.C. - based National Black Police Association. "Police brutality and racial profiling and all of these things would not even be an issue if there wasn't a place in policing in this country where they could exist and hide."

They can't hide in San Francisco, says Hampton. He points to Bay Area Police Watch, a citizens group that works to expose and challenge police violence.

"Due to the increased militarization and expansion of police presence in localities across the country, low-income communities and communities of color are routinely policed by heavily armed officers subject to little or no civilian oversight," the group says on its Website. "Police Watch is the only project in the Bay Area operating a misconduct hotline, documentation center, and lawyer referral service for survivors of police abuse."

A program of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Police Watch, a non-profit organization, has influenced the strengthening of San Francisco's Office of Citizen Complaints (OCC), the publicly-funded investi-

"What I found shameful was that I, as a Black man, did not have the courage to publicly speak out about it."

— DeLacy Davis
East Orange N.J.
police officer



gatory agency that has 15 investigators, subpoena power, and the authority to discipline wayward police officers, including firing them. It answers to an independent, seven-member commission.

"The charter itself mandates that every city and county employee of San Francisco has to cooperate with us," says Kevin Allen, director of the OCC. "You can call in an anonymous complaint. You don't have to be the victim of whatever it was you perceived. What the charter mandates we are able to do is investigate any complaint by a civilian."

Anthony R. Scott, President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Officers (NOBLE) and chief of the Holyoke, Mass. police department, isn't impressed with review boards, especially those that are not independent.

"They don't work. They end up being more lenient," Scott says. "Training is the answer in all cases of unnecessary use of force. It takes its directions from the top down. It's what the person at the top will tolerate and the message that is going to be sent from the top down," Scott says.

The person at the top is

often the mayor, not the police chief, says Wellington E. Webb, the first Black mayor of Denver and former president of the U. S. Conference of Mayors.

"It's import for elected officials to stand up and say, in the event that a mistake was made, that, 'We made a mistake,'" Webb explains. In addition, the offending officer must be sternly disciplined, especially in high-profile cases that rile the public.

For example, Webb points to the July 2002 Inglewood, Calif. videotaped incident showing a police officer, Jeremy Morse, smashing the face of a handcuffed Black teenager, Donovan Jackson, into the hood of a police cruiser and then punching him in the face.

"The mayor of that city, Roosevelt Dorn, a former superior court judge, immediately [said the officer should be fired], which calmed the community down," he says. After an investigation, Morse was fired four months later; then charged with assault. The case ended in a mistrial last July after a jury deadlocked 7-5. Jury selection started last week for a retrial of Morse.

"The difficulty, as we all know, in most cases, is that

district attorneys are not prone to prosecute police officers," says Webb.

That's not the case in Richmond, Va.

David M. Hicks has served in that pressure-filled role for 10 years.

"Too many prosecutors and other elected officials are scared of looking like they're being 'anti-police' as opposed to being pro-law. And there is a difference," he states. "The police are not the law. They are supposed to enforce it, just like judges and prosecutors. But people get that confused."

Hicks has taken his share of criticism while prosecuting two police officers, the most high-profile one for shooting an unarmed robbery suspect while he stood on his front porch brushing his teeth.

That case has ended with two mistrials and Hicks is taking it back for a third trial next month.

In many police brutality cases, the Blue Code of silence, the unwritten rule that police officers don't testify against one another, takes over.

"Everybody wants to be politically correct," Hicks says. "Nobody wants to get real. Everybody wants to work up through the ranks."

Surprisingly, cops who brutalize innocent citizens are more likely to move up the ranks than be punished for their misbehavior.

In 1992, the Gannett News Service studied 100 civil lawsuits that had been filed against police officers in which each victim was awarded at least \$100,000. Of 185 officers that cost cities a total of nearly \$92 million, no disciplinary action

was taken against 160 of them, eight were disciplined and 17 were promoted.

Some cities are seeking a more diverse police force, hoping that the increased presence of officers of color will decrease incidents of police brutality.

Many are coupling expanded recruitment with community policing and sensitivity training.

"There's a value to all of this," Davis says. "But part of the problem is that we ought not to have to go back and teach people who's job it is to interact with people how to interact with people. Police officers can't do their job if they don't know how to interact with people."

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