

War in Iraq will require more reservists

Michael Kilian
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

WASHINGTON — If the United States goes to war with Iraq, a large part of the military burden will be shouldered by civilians.

By the tens of thousands, they will leave their jobs and families to serve with the U.S. military for as long as they're needed, which in some cases might mean a year, or possibly two, away from home.

Though some call them "the new draft," they are not conscripts but civilian volunteers — members of the

Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard Reserves, and the National Guard and Air National Guard. Today, America cannot wage a major war without them.

The Pentagon on Tuesday refocused attention on the near-certainty of a large call-up. Thomas Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, said some Guard and Reserve members might get advance notice of mobilization. "We're looking at a full range of options."

Though they normally lead civilian lives, the declining strength of the active duty military, the increased

demands for an American military presence around the world and the war on terrorism have dramatically increased Reservists' roles in defending the nation.

Some 83,000 Guard and Reserve personnel were on active duty at the height of the Afghanistan war, and about 51,000 still are. An estimated 100,000 Guard and Reserve troops may be needed in a war with Iraq.

The Guard and Reserve represent 47 percent of the total force the Pentagon counts as the U.S. military. Army National Guard and Army Reserve troops outnumber those of the

active-duty Army, 550,000 to 480,000. Yet reserve forces consume only about 8 percent of the military budget, providing the Pentagon with a huge, relatively inexpensive force.

A generation ago, they were often derided as "weekend warriors" who fulfilled their military obligation mostly by attending monthly meetings. Now, personnel in the Guard and Reserve are an integral part of the U.S. military.

The increased use of reserves has raised questions about whether it is sound policy to rely so heavily on civilians, who may be ill-prepared and unwilling to interrupt their lives

for such long periods.

Jay Farrar, vice president of Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the country should do a better job of explaining the burden.

"It's not a matter of reservists being undertrained or incapable," he said. "It's that we're inadequately telling them and our country that they're now callable ... for extensive periods of time."

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N.Y. looks to house homeless on ships

Dave Saltonstall and Leo Standora
New York Daily News (KRT)

NEW YORK — With shelter scarce on dry land, New York is looking at cruise ships as possible lodging for the homeless.

But top-of-the-line luxury liners with fancy restaurants, ballrooms and pools aren't in the picture for down-and-outers.

A handful of city officials, led by Homeless Services Commissioner Linda Gibbs, examined "a couple of retired cruise ships" Wednesday in the Bahamas, her spokesman said.

The group flew to the island on a private jet owned by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and was to return late Wednesday. Bloomberg did not make the trip.

"It is just a fact-finding mission, extremely preliminary. The trip is to determine if the ships would be safe and applicable to shelter homeless

clients," the spokesman said.

"We can't reject any idea that's offered," Gibbs told NBC-TV. "I think we have to be unafraid to think creatively and to explore options that maybe haven't been looked at in the past."

The spokesman declined to say how many officials would accompany Gibbs and which agencies they represented.

About 36,000 people stay in shelters in the city each night, according to the Coalition for the Homeless. The city is bound by law to provide free temporary shelter to those who say they have no place to live.

The city has used ships in novel ways before, putting prisoners on a converted barge in the East River in the early 1990s. The prison ship was reopened in 1998 for a time to house juvenile offenders.

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Most U.S. youths can't find Iraq, Afghanistan on maps

Michael Kilian
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

WASHINGTON — The United States may soon go to war there, but only 13 percent of Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 can find Iraq on a map, according to a National Geographic survey released Wednesday.

The United States has been involved in a yearlong war in Afghanistan against the Taliban regime and al-Qaida terrorists following the Sept. 11 attacks, but 83 percent of those surveyed could not find Afghanistan on a world map, the survey found.

"If our young people can't find places on a map and lack awareness of current events, how can they understand the world's cultural, economic and natural resource issues that confront us?" asked National Geographic Society President John Fahey.

The National Geographic study was conducted by the RoperASW or-

ganization in June and July among 3,000 respondents ages 18 to 24 in the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Mexico and Sweden.

An average of 19 percent of young adults in the nine countries were able to locate Iraq. In Britain, America's closest ally in confronting Iraq, only 10 percent could, while the more nearly neutral Sweden had the top showing of 30 percent.

American youths were the least able of those surveyed to identify Afghanistan as the base of al-Qaida and the Taliban, the study found.

"This is not the fault of young people, but the responsibility of the culture that has reared them," Fahey said. "These are children born of the Information Age. Their lives are spammed with information and entertainment alternatives. As a result, this generation is highly skilled at

tuning out that which they feel they do not need to know. Unfortunately, that seems to include knowledge of the world they live in."

Other findings of the study were just as startling. More American respondents knew that the island in last season's "Survivor" television show was in the South Pacific — the Marquesas Islands — than were able to locate Israel, which has been a center of conflict for a half-century.

Fewer than half of American youths could identify China, Great Britain or Japan on a map. Less than a third of all nine countries' respondents could find the Pacific Ocean.

Fewer than a quarter of the young adults of France, Canada, Britain and the U.S. could name four countries that have nuclear weapons.

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Jackson apologizes for dangling son

William Boston and Corky Siemaszko
New York Daily News (KRT)

BERLIN — Singer Michael Jackson apologized Wednesday for dangling his baby boy from a fourth-floor hotel balcony here after fans on the ground and others around the world watching on television denounced what they saw.

"I made a terrible mistake," Jackson said. "I got caught up in the excitement of the moment. I would never intentionally endanger the lives of my children."

On Tuesday, Jackson was videotaped clutching his squirming baby with one hand while struggling to adjust a white towel hiding the baby's face with the other hand. At

one point, Jackson appeared to be losing his grip while the baby banged his bare feet against the balcony's metal railing. He also appeared to be laughing.

Antje Sigismund, a spokeswoman for Bambi entertainment, which is presenting a lifetime achievement award to Jackson on Thursday, said the child was the singer's third and youngest, Prince Michael 2nd.

Wearing a mask over his surgically remade face, Jackson was greeted by about 200 screaming fans upon arriving at the deluxe Adlon Hotel, opposite the landmark Brandenburg Gate.

When Jackson got to the presidential suite, he shed the surgical mask he had been wearing and then

thrust the baby out the window for his fans to admire. The crowd erupted in applause.

After handing the blue jumper-clad tot to a maid, Jackson trotted out an older child — head also covered with a towel — to wave to the fans. He later threw a pillow out the window for fans to fight over, then gleefully strafed them with a yellow water gun.

Jackson has two children by ex-wife Debbie Rowe: 5-year-old son Prince Michael and 4-year-old daughter Paris. Little is known about Prince Michael 2nd, who is believed to be 9 months old.

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Smokeout

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the names of students' loved ones. A person dressed as a pack of cigarettes will be handing out literature.

The group will also be distributing Quit Kits, which contain items such as lollipops to stave smokers' oral fixations, as well as suggestions on how to stop smoking.

"For those who smoke, (the event) encourages them to quit," said Pat Cookson, American Cancer Society community cancer control manager. "People don't usually quit on the first try. Unfortunately, it usually takes people many tries before they quit."

She said the best way to quit is having a long-term plan and enlisting the help of a health care worker as well as friends and family.

There are several ways to stop smoking — some more successful than others.

Health educator Annie Dochnahl said the best way to quit is with a combination of products, such as the nicotine patch and Zyban.

The patch is usually worn on the arm and releases pure nicotine into

the bloodstream, issuing lower levels of the drug after the wearer has grown accustomed to being a non-smoker. Zyban is a prescription

"The tobacco industry is really taking advantage of the addiction."

Annie Dochnahl
health educator

medicine that helps a person overcome the drug's pull.

Some health officials say the nicotine craving hooks smokers, even those who originally planned to smoke for a short period of time.

"The tobacco industry is really taking advantage of the addiction," Dochnahl said. "A lot of students will have their political ire raised when they think of the corporate suits getting rich off of their disease and addiction."

Contact the reporter at jilliandaley@dailyemerald.com.

WIRE CORRECTION

Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

In a story on the creation of a Homeland Security Department, Knight Ridder Newspapers incorrectly said the new department would include the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The legislation creating the Homeland Security Department will transfer the ATF from the Treasury Department to the Justice Department.

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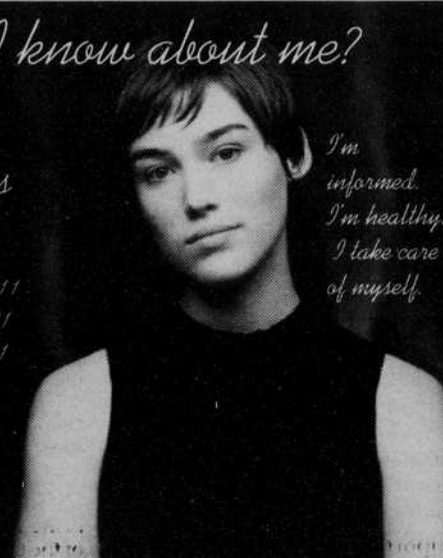
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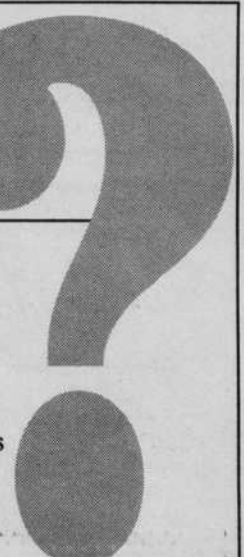
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The University of Oregon Testing Office is an official ETS computer-based testing site. Testing is available year-round, Monday-Friday, 2 sessions a day. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 541.346.2772 or by visiting the Testing Office.

The Testing Office is located on the 2nd floor (Rm. 238) of the University Health and Counseling Center, 1590 E. 13th Ave., Eugene OR.

The period of greatest demand is usually Sept. through March, so it makes sense to **plan ahead**.

For more information visit the Testing Office web site at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~testing/>



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