

# Questions mount on Iraq insurgency

President Bush holds firm to a June 30 handover in Iraq, but critics warn of increasingly volatility

By Matthew Hay Brown and Tamara Lytle  
The Orlando Sentinel (KRT)

WASHINGTON — The violence surging in Iraq is raising new doubts about U.S. plans to turn control of the country over to a new government in less than three months.

With troops now battling not only the Sunni resistance but a radical Shiite uprising, even some Bush administration allies are questioning whether the U.S.-led coalition is in danger of losing control of the volatile country.

Sen. Chuck Hagel, a Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called conditions in Iraq "dangerous, complicated, and I think we're on the verge of seeing, in

some of these areas some of the progress we've made over the last year come undone."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Wednesday the insurgents represent only a small minority of Iraqis — and will not stand in the way of installing a democracy in the troubled nation.

"As we have said for some time, as the date for Iraq's transition to self-governance approaches, those opposed to a free Iraq will grow increasingly desperate, and, indeed, they are," Rumsfeld told reporters.

But the violent uprisings that spread across southern, central and western Iraq are deepening the dilemma facing the United States: Officials want to ensure the stability the country will need if the new government is to survive and succeed, but the longer foreign troops remain on Iraqi soil, the more anger their presence will provoke.

Analysts say the insurgency must be suppressed before it spirals out of control.

"The danger of what's going on now, today, lasting for a long period of time, is it will encourage other people to either join these groups or start their own little rebellions," said Richard Stoll, a professor of political science at Rice University.

"If it appears to be successful, it will just encourage other people, for whatever reasons, to run out into the streets with their AK-47s."

That could threaten the June 30 deadline set by President Bush to hand authority over to the Iraqis. "We will pass sovereignty on June 30," Bush said this week. "We're not going to be intimidated by thugs or assassins. We're not going to cut and run from the people who long (for) freedom."

Marines sent to pacify Fallujah further enflamed Iraqi anger Wednesday when they dropped a 500-pound, laser-guided bomb and fired a rocket that hit a mosque compound.

"You have to walk this fine line between trying to dampen down these rebellions as quickly as possible while at

the same time doing as little damage to other people and other places so you don't create new enemies," said Stoll, the Rice political scientist. "That's a very, very difficult thing to do."

"I think that at the same time, we ought to be actively seeking other countries to help us out, most directly in terms of troops and as well with reconstruction."

Rumsfeld on Wednesday sought to downplay the Iraqi resistance.

"The vast majority of the 25 million Iraqi people want freedom for their country," he said. "The overwhelming majority of Iraqis are against those who are looting, intimidating and stopping children from going to school at the point of a gun."

Rumsfeld has said that if the violence grows worse, U.S. commanders will get the troops they need to deal with it.

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## GUTMAN

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wouldn't be able to maintain anything.

**Emerald:** What's your fiscal philosophy in regard to the incidental fee?  
**Gutman:** I've got to be honest. I have no idea what the incidental fee is. Could you please tell me what it is? Is it the mystery fee? There's all kinds of these random fees that I have no idea what they are, but I do

not ask questions, I just pay them.

**Emerald:** What's your favorite reality television show, and how does it relate to your campaign?

**Gutman:** I do not have a favorite reality television show. I choose to not partake in the watching of television unless it's reruns of "Seinfeld," so I don't know how anyone is going to relate any reality show to their campaign, and if they do, it's them I guess.

— Ayisha Yahya

## HENDRYX

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think that's what the incidental fee is for, I think that's where fund raising and that type of capital campaign comes in.

**Emerald:** How will you work to ensure a viewpoint-neutral PFC process?

**Hendryx:** Basically by making sure that I don't get into a situation where there's any kind of a conflict of interest, such as if a budget comes up where I'm involved in it in any way, if it's going to impact me directly, I would be inclined to abstain from

voting because I don't want to make that opportunity where it looks as though anything going on with the student incidental fees is anything other than across the board.

**Emerald:** What's your favorite reality television show, and how does it relate to your campaign?

**Hendryx:** I try not to watch those shows, but if I had to pick one I'd go with "Fear Factor" because with the 120-plus budgets that the PFC has to go over it's kind of like how on "Fear Factor" there's stuff that is frightening, but at the same time it's got really good rewards at the end.

— Jennifer Marie Bear

## POPENUK

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that we can see this budget and see that a lot of it is spent inadequately or just inefficiently, then yeah, if we could spend less and get the same result that would be fantastic. But, we just want to make sure that whatever money does get spent gets spent responsibly and benefits the largest number of students possible.

**Emerald:** What's your favorite reality television show, and how does it relate to your campaign?

**Popenuk:** My favorite reality television show would be ... "Most Extreme Elimination Challenge". It relates to our campaign because it's a little out there, it's a little bit different than other shows you might have seen. At the end of the day, some people get hurt, some people are having a great time. But overall, everyone just really enjoys the show.

— Parker Howell

## QUIROZ

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in reality it has its twists and turns and all these other things kind of going on behind the scenes and you realize that it's not as beautiful a place as you thought it would be. So I

guess that's how — our goals, what we're trying to change is that people see, seem to view our student government as this beautiful thing, it's flawless, it's perfect, and in reality there's a lot of things that aren't as perfect or beautiful as people would like them to be.

— Ayisha Yahya

## STRAWN

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check. And to make sure that gets passed on to the student groups. And to make sure that before a PFC group goes to a hearing they know exactly what to expect, that the guidelines are very clear, that they know the PFC bylaws and that they aren't subject to year-to-year changes in precedent ...

organizations, that they should be kept well-informed about any changes and keep more updated.

**Emerald:** What's your favorite reality television show, and how does it relate to your campaign?

**Strawn:** I'd go with something physical, like the "The Real World" or "Road Rules Challenge" or "Fear Factor" — something like that. Something that's just really about getting down into things and getting things accomplished right here.

— Jared Paben

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