

Pre-trial hearing begins for terrorism suspect

David Hicks, an Australian cowboy, faces charges of various war crimes, of which he claims innocence

BY PAISLEY DODDS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

QUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — In a challenge that could make or break upcoming trials by a special military commission, defense lawyers are moving to dismiss

terrorism charges against Osama bin Laden's chauffeur and an Australian cowboy who joined the Taliban.

Hearings on the motions beginning Monday will test the boundaries of international law on the eve

of U.S. elections that could ultimately change the mission that has detained some 550 terror suspects from more than 40 countries in a U.S. military base in Cuba, most without access to lawyers or official charges.

Only four of the detainees, classified as enemy combatants, have been charged with war crimes and face trials before a special three-member military panel

starting in December.

The first pre-trial hearing is for David Hicks, an Australian cowboy who joined Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime. He is charged with attempted murder; aiding the enemy; and conspiracy to attack civilians, commit terrorism and destroy property. Hicks has pleaded innocent.

Before his Jan. 11 trial can start,

the panel must hear a series of motions disputing the charges and challenging his nearly three-year detention at the remote U.S. outpost.

President Bush ordered the military commissions about three years ago, the first time the United States ordered such trials since World War II.

But defense lawyers contend the

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Sunni insurgents bomb Tikrit hotel; 15 killed, eight wounded

The 'final phase' of the peaceful resistance begins, as Iraqi and U.S. troops prepare to combat insurgents

BY ROBERT H. REID
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's interim prime minister on Sunday warned that efforts to resolve the standoff in Fallujah peacefully have entered their "final phase" and said he will not hesitate to launch "a military solution" to end Sunni insurgents' hold over the city.

In another city of Iraq's stormy Sunni Triangle, a rocket slammed into the Sunubar Hotel in Tikrit late Sunday, killing 15 Iraqis and wounding eight others, hospital officials said. Insurgents may have been aiming at an American position, which was targeted by a second rocket. U.S. officials said no American casualties were reported.

Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's warning appeared to be aiming to prepare the Iraqi public for an onslaught likely to unleash strong passions,

especially among the country's Sunni Muslim minority.

U.S. and Iraqi commanders want to put down guerrillas before the vital elections due to be held by Jan. 31, which Allawi insisted will take place as scheduled.

U.S. military officials blamed the Tikrit attack on "anti-Iraqi forces," the term they use for insurgents. They said two rockets were fired, one of which exploded near an American military position but caused no damage or casualties.

U.S. officials say Allawi will personally issue the final order to launch an all-out assault on Fallujah and other Sunni insurgent strongholds north and west of the capital.

Allawi gave no deadline for talks with Fallujah city leaders to bear fruit, but he insisted they must hand over foreign fighters and allow Iraqi security forces to take control of the city.

Rocket slams into Tikrit hotel

An insurgents' rocket hit the Sunubar Hotel in Tikrit late Sunday killing 15 Iraqis and wounding eight others. An American position was targeted by a second rocket. There were no American casualties reported.



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THE REC

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Racquetball Tournament – Sunday, November 7th starting at 12:30pm in the SRC. Entry deadline is Thursday, Nov. 4th. Men's, Women's and Coed Divisions offered. **This event is FREE!**

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Rec Aerobics Program – It is not too late to participate in the Rec Aerobics Program (drop-in aerobics). Purchase a punch card in (102 Esslinger Hall) and choose from 12 different classes each week. All classes are held in Multipurpose #1 in the SRC.

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