

World

June off to deadly start for U.S.: 16 troops killed

Goal is to stay ahead of an 'adaptive' enemy as it retools tactics in Iraq

By César G. Soriano
USA TODAY

BAGHDAD — At least 16 U.S. servicemembers have been killed this month, according to the military. Most of the deaths have been caused by roadside bombs as troops move into areas previously dominated by insurgents.

It was a deadly start for June, which follows the third-deadliest month for U.S. troops since the war started. Thirteen servicemembers have been killed this month by bombs, two by small-arms fire and one by a suicide bomber.

Insurgents have been modifying their strategy for setting off the bombs, said Lt. Col. Christopher Garver, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Iraq. "They keep changing their tactics," he said. "For a while, they were using cellphone trigger mechanisms. They (pushed) it until we had good solutions. The enemy is adaptive."

Garver said the military is fo-

cused on finding the bombs before they explode: "Every one we find is one more explosive that is not going to be used against our troops."

At least 127 U.S. servicemembers were killed in May. President Bush has warned that casualties could rise this summer as U.S. and Iraqi troop levels increase in a bid to reduce sectarian violence.

Last week, the Pentagon announced the completion of the troop buildup ordered by Bush in January, raising the total number of U.S. servicemembers in Iraq to about 150,000. That number could climb as support troops move in.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani said Sunday on ABC's *This Week With George Stephanopoulos* that the Iraqi army will not be ready to defend Iraq without U.S. support until the end of 2008.

In a report on its website early today, *The New York Times* cited a military assessment that said U.S. and Iraqi troops control fewer than one-third of Baghdad's neighbor-

U.S. death toll

As of Friday morning, 3,456 U.S. servicemembers and seven Defense Department civilians had been identified as having died in the war in Iraq; 2,838 from hostile action and 625 from non-combat-related incidents.

Latest Army deaths identified:
► **Pfc. Matthew E. Baylis**, 20, Oakdale, N.Y.; died Thursday in Baghdad from wounds suffered on Wednesday when his dismounted patrol encountered enemy small-arms fire; 2nd Infantry Division.
► **Pfc. Matthew A. Bean**, 22, Pembroke, Mass.; died Thursday at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., from wounds suffered May 19 in Latifiyah when he was struck by enemy small-arms fire; 10th Mountain Division.

► **Sgt. Chadrick O. Domino**, 23, Ennis, Texas; died Thursday in Baghdad from wounds suffered when he encountered enemy small-arms fire; 2nd Infantry Division.
► **Pfc. Robert A. Liggett**, 23, Urbana, Ill.; died Tuesday in Rustamiyah from injuries suffered in a non-combat-related incident; 3rd Infantry Division.
► **Cpl. Jonathan A. Markham**, 22, Bedford, Texas; died Tuesday in Abu Sayda from wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted position; 1st Cavalry Division.

► **Sgt. Bacilio E. Cuellar**, 24, of Odessa, Texas.
► **Spc. James E. Lundin**, 20, of Bellport, N.Y.
► **Pfc. Joshua M. Moore**, 20, of Russellville, Ky.

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► **Sgt. Anthony D. Ewing**, 22, of Phoenix.

► **Cpl. James E. Summers III**, 21, of Bourbon, Mo.
► **1st Lt. Kile G. West**, 23, Pasadena, Texas.

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Source: Defense Department

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diers gasping for air and suffering from eye irritations. The *Los Angeles Times* said the car was carrying chlorine canisters. The U.S. military did not confirm the report. The soldiers were treated and all returned to duty, the military said.

► An Iraqi Sunni lawmaker urged moderates to withdraw from Iraq's parliament, accusing the legislature of being a tool of a Shiite-led government incapable of ending sectarian strife and achieving national reconciliation. "The situation in Iraq is unbearable, the government is incompetent and parliament is just a cover for a political process imposed on us," said Saleh al-Mutlaq, leader of the National Dialogue Front, which holds 11 of the 275 seats in the parliament.

► U.S. Apache helicopters strafed militants preparing to fire rockets into Baghdad's Green Zone, home of Iraq's government and the U.S. Embassy, and killed four gunmen, the U.S. military said.

Contributing: Wire reports

Washington

Personal histories shape immigration views

The immigration debate in the Senate has at times been intensely personal, with senators taking the floor to tell stories of their own immigrant roots. Children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Italy, Ireland, Ukraine, Lithuania and Cuba rose to describe how their families became American.

"Immigration always has been an issue that goes to the root of what America is all about,"

Reported by Kathy Kiely, USA TODAY

said Betty Koed, a Senate historian who wrote her dissertation on the passage of the 1965 immigration act.

In some cases, senators have used their family histories to buttress their positions, as Sen.

Robert Menendez, D-N.J., did when he argued against a merit-based point system that would give preference to immigrants with job skills rather than family ties. Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., cited his mother's experience as an unwitting illegal immigrant in explaining why he's willing to support the bill.

Here are excerpts from the first week of the debate, which resumes today.

Supporters of fragile bill fear amendments

By Kathy Kiely
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — As backers of a plan to overhaul the nation's immigration laws push for Senate passage by the end of the week, their challenge will be to fend off a series of amendments that could torpedo the delicately balanced compromise.

"It's easy for this coalition to become frayed," Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said of the bipartisan group of senators who crafted the deal with White House support.

The legislation, which the Senate will resume debating today, would beef up security along U.S. borders and expand opportunities for foreigners to work in the U.S. It would also change the criteria for admitting immigrants — now based largely on family ties — to give more weight to job skills, and grant an estimated 12 million people living illegally in the country a chance to become citizens.

Members of President Bush's Cabinet said that during last week's congressional recess, they made headway in convincing businesses and other groups of the need for the "grand bargain."

"There's great momentum among these groups," said Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, who estimated that he spoke to nearly 300 representatives of business and civic organizations across the ideological spectrum. "A week ago, they were in a different place."

Opponents promise to push back. "We have seen a lot of activism and we anticipate a lot next week," said Caroline Espinosa of NumbersUSA, a group that wants to reduce immigration. Because the deal is drawing criticism from the Democratic left and Republican right, "we see a great possibility they will not pass it," Espinosa said.

Among the amendments likely to be offered to change the bill:

► Sens. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., and Barack Obama, D-Ill., will seek to end the merit-based point system for immigration after five years. The bill would create a point system to determine an immigrant's ability to succeed in the job market, increasing the percentage of future immigrants based on job skills rather than family ties.

► Menendez and Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., want to increase the number of immigration slots for parents of U.S. citizens.

► Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., will propose a measure to deny tax credits for the working poor to foreign "guest workers" and to illegal immigrants who are in the process of earning legal status.

► Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, will seek to prevent illegal immigrants who earn legal status under the bill from claiming Social Security benefits for the time they worked illegally.

Members of the bipartisan coalition supporting the bill insist they will continue to oppose amendments that could unravel the deal, even if they favor them personally. "We have voted against our personal preference because the totality of the bill is so important," said Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

It has been more than 20 years since Congress tackled such a sweeping overhaul of the rules and regulations that govern who may become an American. "This is an enormously emotional and contentious issue," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.



From Italy to New Mexico: Young Pete Domenici with his father, Cherubino, left, and mother, Alda Vichi, who was arrested on immigration charges. She was later released.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M.

I wish to tell about both my parents who came to this country as aliens. . . . They were told that my mother was a citizen once they got married because my father was a citizen. He became a citizen because he served in the First World War. He came over at the turn of the century and was drafted into the First World War.

It turned out that the lawyer gave them wrong advice, and my mother was not a citizen. She raised her children here and lived here as a . . . model citizen.



Domenici

Then one day during the Second World War, she was arrested by several men who came in black cars to the backdoor while we four children were playing with marbles, or whatever we did. In came the people, the agents that work for the U.S., saying this lady was an illegal alien and she should be arrested. . . . By evening, my poor mother was released because she had a good lawyer.

A lot of people don't have that, and we know what happens to them under our laws.

"Connection to this nation": Sen. Robert Menendez, whose parents are from Cuba, with his family as a young boy. From left, sister Caridad, father Mario, brother Ray and mother Evangelina.



Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J.

Whether your family was part of the men and women who made the voyage on the Mayflower or part of the millions who stepped off of Ellis Island, or part of those who were brought to this nation against their will — or if, like my own parents, you came to this country fleeing tyranny and in search of freedom — we have a connection to this nation. This deal would have prevented my own parents, a carpenter and a seamstress, from coming to this country. They wouldn't have qualified under the point system. I'd like to think that . . . they've contributed to the vitality of this nation.



Menendez

Gingrich: Bush bad for Republican Party

Former House speaker Newt Gingrich said Sunday that the Bush administration is dysfunctional and its unpopularity is hazardous to the Republican Party.

"The government is not functioning. It's not getting the job done," the Georgia Republican said on *Fox News Sunday*. He cited the war in Iraq, immigration and the response to Hurricane Katrina. Bush "means very, very well" but falls short when it comes to putting his goals in place and running the government,

Gingrich said. He said a "relentless, dramatic change" is needed in the government. Gingrich has said that there is a good chance he'll enter the presidential race, but he won't decide until after September.

Movie inspires Elizabeth Edwards

Elizabeth Edwards, who announced in March that she has incurable breast cancer, is writing guidance for her children for when she is no longer with them. Edwards, the wife of Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards, said the letter she is writing to her children includes such things as what type of people they should marry and the kind of church they should go to.

"It just tells them the things I hope that they'll know about growing up," Edwards said on CNN's *Late Edi-*



Father fled to Kansas: Sen. Arlen Specter's family, clockwise from top left: mother Lilli, sister Shirley, father Harry, sister Hilda, young Arlen and brother Morton.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

My mother came here when she was 6 years old in 1906. My father came in 1911 when he was 18. The czar wanted to send my father to Siberia. He lived in Ukraine. That is where the czar wanted to send all the young Jewish men: to Siberia. My father didn't want to go to Siberia because he heard it was cold there. He wanted to go to Kansas instead. It was a close call, and he got to Kansas, where I was born.



Specter

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.

Ninety-six years ago, just a few miles from where we are meeting, on July 18, 1911, a woman came down a gangplank in Baltimore, Md. She had just arrived on a voyage from Bremen, Germany. She had a 2-year-old little girl in her arms and two young children, a boy and a girl, by her side. She stepped foot in America in Baltimore and took a train to join up with her husband in a place called East St. Louis, Ill.

This woman who brought these three children across the Atlantic didn't speak English. She only knew that her husband was waiting 800 miles away and was making her journey. That woman was my grandmother. The baby in her arms was my mother. That was 96 years ago. Ninety-six years later, the son of that little girl stands as a United States senator from Illinois. It is a story about America.



Durbin



John F. Kennedy Presidential Library

Immigrants' son: Patrick Joseph Kennedy, senator's grandfather.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

From the windows of my office in Boston . . . I can see the Golden Stairs from Boston Harbor where all eight of my great-grandparents set foot on this great land for the first time.

They walked up to Boston's Immigration Hall on their way to a better life for themselves and their families. So many Americans can tell similar stories of ancestors who came from somewhere else. Some built our cities. Some toiled on our railroads. Some came in slavery; others to raise their families and live and worship in freedom. That immigrant spirit of limitless possibility animates America even today.



Kennedy

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Immigrated in 1911: Photo from a 1935 citizenship certificate shows Sen. Dick Durbin's mother, Anna.

tion. She said she started the letter nearly 20 years ago after watching *Terms of Endearment*, in which the mother knew she was dying and wrote to her children. The Edwardses have three children: Cate, 25, Emma Claire, 9, and Jack, 7.

Wind power advocates criticize bill

Advocates of wind energy say that legislation being backed by Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, could "essentially outlaw" electricity from new wind power plants in the United States. Rahall is pushing legislation that would more strictly regulate wind energy to protect birds, bats and other wildlife killed when they fly into the giant turbines. Frank Maisano, a spokesman for

wind developers in the Mid-Atlantic region, said the industry has frequent discussions with government regulators and environmental groups, and there are "plenty of checks on the system that are making us develop in a smart way."

Last month, a National Research Council panel said the risk to birds and bats is not completely understood. That report also noted that wind farms could generate up to 7% of U.S. electricity in 15 years.

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., who has introduced legislation that would give the industry more incentives, said "Congress should not be blocking the development of one of the nation's cleanest energy resources."

By Paul Leavitt with wire reports