

# Turkish bases would ease a U.S. assault on Baghdad, analysts say

BY ROBERT BURNS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Without Turkish bases to open a northern front against Iraq, the U.S. military still could take Baghdad, but with more difficulty and risk, officials and analysts said Sunday.

The U.S. war plan calls for attacks on Iraq from two directions, Kuwait in the south and Turkey in the north. That approach would complicate Iraq's defense planning and ease U.S. logistical problems.

In a weekend move that surprised U.S. officials, the Turkish Parliament rejected a motion that would have granted a U.S. request to position tens of thousands of ground forces for the assault into northern Iraq and to station about 200 additional strike aircraft at two other bases.

Defense officials, speaking Sunday on condition of anonymity, said Gen. Tommy Franks, who would command a U.S. war in Iraq, had not yet decided to give up on Turkey. Franks said in an Associated Press interview last week that his war plans are flexible and take into account such problems.

If Turkish bases were not available to U.S. ground forces, Franks could opt to airlift a force into northern Iraq from Kuwait or elsewhere in the Persian Gulf. Instead of having the Army's 4th Infantry Division — a heavily armored force — roll into northern Iraq from Turkey, Franks might choose to use the 101st Airborne Division, a lighter, air-mobile force.

It was not clear whether that was Turkey's last word on the matter. Reconsideration could come as early as Tuesday, but

the head of Turkey's ruling party said Sunday there are no plans in the "foreseeable future" to seek another parliamentary vote.

Still, a senior U.S. official said the administration was evaluating the situation but did not regard the vote as necessarily final.

Several senators were less sanguine on the Sunday television talk shows.

"It's a huge setback for our purposes. It stunned me," Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., ranking Democrat on the Intelligence Committee, said on CNN's "Late Edition."

"We spent the last 50 years defending them in NATO. And along comes this opportunity, and by three votes they decline the opportunity to allow us to come in through the north."

Securing the peace once President Saddam Hussein's government had fallen also would be more problematic without Turkey, depending on the extent of the Turkish military's move into Kurdish areas of northern Iraq, said analyst Anthony Cordesman at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"We can work around it, but it does increase risk" before, during and after the fighting, Cordesman said.

Likewise, the Kuwait option for northern Iraq is not without risks.

"Our line of advance becomes more predictable" if the main ground assault is from Kuwait rather than being split between Kuwait and Turkey, Cordesman said.

It also concentrates the bulk of U.S. ground forces in a relatively small area — northern Kuwait — and gives Saddam added incentive to attempt a pre-emptive

strike with chemical or biological weapons, Cordesman said.

The United States has attempted in recent days to guard against such a strike by bombing Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles, multiple-launch rocket systems and artillery within range of Kuwait.

Another complication, if additional Turkish air bases are not available, is finding suitable basing for the 200 or more U.S. warplanes that Franks wanted at the Diyarbakir and Batman bases in southeastern Turkey.

Cordesman said bases in the Gulf already are saturated with hundreds of American and allied fighters, bombers and support aircraft.

U.S. and British planes already fly patrols over northern Iraq from Incirlik Air Base in Turkey.

That presumably would remain available even if no other air or army bases are opened to U.S. forces.

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JAY ROCKEFELLER  
MEMBER OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

## STATE

### Historians discuss civil rights in S.C.

CHARLESTON — More than 70 historians from across the country and from England and Japan will gather at The Citadel this week to discuss new research about South Carolina's civil rights era, from 1895 to 1970.

"No state has such an interesting cast of characters in civil rights as South Carolina," said Vernon Burton, a South Carolina-raised historian and civil-rights expert who teaches Southern history at the University of Illinois.

The topics are relevant today. Many current issues from affirmative action to Confederate flag disputes to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday to failing black schools in rural South Carolina can't be fully understood without a knowledge of segregation and the civil-rights era. "It's important for the state to come to grips with its history, learn from it, and move on," he said.

### Three-day summit will address litter

COLUMBIA — South Carolina advocacy groups, law enforcement officers and judges will gather for the first Litter Summit this week to find ways to clean up the state.

PalmettoPride, the Governor's Council on Beautification and Litter, is coordinating the three-day event that kicks off today.

"We want to be known as the 'zero tolerance for litter' state," said Rebecca Barnes, campaign coordinator for PalmettoPride.

State efforts to control litter got new energy about four years ago, when USC football coach Lou Holtz encouraged state leaders to take on the state's trash-laden highways.

There are indications that South Carolina's litter problem is getting better.

Twenty-four percent less litter was picked up on the state's interstate highways in 2002 than in 2001, according to Palmetto Pride.

## NATION

### Customs steps up radiation screening

WASHINGTON — Federal inspectors are checking all travelers arriving in the United States for radiation as part of an expanded effort to screen for terrorist activity, a Customs official said Saturday.

Dean Boyd, a spokesman for the new Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, said inspectors began using small, pager-like detectors Saturday at U.S. ports of entry to check passengers for radiation. He said the inspectors, who ask incoming travelers for their passports, carry the detectors on their belts.

"If a source of radiation passes close by or within a certain distance, the pager will begin beeping or alerting, and you can look down at the pager and see the amount (of radiation) that the pager is picking up," Boyd said.

The goal is to screen all the more than 500,000 people entering the United States every day. Inspectors who check passports at the arrival gates will carry them.

### Teens on trial might not grasp situation

WASHINGTON — Every state allows children under 16 to be tried as adults, but new research indicates many cannot understand their situations well enough to aid their defense.

The private MacArthur Foundation study released today said many children under 16 had as much difficulty grasping the complex legal proceedings as adults who had been ruled incompetent to go to court.

The new study, by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice, looked at more than 1,400 people between the ages of 11 and 24 in Philadelphia, Los Angeles, northern and eastern Virginia, and northern Florida.

## WORLD

### Thousands march against Iraq war

KARACHI, PAKISTAN — Women in horse-drawn carriages and flag-waving backers of Pakistan's religious coalition joined tens of thousands of others in a march through the streets of the southern city of Karachi to protest a possible U.S.-led war against Iraq.

Police estimated that at least 100,000 people, some chanting "America is the terrorist," joined the march in what authorities said was the largest demonstration against the war in a country that has been an important ally in the U.S. war against terrorism.

Organizers, who claimed 3 million people took part in the demonstration, said it was the first of two planned "Million Man Marches" in Pakistan against the war.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, leader of the MMA in Pakistan's National Assembly, told demonstrators that "any attack on Iraq would be considered an attack on the Muslim world."

The Pakistan march was one of a several of anti-war events around the world Sunday.

### UAE rallies support against Saddam

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES — The United Arab Emirates won support Sunday from several Persian Gulf nations in its call for Saddam Hussein to quit power to avert a war, while Iraq poured scorn on the Emirates, calling it a tool of Israel.

The king of Bahrain said he backs the call for Saddam to go, according to the Emirates state news agency. Kuwait's Cabinet also backed the measure, the official Kuwaiti news agency said.

Kuwait has allowed tens of thousands of U.S. troops to deploy in its territory ahead of a possible invasion of neighboring Iraq. The tiny Gulf island of Bahrain also is a key U.S. ally, playing host to the base of the American 5th Fleet.




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