



# U.S. FORCES CAPTURE SADDAM

## Hunt for Bin Laden not likely to intensify

By JUAN O. TAMAYO  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Saddam Hussein's capture is unlikely to prompt U.S. officials to intensify their search for Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan, terror experts said Sunday.

The CIA and Pentagon are unlikely to return to Afghanistan the scores of U.S. commandos and intelligence agents that had been seeking bin Laden before they were shifted to Iraq to crack down on Iraqi rebels killing one or two U.S. soldiers a day.

That mission remains more important than turning up the heat on bin Laden, who they believe to be all but isolated in a remote corner of Afghanistan, the analysts said.

"The priority of the effort in Iraq is not just finding Saddam. It's trying to identify and neutralize the resistance," said Vincent Cannistraro, former director of the CIA's counterterrorism operations and analysis.

Nearly half the U.S. intelligence and commando agents who had been in Afghanistan

'Clearly, the resources devoted to bin Laden were diluted, but I don't expect a switch back to Afghanistan just because of the capture of [Saddam]'

— Vincent Cannistraro

"Clearly, the resources devoted to bin Laden were diluted, but I don't expect a switch back to Afghanistan just because of the capture of" Saddam, said Cannistraro.

He and other analysts argued that the man-hunts for Saddam and bin Laden are quite different and therefore require different types of resources.

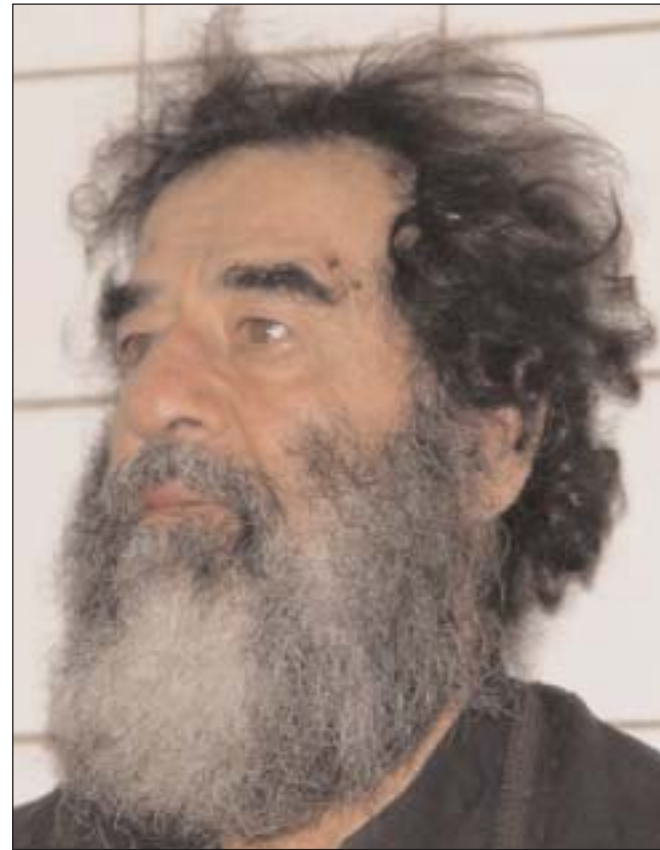
The search for Saddam required more of a military than an intelligence operation because he was hiding out in a country occupied by more than 130,000 U.S. troops and had little support among his people, said Stanley Bedlington, a former senior analyst in the CIA's Counterterrorist Center.

"This one was a more specifically military operation because it involved regular infantry along with the CIA and (the Pentagon's) Defense Intelligence Agency," Bedlington said.

The hunt for bin Laden, on the other hand, is more of an intelligence operation because he is widely believed to be hiding out in the mountains along the remote Afghan-Pakistani border, with help from Muslim radicals and local tribal leaders.

"Getting bin Laden consists largely of making deals with Pashtun and Baluchi trib-

SEE HUNT, PAGE 2



KRT PHOTOS / COURTESY US ARMY

Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is shown in these U.S. Army photos after he was captured in an underground hiding place in a farmhouse near Tikrit, Iraq, on Sunday. When captured he had a beard and was shaved by the military.

## Troops nab ex-dictator in remote Iraq hideout

By SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN,  
MAUREEN FAN and WARREN P. STROBEL  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

ADWAR, Iraq — U.S. soldiers and special forces captured deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein without firing a shot, authorities announced Sunday, ending an era in Iraq and providing a huge psychological boost for President Bush's troubled effort to stabilize the country.

Saddam was captured Saturday in an underground hiding place at a remote farmhouse in Adwar, a town nine miles from his birthplace in Tikrit, in central Iraq. He surrendered without resistance, said Army Maj. Gen. Ray Odierno.

Odierno, whose 4th Infantry Division carried out the raid based on a tip received less than 24 hours earlier, described Saddam as "disoriented" and "bewildered" when he was taken into custody.

The former dictator, who had eluded U.S. bombs and searchers for nine months, "was just caught like a rat," he said.

Saddam, who once held absolute power and had sway over billions of dollars' worth of oil, was shown in video images tired and bedraggled with an unkempt beard. The former dictator — who while in power didn't allow anyone to even shake his hand without going through elaborate security procedures — put up no fight as an American soldier examined his teeth and matted hair.

The capture, at 8:26 p.m. local time Saturday, is a symbolic blow for the United States against the guerrilla resistance that has killed nearly 200 U.S. soldiers since May 1 — when President Bush declared major combat over — and has sabotaged the U.S.-led rebuilding effort. It will boost the confidence of Iraqis struggling to craft a new government.

But it is unlikely to end attacks on U.S. forces, particularly in the short term, officials said.

Saddam was caught with a pistol, which he didn't try to use, Odierno said.

There were no radios, computers, satellite phones or any other communication devices found at the farm, the general said. He added that he believed the insurgency had some local and regional coordination, but that Saddam didn't appear to be orchestrating the attacks.

Two other Iraqis, believed to be Saddam's aides, were also arrested in the raid. Soldiers found two Kalashnikov rifles, a taxi and a green metal crate filled with \$750,000 — all in \$100 bills.

In Washington, President Bush said, "Now the former dictator of Iraq will face the justice he denied to millions."

But in a three-minute address from the White House Cabinet Room to Americans and Iraqis, Bush also warned, "The capture

SEE HUSSEIN, PAGE 2

## Hussein apprehension a boon for Bush re-election wishes

By STEVEN THOMMA  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The capture of Saddam Hussein on Sunday will help President Bush as he enters his re-election campaign, bolstering his image as a leader.

Challenges remain for Bush before he can claim a broader victory in the war on terrorism in Iraq or elsewhere. He still must show the world that Saddam was harboring weapons of mass destruction. He has to end the violence in Iraq and put it on the path to democracy. And he has to capture terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden.

But the capture of Saddam promises a trifecta for Bush.

First, it reinforces his image as a decisive leader, one of his core strengths. Second, it helps Bush persuade Americans that there are benefits to their sacrifice in Iraq, Afghanistan or elsewhere. Third, it promises a future war crimes trial that will remind Americans that Bush stood up to a murderous tyrant.

At the same time, the capture deepens the fault line within the Democratic Party over Iraq. It makes it harder for front-running Democratic presidential hopeful

Howard Dean to continue ridiculing rivals for supporting the war. It also undermines Democrats who argue that Bush has bungled the war.

"This is a real punctuation mark for the president," said Susan McManus, a political scientist at the University of South Florida.

The capture, she said, would boost Bush's standing as a leader at home and abroad while making it much easier for him to tell Americans the country needs to "stay the course" in Iraq.

**It sends the message that he is persistent and consistent. No matter what the political pressures might be, no matter what the polls might say, he sticks with it."**

— Greg Mueller

political leader.

"It sends the message that he is persistent and consistent," Mueller said. "No matter what the political pressures might be, no matter what the polls might say, he sticks with it."

On the Democratic side, party strategist Jenny Backus

SEE BUSH, PAGE 2

### Capturing Saddam

Saddam Hussein was found in the cellar of a farmhouse and arrested without a shot being fired:

**Time:** Saturday, Dec. 13, 8 p.m. local time

**"Operation Red Dawn":** U.S. special forces moved into the area three hours after "Iraqi tip"

**Hiding place:** "Spider hole" underground, about 2 m (6.6 ft.) deep, with ventilation pipe; hole was camouflaged with bricks, dirt

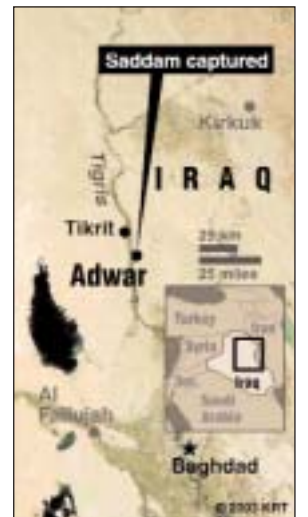
**Result:** Saddam offered no resistance, he is "talkative and cooperative"; two other people also arrested; weapons and more than \$750,000 cash confiscated

Source: AFP, AP, CNN, KRT photo service Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, Morten Lyhne © 2003 KRT

(ABOVE: D.O.D. IMAGE) (RIGHT: KRT GRAPHIC)

Above, Saddam Hussein was the ace of spades in the most-wanted playing card deck issued by the Department of Defense.

At right, a description of where and how Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. troops Sunday.





DAVID P. GILKEY / DETROIT FREE PRESS

Coalition Commander Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, left, and L. Paul Bremer, U.S. Administrator in Iraq, are backed by photos of Saddam Hussein as they report his capture on Sunday, December 14, 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq. The photo on the left is a historic photo of Hussein and at right is from his capture.

## From Page One

# Hussein 'caught like a rat,' surrenders peacefully to troops

of Saddam Hussein does not mean the end of violence in Iraq."

Odierno and other officials said that while Saddam might provide information on the anti-American resistance, he did not appear to directly control the guerrillas.

There could even be a short-term upsurge in violence by his former supporters, "people who have even less of a future than they did before," said a senior U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity.

Saddam also might provide information on the fate of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs.

Four members of the Iraqi Governing Council held an extraordinary meeting with Saddam after his capture, arranged by U.S. forces so Iraqis could confirm it was Saddam. They described him as calm, resigned to his fate — and unrepentant.

"He said he did not regret what he did," said council member Adnan Pachachi.

Council member Moffawak al Rubaie said that when he asked Saddam about Iraq's mass graves, he replied: "Did you ask their families why I put those people in the mass graves? Either they were thieves or unloyal to the country or they ran away from the army."

In Baghdad, reaction to the news of Saddam's capture was mixed. Many Baghdadis said they found the way Saddam was caught humiliating. Others said they feared more violence.

Gunfire continued into the night, much of it celebratory, but some of it released by Saddam sympathizers in Adamiya, a Sunni stronghold and one of the last neighborhoods where Saddam was seen before the fall of Baghdad on April 9.

"I hope things will be better now for all the people. I feel sorry for ourselves, we lost our youth. Thirty-five years of our life just gone. I am happy they got him. Insha'allah (God willing), this will stop the violence," said barber Samir Karim, 34, in Baghdad.

Bassima al Adami, 58, a retired schoolteacher, said she "felt sorry" for Saddam "because he's an Iraqi."

"The violence will not stop," she said. "It is not because of Saddam Hussein. It is because of the American occupation of an Arabic land, especially Iraq. This country has 7,000 years of civilization controlled now by a foreign force that does not have roots in this country. They will spoil everything, they will destroy everything."

U.S. officials were positively gleeful.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we got him," said ambassador L. Paul Bremer, head of the Coalition Provisional Authority, at a news conference.

Bush, who was told Saturday afternoon by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld of Saddam's possible capture, flew back to the White House from the Camp David presidential retreat.

The president got final confirmation that Saddam was in U.S. custody in a phone call from National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at 5:14 a.m. Sunday, the White House said.

Democratic presidential candidates praised the capture, with the most effusive comments coming from those who had backed the war.

"Hallelujah, praise the Lord," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut. "Saddam Hussein was a homicidal maniac. ... This evil man has to face the

death penalty."

Antiwar candidate Howard Dean called it "a great day for the Iraqi people, the U.S. and the international community."

Congratulatory messages came even from countries that bitterly opposed Bush's decision last March to go to war.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder told Bush in a telegram: "Saddam Hussein brought unspeakable suffering to his own people and to the entire region. I hope that his capture will foster the efforts of the international community to reconstruct and stabilize Iraq."

The Bush administration hopes the end of the Saddam era will convince nations such as Germany, France and Russia to get more involved in rebuilding Iraq, the senior U.S. official said. Officials also hope it will alter the Arab world's view of the U.S. invasion and occupation.

One immediate question is who will try Saddam for crimes that range from the 1990 invasion and pillaging of Kuwait to the murder of hundreds of thousands of his countrymen, some with chemical weapons.

Members of the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council announced that they would try Saddam before a war crimes tribunal that was established last week.

But the Bush administration said no final decision had been made.

Several legal issues need to be sorted through first, the senior official said. In any case, "Iraqis will play a very significant role" in trying Saddam, he said.

Members of the Governing Council who met with Saddam after his capture said he offered no apologies.

"He said he did not regret what he did," said council member Adnan Pachachi.

Saddam's identity — he had numerous body doubles — was confirmed through DNA testing, Iraqi and U.S. officials said, although the details of how that was accomplished were unclear.

Saddam's capture comes nearly five months after his sons, Qusai and Odai, were killed in a four-hour firefight with U.S. troops in the northern city of Mosul.

Odierno said that U.S. forces in recent days had made a concerted attempt to detain individuals with family and tribal ties to Saddam who might have information on who was protecting him, detaining five to 10 such people in the last 10 days.

In the end, he added, a member of a family "close to" Saddam provided the information leading to his apprehension. It was not immediately clear who, if anyone, would receive the \$25 million U.S. reward for Saddam's capture.

In Adwar, where people still refer to Saddam as Mr. President, dozens of residents gathered on the dirt road leading to the farm. A group of armed U.S. soldiers kept watch on the road and stopped anybody from going onto the property.

The soldiers were flashing big smiles.

"It feels like a dream," said First Lt. Charles Turner of the 4th Infantry's First Combat Brigade, which conducted the raid. "It hasn't really sunk in yet."

But Awad Muhammed al Duri was feeling exactly the opposite.

"I am sad," said the 20-year-old student. "We are all sad because they took our president. We all loved our president."

## From Page One

# Bush scores political victory

congratulated Bush and acknowledged he would enjoy at least a short-term political gain. Yet she cautioned against over-confidence.

"Both parties need to be careful about declaring political victory or loss. It may not be so great for Bush later if we're still losing soldiers over there."

She also said it could be good for her party if it ended the months-long, backward-looking debate among Democratic presidential candidates over who supported or opposed going to war in Iraq.

The capture set off a new round of posturing and sniping over the war among Democrats on Sunday.

"I supported this effort in Iraq without regard for the political consequences because it was the right thing to do," said Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri. "I still feel that way now, and today is a major step

toward stabilizing Iraq and building a new democracy."

"If Howard Dean had his way," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, "Saddam Hussein would still be in power today, not in prison, and the world would be a more dangerous place. If we Democrats want to win back the White House and take this country forward, we have to show the American people that we're prepared to keep them safe."

Despite his opposition to the war, Dean issued a brief statement praising U.S. troops. He said it cleared the way for the United States to bring the United Nations and NATO into Iraq "and take the American label off the war."



CHIP SOMODEVILLA / DETROIT FREE PRESS

Amid high security by the Iraqi police, two members of the communist party join thousands of people representing dozens of groups protesting for peace Wednesday, December 10 in Baghdad, Iraq.

## In largest demonstration to date, Iraqis call for end to violence

By MAUREEN FAN  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Five thousand to 10,000 Iraqis tried to send terrorists a cease-and-desist message Wednesday from downtown Baghdad in the biggest demonstration against violence to date.

But insurgents continued to strike at the U.S.-led coalition, killing two American soldiers and wounding four in two incidents in northern Iraq.

An Air Force C-17 transport plane also made an emergency landing after an explosion in one of its engines during takeoff from Baghdad, possibly after being hit by a missile.

The two strikes, in and near Mosul, came a day after a suicide bomber injured dozens of soldiers in the same region. One 101st Airborne soldier was killed and one wounded east of Mosul when they took small-arms fire from two vehicles about 11 a.m. Three hours later, another 101st Airborne soldier was killed and three were wounded in Mosul when their convoy was hit by a roadside bomb and small-arms fire.

In Baghdad, the protesters snarled traffic by filling Fateh Square near the National Theater and Fardos Square in front of the Palestine Hotel. Chanting "No, no terrorism" and "Yes, yes Islam," they carried photographs of religious leaders and unfurled banners that read "The Iraqis Should Not Forget Palestine."

Coalition officials have said that despite pockets of resistance, most Iraqis support the presence of American troops and oppose the resistance. By strengthening Iraqi security forces and announc-

ing a plan to turn over sovereignty to Iraqis by next summer, the United States hopes to stem some of the anger and frustration many Iraqis have voiced.

Protest organizers, including Brig. Gen. Tawfik al Yassiri, a member of the Iraqi Reconstruction and Development Council, which the Pentagon established in February, had invited political parties, religious groups, schools and unions to participate.

"We didn't expect this big a crowd to respond," said al Yassiri, who's also secretary-general of the Iraqi National Coalition, an exile group. "It was hard to organize all these groups who filled the streets and the sidewalks."

Marchers cited a number of reasons for demonstrating.

"There are so many jobless people. If foreign companies were to come here, there would be more jobs, but they will not come if they are afraid of terrorism, so we should protect these companies. We want to live," said Kareem Abed Kareem, 52, who's unemployed.

"All these shortages — electricity, propane for cooking, benzene (gasoline), oil for heating — and the high prices for all of these things, are connected to terrorism," said Amar Anwar, a 50-year-old hospital security guard who complained about sabotage. "Also, if you have no way to make a living, you will protest in another way, by causing trouble and making explosions."

But not everyone was feeling peaceful. "What did Saddam do for us? He slaughtered us all. What did the Americans do for us? They slaughtered us all," said an angry woman in a head-to-toe black abaya.

**'What did Saddam do for us? He slaughtered us all. What did the Americans do for us? They slaughtered us all.'**

— Angry woman (at demonstration)

## From Page One

# Hunt for Bin Laden not top priority

al chiefs, not to mention various Pakistani army and Inter-Services Intelligence agency people," said James F. Dunnigan, author of several books on military affairs. "This is more of a CIA job."

"Moreover, Osama is neutralized, so there's no rush to get him," Dunnigan added. "More urgent attention must be paid to bin Laden followers outside Afghanistan and Pakistan who are

actively planning operations."

"Eventually, someone up in the hills will decide to collect the reward," he said, referring to a \$25 million U.S.-offered bounty — the same amount that was on Saddam's head and now may go to a relative of Saddam's who provided the information that led U.S. forces to him on Saturday.