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**v.**

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**24 June 2013**



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News Releases  
Press Advisories  
Publications  
Transcripts

## Photos

Imagery Archive  
Highlights  
Photo Essays  
Week in Photos

## DoD Info

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Transferability  
Community  
Relations  
Stars & Stripes  
Recovery Act  
Site Map

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## WikiLeaks' Redaction Doesn't Remove Danger

By Cheryl Pellerin  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25, 2010 — Despite WikiLeaks' attempt to redact the names of Iraqi informants from its recent leak of classified military reports, some of those people are still in danger, a Pentagon spokesman said today.

On Oct. 22, WikiLeaks released more than 400,000 sensitive documents chronicling military operations during the Iraq war from 2004 to 2009.

"We had identified 300 or so people whose names were [mentioned in the documents] that possibly would be put at risk if their names were published," Pentagon spokesman Marine Corps Col. Dave Lapan said.

Of that group, he added, the names were removed but "in a few dozen cases there's still information that could identify those people."

Such remaining information includes job titles, he said.

The U.S. Central Command has the names of those potentially at risk and "is deciding whether they're going to make notifications or not," Lapan said.

A joint task force led by the Defense Intelligence Agency is comparing the original with redacted documents, he said, to assess the damage that WikiLeaks' publication of the classified Iraq significant-activities reports, called the SIGACTS data base, could pose to the U.S. military, Iraqi allies and current operations.

During an Oct. 22 State Department press briefing with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mahmood Qureshi, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton denounced the WikiLeaks release of sensitive military documents.

"We should condemn in the most-clear terms the disclosure of any classified information by individuals and organizations which puts the lives of United States' and partner servicemembers and civilians at risk," she said, "threatening our national security and the national security of those with whom we are working."

The count of civilian war deaths in Iraq — 15,000 more than reported by the Pentagon, according to some news reports and the nongovernmental organization Iraq Body Count — is one topic arising from the WikiLeaks' release.

"We have rejected the premise that ... the U.S. has not been tracking civilian casualties. We have. We report that on a regular basis to Congress," Lapan said.

Also in the reports to Congress, he added, "We note carefully that these are not a complete picture. ... We don't profess to have knowledge about every civilian that's killed across Iraq. We can only report on the ones that we're aware of."

All reports of civilian casualties — even those that put the number of casualties at 15,000 more than the U.S. has reported — all come from the same SIGACTS data base, Lapan said.

"The matter of trying to estimate Iraqi civilian casualties in the war has been an ongoing issue," he said, including a June report by the Congressional Research Service.

"To suggest that there is some kind of precise number that some organization has, I find hard to believe," he added, "because over the years it has been impossible for any of the various organizations that have tried to come to agreement on a specific figure."

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[Press Secretary Calls WikiLeaks Release Shameful](#)

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- [About DOD](#)
  - [Leaders](#)
  - [Biographies](#)
  - [Organization](#)

- [Mission](#)
  - [History](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Available jobs with DOD](#)
- [Top Issues](#)
  - [Afghanistan](#)
- [Sexual Assault Prevention](#)
  - [Warrior Care](#)
  - [Cyber Security](#)
- [Defense Strategic Guidance](#)
  - [News](#)
    - [DOD News Page](#)
    - [Today in DOD](#)
    - [News Releases](#)
    - [Press Advisories](#)
    - [News Transcripts](#)
    - [Publications](#)
    - [Speeches](#)
  - [Casualty Status \(PDF\)](#)
    - [Contracts](#)
  - [Casualty Releases](#)
  - [Special Reports](#)
  - [AFPS Articles](#)
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News Releases  
Press Advisories  
Publications  
Transcripts

## Photos

Imagery Archive  
Highlights  
Photo Essays  
Week in Photos

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## Press Secretary Calls WikiLeaks Release Shameful

By Cheryl Pellerin  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22, 2010 – WikiLeaks full public release on its website of 400,000 classified military documents from Iraq war operations is shameful, the Pentagon press secretary said tonight.

"This is an extraordinary disservice to America's men and women in uniform," Geoff Morrell said.

More than 150,000 forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are already in considerable danger, he said. "That danger is now exponentially multiplied as a result of this leak because it gives our enemies the wherewithal to look for vulnerabilities in how we operate and to exploit those opportunities and potentially kill our forces. That is just shameful."

The department does not yet know in detail what Wikileaks has published, but officials say they expect the same sort of documents the organization put on the Internet in July about the conflict in Afghanistan. Wikileaks posted 77,000 documents from the Afghan database online in that breach of national security.

"This document leak is four times as large as the Afghan document leak," Morrell said. "It gives our enemies that much more to mine, and it puts our forces that much more in danger, so we condemn it, we deplore it."

Based on information contained in the newly released Iraq documents, some news outlets are already reporting on alleged abuse and civilian deaths.

"It has been a driving force for us, a guiding principle for us over the last seven years of this conflict to do everything in our power -- perhaps more than any other military in the history of the world has ever done -- to minimize civilian casualties," Morrell said.

"We have not always been perfect but we have been far better than anyone else has in the history of warfare," he added, "and we continue to do everything in our power to prevent innocent civilians from being killed in the war zones."

A DOD task force has been combing through the Iraq data base to assess the damage that the Wikileaks publication of the activity reports could pose to the U.S. military, Iraqi allies and on-going operations.

"Potentially what one could mine from a huge data base like this are vulnerabilities in terms of how we operate, our tactics, our techniques, our procedures, the capabilities of our equipment, how we respond in combat situations, response times -- indeed how we cultivate sources," Morrell said. "All of that, [given the] thinking and adaptive enemy we've been facing in Iraq and Afghanistan, can be used against us."

U.S. intelligence reports and Taliban public statements indicate that enemy forces have been mining the released Afghan data base for operational vulnerabilities, Morrell said.

"We fear that this indeed can further endanger and get our troops killed," he said.

"We are extraordinarily disappointed that [Wikileaks is] making the same mistake twice," Morrell said, "that they are leaking classified information -- in fact that they induce people to break the law to leak classified information and then share that information with the world, including our enemies."

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[Pentagon Prepares for Possible WikiLeaks Publication](#)

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10/23/2010 4:44:01 AM

So far there are no comments Am I surprised. Nope  
- Anli, London

10/22/2010 10:28:55 PM

It's well and good to call it "shameful" because will further endanger our troops and result their deaths - but given that you KNEW this was going to happen, why didn't DOD take the all necessary actions to stop it? (With the defense budget what it is, you certainly had the means at your disposal.) - Was it to protect Julian Assange, a foreign national who has openly and maliciously sided with Al Qaeda? - Do you realize that many more mother's sons will DIE or be horribly maimed because of what you allowed Assange to do - AGAIN?  
- John Coski, USA

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[Main Menu](#)

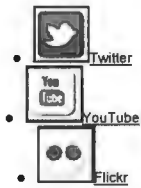
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  - [Mission](#)
  - [History](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Available jobs with DOD](#)
- [Top Issues](#)
  - [Afghanistan](#)
  - [Sexual Assault Prevention](#)
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  - [DOD News Page](#)
  - [Today in DOD](#)
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  - [News Transcripts](#)
  - [Publications](#)
  - [Speeches](#)
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  - [Contracts](#)
  - [Casualty Releases](#)
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  - [AFPS Articles](#)
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## Iraq war leaks: No U.S. investigation of many abuses

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By Michael Weissenstein and Raphael G. Satter - Associated Press

Friday, October 22, 2010

LONDON (AP) — U.S. forces often failed to follow up on credible evidence that Iraqi forces mistreated, tortured and killed their captives in the battle against a violent insurgency, according to accounts contained in what was purportedly the largest leak of secret information in U.S. history.

The documents are among nearly 400,000 released Friday by the WikiLeaks website in defiance of Pentagon insistence that the action puts the lives of U.S. troops and their coalition partners at risk.

Although the documents appear to be authentic, their origin could not be independently confirmed, and WikiLeaks declined to offer any details about them. The Pentagon has previously declined to confirm the authenticity of WikiLeaks-released records, but it has employed more than 100 U.S. analysts to review what was previously released and has never indicated that any past WikiLeaks releases were inaccurate.

The 391,831 documents date from the start of 2004 to Jan. 1, 2010, mostly by low-ranking officers in the field. In terse, dry language, they catalog thousands of battles with insurgents and roadside bomb attacks, along with equipment failures and shootings by civilian contractors.

The documents describe a full gamut of a country at war: shootings at military checkpoints, contractors firing on Iraqis and savage acts committed on prisoners using boiling water, metal rods, electric shocks and rubber hoses. A group that counts casualties from the war said the files also document 15,000 previously unreported deaths.

The United States went to war in part to end the brutality of Saddam Hussein's regime, but the WikiLeaks material depicts American officers caught in a complicated and chaotic conflict in which they often did little but report to their superiors when they found evidence that their Iraqi allies were committing their own abuses.

In some cases, the reports show the U.S. military intervening to protect detainees, but in many others officers did not act on what their troops described as clear evidence of abuse.

Allegations of torture and brutality by Shiite-dominated security forces — mostly against Sunni prisoners — were widely reported during the most violent years of the war when the rival Islamic sects turned on one another in Baghdad and other cities. The leaked documents provide a ground's eye view of abuses as reported by U.S. military personnel to their superiors, and appear to corroborate much of the past reporting.

WikiLeaks said it provided unredacted versions of the reports weeks ahead of time to several news organizations, including the New York Times, Le Monde, The Guardian and Der Spiegel. It gave The Associated Press and several other news organizations access to a searchable, redacted database hours before its general release Friday.

WikiLeaks was criticized for not redacting the names of informants in a July release of almost 77,000 documents from the Afghan conflict. This time, it appears to have removed the names of people, countries and groups from the searchable database.

WikiLeaks declined to make unredacted files available to the AP, saying journalists wanting such a copy would have to lodge a request with the organization, which would respond within a "couple of days."

The group describes itself as a public service organization whose mission is to "protect whistle-blowers, journalists and activists who have sensitive materials to communicate to the public."

WikiLeaks editor-in-chief Julian Assange did not respond to an e-mail from the AP seeking comment but told CNN that the documents show "compelling evidence of war crimes," both by the U.S.-led coalition and the Iraqi government. Such comments from Assange have drawn controversy in the past.

Assange rejected claims that his work was endangering anyone.

The military has a continuing investigation into how the documents were leaked. An Army intelligence analyst stationed in Iraq, Spc. Bradley Manning, was arrested in connection with the leaking of other classified material to WikiLeaks.

Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell called the release "shameful" and said it "could potentially undermine our nation's security."

He said about 300 Iraqis mentioned in the documents are "particularly vulnerable to reprisal attacks" and that U.S. forces in Iraq are trying to protect them.

The documents appeared to be mostly contemporaneous — routine field accounts that junior officers in units deployed across Iraq sent to headquarters within Iraq during the course of the war.

The leaked documents include hundreds of reports from across Iraq with allegations of abuse. In a typical case from August 2006, filed by the 101st Airborne, U.S. forces discovered a murder suspect who claimed that Iraqi police hung him from the ceiling by handcuffs, tortured him with boiling water and beat him with rods.

The suspect, detained at the Diyala provincial jail, showed evidence of abuse, including bruises on his wrists, back, and knees. The 101st notified the office of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and the case was closed, according to the documents.

In another case, U.S. soldiers inspecting an Iraq army base quizzed their Iraqi counterparts about a scab-covered detainee with two black eyes and a neck which had turned, in the words of the report, "red/yellow." The prisoner said he had been electrocuted. Iraqi officials claimed the man received the injuries while trying to escape, according to the report.

In many cases, U.S. forces did not appear to pursue the matter because there was no allegation that coalition forces were involved. Many reports signed off with: "As coalition forces were not involved in the alleged abuse, no further investigation is necessary."

Other reports describe American attempts to halt abuse by Iraqi officers.

In one case, a U.S. State Department employee prevented a prisoner from being beaten, the documents show.

One report describes U.S. troops finding evidence of torture at a police station in Husaybah, including large amounts of blood, a wire used for electric shocks and a rubber hose. It describes ensuing visits by the Americans, checking of detention cells and demands for records on every prisoner.

"The detention cell officers have been counseled on the severe negative ramifications to relations with the coalition forces if human rights are not respected," it reads.

As a general policy, U.S. forces in Iraq were supposed to take reasonable action to stop or prevent abuse. Morrell said U.S. troops are required to report any abuses they witness to their superiors and that U.S. policy has been to share that information with the Iraqi government "at the appropriate level."

U.S. diplomats and military commanders in Iraq have said that U.S. and allied military forces in Iraq tried to deter abuse, although U.S. officials do not deny that torture or mistreatment has occurred.

Amnesty International called on the U.S. to investigate how much its officials knew about torture when they handed over thousands of detainees to Iraqi security forces.

Some of the reports released Friday are laconic, barely a line long: "Individual stated she was beaten and raped for not cooperating with IP (Iraqi police) investigator," one November 2007 report filed from Tikrit said.

Others offer more a more detailed description of the abuse — and evidence.

U.S. Marines patrolling Husaybah found a man in the custody of Iraqi forces who said he was pulled out of a taxi, blindfolded, beaten and kept in a room for three days, one of the reports says. It cites medical documents and pictures of the man's injuries as evidence that his allegation of abuse is substantiated. "No further investigation is warranted," it reads.

A "serious incident report" filed in December 2009 in Tal Afar said U.S. forces had obtained footage of about a dozen Iraqi army soldiers — including a major — executing a detainee. The video showed the bound prisoner being pushed into the street and shot, the Americans said. There was no indication of what happened to the video, or to the Iraqi major or his soldiers. The incident is marked "closed."

The release of the documents comes at a pivotal time for the U.S. in Iraq as the military prepares to withdraw all 50,000 remaining troops from the country by the end of next year. The U.S. military had as many as 170,000 troops in Iraq in 2007.

Violence has declined sharply over the past two years, but near-daily bombings and shootings continue.

The situation has been exacerbated by growing frustration among the public over the failure of Iraqi politicians to form a new government. Al-Maliki is struggling to remain in power since his Shiite alliance narrowly lost the March 7 vote to a Sunni-backed bloc led by rival Ayad Allawi.

Some of the documents focus on the actions of coalition troops. A report from February 2007 describes a combat helicopter being dispatched to destroy a truck carrying a mortar tube that had just been used in an attack. Two insurgents get into another truck and drive away, then attempt to surrender after they are fired on. When they attempt to drive away a second time, a military lawyer advises the helicopter that "They can not surrender to aircraft and are still valid targets." The helicopter opens fire, with a missile, driving the insurgents into a shack before opening fire again and killing them.

The reports also document civilian contractors working for the military firing on cars that drove too close to their convoys, fearing the vehicles might be driven by suicide bombers.

The documents also provided new details about one of the most contentious issues of the war — civilian casualties.

The U.S. military has recorded just over 66,000 civilian deaths, according to the documents posted by WikiLeaks. Iraq Body Count, a private, British-based group that has tracked the number of Iraqi civilians killed since the war began, said in a press release that it had analyzed the information and found 15,000 previously unreported deaths, which would raise its total from as many as 107,369 civilians to more than 122,000 civilians.

The Iraqi government has issued a tally claiming at least 85,694 deaths of civilians and security officials were killed between January 2004 to Oct. 31, 2008.

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*Associated Press writers contributing to this report included Fisnik Abrashi in London; Sagar Meghani, Anne Flaherty, Robert Burns, Pauline Jelinek and Anne Gearan in Washington and Kim Gamel in Cairo.*

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**PBS NEWSHOUR****The Morning Line**Your Daily Dispatch  
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REPORT AIR DATE: Oct. 22, 2010

**News Wrap: WikiLeaks Releases 400,000 Iraq War Documents****SUMMARY**

In other news Friday, WikiLeaks released nearly 400,000 secret U.S. files on the Iraq war, counting more than 15,000 unreported civilian deaths. Also, Haiti is dealing with a deadly cholera outbreak. Hari Sreenivasan speaks with Eric Lotz of Operation Blessing International about efforts to provide clean drinking water there.

**Transcript**

**HARI SREENIVASAN:** The WikiLeaks Web site released nearly 400,000 secret U.S. files on the Iraq war late today. It was the largest leak of classified U.S. files in history. The documents count at least 15,000 civilian deaths that were never reported before.

They also indicate U.S. officials failed to pursue accounts of Iraqi authorities brutalizing prisoners. WikiLeaks earlier published more than 90,000 documents on the Iraq war.

Doctors and aid officials in Haiti fought today to contain an outbreak of cholera. At least 142 people have died, mainly in the central part of the country. Thousands of earthquake refugees now live there in squalid camps.

Cases of cholera have swamped hospitals in the region, with more than 1,000 people affected. The fast-moving bacterial infection causes severe diarrhea and can kill within hours.

At the U.N. in New York, officials said today they do not know how far the outbreak might spread or what the mortality rate will end up being.

**CATHERINE BRAGG, United Nations Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator:** It is still in early days, and it is very difficult for -- And we certainly wouldn't use the statistics, that, you know, 10 percent mortality rate, at this point. We're just getting the report of both the deaths, as well as the number of people affected. And those numbers can change.

**HARI SREENIVASAN:** Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive says he's worried the outbreak could reach all the way to the capital in Port-au-Prince.

For more on the situation on the ground, I spoke earlier this afternoon with Eric Lotz of Operation Blessing International. He's working at the center of the cholera outbreak in Bambou Laporte.

Can you describe the last 24 hours?

**ERIC LOTZ, Operation Blessing International:** Yesterday morning, we got the call that there was an outbreak here that we needed to respond to.

And, I mean, within just a couple hours, we were mobilized to get here. Things went from not expecting what to find to horror when we were at the hospital. I mean, almost every square foot of the hospital grounds, even inside and outside, were just covered with people, laying on mattresses, laying on mats, laying on cardboard boxes sometimes, not even able to get up because of the amount of pain that they are in.

We left the hospital, came out to the village, and started setting up our first water filtration system here. And coming down the road towards the village, there were just hundreds of people lined on both sides of the street with their buckets, hoping that we had water to give them.

It wasn't water that we had. We had filtration units, which allowed them to get water. We pulled water out of the same -- same river that made them dirty, treated it, cleaned it up, put it back in their buckets. And now they are able to have healthy water, clean water to drink.

**HARI SREENIVASAN:** So what is the situation on the ground as you see it now?

**ERIC LOTZ:** Out here in the village where we are at now, the people are still, many places, without clean water. We are mobilizing right now, actually, to take a load of Lifesaver Jerrycans out to a village, a remote village at the end of a long road, a long road running alongside the river, the same river that has made them sick, should be those -- that village.

**HARI SREENIVASAN:** I know your operation has been pretty good about trying to get filtration systems out there, but is there a chance that this is going to get worse?

**ERIC LOTZ:** Well, you know, we're hoping that, by nipping it in the bud as quick as we are and getting the word out of the people to stop drinking the

local water, we are really hoping that this is going to take care of this at least localized outbreak.

**HARI SREENIVASAN:** And is there a threat here that some of these people could be coming back into city centers like Port-au-Prince?

**ERIC LOTZ:** I mean, that is always a possibility. As they are cured of the sickness, they can still carry it back in the form of just, you know, bacteria on their skin, on their hands, carry it back to families in Port-au-Prince. And just the simple act of cooking a meal can make their whole family sick.

If this was to reach Port-au-Prince, it could have devastating circumstances.

**HARI SREENIVASAN:** All right, Eric Lotz from Operation Blessing International, thanks for your time.

**ERIC LOTZ:** Thank you.

**HARI SREENIVASAN:** One-third of all adult Americans, up to 100 million people, may have diabetes by the year 2050. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued that new projection today. It's up sharply from estimates that one in 10 Americans now have diabetes, or about 24 million people. The spread of the disease is closely tied to rising obesity rates.

French police forced protesters to step aside today and reopened a vital oil refinery. Striking workers had blockaded the site in a bid to kill pension reforms. Police and strikers jostled in front of the gates of the refinery 50 miles east of Paris. It's the closest source of gasoline supplies to the French capital.

In Paris, the French Senate today passed legislation that includes raising the partial retirement age from 60 to 62 and the full retirement age from 65 to 67.

Wall Street turned in mixed results for the day, but gains for the week. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 14 points today to close at 11,132. The Nasdaq rose more than 19 points to close at 2479. For the week, both the Dow and the Nasdaq gained roughly half-a-percent.

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