

are more fundamentalist in terms of their dislike of Americans, other individuals who for some reason still have hope of bringing back some kind of a Ba'athist party. Those are very few now, I think. Some of them fear for retaliation or retribution by some of the individuals who Saddam very much supported, but I think the intimidation and fear factor for the populace is also down. And so that's why I'm discounting a very serious insurgency ongoing here right now, because of those factors. Successfully taking away the leaders of the insurgency, the funding and the facilitation of the insurgency, now it's more low-level individuals who still have a gripe against coalition forces that attack us. Some individuals still out there being paid to attack us, but I do believe there are individuals out there, as you say, for a jihad reason want to go ahead and bloody coalition forces.

For some reason, there are individuals, more so now moving on to the terrorist organizations, that don't want to see a democratic Iraq in the Middle East. And that is where some terrorist organizations now recruit foreign fighters from outside the borders of Iraq to come in and do some of the dirty work here in attacking Iraqis, such as maybe we saw down in Karbala and Baghdad in recent bombings.

And so that's kind of the landscape as I see it right now. Insurgents -- as I said before, insurgency in disarray and the terrorist organization being very difficult to get established right now. And so I believe we have a situation where we need to keep the pressure on as we continue to generate the Iraqi security capacity.

Last question -- your second part of that question, regarding the equipment. I believe that we got caught in a situation where CPA was procuring the equipment for the police, for the ICDC and for the border police. And as we transition from last fiscal year to when the supplemental kicked in there was the gap, and that was the gap that we couldn't drop any contracts to get this equipment from because we didn't have the funding.

Then, right after -- right around before mid-December to January, contracts were dropped, and those contracts have not been -- as you maybe read, and I as I do, in the Early Bird, have not been completely negotiated because there are some, I guess investigations necessary to see about contract improprieties. So that's where we are on it. I would have started paying out of CERP to buy this stuff earlier, I guess is the bottom line I'm trying to explain.

Q: Just to follow up on the first part of your answer, would I understand it, then, correctly that the terrorist side -- by that meaning either foreign or domestic -- Islamic extremist component has sort of overtaken the FRE component in terms of the attacks you're seeing in Al Anbar?

Swannack: I think it's a marriage of convenience, best to describe it. There is a marriage of convenience either being recruited to come in here to attack Americans as being paid by former regime elements or terrorists now. They're trying to both disallow and deny the ability of coalition forces working with Iraqis to move towards democracy. And so that's -- it's a marriage of convenience to deny and degrade the progress that we're making here.

Okay, let me go to Washington for the next question, please.

Q: General, I'm Carl Osgood. I write for the Executive Intelligence Review. Your division has been very busy over the last two-and-a-half years, as you already noted. Could you comment on the stresses and challenges that this level of activity has imposed on the 82nd and how your soldiers are coping with this?

Swannack: Okay, I understand the question to be about the stress on the division the last two-and-a-half years, but I didn't catch the very end of your comment -- or your question.

Q: I'd like to know how you and your division -- the soldiers in your division are coping with this level of activity.

Swannack: Okay. Just to bring everybody up to date, the 82nd Airborne Division Headquarters has been involved in fighting the global war on terrorism for about the past two-and-a-half years in Afghanistan and also