



Terror memo is made public

By Douglas Jehl and David E. Sanger
New York Times

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The classified briefing about Al-Qaida that President Bush received a month before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks reported that the terrorist network had maintained an active presence in the United States for years, was suspected of recent surveillance of federal buildings in New York and could be preparing for domestic hijackings.

Yet the briefing did not point to any specific time or place of attack and did not warn that planes could be used as missiles.

After releasing the "President's Daily Brief" on Saturday evening, White House officials said that none of the information given to Bush on Aug. 6, 2001, was later linked to the attacks. But the 1¼-page document showed that Bush was given more specific and contemporary information about terrorist threats than the White House had previously acknowledged. As recently as Thursday, the White House described the brief only as a "historical" account of Al-Qaida activity.

The release of the document is bound to fan the already-fierce debate about whether the president and his team acted aggressively enough to confront the threat posed by Al-Qaida in the weeks and months before the Sept. 11 attacks.

The document said that the FBI had detected "patterns of suspicious activity in this country consistent with preparations for hijackings or other types of attacks, including recent surveillance of federal buildings in New York."

BUSH continues on A9:

— *A lot of information, few specifics.*
— *Patterns of suspicious activity.*

Opposition in Iraq gets even more complicated

By Eric Black
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Since the day Saddam Hussein fled Baghdad, the fighting in Iraq never really stopped. But it hasn't been too clear over the past year whom the U.S. troops are fighting. Baathists who hoped to restore the Saddamist order? Terrorists who just want to kill Americans? People who hate freedom, as President Bush has often put it? Or Iraqi nationalists who hated Saddam, but hate the U.S. occupation, too?

Last week, a relatively unfamiliar name, Muqtada al-Sadr, became the new symbol of the Iraqi opposition to the U.S. occupation, as the militia backing this young cleric engaged U.S. troops in several Iraqi cities.

The emergence of Al-Sadr complicated an already complex mix of elements that are in varying states of rebellion or opposition to the U.S. presence in Iraq. We asked four American scholars knowledgeable about Iraq to describe the opposition and explain the startling events of the past week.

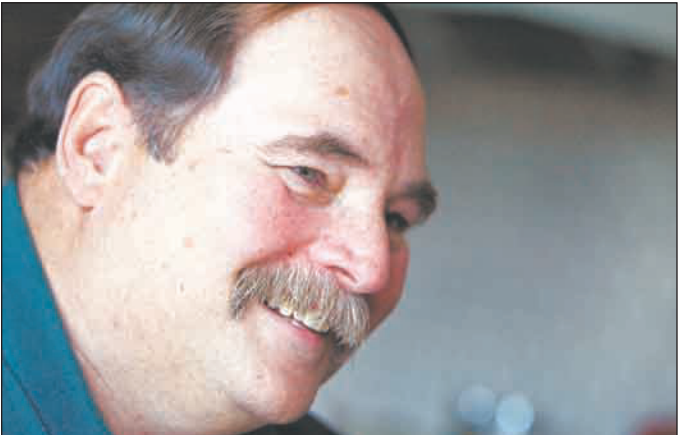
Here's what they said:

Two supporters of U.S. policy describe the motives and methods of the groups that are fighting and argue that the battle with Al-Sadr will turn out to be worth it. **Two critics of U.S. policy** question whether terrorism has much to do with the trouble in Iraq. One argues that the U.S. shouldn't have picked a fight with a Shiite militia before pacifying the Sunni region. Another fears that Iraqis are getting the message that the U.S. will destroy anyone who disagrees with it. **Turn to A15.**

More on Iraq: *Insurgents and U.S.-allied Iraqi officials agreed in principle for a cease-fire in Fallujah starting today, A14*
Nick Coleman: *Three more Minnesotans lost, B1*

Three years after being shot, officer Michael Blood believes that 'God saved me'

A second chance at life and faith



Stormi Greener/Star Tribune
Former Edina police officer Michael Blood defied the odds by learning to walk after bullets tore through his leg and back.

By Martha Sawyer Allen
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Officer Michael Blood's limp body bounced inches off the pavement as the third and fourth cop-killer bullets tore through him. It was like being hit with a 40-pound sledgehammer, he recalls. He was conscious but "played dead," hoping the bank robber would stop shooting.

The Edina police officer, just 29 days from retirement, nearly lost his life in the Nov. 16, 2000, shooting. But in its aftermath, Blood discovered his own Easter story: a new life and a new faith in God.

Millions of Minnesotans go to church today to celebrate the highest holiday of the Christian calendar. They will hear a story of death and resurrection, of hope

born out of despair and of new life all around.

The story of Michael and Cheri Blood is one refined in physical suffering and founded in faith and hope — and one they continue to feel a need to share.

"God saved me," Michael Blood, 56, said simply, with tears at the edges of his eyes as he thought of the overpowering love of people who have pulled him through.

Michael and Cheri speak to any group that will listen. They talk of their renewed faith, of the positive energy they found in their travails.

BLOOD continues on A17:

— *Cheri Blood says she saw angels over her husband's head in the hospital.*

Given the choice

First of two parts

As their options broaden, thousands of students are abandoning traditional public schools, thus creating crisis and opportunity for many school systems.



Richard Sennott/Star Tribune

OPEN AND SHUT Winona public schools couldn't afford to keep tiny Dakota Elementary open, but parents got permission to open an independent charter school. Now many of the students and much of the state money that Winona used to get will go to the new school.



Jerry Holt/Star Tribune

KIDS PAY OFF Students from Minneapolis and Arden Hills are among the many choosing to attend St. Anthony-New Brighton schools. The district is one of the big winners under the state's open-enrollment option.

By Bill McAuliffe
Star Tribune Staff Writer

For Susanne Dehnhard Carpenter of Minneapolis, the choice between middle school in the city and one in neighboring St. Anthony for her seventh-grader was a close call.

Carpenter chose St. Anthony, and a bit of remorse.

"I think Minneapolis has some really great programs," said Carpenter. "I tried and I tried, but in the end I realized, 'I can't do this.' So, yes, I feel guilty."

Ambivalence may be the dominant feeling that parents and educators have about Minne-

sota's school options. With open enrollment, college credit options, charter schools, area learning centers and home schools, the state is a national leader in school choice. And those are just the public options.

Many parents and education activists say it's all good — that tailored education offers more students more chances to succeed. This year alone, nearly one in five school-age students opted out of regular public schools.

SCHOOLS continues on A16:

— *When students leave, their per-pupil money goes with them, leaving school districts with less money but some rising expenses.*

GUN PERMITS

First-year projection:	Actual:*
50,000	17,325
	*11 months

Surge in gun permits not seen

By Matt McKinney and Ron Nixon
Star Tribune Staff Writers

A new law that made it easier for most Minnesotans to carry a handgun in public has drawn far less interest than the Legislature projected a year ago.

With just a month to go until the first anniversary of the Personal Protection Act of 2003, less than half of the estimated 50,000 people who were expected to apply in the first year for a right-to-carry permit have done so.

Of the 17,325 people who have been issued permits, according to state records released in March, about two dozen who were initially turned away by local sheriffs because of domestic assault, felony theft or drunken driving convictions later got permits. Otherwise, the law's effects appear to be much milder than what supporters and opponents predicted.

A Star Tribune analysis of statistics from the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension found that the most gun permits per capita have been issued across a "gun belt" that runs from the Minnesota-South Dakota border north and east toward the Arrowhead region. Traverse County, on the western edge of this belt, owns the highest per capita distribution of gun permits in Minnesota, although actual numbers are small, the analysis shows.

PERMITS continues on A10:

— *The highest rate of permits cuts a swath through central and northeast Minnesota.*



Please read and recycle

Information	612-673-4000
Classifieds	612-673-7000
Circulation	612-673-4343
	or 1-800-775-4344



SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2004
Copyright 2004 Star Tribune
volume XXIII/Number 7 . . . 13 sections