

Speakers at OU-Tulsa analyze war

By **SHAUN SCHAFFER**
World Staff Writer

The war against terrorism will have neither conspicuous victories nor will it end with the elimination of Osama bin Laden, a group of 150 Tulsans were told Thursday.

Instead, the war will be measured in years of struggle and continued public vigilance, a group of intelligence and terrorism experts said.

"Ultimately, this is a test of will, of resolve," Stephen Sloan said. "The war in Vietnam was not won on the fields of Vietnam, but on Wall Street, in Washington and elsewhere around the country."

Sloan, a professor at the University of Oklahoma in Norman and the author of several books on terrorism, hit one of the few points of consensus for the four speakers gathered at OU-Tulsa for "Terrorism and America's Response." The words "protracted" and "continuing" were a regular part of descriptions for response



Randle

Levit

to Sept. 11's terrorist attacks on the East Coast.

"We keep using the word 'war,' and I'm not entirely comfortable with that," said Edwin Corr, a former ambassador to Bolivia, El Salvador and Peru. "It's more like weeding the garden. You have to keep at it."

"There won't be a victory celebration. It won't be over in 10 years."

David Edger, a native Oklahoman who served in the Central Intelligence Agency for 39 years before turning to teaching five months ago, said covert action was implicit in battling terrorism.

Just the knowledge that a terrorist group had been infiltrated could be enough to doom the infiltrator, he said.

However, "I suspect that you will see some more good news as we attack these terrorist cells," Edger said. Such information plays a role in keeping the American public supportive of the battle, he said.

While the public needs good news, those privy to the most crucial information have to be careful, added Ken Levit, the president of OU-Tulsa and former general counsel to the CIA director. Congress generally does a good job of keeping a secret, Levit said, but representatives, members of the executive branch and former administration members need to watch what they say.

"The protection of classified information is a priority," Levit told the audience. "There's a short half-life for a secret in Washington."

Bombs dropping in Afghanistan or other countries that har-

bor terrorists will not lead to the simple solution that Americans may be seeking, they said. Instead, Americans appear to be facing an extraordinary battle in what moderator Rodger Randle called an extraordinary time in the United States "unlike any time we can remember."

Sloan described the fight as the "war of the flea," because the opponent would ultimately be hard to kill.

Also, while the public may need to understand the root cause for the ongoing violence, people need to be careful and not transfer guilt onto the innocent dead in New York City and Washington, D.C., he said.

"This is what terrorists try to do," Sloan said. "They want to lay the blame on the victim. I've seen a lot of this guilt transfer, too much."

"I think we've made mistakes, but we didn't deserve this."

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Are you helping?

If your group is raising funds or offering other assistance in the wake of the terrorist attacks, let the Tulsa World know.

E-mail a description of your effort, along with a contact name and telephone number, to news@tulsaworld.com.

Ex-Tulsan readies for Saudi post

By **JIM MYERS**
World Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — When George W. Bush became president of the United States, Robert Jordan told his friend that he was not looking for "just a title."

"I didn't want an honorary position," the 56-year-old former Tulsan said Thursday.

"I guess he decided to take me up on it."

Jordan is scheduled to be sworn in Friday as the new ambassador to Saudi Arabia, whose unique place in the Arab and Islamic worlds and its vast oil reserves have made it a strategically important friend to the United States for decades.

"It's a great honor to be selected by the president for such an important post," Jordan said.

"I look forward to leading American interests and activities in the kingdom, as well as listening to the views of our close friends and allies in the kingdom."

Bush selected the Dallas attorney for the key post last spring, months before the recent terrorist attacks that have focused more attention on the U.S.-Saudi friendship.

"I am certainly keenly aware of the critical importance the kingdom plays to our interest and am very sensitive to the many issues that will need to be coordinated with this very important partner," Jordan said.

He expects to leave for his new post in Riyadh within days.

Jordan was born in Wichita but grew up in Tulsa and graduated from Edison High School in 1967.

He left Oklahoma to attend Duke University in North Carolina and followed with a graduate degree from the University of Maryland. After serving in the Navy, Jordan attended the University of Oklahoma law school and graduated in 1974.

Jordan is a founding partner of the Dallas office of Baker Botts, a global energy and technology law firm with more than 600 lawyers serving clients in the U.S., Great Britain and Saudi Arabia.

"Bob Jordan is a leader in his profession and in his community," Bush said when announcing his intended nomination. "He understands the important relationship that exists between the United States and Saudi Arabia, and I am confident he will be an outstanding ambassador."

When Jordan arrives in Riyadh as ambassador, it will be his first visit to the country.

He is married to the former Ann Turner, who graduated from Edison in 1964 and received her Ph.D. in anthropology from OU. She is on the faculty at the University of North Texas.

Her father, Dr. Tom Turner, still lives in Tulsa.

Jordan's wife and youngest son will join him in Riyadh next summer after his son graduates from high school.

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Group offers relief aid to children

In a continued effort to aid victims' families of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Pre-Paid Legal Services Inc. will present a check for about \$35,000 to Feed the Children at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the company's headquarters in Ada.

According to Pre-Paid CEO Harland Stonecipher, the contribution is a combined effort of the company's independent associates and provider law firms.

"We thank Pre-Paid Legal Services for their generous response," said Larry Jones, president and founder of Feed the Children. "We are now in the process of distributing over 50 tractor-truck loads of disaster relief supplies to New York and

Washington, D.C."

Here's how others are helping:

Woodland Hills Mall is participating in an industrywide effort to assist families after the terrorist attacks by becoming a collection point for monetary donations to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund and the United We Stand Fund.

People wishing to make contributions are invited to visit the customer service center at Woodland Hills Mall. Checks and cash are accepted, and checks should be made payable to either the American Red Cross Relief Fund and the United We Stand Fund.

Fund-raising efforts will continue at Woodland Hills Mall through Oct. 31. For more information, visit online at www.woodlandhillsmall.com and click on the American Red Cross and United We Stand links.

The Choctaw Nation has raised almost \$72,000 for disaster relief for victims and families affected by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., Chief Greg Pyle said Thursday.

The chief and tribal council, based in Durant, agreed to allocate \$20,000 in tribal funds for the relief effort, and employees contributed almost \$9,400.