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Rumsfeld Defends Iraq War, Guantanamo

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WASHINGTON , April 14 (UPI) -- In an interview at the Pentagon on al-Arabiya television, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld defended U.S. policies on Iraq and Guantanamo Bay prison.

Asked about criticism of his conduct of the war by six retired U.S. generals, Rumsfeld said there were thousands of retired generals who had no complaints.

"We have different opinions inside (the Pentagon) all the time," he said.

Rumsfeld said the United States would like to be out of Iraq as soon as a government is formed that is representative of the country, and the Iraqi security forces are able keep the peace.

He would not provide a timetable for withdrawal of American forces and refused to say whether he thought Iraq is engaged in a civil war.

Rumsfeld said he had made a conscious decision not to try to predict how long the war would last, how much it would cost or how many casualties might be sustained, saying estimates are generally incorrect.

When asked why the U.S. government was not expediting trials of more than 500 Guantanamo detainees, Rumsfeld said prisoners are receiving "excellent" treatment and medical care.