

Pace: Freedom isn't free

by UPI

WASHINGTON - The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said Monday Americans need a sense of balance when thinking about U.S. troop deaths in Iraq.

"When you take a look at the life of a nation and all that's required to keep us free, we had more than 3,000 Americans murdered on 11 September, 2001," Pace said on CBS' "The Early Show." "The number who have died, sacrificed themselves since that time is approaching that number. And we should pay great respect and thanks to them for allowing us to live free."

The general said he thinks when Americans reflect on that, "they'll understand that freedom is not free," and "this is an important fight to take to our enemy."

Pace also told "The Early Show" that each death is "a total loss" for that soldier's family.

Pace added the Iraqi armed forces are more ready to take over the security of Iraq, "but the leadership of the country is going to have to show that they can pull together a unity government and lead their people."

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