

Rock Creek Free Press

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Vol. 2, No. 7 July 2008

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

Kucinich Resolution: Impeach President Bush



Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) delivers his impeachment resolution in the US House of Representatives.

Ohio Congressman Introduces 35 Articles of Impeachment Against the President

WASHINGTON — On June 9, 2008 Ohio congressman and former Democratic presidential contender Dennis Kucinich delivered a formal resolution calling for the impeachment of President George W. Bush in the US House of Representatives. The resolution includes 35 specific charges of impeachable offenses including violations of domestic and international law. "President George W. Bush has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as president and subversive of

constitutional government to the prejudice of the cause of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of the United States. Wherefore, President George W. Bush, by such conduct, is guilty of an impeachable offense warranting removal from office," said, Kucinich in an interview on "Democracy Now".

In 2007 Rep. Kucinich proposed a similar resolution for the impeachment of vice president Dick Cheney, that resolution was

voted to be sent to the Judiciary Committee, where it remains to this day. Judiciary Chairman John Conyers (D-IL), who has written about and spoken about impeachment many times, has not advanced the resolution out of committee. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) are firmly against impeachment and have attempted to block such resolutions. Speaker Pelosi has pledged that impeachment

see Kucinich pg. 2

The Lies that Led US to War

Senate Intelligence Committee Unveils Final Phase II Report on Prewar Iraq Intelligence

WASHINGTON — The Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV, and a bipartisan majority of the Committee (10-5), today unveiled the final two sections of its Phase II report on pre-war intelligence. The first report details Administration prewar statements that, on numerous occasions, misrepresented the intelligence and the threat from Iraq. The second report details inappropriate, sensitive intelligence activities conducted by the DoD's Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, without the knowledge of the Intelligence Community or the State Department.

"Before taking the country to war, this Administration owed it to the American people to give them a 100 percent accurate picture of the threat we faced. Unfortunately, our Committee has concluded that the Administration made significant claims that were not supported by the intelligence," Rockefeller said. "In making the case for war, the Administration repeatedly presented intelligence as fact when in reality it was unsubstantiated, contradicted, or even non-existent. As a result, the American people were led to believe that the threat from Iraq was much greater than actually existed."

"It is my belief that the Bush Administration

was fixated on Iraq, and used the 9/11 attacks by al Qaeda as justification for overthrowing Saddam Hussein. To accomplish this, top Administration officials made repeated statements that falsely linked Iraq and al Qaeda as a single threat and insinuated that Iraq played a role in 9/11. Sadly, the Bush Administration led the nation into war under false pretenses.

"There is no question we all relied on flawed intelligence. But, there is a fundamental difference between relying on incorrect intelligence and deliberately painting

see Senate Intel. pg. 4

"Administration Has Committed War Crimes": Gen. Taguba Taguba Report II

BY MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

WASHINGTON — The Army general who was tasked with reporting on the abuses exposed at Abu Ghraib prison, has accused the Bush administration of committing war crimes on a massive scale.

Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, now retired, was the author of the "Taguba Report" and testified to congress in 2004 about his investigation of the shocking photographs which depicted torture and prisoner abuse at the notorious prison in Iraq. Taguba was prevented, at the

time, from investigating "up the chain" of command. He was limited at that time by his mandate to investigating low ranking officers and enlisted personnel only.

Taguba has now written the preface to an investigative report issued by Physicians for Human Rights in June 2008. The report details the forensic evaluation of eleven former prisoners, four of whom were detained in Afghanistan between late 2001 and early 2003, and later sent to Guantanamo. The other seven were detained in various locations in Iraq,

see Taguba pg. 2

Was JFK Jr. Murdered?

BY LYDIA RILEY / RCFP

John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife Carolyn and Carolyn's sister Lauren Bessette died on July 16, 1999 when the aircraft he was piloting suddenly crashed into the Atlantic Ocean, a few miles from Martha's Vineyard. Some of their personal effects washed onto the shore in front of John's mother's one-time home, where John had spent many childhood summers.

National news reports said the crash was an accident and implied that visibility was poor and John had exercised poor judgment in flying that evening. The National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) report on the crash said John had suffered from spatial disorientation,

which caused him to become confused.

Local news reports that night, witness testimony and evidence from the plane said something entirely different.

A local TV broadcast reported that Coast Guard Petty Officer Todd Bergun said John had contacted the Martha's Vineyard airport tower at 9:39 pm, stating that he was 14 miles away and would land in five minutes. Bergun would have obtained this information from the air traffic controller, his source for other local aviation information. A Pentagon spokesman would later state that John hadn't contacted the tower.

see JFK Jr. pg. 7

NSA Kills Snooping Stories

Corporate Media Won't Report Spy Agency Eavesdropping

BY RCFP STAFF

When Mark Klein, an AT&T technician, attempted to expose the government surveillance of domestic Internet traffic, the story was blocked by the top editors of the *Los Angeles Times*. Klein had discovered "secret NSA rooms" being installed at AT&T switching centers in San Francisco, as well as, locations in at least six other cities including Atlanta, San Diego, Los Angeles, Palo Alto, San Jose and Seattle. Klein took his documents to the *LA Times*, to blow the whistle on what he calls "an illegal and Orwellian project", but the story

was killed by the *LA Times* editor Dean Baquet at the request of then-Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte and then-director of the NSA Gen. Michael Hayden.

Klein then took his documents to the *NY Times*, which did publish Klein's story in April of 2006. Dean Baquet, the editor who had killed the story at the *LA Times* has now been transferred to the *NY Times* and put in charge of the reporters who had been breaking the stories of illegal government surveillance.

The *NY Times* has a history of sitting on stories that might prove embarrassing for "big brother." For example, during the run-up to the 2004 presidential election, the *NY Times* withheld the story of President Bush's secret decision in the months after 9/11 to authorize the warrantless eavesdropping on Americans in the United States, citing national security reasons. The *NY Times* held this story for a year before publishing it in December 2005; after the elections.

Byron Calame, public editor for the *NY Times* questioned the reasons and timing of the warrantless eavesdropping story. The executive editor, Bill Keller, and the publisher, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., of the *NY Times* repeatedly refused to respond to Mr. Calame's requests for information about news-related decision-making despite the paper's repeated pledges of greater transparency.

NSA control of which stories the mainstream media prints is not limited to blocking stories the government does not want published, it also creates stories to manipulate and control the people of the US and the world.

According to Nick Davies in his new book, *Flat Earth News*, there is good reason to believe that some of the stories coming out

see NSA Media pg. 4

Tokyo Lawmaker Takes 9/11 Doubts Global

BY JOHN SPIRU / THE JAPAN TIMES

In a September 2003 article for *The Guardian* newspaper, Michael Meacher, who served as Tony Blair's environment minister from May 1997 to June 2003, shocked the establishment by calling the global war on terrorism "bogus." Even more controversially, he implied that the US government either allowed 9/11 to happen,

or played some role in the destruction wrought that day. Besides Meacher, few politicians have publicly questioned America's official 9/11 narrative — until Diet member Yukihiro Fujita.

In January 2008 Fujita, a member of the Democratic Party of Japan, asked the Japanese Parliament and Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda to explain gaping holes in the official 9/11 story that various groups — including those who call themselves the "9/11 Truth Movement" — claim to have exposed.

Fujita, along with a growing number of individuals — including European and American politicians — are leading a charge to conduct a thorough, independent investigation of what happened on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Three or four years ago I saw some Internet videos like *Loose Change* and *9/11 In Plane Site* and I began to ask questions," Fujita said in an interview, "but I still couldn't believe this was

done by anyone but al Qaeda.

"Last year I watched more videos and read books written by professor David Ray Griffin (a professor emeritus of philosophy of religion and theology at Claremont Graduate University who wrote the most famous Truth Movement book, *The New Pearl Harbor*) about things such as the collapse of World Trade Center No. 7. This building, which was never hit by an airplane, collapsed straight down. Between the videos showing the way it fell, and the numerous reports of explosions, many are convinced that this building was demolished."

Fujita's presentation to the Diet and Fukuda focused a great deal on yet another aspect of 9/11 that now quite a few around the world find extremely suspicious: the Pentagon crash.

"I don't think (a) 767 could have hit the Pentagon," Fujita reckons. "There is no evidence of the plane itself. Almost nothing identifiable was left on the lawn or inside. The official story says the entire plane

see Fujita pg. 2

Excited Delirium or TASED to Death?

TASER International Loses \$6.2 million Lawsuit

BY ELAINE SULLIVAN / RCFP

TASER International lost a \$6.2 million jury verdict over the death of Robert Heston, a California man who died after police shot him multiple times with a conducted-energy device, commonly known as a TASER or stun gun. This is the first time TASER has lost a suit involving their weapon. TASER has settled at least 10 cases involving injuries to police officers during training and won two trials, one over injuries sustained by a police officer during training and one involving a death in custody.

According to a *Bloomberg News* article,

by Margaret Cronin Fisk, Heston's father called the police because his son was "acting strangely," and seemed to be on drugs, according to the lawsuit. The lawsuit claimed that Salinas police shot Heston multiple times with the stun-gun, continuing to discharge their TASERs into him until he stopped moving. At this point, Robert Heston had committed no crime, his father had called the police for help.

Heston's parents sued TASER, alleging failure to warn of the dangers of the weapon, and Salinas police officers, claiming excessive force. According to John Burton, the Heston family attorney, the jury "exonerated the

police because they said the police didn't know repeated exposures could kill someone."

TASER lawyer, Doug Klint, claimed that the use of the TASER on Heston didn't cause his death. Heston, according to Klint, fit "the well established symptom pattern for methamphetamine intoxication and associated excited delirium," a condition linked to sudden death in custody.

Excited delirium, this is a phrase that is cropping up more and more often to explain the sudden death of a person in custody. Eric Balaban of the American Civil Liberties

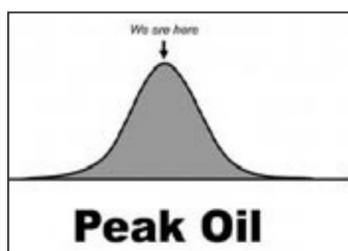
see TASER pg. 2

Peak Oil: Dilemma or Deception?

BY MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

To some people, "Peak Oil" is the greatest crisis humanity will ever face, while others suspect it is just another excuse for corporations and speculators to drive up oil prices. "Peak Oil" is the theory that the world's oil reserves are running out and production levels will reach a peak and then begin to fall.

Peak Oil is a controversial issue on two levels. First is the question of whether the world is in fact running out of oil. This is a scientific or technical question that may be addressed with a technical analysis. A second separate issue is the political question of what public policies should be employed to address the Peak Oil issue. This article is an attempt



to address the first question by assessing the technical merits of the Peak Oil argument. I will leave arguments about appropriate public policies to others.

Is the "Peak Oil" Theory Valid?

The basic arguments of the Peak Oil theory are these:

1. Oil is a finite resource.
2. Oil production rates for a large field, or a country, or the world, follow a characteristic pattern consisting of an increasing production rate as the extraction infrastructure is built out, followed by a decline in production as the individual wells and fields draw down the resource to the point where it is no longer economic to continue pumping. The result is that a graph of the production rate over time looks roughly like a bell-shaped curve.
3. We are near the top of the curve now.

see Peak Oil pg. 4

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TASER International Loses \$6.2 million Lawsuit

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Union, states; "I know of no reputable medical organization — certainly not the AMA (American Medical Association) or the APA (American Psychological Association) — that recognizes excited delirium as a medical or mental-health condition." ("Death by Excited Delirium: Diagnosis or Cover-up?", Laura Sullivan, www.npr.org). Excited delirium is not recognized by professional medical associations, and you won't find it listed in the chief psychiatric reference book. The International Association of Chiefs of Police hasn't accepted the diagnosis, either, saying not enough information is known. But every year, excited delirium is showing up on more and more medical examiners' autopsy reports.

Eric Balaban of the American Civil Liberties Union, points out that nearly all reported cases of excited delirium involve people who are fighting with police. And that's where the problem lies. Balaban charges that police officials are using the diagnosis "as a means of white-washing what may be excessive use of force and inappropriate use of control techniques by officers during an arrest."

At a discussion on the police use of stun guns held at the University of Toronto in response to Toronto police Chief Bill Blair's request that 3,000 officers be armed with electroshock guns, Andy Buxton, the chair of Toronto's Amnesty International chapter, explained that during clinical trials, people who are zapped are in a calm, healthy state.

"That's not how it is in real life," Buxton said.

"Of the 310 people in North America who died after being shocked with a TASER, people were often intoxicated or high on some kind of drug, such as cocaine. The majority had been in an altercation with police, had force used on them and many were tied up in some way."

"Something in that whole witches' brew all together (is unsafe) and we don't know what," Buxton said. "And until all the facts are on the table, (Amnesty International) is asking police in Canada and the United States to put a moratorium on the use of TASERS until we know whether or not they're safe," he said.

Although TASER International has claimed that its weapons are safe, according to Amnesty International as many as 20 people in Canada and 290 in the US have died after being shocked by a TASER. A December 2007 article in *The Canadian Press*, states that statistics show that in some Canadian cities that have recently adopted TASERS, the number of shootings by police has remained fairly consistent while TASERS are being used exponentially more often.

According to the Amnesty International report on TASERS, because of the number of lawsuits brought against TASER by relatives

of those who died after being shocked by TASERS, and the fact that the use of their product was being listed in autopsy reports, TASER International included in a training bulletin in June 2005 a warning that there were potential health risks in the use of its product. The TASER bulletin noted the relation between 'excited delirium', TASER use and death. The bulletin stated:

"Repeated, prolonged, and/or continuous exposure(s) to the TASER electrical discharge may cause strong muscle contractions that may impair breathing and respiration, particularly when the probes are placed across the chest or diaphragm. Users should avoid prolonged, extended, uninterrupted discharges or extensive multiple discharges whenever practicable in order to minimize the potential for over-exertion of the subject or potential impairment of full ability to breathe over a protracted period of time...[people experiencing excited delirium] are at significant and potentially fatal health risks from further prolonged exertion and/or



Future TASER weapon called XREP being tested now can deliver shock dart from 100 ft. away

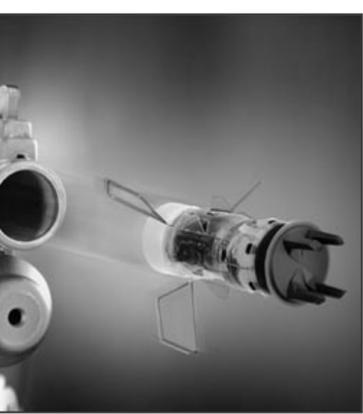
impaired breathing". TASER International also noted in a submission to the US Securities and Exchange Commission that their products "are often used in aggressive confrontations that may result in serious, permanent bodily injury or death to those involved. Our products may cause or be associated with these injuries."

A 2005 report by the Wisconsin Department of Justice on Training law enforcement officers in the use of TASERS sums up the problem of excited delirium thus: "Among the various medical and psychiatric conditions that officers may encounter, perhaps the most worrisome is excited delirium. Excited delirium is a medical condition that is usually brought on by stimulant drug abuse or non-compliance with psychiatric medications. The failure of officers to recognize this life-threatening condition may delay the urgent help that is needed to save the affected person. Excited delirium is a phenomenon that has only recently been recognized as a cause

of death for subjects in police custody. On a conceptual level, it raises questions about the validity of 'restraint asphyxia' and 'positional asphyxia' as causes of in-custody deaths. It is also significant because it is very likely a substantial contributor to deaths of people against whom law enforcement officers have employed the TASER."

TASER use is increasing among police officers and among citizens. A Google news search on stun guns brings up stories from around the country of citizens stunning each other. In the month of May Longmont, CA; Putnam City, OK; Memphis, TN; and Boulder, CO have all had incidents of people TASERing each other, many of the incidents occurred in schools. Police officers who regularly patrol some public schools have also used TASERS on children, some as young as 6 years old.

The police are supposed to serve and protect the citizens of their community; the warnings about the use of TASERS under certain circumstances have been around now



Future TASER weapon called XREP being tested now can deliver shock dart from 100 ft. away

for at least 3 years. Police departments across the nation have a duty to those citizens to learn of the dangers of TASER employment and when a TASER should not be used.

The idea of TASERS was sold to the public as a non-lethal alternative to the use of police firearms; but that is not how TASERS are being used. TASERS are being employed in situations where a firearm would be completely inappropriate and they are frequently being used as an instrument of compliance, even torture.

Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*, points out: "Why talk when you can shock. TASERS are not a replacement for guns. They're a replacement for everything else ... they're a replacement for talking; for negotiating."

Elaine Sullivan is the Health Editor at the Rock Creek Free Press in Washington, DC.

Lawmakers Take 9/11 Doubts Global

Fujita from pg. 1

disintegrated, but the jet engines in particular were very strong (two 6-ton titanium steel turbine engines). And the damage to the building is much smaller than the size of the supposed airplane. The official claims just don't fit the facts."

While some label that claim "wacky" and label critics of the official 9/11 story "conspiracy theorists," Fujita has impressive company. For one, former Maj. Gen. Albert Stubblebine, who was commanding general of US Army Intelligence and Security until 1984, is quoted on the "Patriots Question 911" web site as saying, "I look at the hole in the Pentagon and I look at the size of an airplane that was supposed to have hit the Pentagon. And I said, 'The plane does not fit in that hole.'"

"So what did hit the Pentagon? What hit it? Where is it? What's going on?"

Fujita urges the Bush administration to put the issue to rest simply by showing videos that show the plane that hit the Pentagon. Instead, only a few grainy images have been released to the public. More disconcertingly, many videos taken by surrounding businesses were confiscated by the FBI immediately after the Pentagon explosion.

The Pennsylvania crash, like the Pentagon explosion, also yielded virtually no recognizable plane parts at the crash site. Rather, small pieces of debris were found up to 10 km away. The official story — that the plane "vaporized" when it hit the ground — is inconsistent with the evidence left by every other plane crash in the history of aviation.

Plane crashes always yield plane fragments, Fujita explained, which can be identified by the plane's serial number, but that's not the case for the four planes which crashed on 9/11. Strangely, the US government managed to produce passports and DNA samples of individuals killed, but no identifiable plane parts. In an online article entitled "Physics 911," 34-year US Air Force veteran Col. George Nelson notes, "It seems . . . that all potential evidence was deliberately kept hidden from public view."

Fujita has largely relied on the voluminous amount of video and written material published in books and on the Internet, including the "Patriots Question 911" site, on which hundreds of allegations are leveled

against the official story by senior officials from the military, intelligence services, law enforcement, and government, as well as pilots, engineers, architects, firefighters and others.

While not many other Japanese have taken an interest in this story, a few notable individuals besides Fujita have disputed the US government's version, including Akira Dojamaru, a Japanese writer living in Spain. In his book, written in Japanese, *The Anatomy of the WTC Collapses: Flaws in the U.S. Government's Account*, he uses photos, drawings and blueprints of the WTC buildings to back up his claim that buildings one and two could not have fallen in the manner they fell due to the plane crashes and subsequent fires. "And even if it was conceivable that they could fall due to the damage that day," Dojamaru wrote in an e-mail, "they never would have collapsed horizontally, and would have scattered steel beams and smashed concrete much farther than 100 meters."

For Fujita, it was Dojamaru's meticulous research, combined with the aforementioned web sites, that convinced him the official story was nothing more than a house of cards.

One book that Fujita found unconvincing was the *9/11 Commission Report*.

"The head of the 9/11 Commission is close with (US Secretary of State) Condoleezza Rice and (Vice President Dick) Cheney. One commission member (Sen. Max Cleland) resigned, saying the White House did not disclose enough information."

On "Democracy Now's" radio show in March 2004, Cleland even went as far as to say, "This White House wants to cover it (the facts of 9/11) up."

More recently, a *New York Times* article in January quoted Thomas Kean, the chairman of the 9/11 Commission, as saying that "the CIA destroyed videotaped interrogations of al Qaeda operatives," and concluded that "obstructed our investigation."

Following the lead of Fujita, Karen Johnson, a conservative Republican senator from Arizona, has publicly voiced her doubts about 9/11 before the Arizona Senate. Inspired by Blair Gadsby — who on May 27 started a hunger strike to bring attention to the 911 Truth Movement — Johnson, like Fujita, is encouraging politicians to conduct a thorough, independent investigation.

Fujita, who worked for more than 20 years for the international conflict resolution NGO group MRA and the Japanese Association for Aid and Relief (AAR), has become something of a global cause célèbre since his extraordinary questioning at the Diet. In February 2008, he participated in a conference at the European Parliament led by EMP Guilietto Chiesa calling for an independent commission of inquiry into 9/11. While in Europe, he met with NGOs from 11 European countries to discuss 9/11.

One month later Fujita spoke at the "Truth Now" conference in Sydney, Australia. One focus of these meetings was the Italian documentary "ZERO," whose release will mark the first time the 9/11 movement's message has moved from the "cyberworld" to public venues. Fujita has also spoken about his 9/11 doubts on two US radio shows, one hosted by Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul, and another by Alex Jones of infowars.com.

He is also making ripples in Japan. Fujita was featured in a March 2 article by well-known critic Takao Iwami on "How to deal with doubts about 9/11" in the *Sunday Mainichi* weekly. He was also featured in a March 26 *Spa!* magazine piece headlined, "European conference discusses 9/11 doubts."

However, not everyone is enthralled with Fujita's bold line of questioning.

"One person showed strong anger towards me," Fujita noted, "and another (Japanese person) threatened my life. A few others advised me to be extremely careful."

Still, Fujita says, the vast majority — around 95 percent — have been positive.

"One man said, 'You're a true samurai.' Another man came all the way from Okayama in western Japan to thank me personally. And among other Parliament members, I received only words of encouragement and support."

While in Europe, Fujita met British former MP Meacher, who dared to question the official story when it was still considered gospel. Time, the Iraq war and well-sourced online videos are emboldening many people, including politicians, to step out of the cyberworld and voice their doubts in newspapers, magazines, theaters, and — most importantly — government chambers.

"Now Blair is gone, and Bush will soon be gone," Meacher told Fujita. "Our time is coming."

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Kucinich Impeachment Resolution

Kucinich from pg. 1

is "off the table" while Hoyer insists that impeachment would be a "distraction." Despite such opposition from his own party Representative Kucinich will press on. He has vowed to return to the House floor with new articles of impeachment in 30 days if there is no action on this latest resolution.

The following is a summary of the Kucinich impeachment resolution:

ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT FOR PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

Resolved, that President George W. Bush be impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors, and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the United States Senate: Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in the name of itself and of the people of the United States of America, in maintenance and support of its impeachment against President George W. Bush for high crimes and misdemeanors. In his conduct while President of the United States, George W. Bush, in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has committed the following abuses of power.

Article I Creating a Secret Propaganda Campaign to Manufacture a False Case for War Against Iraq

Article II Falsely, Systematically, and with Criminal Intent Conflating the Attacks of September 11, 2001, With Misrepresentation of Iraq as a Security Threat as Part of Fraudulent Justification for a War of Aggression

Article III Misleading the American People and Members of Congress to Believe Iraq Possessed Weapons of Mass Destruction, to Manufacture a False Case for War

Article IV Misleading the American People and Members of Congress to Believe Iraq Posed an Imminent Threat to the United States

Article V Illegally Misspending Funds to Secretly Begin a War of Aggression

Article VI Invading Iraq in Violation of the Requirements of HJRes114

Article VII Invading Iraq Absent a Declaration of War

Article VIII Invading Iraq, A Sovereign Nation, in Violation of the UN Charter.

Article IX Failing to Provide Troops With Body Armor and Vehicle Armor

Article X Falsifying Accounts of US Troop Deaths and Injuries for Political Purposes

Article XI Establishment of Permanent U.S. Military Bases in Iraq

Article XII Initiating a War Against Iraq for Control of That Nation's Natural Resources

Article XIII Creating a Secret Task Force to Develop Energy and Military Policies With Respect to Iraq and Other Countries

Article XIV Misprision of a Felony, Misuse and Exposure of Classified Information

And Obstruction of Justice in the Matter of Valerie Plame Wilson, Clandestine Agent of the Central Intelligence Agency

Article XV Providing Immunity from Prosecution for Criminal Contractors in Iraq

Article XVI Reckless Misspending and Waste of U.S. Tax Dollars in Connection With Iraq and US Contractors

Article XVII Illegal Detention: Detaining Indefinitely And Without Charge Persons Both U.S. Citizens and Foreign Captives

Article XVIII Torture: Secretly Authorizing, and Encouraging the Use of Torture Against Captives in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Other Places, as a Matter of Official Policy

Article XIX Rendition: Kidnapping People and Taking Them Against Their Will to "Black Sites" Located in Other Nations, Including Nations Known to Practice Torture

Article XX Imprisoning Children

Article XXI Misleading Congress and the American People About Threats from Iran, and Supporting Terrorist Organizations Within Iran, With the Goal of Overthrowing the Iranian Government

Article XXII Creating Secret Laws

Article XXIII Violation of the Posse Comitatus Act

Article XXIV Spying on American Citizens, Without a Court-Ordered Warrant, in Violation of the Law and the Fourth Amendment

Article XXV Directing Telecommunications Companies to Create an Illegal and Unconstitutional Database of the Private Telephone Numbers and Emails of American Citizens

Article XXVI Announcing the Intent to Violate Laws with Signing Statements

Article XXVII Failing to Comply with Congressional Subpoenas and Instructing Former Employees Not to Comply

Article XXVIII Tampering with Free and Fair Elections, Corruption of the Administration of Justice

Article XXIX Conspiracy to Violate the Voting Rights Act of 1965

Article XXX Misleading Congress and the American People in an Attempt to Destroy Medicare

Article XXXI Katrina: Failure to Plan for the Predicted Disaster of Hurricane Katrina, Failure to Respond to a Civil Emergency

Article XXXII Misleading Congress and the American People, Systematically Undermining Efforts to Address Global Climate Change

Article XXXIII Repeatedly Ignored and Failed to Respond to High Level Intelligence Warnings of Planned Terrorist Attacks in the US, Prior to 9/11

Article XXXIV Obstruction of the Investigation into the Attacks of September 11, 2001

Article XXXV Endangering the Health of 911 First Responders

Taguba Report II

Taguba from pg. 1

including Abu Ghraib, in 2003. All of the men were swept up by the Bush administration's Global War on Terror.

The Physicians report, *Broken Laws, Broken Lives*, documents the evidence, both medical and psychological, of the traumas suffered by the prisoners and corroborates their accounts of years of torture and abuse. All of the men were eventually released without charge.

Here is General Taguba's preface to the Physician's report:

BROKEN LAWS, BROKEN LIVES: Medical Evidence of Torture by US Personnel and Its Impact A Report by Physicians for Human Rights Preface

This report tells the largely untold human story of what happened to detainees in our custody when the Commander-in-Chief and those under him authorized a systematic regime of torture. This story is not only written in words: It is scrawled for the rest of these individual's lives on their bodies and minds. Our national honor is stained by the indignity and inhumane treatment these men received from their captors.

The profiles of these eleven former detainees, none of whom were ever charged with a crime or told why they were detained, are tragic and brutal rebuttals to those who claim that torture is ever justified. Through the experiences of these men in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantánamo Bay, we can see the full-scope of the damage this illegal and unsound policy has inflicted — both on America's institutions and our nation's founding values,

which the military, intelligence services, and our justice system are duty-bound to defend.

In order for these individuals to suffer the wanton cruelty to which they were subjected, a government policy was promulgated to the field whereby the Geneva Conventions and the Uniform Code of Military Justice were disregarded. The UN Convention Against Torture was indiscriminately ignored. And the healing professions, including physicians and psychologists, became complicit in the willful infliction of harm against those the Hippocratic Oath demands they protect.

After years of disclosures by government investigations, media accounts, and reports from human rights organizations, there is no longer any doubt as to whether the current administration has committed war crimes. The only question that remains to be answered is whether those who ordered the use of torture will be held to account.

The former detainees in this report, each of whom is fighting a lonely and difficult battle to rebuild his life, require reparations for what they endured, comprehensive psycho-social and medical assistance, and even an official apology from our government.

But most of all, these men deserve justice as required under the tenets of international law and the United States Constitution.

And so do the American people.

Major General Antonio Taguba, USA (Ret.)

Maj. General Taguba led the US Army's official investigation into the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal and testified before Congress on his findings in May, 2004.

Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Obama and the Fall Into Tyranny

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

As articles by John Pilger, Alexander Cockburn, and Uri Avnery make clear, by groveling before the Israel Lobby Obama has dispelled any hope that his presidency would make a difference.

Obama told the Lobby that in order to protect Israel he would use all the powers of the presidency to prevent Iran from having a nuclear weapon. As in the case of Saddam Hussein's "weapons of mass destruction," the conclusion whether or not Iran is making a nuclear weapon will be determined by propaganda and not by fact. Therefore, there is no difference between Bush, McCain, Obama, and the Lobby with regard to the Middle East.

As Israel has several hundred nuclear weapons, and a modern air force and missiles supplied by the US, the idea that Israel needs American protection from Iran is a fantasy. All Israel needs to do in order to be safe and to live in peace is to stop stealing the West Bank and to drop its designs on southern Lebanon. Obama is too smart not to know that US foreign policy has been Shanghai'd by the Lobby not in order to protect innocent Israel but to enable Israel's territorial expansion.

Obama has dispelled hope on the economic front as well. Obama has appointed two leading apologists for jobs offshoring as his economic advisors—Bill Clinton's Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Rubin associate Jason Furman. These two are notorious for their justifications of policies that benefit Wall Street, CEOs, and large retailers at the expense of the economic well being and careers of millions of Americans.

As a result of offshoring, good jobs in America are disappearing. The Bureau of Labor Statistics job figures make it totally clear that the US economy has ceased creating net new middle class jobs in the private economy in the 21st century.

Stressing higher returns to shareholders, Wall Street pressures corporations to move their operations abroad. Wal-Mart tells its American suppliers to "meet the Chinese price" or else, a price that US firms can meet only by offshoring their operations to China.

Every job and product that is offshored increases the US trade deficit and lowers US GDP. It is a losing game for America that rewards the overpaid elite of Wall Street and corporate America, while dismantling the ladders of upward mobility.

By enlarging the trade deficit, offshoring erodes the reserve currency role of the dollar, the real basis of US power. Now that US imports exceed US industrial production, it is unlikely that the US trade deficit can be closed except by a sharp reduction in US consumption, which implies a drop in US living standards. If the dollar loses its reserve currency status, the US government will not be able to finance its budget and trade deficits.

Where is the hope when Obama endorses a foreign policy that benefits only Israeli territorial expansion and an economic policy that benefits only multimillionaires and billionaires?

The answer is that Obama's election would signify the electorate's rejection of Bush and the Republicans. Considering the cowardice of the Democratic Congress and its reluctance to hold a criminal regime accountable, electoral defeat is the only accountability that the Bush Republicans are likely to experience.

It is not sufficient accountability, but at least it is some accountability.

If the Republicans win the election and escape

accountability, the damage Republicans have done to the US Constitution, civil liberty, and a free society will be irreversible. The Bush Regime and its totalitarians have openly violated US law against spying on Americans without warrants and US and international laws against torture. The regime and its totalitarians have violated the Constitution that they are sworn to uphold. Bush's attorney general Gonzales even asserted to the Senate Judiciary Committee that the US Constitution does not provide habeas corpus protection to American citizens.

When federal courts acted to stop the regime's unconstitutional practices and abuse of prisoners, the Republicans passed legislation to overturn the court rulings. The Republican Party has shown beyond all doubt that it holds the US Constitution in total contempt.

Today the Republican Party stands for unaccountable executive power.

To re-elect such a party is to murder liberty in America.

The June 12 Supreme Court decision pulled America back from the abyss of tyranny. For years hundreds of innocent people have been held by the Bush regime without charges, a handful of which were set to be tried in a kangaroo military tribunal in which they could be convicted on the basis of secret evidence and confession extracted by torture.

The Court ruled 5-4 that detainees have the right to appeal to civilian courts for habeas corpus protection. The Bush Republicans claiming "extraordinary times" had created a gestapo system in which the government could accuse, without presenting any evidence, a person of being a threat and on that basis alone imprison him indefinitely. Justice Anthony Kennedy reminded the Republican Brownshirts that "The laws and Constitution are designed to survive, and remain in force, in extraordinary times."

Bush's current attorney general, Michael Mukashey, said he would proceed with his kangaroo trials.

President Bush indicated that he was inclined to again seek to overturn the Court with a law.

Brownshirt Republican Senator Lindsey Graham said he would draft a constitutional amendment to restore the executive branch's tyrannical power.

Republican presidential nominee John McCain said that the Supreme Court decision protecting habeas corpus "is one of the worst decisions in the history of this country."

The four Supreme Court justices (Alito, Roberts, Scalia, and Thomas) who voted for tyranny in America are all Republicans. They all came out of the Federalist Society, a highly subversive group of right-wing lawyers who are determined to elevate the powers of the executive branch above Congress and the Supreme Court.

The Republican Party has morphed into a Brownshirt Party. The party worships "energy in the executive." If the Brownshirt Republicans are re-elected, they only need one more Supreme Court appointment in order to destroy American liberty.

That is what is at stake in the November election. As bad as Obama is on important issues, his election will signal rejection of the tyranny to which the Republicans are committed.

Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan administration. He was Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal editorial page and Contributing Editor of National Review. He is coauthor of The Tyranny of Good Intentions. He can be reached at: PaulCraigRoberts@yahoo.com



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The Deadliest Terrorists The Real Trade Of The CIA And Mossad

By PAUL J. BALLE

The USA and Israel both have bad habits of labelling anyone they don't like as terrorists, when the governments of both countries are the greatest terrorists on the planet. If the bombing, invasion and occupation of Iraq weren't terrorism at its worst, it's only because the deaths of 4098 Americans is a more important statistic than the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians. Add to that the displacement of a million and a half terrified civilians who have fled Iraq and the viciousness of our terror squads becomes obvious.

The designation of resistance groups in occupied Iraq as terrorists and then calling a murder campaign a surge for the good of Iraq is nothing more than continuing acts of terrorism.

If frightening people into submission is part of the definition of terrorism, the

entire Arab and Islamic world has been terrorized.

The American and Israeli threat to bomb Iran for developing nuclear power is an act of terrorism.

In Afghanistan, the US paid Pakistani bounty hunters to capture and deliver innocent men to be sent to Guantanamo to be tortured and held prisoner in the worst conditions for five years. Try telling anyone with half a brain that the threat of capture and delivery into a concentration camp like Guantanamo isn't terrifying and they will know that your head is in the sand.

America has a long history of terrorist activities against countries its government doesn't like. The bombing in Libya that killed Gaddafi's daughter was nothing but a terrorist act to force Libya into submission. The support of Israel's carnage in Lebanon, Gaza, Syria

and the West Bank is outright support of terrorism, the same kind of activity that American courts have accused Arabs, like Palestinian Sami Al-Arian, of committing.

The same heinous carnage, committed by Israel, has been nothing other than the kind of terrorism Israel has been guilty of since its inception and the activities of the Stern Gang, led by terrorist Menachem Begin. They terrorized a million and a half Palestinians into leaving their homes. As icing on their pathological cake, Israel continues to build illegal settlements, arm the settlers with sophisticated weaponry and allow them to terrorize the remaining Palestinians nearby.

Only the latest of these horrific misdeeds of Israeli terror involved the brutal beating by settlers of an elderly 70-year-old shepherd, his wife and a

see CIA/Mossad pg. 4

Some Call It 'Counterinsurgency' It sounds better than 'brutal military occupation'

By DON BACON

It is widely reported that the US military efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, continuing on for over five years, have been "counterinsurgencies" (COIN) led in Iraq by the expert on COIN General David Petraeus. Petraeus has been highly praised for his COIN abilities and soon will be able to expand his influence to Afghanistan, the almost-seven-year quagmire.

From the *Washington Independent*: "David Petraeus will go down in history as a great counterinsurgency theorist and practitioner," said retiring Army Lt. Col. John Nagl, one of the counterinsurgency experts who helped write FM (Field Manual) 3-24 on COIN. "From his Princeton doctoral dissertation on counterinsurgency in Vietnam through three tours in Iraq – during the last of which he wrote the introduction for the first-ever translation in French of David Galula's classic *Counterinsurgency Warfare: Theory and Practice* after leading the writing team

that produced the Army-Marine Corps counterinsurgency field manual – Gen. Petraeus has led the Army to rediscover 'the graduate level of war.'"

General Petraeus is an accident of history, a guy who wrote a key op-ed with inaccurate rosy military predictions just prior to the last presidential election and has been rewarded for it. Along the way Petraeus helped oversee the drafting of a new Army Field Manual (FM 3-24) purported to cover counterinsurgency, which supposedly is being followed in Iraq. I will show that both of these premises are false.

The term counterinsurgency gained currency under President John Kennedy in the 1960s, and referred initially to countering "communist inspired, supported, or directed insurgency, defined as subversive insurgency" by Soviet-aligned guerillas against western colonial nations. (When the US aided indigent forces in the overthrow of unfriendly governments it was called paramilitary operations.) As in the above

quote the US involvement in Vietnam was called a counterinsurgency.

Then came the definition of insurgency: From the DoD Dictionary of Military Terms: insurgency – (DoD, NATO) – An organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government through use of subversion and armed conflict.

So an insurgent by definition is trying to overthrow a government, usually his own. Therefore if a population is resisting a foreign military occupation (or fighting other sects) they are not insurgents and it is not an insurgency. Is this just semantics? No. The point is that it is a natural human reaction to resist by force an alien foreign military occupation, whereas people are inclined to be more tolerant of their own government, before they take up arms, no matter how badly they act. Understanding this simple fact explains why the US has not been and will not be successful in its military occupations of

see Counterinsurgency pg. 7

Bush Claims More Powers Than King George III

By SHERWOOD ROSS

The Bush administration has arrogated powers to itself that the British people even refused to grant King George III at the time of the Revolutionary War, an eminent political scientist says.

"No executive in the history of the Anglo-American world since the Civil War in England in the 17th century has laid claim to such broad power," said David Adler, a prolific author of articles on the US Constitution. "George Bush has exceeded the claims of Oliver Cromwell who anointed himself Lord Protector of England."

Adler, a professor of political science at Idaho State University at Pocatello, is the author of *The Constitution and the Termination of Treaties* (Taylor & Francis), among other books, and some 100 scholarly articles in his field. Adler made his comments comparing the powers of President Bush and King George III at a conference on "Presidential Power in America" at the Massachusetts School of Law, Andover, April 26th.

Adler said, Bush has "claimed the authority to suspend the Geneva Convention, to terminate treaties, to seize American citizens from the streets to detain them indefinitely without benefit of legal counseling, without benefit of judicial review. He has ordered a domestic surveillance program which violates the statutory law of the United States as well as the Fourth Amendment."

Adler said the authors of the US Constitution wrote that the president "shall take care to faithfully execute the laws of the land" because "the king of England possessed a suspending power" to set aside laws with which he disagreed, "the very same kind of power that the Bush Administration has claimed."

Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez, Adler said, repeatedly referred to the President's "override" authority, "which effectively meant that the Bush Administration was claiming on behalf of President Bush a power that the English people themselves

had rejected by the time of the framing of the Constitution."

Adler said the Framers sought an "Administrator in Chief" that would execute the will of Congress and the Framers understood that the President, as Commander-in-Chief "was subordinate to Congress." The very C-in-C concept, the historian said, derived from the British, who conferred it on one of their battlefield commanders in a war on Scotland in 1639 and it "did not carry with it the power over war and peace" or "authority to conduct foreign policy or to formulate foreign policy."

That the C-in-C was subordinate to the will of Congress was demonstrated in the Revolutionary War when George Washington, granted that title by Congress, "was ordered punctually to respond to instructions and directions by Congress and the dutiful Washington did that," Adler said.

Adler said that John Yoo, formerly of the Office of Legal Counsel, wrote in 2003 that the President as C-in-C could authorize the CIA or other intelligence agencies to resort to torture to extract information from suspects based on his authority. However, Adler said, the U.S. Supreme Court in 1804 in Little vs. Barreme affirmed the President is duty-bound to obey statutory instructions and reaffirmed opinion two years later in *United States vs. Smith*.

"In these last eight years," Adler said, "we have seen presidential powers soar beyond the confines of the Constitution. We have understood that his presidency bears no resemblance to the Office created by the Framers... This is the time for us to demand a return to the constitutional presidency. If we don't, we will have only ourselves to blame as we go marching into the next war as we witness even greater claims of presidential power."

(Further Information or to order a set of conference proceedings: Jeff Demers, Massachusetts School of Law, demers@msslaw.edu., Sherwood Ross, sherwoodr1@yahoo.com.)

Conference on Media Reform Goes Halfway with Truth

By SHEILA CASEY / RCFP

The National Conference on Media Reform, held June 6-8 in Minneapolis, made a good first impression. It was held in the vast and beautiful Minneapolis convention center. The press materials and handouts were professionally designed and accurate. Well known media personalities such as Amy Goodman, Bill Moyers and Naomi Klein were in attendance as speakers. But the conference pulled its punches and refused to consider the most serious problem confronting our media, i.e., control by the CIA.

The event got off to a rousing start in the main auditorium with speeches from Josh Silver, co-founder and head of Free Press, the organization putting on the conference; Larry Lessig, law professor at Stanford, and Keith Ellison, the only Muslim in the House of Representatives. There were multiple standing ovations.

Josh Silver's best quote was, "we are living in the Matrix and big media is writing the script."

Lessig delivered a well-rehearsed speech with accompanying slide show that focused on the flaw in our Constitution that allows money to corrupt

government. Lessig's best quote: "So long as there is private funding of public elections, corruption will continue."

Ellison showed the clip of himself with CNN talk show host Glen Beck, where Beck says "I'm tempted to ask you... to prove to me that you're not a terrorist." His best quote, in reference to having people who hate government running the government, was "Vegetarians do not make good steak house chefs."

Over the next three days, there were dozens of smaller sessions on topics ranging from the corporate media to the WGA to black radio.

Yet despite all the populist energy and wide-eyed optimism, it gnawed at me that 9/11 was not mentioned. The only official group questioning 9/11 was Project Censored, the Sonoma State University project that puts out a publication each year on the top 25 most important censored stories. I heard that panels on 9/11 had been proposed, but turned down because they had done one at the last NCMR in Memphis, and taken flack for it from the corporate media.

So the 2007 conference on media reform upset the corporate media. "Big mistake," the conference organizers

decided. "Let's make sure we don't do anything to upset them next time!"

I stood in line to ask a question at a panel called "Corporate Confidential," with Catherine Crier of "Cajole Entertainment," Jeff Cohen, founder of FAIR, and Cliff Schecter, author of *The Real McCain*.

I tilted the microphone toward my mouth so my voice was loud and clear.

"I write for a variety of left-leaning publications—*Buzz Flash*, *Common Dreams*, *The Progressive Populist*, *Dissident Voice*. But I find that when I write about 9/11, I have a very hard time getting published. These progressive outlets are certainly no friend of the current administration. On this particular issue, they are unwilling to question the story the administration has fed to us. I've conducted a comprehensive investigation into all aspects of the official 9/11 story, and have determined that it's a lie. Why is the progressive media so unwilling to look at this?"

There was scattered applause and cheers from the audience.

The Free Press moderator said "next question." I sat down and they took see Media Reform pg. 5

Peak Oil Primer

Peak Oil from pg. 1

The observation that oil production rates follow a bell-shaped curve (roughly) is completely unremarkable. The same observation, increasing extraction rates, followed by decline, is observed for the production of any significant non-renewable resource. Even natural processes, such as the growth of living organisms in an environment of a fixed amount of food, follows a similar pattern of growth followed by decline.

We have already witnessed this process play out countless times as individual oil fields and even whole countries have developed their oil resource, and watched as production rates peaked and then began the inevitable slide down to depletion. The US, for example, grew in oil production until 1971 and then began the inexorable decline until today the US produces only about 40% of the peak level of the early 70s.

If oil is a finite resource then we should expect world oil production to follow, to some approximation, the bell-shaped curve we have observed for individual fields and whole countries. We may thus reduce the peak oil argument to just two elements:

1. Oil is a finite resource. (Therefore production will follow a bell curve.)
2. We are near the top of the production curve.

Is Oil Finite?

This may seem like a silly question. The earth is finite, therefore any subset of the earth other than those that are able to reproduce themselves, must be finite. So the question of the finiteness of the oil resource boils down to the question of whether oil is being created anew as fast or faster than we are consuming it. If it is not, then it is for our purposes, finite.

There are two main schools of thought as to the origins of oil. In the US the dominant view is the "fossil" origin story. According to this theory the oil in the ground is the remnant of long dead organic material. One version of the story posits that long ago vast shallow oceans grew prodigious amounts of algae. The dead algae were preserved in an oxygen-starved environment at the bottom of these pools and became trapped in sedimentary layers of rock. Over geologic time, this organic plant material was converted into oil.

If you accept the "fossil" origins of oil, then present day petroleum represents millions of years and millions of square miles of solar energy collected and distilled. A precious legacy to be sure, but clearly not a "renewable" resource for our purposes.

Outside of the US the predominant theory of the origin of petroleum is quite different. It is viewed as simply one of the primordial constituents of the earth, just like the iron, silicon and copper in the earth, the hydrocarbons were part of the earth when it was formed. Like other elements in the earth, hydrocarbons became concentrated into certain geologic formations. One advantage of this abiotic theory of oil formation is that it is at least possible that the earth was endowed with a quite large, but still finite, store of primordial oil.

Neither theory of the origins of petroleum allow for the production of new oil at anywhere near the rate we are using it up, if at all. The oil in the earth, at least on a human time scale, is a fixed finite resource.

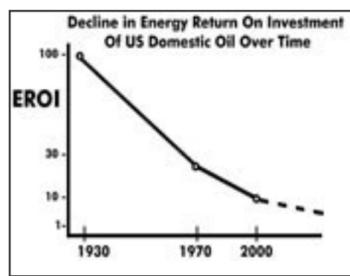
Since oil is a finite resource, production

rates, at some point, must reach a peak, followed by an inevitable decline. So now we come to the big question:

Are we near the peak of world production?

Or, to put the question another way, are we approaching the point in time where we have already extracted about half of earth's ultimately recoverable oil resource. Experience shows, and theory backs this up, that once you have extracted about half of the oil, it becomes increasingly difficult to find and exploit what remains. Each additional barrel takes increasing amounts of effort and energy to recover. When you get to the point that it takes a barrel worth of effort to extract the next barrel of oil, the game is up. (In fact, for obvious reasons, the game is up long before you get to the point that all the energy produced is used to produce more energy.)

This brings us to a concept called Energy Return On Investment or EROI. It is a profoundly simple and fundamental concept. EROI tells us how many barrels' worth of energy can be produced for each barrel worth of energy invested. That figure must include all of the energy and effort needed to explore, drill, and pump the product, including the energy used to produce the steel and other materials used to build the oil rigs and storage facilities, etc.



(Source: US EIA, Cutler Cleveland and C. Hall, State Univ. of New York)

In the beginning of the oil age, over a hundred years ago, very primitive wells could produce gushers of oil. EROI on these early wells in Pennsylvania and Texas were on the order of 100, i.e. one barrel of effort invested produced 100 barrels of oil. By the 1970s in the US the EROI for domestic oil was down to about 28 and that has fallen further to about 12 today, which is about the same as imported oil. Canadian tar sands, and domestic shale oil, should we ever resort to it, have EROIs below two. By comparison, wind turbines have an EROI of about 20 and Solar Photovoltaic is around 5 while many biofuels hover just over (or maybe below) one.

So clearly the EROI trend for petroleum is showing us that oil will be harder to find and more expensive to extract, but it does not answer the question of how close we are to the peak of production.

One metric that may help us gauge when we will reach peak production is to look at the rate of new oil discovery.

In order to continue production at a constant level the world would need to be discovering new oil supplies as fast or faster than we deplete the old supplies. If we discover new oil at a rate faster than we are pumping now, we can increase production in future, but if we

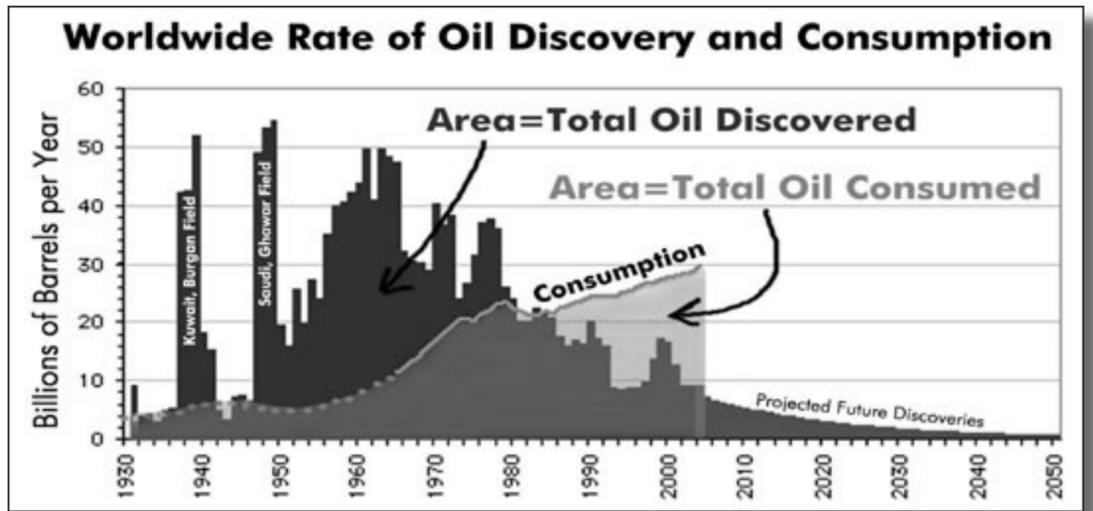


Chart from ASPO

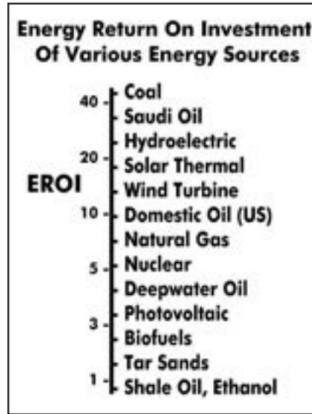
discover new oil at a rate lower than we are currently pumping, that means we will have to decrease production at some point in the future.

So how fast are we finding new oil?

As the chart above shows, the peak year for new oil discoveries was around 1960. At that point new oil was being discovered at about five times the rate of consumption. The rate of new oil discovery remained greater than the rate of consumption until about 1980. Since that time, the rate of consumption has been greater than the rate of discovery, and the gap is widening. Today the world is consuming existing oil reserves at a rate about three times as fast as we are finding new ones.

In the graph, the area under the discovery curve represents the total amount of oil discovered to date, while the area under the consumption line represents the total amount of oil consumed. In the end, the amount of oil consumed cannot exceed the amount of oil discovered, so the area under the consumption curve cannot be greater than the area under the discovery curve.

Past experience and theory tell us that peak production will be reached when about half of all the oil discovered, including projected future discoveries, has been consumed. From this chart it is clear that we are near that point. It is also clear that even massive new discoveries such as the Kuwaiti and Saudi finds



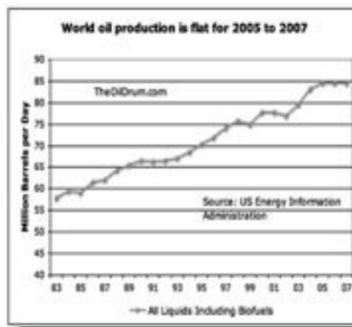
(Source: US EIA, Cutler Cleveland and C. Hall, State Univ. of New York)

of last century (which is exceedingly unlikely and no one expects), would not fundamentally alter the situation. It would simply delay the inevitable decline by a relatively few years.

The fact that we are consuming oil far faster

than we are discovering new supplies means, with mathematical certainty, that current consumption levels cannot be maintained and production will have to begin declining relatively soon, if it hasn't already.

Another way to assess our proximity to the peak of production—the most direct way—is to look at world oil production levels directly. Unfortunately it is difficult to judge when you have reached the top of a curve using such data. We will only be able to say for certain when the peak was reached when we can see it in the rear view mirror, several years after the fact.



What the production data do show is that since 2005 world oil production is essentially flat. Within the margin of error, there has been essentially no change in the production rate from 2005 to 2007. Whether this plateau represents a peak is hard to say, but in a world of rising demand, flat production is not good for oil prices; not good if you're a consumer; that is.

The situation is actually much worse than the flat production graph would suggest. We have seen that the trend for EROI is down. That is to say, each year it is taking more and more energy input to produce the same level of oil output, which means more oil is used by the oil production system itself, leaving less for other uses.

Even more significant for oil importing countries such as the US, as oil producing countries experience economic development at home, they are using a greater share of their oil production for internal consumption which means less oil is available for export. As a result, even in a situation of flat world-wide production, we are seeing dramatic reductions in the amount of oil available for export and a corresponding increase in the market price of oil.

The Real Trade Of The CIA And Mossad

CIA/Mossad from pg. 3

nephew, who were attacked by four masked men for allowing their animals to graze near the illegal Israeli settlement of Susia.

Intelligence agencies, like the CIA in America and Mossad in Israel, should have been prize winners as terrorists. In dozens of situations around the world, they have indulged their love of instilling fear in innocent people, especially if those people have little support or know too much. One would hope that the filming of acts of terrorism would help end them by punishing the real terrorists, no matter where they come from.

The cameras in Lebanon, however, did little to save the Lebanese from near-total destruction of their infrastructure and thousands of deaths

of innocents. Why did the Israelis go to such extremes, thinking they would destroy Hezbollah? So the Israelis might terrorize the entire Lebanese community in retaliation for the capture of two Israeli soldiers.

Let's get this straight: resistance to occupation or bullying is not terrorism. It's resistance. Resistance doesn't become terrorism because the real terrorists continue their brutal attacks and propaganda campaigns against the resistance. Resistance is resistance. Thank God that some people have the courage to resist.

Paul J. Balles is a retired American University professor and freelance writer who has lived in the Middle East for many years. For more information, see http://www.pballes.com.

NSA Kills Snooping Stories

NSA Media. from pg. 1

in the media are products of a new machinery of propaganda which has been created by the United States and its allies. Davies observes, "There is a concerted effort by the US to manipulate global perception and the mass media are operating as its compliant assistants, failing both to resist it and to expose it."

One example is a February 9, 2004; *The New York Times* article that reported that US officials had obtained a 17-page letter, believed to have been written by Abu Musab al Zarqawi to the "inner circle" of al Qaeda's leadership, urging them to accept that the best way to beat US forces in Iraq was to start a civil war. This exclusive story by *NY Times* Baghdad correspondent Dexter Filkins went out to news agency wires, and within 24 hours it was running around the world.

In a February 11, 2008 article in *The Independent*, "How the Spooks Took over the News," the author cites Davies' claim that "...the

ease with which this propaganda machinery has been able to do its work reflects a creeping structural weakness which now afflicts the production of our news. The "Zarqawi letter," which made it on to the front page of *The New York Times*, was one of several highly suspect documents which were said to have been written either by or to Zarqawi and which were fed into news media. According to Davies, "...this material is being generated in part by intelligence agencies who continue to work without effective oversight; and also by a new ... structure of 'strategic communications' which was originally designed ... in the Pentagon and NATO... and are poorly regulated and badly supervised with the result that some of its practitioners are breaking loose and engaging in the black arts of propaganda."

Propaganda and disinformation is the stock and trade of the intelligence services and there is no more important target of that infowarfare than the American public.

The Lies that Led to War

Senate Intel. from pg. 1

a picture to the American people that you know is not fully accurate.

"These reports represent the final chapter in our oversight of prewar intelligence. They complete the story of mistakes and failures – both by the intelligence community and the Administration – in the lead up to the war. Fundamentally, these reports are about transparency and holding our government accountable, and making sure these mistakes never happen again," Rockefeller added.

The Committee's report cites several conclusions in which the Administration's public statements were *not* supported by the intelligence. They include:

- Statements and implications by the President and Secretary of State suggesting that Iraq and al Qaeda had a partnership, or that Iraq had provided al Qaeda with weapons training, were not substantiated by the intelligence.

- Statements by the President and the Vice President indicating that Saddam Hussein was prepared to give weapons of mass destruction to terrorist groups for attacks against the United States were contradicted by available intelligence information.

- Statements by President Bush and Vice President Cheney regarding the postwar situation in Iraq, in terms of the political, security, and economic situation did not reflect the concerns and uncertainties expressed in the intelligence products.

- Statements by the President and

Vice President prior to the October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate regarding Iraq's chemical weapons production capability and activities did not reflect the intelligence community's uncertainties as to whether such production was ongoing.

- The Secretary of Defense's statement that the Iraqi government operated underground WMD facilities that were not vulnerable to conventional airstrikes because they were underground and deeply buried was not substantiated by available intelligence information.

- The intelligence community did not confirm that Muhammad Atta met an Iraqi intelligence officer in Prague in 2001 as the Vice President repeatedly claimed.

Additionally, the Committee issued a report on the Intelligence Activities Relating to Iraq conducted by the Policy Counterterrorism Evaluation Group and the Office of Special Plans within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. The report found that the clandestine meetings between Pentagon officials and Iraqis in Rome and Paris were inappropriate and mishandled from beginning to end. Deputy National Security Advisor Steve Hadley and Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz failed to keep the intelligence community and the State Department appropriately informed about the meetings. The involvement of Manucher Ghorbanifar and Michael Ledeen in the meetings was inappropriate. Potentially important information collected during the meetings was withheld from

intelligence agencies by Pentagon officials. Finally, senior Defense Department officials cut short internal investigations of the meetings and failed to implement the recommendations of their own counterintelligence experts.

The reports are the culmination of efforts that began in March 2003, when, as Vice Chairman, Senator Rockefeller initially requested an investigation into the origin of the fraudulent Niger documents. In June 2003, he was joined by all Democrats on the Committee in pushing for a full investigation into prewar intelligence, which was eventually expanded by the Committee in February 2004 to include the five phase II tasks.

The Committee released its first report on July 9, 2004, which focused primarily on the intelligence community's prewar assessments of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs and links to terrorism. Those findings helped lay the foundation for some of the intelligence reforms enacted into law in late 2004.

In September 2006, the Committee completed and publicly released two sections of Phase II: The Use by the Intelligence Community of Information Provided by the Iraqi National Congress; and Postwar Findings About Iraq's WMD Programs and Links to Terrorism and How They Compare with Prewar Assessments.

In May 2007, the Committee released the third section of Phase II: Prewar Intelligence Assessments About Postwar Iraq.

Separately, in early 2007, the Pentagon Inspector General released its own report on the intelligence activities conducted by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and also concluded that those activities were inappropriate.

Press release of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Before 9/11 there was another Truth Movement, The TWA-800 Truth Movement, Twelve Years Later

BY MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

Travel by air is nothing like it used to be. In the 1970s I remember numerous occasions dashing through the airport and arriving at the gate just in time to buy a ticket (in cash), dropping my luggage at the end of the gangway and hopping aboard the flight just before takeoff; a completely anonymous transaction completed in less than 15 minutes. These days passengers are instructed to arrive at the airport two hours early so that photo IDs can be checked, baggage scanned and carry-ons x-rayed. Passengers are then herded, shoeless, deprived of liquids, stripped of penknife and nail file, through a gauntlet of shoots and corals, like cattle to the slaughter.

How did it come to this? How is it that Americans have given up their liberties to such an extent that they would acquiesce to such humiliating and degrading treatment. It didn't happen overnight, and that is the key. The current state of airport tyranny was arrived at in stages; in small steps, as minor insults to our freedoms are heaped one upon another until we find ourselves,

shoeless, standing before the armed federal guard responding to the demand to see our papers.

Each additional "security" measure was justified as a response to some pretext, real or imagined. For example, the requirement that passengers remove shoes was in response to the "Shoe Bomber", Richard Reed. Reed is by all accounts severely mentally impaired. He clearly had no capacity to mount a terror operation of his own so it is much more likely that he was a patsy, a stooge, in some staged provocation.

Some of the excuses that have been used to justify ever increasing airport lockdown are well remembered, like the shoe bomber and the London shampoo bomb terror farce. But many of the small chops at the tree of liberty have gone unnoticed and unremembered. For example, does anyone remember what excuse was used when photo ID requirement was imposed?

Sometimes, while I'm stand in line at the airport I will ask the desk clerk, or fellow passengers if they remember what event, what excuse, was used to justify

the photo ID requirement. So far no one I've asked remembers. The reason, I think, for our forgetting is that the pretext for the downing of TWA FLT-800 in 1996, has no logical connection with passenger IDs. The official explanation for that crash was mechanical failure, so it makes no sense for that incident to be used to justify a crackdown on airport passengers. The logical disconnect is so great it forces our collective amnesia.

We now know, thanks to the heroic efforts of some of the witnesses to the tragedy, that the plane was shot down by a missile (see the Wayne Madsen article below for more details). Hundreds of people who had witnessed the missile strike knew that the government's account of the exploding fuel tank was a lie and tried to alert the public to the deception. They even paid for a full page ad in the *Washington Times* (right) to inform their fellow citizens.

In the end, few Americans heard the message of the TWA-800 Truth Movement, few cared, most just prefer to forget.

CS20

Wayne Madsen Report from the Tenth Anniversary of FLT-800

BY WAYNE MADSEN / WMR

The tenth anniversary of the TWA 800 crash off of Long Island, July 17, 2006, is approaching and the mainstream media, as expected, will be spinning the "official" conclusion that the Boeing 747 crashed as the result of center fuel tank spontaneous combustion. WMR has learned from FBI sources that TWA 800 was shot down on July 17, 1996, by a Stinger missile fired from a leased speedboat by individuals associated with white supremacists and neo-Nazis. The late ABC News correspondent and President Kennedy Press Secretary Pierre Salinger reported that TWA 800 was brought down by a missile fired from a Navy ship. Salinger had the story only partially correct. TWA 800 was brought down by a Stinger missile stolen in 1993 in a major weapons heist by right-wing militia members from Navy ships anchored off the coast of the US Coastal Systems Base in Panama City, Florida, according to Navy and FBI investigators who investigated the theft.

directed at US Federal judges in the South and the theft by Klan members of weapons from Florida National Guard armories. In 1993, 214 Stinger missiles, along with a number of AR-15 assault rifles, were stolen from Navy supply ships stationed off the coast of Panama City's Naval Base. The ships, stationed off Panama City since the mid-1980s, maintained full stocks of arms and ammunition in the event they had to be deployed quickly to the Middle East or some other hotspot. According to law enforcement sources in Florida, a number of base officials, including those involved with the security of the base and the pre-stocked ships, were also associated with the white supremacist groups active in the Panhandle. The Naval Investigative Service, FBI, BATF and the Washington County Sheriff investigated the theft of the weapons but were stymied by a lack of cooperation from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which according to law enforcement sources, was riddled with officers tied to the Klan and cocaine and weapons smuggling operations involving a number of businessmen and covert intelligence operatives who were also close to the Bush family and their Florida cohorts.

The Klan and their Florida business friends were responsible for smuggling drugs and weapons into Los Angeles and reaping lucrative profits from the mainly African-American gangs who they did business with through criminal intermediaries. In one case, the Klan sent 1000 machine guns from Callaway, Florida to street gangs in Los Angeles.

After the Oklahoma City Murrah Federal Office Building bombing on April 15, 1995, the right-wing militia nationally put out an alert. They expected raids by the BATF, FBI, and other law enforcement agencies in reaction to the involvement of two of their numbers—McVeigh and Nichols—in the Oklahoma bombing. The militias decided to use their pilfered Stingers to bring down US passenger planes. An FBI informant with whom WMR spoke

stated that the FBI and Washington County Sheriff's Office first became aware of the theft and possession of the Stingers by the militias when the militia members began discussing the possible sale of the weapons to other militia groups in Panama City. These groups had been penetrated by FBI and local sheriff's informants.

The FBI had sought, unsuccessfully, to retrieve the Stingers by having its informants in the militias offer \$30,000 in cash [what the FBI considered was the going rate for street purchases]. There were no takers. In response to the obvious threat posed by the stolen surface-to-air missiles, President Clinton reportedly ordered anti-missile defenses to be enhanced for Air Force One, Marine One, and other VIP aircraft.

The FBI informant with whom WMR spoke also stated that two of the stolen Stingers were transported in early 1996 by a Panama City Naval Base employee to Tennessee where they were then put on a single engine private plane that flew them to New York. TWA 800 was downed by what a number of witnesses said was a ground launched missile on July 17, 1996, just ten days before another right-wing radical associated with the Aryan Brotherhood, Eric Rudolph, detonated a pipe bomb in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park, killing an African American and wounding dozens of others.

As with Oklahoma City, the missile attack on TWA 800 was covered up by law enforcement agencies and political interests who saw no benefit in advertising the fact that most terrorist attacks in the United States have been carried out by white, racist, and self-proclaimed "Christian" identity advocates who have had past and current connections with members of the US military, law enforcement, and the Republican Party.

CS20

This is a reprint of an article from 2006. Wayne Madsen is a Washington journalist. His reports are available at www.WayneMadsenReport.com

The following full page ad was taken out by a citizens group in response to the FLT-800 Coverup.

The Washington Times • TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2009 • PAGE A5

Hundreds Of Eyewitnesses Know the FBI and CIA Lied!

WE WANT THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD TO TELL THE TRUTH

We Saw TWA Flight 800 Shot Down by Missiles And We Won't Be Silenced Any Longer

We are some of the hundreds of eyewitnesses to the crash of TWA Flight 800 that killed 230 people off the coast of Long Island on July 17, 1996.

We are OUTRAGED that the FBI would not let a single one of us testify at the NTSB's public hearing in December 1997 when it heard testimony on what may have happened to the plane. The FBI feared that our testimony would undermine the video produced by the CIA that was shown on national television to persuade viewers that we all mistook the plane's burning fuel for a missile. They want you to believe that a fuel tank explosion caused the crash. Their Herculean efforts failed to find the necessary ignition source.

We are INCENSATED that for nearly four years the FBI refused to release its hundreds of reports of interviews with eyewitnesses who told them what we saw — the plane being hit by missiles that broke off its nose, blew up the fuel tank and sent the plane plummeting into the sea.

And we are SHOCKED at the lengths to which the FBI, the CIA and the NTSB have all gone to discredit and ignore our testimony in order to hide the truth.

Here Are A Few Of The Hundreds Of Our Statements The FBI Concealed

EYEWITNESS William Wink, described by the CIA as a key witness, saw what he at first thought was a "cheap fireworks" according to him, a house near the beach, arching over, spreading out to sea, and continuing in an explosion so powerful that it shook a 20-ton bridge on which he was standing.

EYEWITNESS Dwight Bradley, an certified witness according to the CIA, was in a plane going north when he noticed a fire moving left to a lower altitude and going north. His flight ended with two explosions about distance ahead. He said another passenger told him he had seen the cabin lights of commercial TWA 800 before the explosion.

EYEWITNESS Richard Goss was on the porch of the Washington Yacht Club making over the ocean. He saw what he thought was a fireworks going straight up. It was very bright, almost pink. It arched over and was south out twice, but it then made a sharp left turn. Two explosions followed, the second more to the east and larger, like something broke off and caught fire.

EYEWITNESS Paul Anagnostis, an engineer, from the deck of the beach house saw a red glowing object arched high in the sky. At first it moved slowly, leaving a short white smoke trail, but it picked up speed, streaking out to sea. He lost sight of it when it was about 10-15 degrees above the horizon. He then saw a series of flashes, followed by a fireball falling into the ocean. He heard a prolonged boom like thunder followed by three loud bursts of sound, the last so strong that it shook the house.

EYEWITNESS Maj. Frederick Meyer was in an Air National Guard helicopter when he saw a streak of light 10 or 15 miles away for 3 to 5 seconds. He lost it for about a second, and then further to the left he saw two bright white explosions, which he identified as ordnance, followed by a fuel explosion that was bright orange.

EYEWITNESS William Gallagher was on his boat, facing an object from behind the trees in front of him. It was bright white with a reddish pink aura, rising vertically at moderate speed. It then veered southwest, out to sea, appearing to slow and "huggle." It then veered up. He noticed it was going toward what appeared to be a stationary object higher in the sky. It looked like it would rain that object, but in less than a second he saw a white flash followed by another larger one, and two objects arched upward, trailing smoke that turned into large balls of fire.

Think Of It!

The FBI and hundreds of agencies like them, instead of giving their credence, should the CIA produce a video to discredit them all.

The claim that there is no physical evidence to support the eyewitness accounts is a lie!

If look an ordinance explosion near the plane to break off the nose of the plane, blowing the nose-off gear door INSIDE, shredding the tires and wrecking the cockpit.

FBI agents have been observed altering some evidence in the hangar and causing other evidence to disappear. They have even altered the debris field, leaving by parts of the plane miles away from where they were actually found.

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said, "All the evidence would point to a missile."

America Must Know The Truth

On August 22-23 the NTSB will meet to review and approve its final report on what caused the crash of TWA Flight 800. There is no doubt that this board will be under heavy pressure to say the initiating event was a fuel tank explosion even though there is not a shred of evidence to support it.

We, the eyewitnesses know that missiles were involved. We don't know who launched them, but we know that for some reason our government has lied and tried to discredit all of us to keep that question from being addressed.

America must be told the truth about what really happened on the night of July 17, 1996, causing the deaths of 230 people. The claim that our evidence is worthless is false and we want to know who is behind it. Hundreds of us SAW what happened.

The FBI, the CIA and the NTSB must not be allowed to get away with this cover-up by defamations of the eyewitnesses. We appeal to those who know why this is being done to share their information with us. Confidentiality is guaranteed.

We Will Not Be Silenced!

TWA 800 Eyewitness Alliance
4455 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 330, Washington, DC 20008
202-364-1438

Conference on Media Reform Goes Halfway with Truth

Media Reform from pg. 3

two more questions before, presumably to save time, they tried to tackle them all at once. They addressed the other two, and then the moderator cued another questioner.

"Hey," I called out, "you haven't answered my question."

More scattered cheers and applause, and several people near me asked for my card.

The microphone was passed between the three, with Crier and Schecter declining to answer. Jeff Cohen's response was brief: "Most of us have looked into these allegations and simply don't think there's anything to them."

Afterwards I went up to talk to Cohen and we spoke briefly about AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee). He said that no one in Congress or the Senate will cross them, because if they do, even slightly, AIPAC launches a campaign (usually successful) to remove them from office. By "slightly," Cohen explained, he means "proposing that we should give them [Israel] eight airplanes instead of ten."

I didn't get a chance to ask why this is not reported by the media.

I had another opportunity to raise 9/11 at the press conference with Phil Donahue, where I asked him why he didn't feel it was important enough to investigate and find out the truth of the matter. He countered that I could just as easily ask that question of Amy Goodman or *The Nation*. I replied that since he was here and they were not, I was asking him. He froze, staring into space for about 10 seconds before returning to the topic of his new film, *Body of War*, about the suffering of a soldier wounded in Iraq, implying that preventing such suffering was more important than any investigation.

But Donahue was not off the hook. Two other journalists, Kevin Barrett and a man from the Socialist News Network, also asked pointed questions about 9/11, which he also evaded.

Donahue talked about the dynamics of access, and how it ruins journalism because careers are made by having access to the top people. He stressed that good journalists should never be too deferential to the high powered people they write about. Afterwards, seemingly unaware of the irony, several of the journalists asked for his autograph and posed for pictures with his arm around them.

The only session on 9/11 was a "self-organized" one led by Carol Brouillet, a soft-spoken mother from Palo Alto, California, who emphasizes a gentle approach in broaching 9/11. Self-organized meant that it is not listed in any of the printed materials; the only notice of it was a handwritten card posted on a bulletin board in the registration area. Nonetheless there were about 20 participants, including Dr. Kevin Barrett of "No Lies Radio" and Dr. Peter Phillips, director of Project Censored.

After that session I overheard a man who I will call E talking with some We Are Change activists and drifted over to hear what they were saying. We ended

up all going out to lunch together and spent four hours, primarily listening to E talk about conclusions he has reached after a prodigious amount of reading.

E's view, which I repeat only as hearsay, is that if something bad happens to a public figure, it is because they weren't being as docile as expected. Clinton was impeached as punishment for not cooperating. Although he is loathed by the American public, Bush will never be impeached because he is the perfect puppet. JFK was killed, and Nixon was impeached, because they were not as cooperative as their Masters wished. Spiro Agnew was forced to resign so they could impeach Nixon and not put Agnew in office. (Agnew wrote a book, *Go Quietly or Else*, which received no press coverage and is currently available on Amazon for 52 cents.)

After four hours with E, my mind was spinning, my heart was aching, and the official sessions seemed pale and uninteresting. I half-heartedly joined one led by Hollywood screenwriters about the recent writers strike. I have an MFA in screenwriting from UCLA and in the 1990s this would have been the most important session on the schedule for me.

But in light of our decline into fascism, the success of an audacious false flag attack on 9/11 (successful in achieving the desired ends of the perpetrators, i.e., endless war and a police state), my dawning awareness of how thoroughly the mainstream media has been corrupted, and genuine fear for the future of our country and our world; the business of entertainment, sit-coms and summer blockbusters seemed trivial. I stayed only a few minutes.

Will the National Conference on Media Reform ultimately do any good? Will it help create more diversity and transparency in our media? I can't say. E's profoundly cynical view is that the purpose of NCMR may be to take everyone who is aware of the need for media reform, and funnel their energies in unproductive directions, keeping them in the dark about the root cause of the problem, so that nothing will essentially change.

I'm not that pessimistic—not yet, anyway. Every self-published newspaper (such as the *Creek*) every independent radio station and blog, serves as a counterpoint to the single note and "message force multipliers" emanating from the mighty Wurlitzer of the CIA controlled mainstream media. If we lose the fight for net neutrality things could get much worse, and quickly. So even if they aren't willing to tell the truth about 9/11, about the assassinations and the organized effort to keep the truth from the American people, I believe that the conference has done some good.

At least, I hope so.

Note: Dr. Kevin Barrett of "No Lies Radio" did a show on the 9/11 truth blackout at NCMR on June 21 and 22. See <http://noliesradio.org>

Sheila Casey is a DC area journalist who writes for *Common Dreams*, *Dissident Voice*, *The Progressive Populist* and a variety of other publications. She blogs at <http://www.sheilacasey.com>

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Air Force Purge Confirms Brzezinski/Obama Faction in Control; Neo-Cons are Out

By WEBSTER TARPLEY
WASHINGTON—Last month's extraordinary simultaneous ouster of the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force chief of staff, followed by the naming of Trilateral Commissioner and Carter administration veteran James Rodney Schlesinger to purge USAF generals and colonels, dramatically documents the fact that power in Washington DC is no longer in the hands of the Bush-Cheney-neocon clique, but has passed to the Brzezinski-Trilateral faction.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced the firing of Air Force Secretary Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley, citing the failure of the Air Force to maintain the security of strategic nuclear forces, as shown in the infamous rogue B-52 incident of late August 2007, when a B-52 intercontinental strategic bomber with six nuclear armed cruise missiles flew from North Dakota to Louisiana totally outside of the purview of the USAF command control and communications systems. Gates also mentioned that four high-tech electrical nose cone fuses for Minuteman nuclear warheads were sent to Taiwan in place of helicopter batteries, along with other failures.

Gates is a leading member of the Principals' Committee, an interagency group which now runs the US government from day to day with scant reference to the discredited outgoing lame ducks Bush and Cheney, who stay on mainly as figureheads. The Principals' Committee has been in charge of the US government since no later than early May, around the time of the Indiana and North Carolina primaries, when the controlled corporate media began trumpeting that Obama was the winner of the Democratic nomination. The Principals' Committee is made up of Pentagon boss Gates, Secretary of State Rice, NSC director Hadley, Joint Chiefs of Staff head Mullen, intelligence czar McConnell, along with a few others. These figures are now marching to the tune of Trilateral Commission bigwigs like Zbigniew Brzezinski, Joseph Nye, and the Rockefeller family. These are the same forces who own and control the Wall Street Manchurian candidate Obama. It is notable that the high-profile purge of the USAF came less than 48 hours after Obama had unilaterally proclaimed himself the Democratic presidential nominee.

The rogue B-52 flew with six nuclear cruise missiles from Minot AFB North Dakota to Barksdale AFB Louisiana last August 30. Source reports published by Wayne Madsen suggest that the B-52 was stopped by patriotic low-level USAF personnel. As the issue of whether to allow the plane to fly on to the Middle East went up the chain of command and expanded to involve the intelligence agencies, it transpired that the majority of the government and the establishment did not want the plane to attack targets in the Middle East. The scandal of the rogue B-52 broke on September 5, and a stand-down and nuclear census of the entire USAF soon followed. According to all indications, the B-52 was under the extra-legal control of the Cheney faction, which evidently planned to fly it to the Middle East and quite possibly use one or more of the nuclear cruise missiles in an attack on Iran and/or Syria, probably in cooperation or coordination with the Israeli air attack on Syria which occurred on September 6. The fact that the B-52 was blocked may have represented the last gasp of the Bush-Cheney-neocon faction, and the beginning of the hegemony of a different and far more dangerous group, namely the Brzezinski-Trilateral faction.

The Gates purge indicates that the new Trilateral masters of Washington DC do not trust the USAF generals who are so deeply compromised with the Bush-Cheney-neocon

faction. The USAF was up to its neck in 9/11, and then in the rogue B-52 affair. The Trilaterals are accordingly driving out the old rogues, and replacing them with new rogue generals of their own, who are loyal to the insane Trilateral agenda. Brzezinski does not want nuclear weapons wasted on Iran, which he intends to turn into an expendable puppet or kamikaze pawn in his apocalyptic showdown with Russia and China. This is what Obama's appeasement of Iran actually aims at: Iran as a US asset to be played against Russia and China. Brzezinski wants to be in control of those nukes, since he may soon need them for use against Russia and China. Those who might celebrate the defeat of the Bush-Cheney-neocon group must rather face the fact that the US has just jumped out of the frying pan of conventional invasions and into the fire of looming thermonuclear confrontations among the great powers. This is the real nature of the change for which Obama is the public symbol.

Obama's foreign policy will be dictated in every respect by Trilateral co-founder Brzezinski. Obama is now supported and surrounded by Trilateral members David Rockefeller, Jay Rockefeller, Joseph Nye, Paul Adolph Volcker, Jimmy Carter, and many more. With James "Rodney the Robot" Schlesinger now helping to purge the Pentagon, including its associated intelligence agencies, the Trilateral grip on Washington DC is tightening. Obama's choice of a vice president will be dictated by long-time Trilateral stalwart Jim Johnson.

The rogue B-52 incident was forecast by me in an essay entitled "Cheney Determined to Strike in US with WMD This Summer," issued on July 21, 2007, and widely distributed on the internet and in print form. This was followed by the Kennebunkport Warning, which was posted online in the evening of August 26, 2007, less than 72 hours before the rogue B-52 nuclear missiles were loaded. By September 3, the Kennebunkport Warning was posted on 110,000 web sites worldwide. The precision and timeliness of this warning represent an unprecedented intelligence achievement.

But now, the danger of a US attack on Iran is very low. Brzezinski's hit list is much more ambitious, and includes Sudan, Pakistan, Burma, and China, all stepping stones to the final reckoning with Moscow. The main possibility of an attack on Iran in the present situation comes from disgruntled Israeli factions like the one around Netanyahu who are aghast that they are being demoted from their previous role as the hub of US strategy to the status of just another expendable pawn in Brzezinski's lunatic plan for confrontation with Beijing and Moscow. The Israelis are horrified by Obama, just as everyone in the world should be. The winning faction of the US-UK establishment does not want the attack on Iran, and the Israelis would be foolhardy to try it on their own. The threats today from former IDF chief and Israeli Transport Minister Shaul Mofaz about an Israeli solo attack on Iran because of the failure of economic sanctions to stop nuclear development are indicative of deep discontent, but the guess here is that they are a bluff. We will soon find out: if the Israelis do not strike Iran in the next few weeks, they will have lost their chance as the Trilaterals continue to consolidate their power.

Webster Griffin Tarpley is the author of the new book, *Obama - The Postmodern Coup: Making of a Manchurian Candidate, which is an analysis of the forces backing Barack Obama, their tactics and agenda, along the lines of this article.*

For a selection of Tarpley's earlier articles on the ongoing coup by the Brzezinski-Trilateral-Obama faction, see <http://www.warofreedom.org/tarpley/obamarticles.htm>

History's Lessons

Achille Lauro Hijacking Revealed to be False Flag Terrorism

Who were the terrorist perpetrators of the October 19, 1985 attack on an elderly American Jewish man in a wheelchair aboard the cruise ship *Achille Lauro*? According to former Israeli intelligence insider Ari Ben-Menashe, "This was, in fact, an Israeli black propaganda operation to show what a deadly, cutthroat bunch the Palestinians were."

"It was launched by an Israeli, Raphael (Rafi) Eitan, who served as counter-intelligence advisor to former Likud Party Israeli Prime Ministers Menachem Begin and Yitzhad Shamir. Eitan went through Radi Abdullah, a former Jordanian Army Colonel, who ran shipping companies, traded in arms, drank and womanized and, in 1978, desperately accepted a \$200,000 loan identified as from Israeli sources to work for an Israeli anti-terrorist group run by Eitan."

In 1985 "Eitan passed instructions to Radi that it was time for the Palestinians to make an attack and do something cruel, though no specifics were laid out. Radi passed orders on to (a Palestinian) Abu'l Abbas, who, to follow such orders, was receiving millions from Israeli intelligence officers posing as Sicilian dons. Abbas then gathered a team to attack the cruise ship. The team was told to make it bad, to show the world what lay in store for other unsuspecting citizens if Palestinian demands were not met." *Profits of War, Inside the Secret U.S.-Israeli Arms Network*, Ari Ben-Menashe, Sheridan Square Press, Inc., 1992, pp. 122.



Achille Lauro post card

"Abbas and members of his team were captured aboard an Egyptian jet that was intercepted by US warplanes and forced to land in Sicily....After a near confrontation between armed US and Italian soldiers on the airstrip, the United States eventually agreed to turn the hijackers over to Italy for prosecution....Italy let the reputed mastermind of the hijacking Mohammed Abbas, slip out of the country. He was later convicted in absentia." Three of the four team members, who were convicted,

disappeared while out of prison on furlough or parole. (*Washington Times*, March 6, 1996)

The *Achille Lauro* incident demonstrates two of the elements characteristic of state-sponsored false flag terror events. First, the victims of violence are selected for the desired terror effect. By selecting the most innocent and defenseless victims, the wheelchair bound Klinghoffer in this case, the terror is magnified. Secondly, the perpetrators are able to escape punishment, in this case by "escape".

Questions Persist in USS Cole Incident



USS Cole seen here being transported aboard the heavy lift ship MV Blue Marlin

By WAYNE MADSEN / WMR
WMR has learned details from US intelligence sources about the FBI's investigation of the USS *Cole* terrorist attack in Aden harbor in October 2000, weeks before the 2000 presidential election that propelled George W. Bush into the White House under dubious circumstances. FBI chief counter-terrorism agent John O'Neill, a close friend of Carnaby, and who died in the World Trade Center attack, had questions about whether the *Cole* was blown up by two Arabs in a dinghy.

The questions arise from the following facts:

1. If 2000 lbs of high explosives was used against the ship's hull, there should have been a very large fireball that would have charred the paint on the ship's port side.
2. The ship's paint job looks like it hasn't

even been scratched outside of the inward protruding hull damage.

3. Most of the damage to the hull was above the waterline ruling out a torpedo or limpet mine.

4. If the rubber dinghy caused the explosion then there should have been charred paint damage on the port side of the hull due to the type of explosive used. Powder residue would confirm the type of explosive that was used. There was no report issued on explosive powder residue.

5. The center of the hole is 10 ft above the waterline not at or below the water line.

6. The *Cole* appears to have been hit by a 500 lb shape charge.

7. The ship was facing out to the open ocean, due east, in the morning as the sun was rising, blinding the crew to that direction.

8. A laser guided missile was the weapon of choice for that scenario and hull damage. (i.e. a Popeye anti-ship submarine launched cruise missile)

9. What happened to the official Navy report on the ship's hull damage and accompanying photos to back it up?

As of this month, all prisoners held by Yemen in the attack on the *Cole* had escaped from prison or been freed by the Yemeni government. Then-US ambassador to Yemen Barbara Bodine expelled O'Neill and his FBI team from Yemen after they began asking too many questions. O'Neill wanted a DNA sample from the wool cap of one of the so-called dinghy suicide bombers who was blamed for the terrorist attack and samples of the harbor sludge for expert analysis.

The Clinton and Bush administrations never responded militarily to the attack on the *Cole*. In a "preliminary judgment," the CIA concluded that "al Qaeda appeared to have supported the attack [but] with no "definitive conclusion." National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said, "We knew that there was speculation that the 2000 *Cole* attack was al Qaeda... We received, I think, on January 25th the same assessment. It was preliminary. It was not clear." CIA director George Tenet told President Bush that there was no "conclusive information on external command and control" proving al Qaeda's attack on the *Cole*.

The *Cole's* commanding officer, Commander Kirk Lippold, was denied promotion to Captain. He retired in May 2007. The complete report on the *Cole's* attack and damage has never been released by the Navy.

www.waynemadsenreport.com

Titanic Discoverer Working for CIA

According to *National Geographic*, Bob Ballard, who located the wreckage of the *Titanic* under two miles of water in the North Atlantic in 1985, has revealed that he was working for the US Navy and CIA at the time of the discovery.

His top secret mission was to find a couple of lost nuclear submarines in the Atlantic, the USS *Scorpion* and *Thrasher*. The search for the *Titanic* was both a cover story and a reward to Ballard for his efforts on behalf

of the Navy. To direct the mission, Ballard was secretly commissioned into the Navy with the rank of Commander.

Ballard says he is able to reveal the story now because the mission has recently been declassified. He won't say if he was involved in other covert operations but it is widely known that deep diving missions have long been used to splice listening devices into trans-oceanic communications networks.



Robert Ballard stands in front of the DSV Turtle research submarine (short for Diving Support Vehicle), on display in 1999 at the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut. The Turtle, retired in 1991 by the U.S. Navy, was a sister submarine to the DSV Alvin, which provided the first glimpses of the *Titanic* wreck site in 1985.

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'Counterinsurgency'

It sounds better than 'brutal military occupation'

Counterinsurgency from pg. 1

Iraq and Afghanistan. Vietnam, Petraeus's wellspring of doctrinal knowledge, was not really a counterinsurgency. Vietnam was a country where the US illegally installed a government in its southern part, invaded that part of Vietnam and then fought a long, losing campaign against the properly constituted and recognized Vietnam government which had its capital (and still does) in the north. If anyone, it was the US military which acted as insurgents! Similarly Iraq and Afghanistan are not insurgencies.

In Iraq, combatants include not only those contesting the US military presence and killing US collaborators, but also various religious sects fighting each other as a result of the instability the US has brought. It also includes religious fanatics calling themselves al Qaeda-Iraq from outside Iraq who have been drawn there, again, because of the US destabilization of that tormented country. A similar situation exists in Afghanistan. None of these are "insurgents" according to the Pentagon definition.

Oh, we know, the implication is clear. We're not supposed to believe that other countries actually have sovereignty over their own territory. According to this scenario the US Empire owns the world, particularly those parts situated over oil, and anyone resisting US hegemony and occupation of those parts is an insurgent. Even under this interpretation, is this "insurgent" (AKA "terrorist") trying to overthrow the US government? No, he's resisting a US military occupation. In Iraq the Iraqis weren't people we liberated, as the initial story went; they are our enemies because of the extended occupation. That's essentially what George Bush said back in November, 2005 – that our enemy is ordinary Iraqis: "The enemy in Iraq is a combination of rejectionists, Saddamists and terrorists. The rejectionists are by far the largest group. These are ordinary Iraqis, mostly Sunni Arabs, who miss the privileged status they had under the regime of Saddam Hussein – and they reject an Iraq in which they are no longer the dominant group." Current US enemies in Iraq include not only the Sunnis, but also the most popular Shiite sect, the Sadrists (consisting of various splinter groups).

Wonderful – the people we're liberating are our enemies, because of the extended occupation – now there's a good reason to support the troops and extend the occupation. I guess Congress thought so too. They've continually done it despite the fact that the Iraqis *don't* want it – a recent poll indicates that nearly 60% of Iraqis see attacks on US-led forces as justified and nearly half say the US should leave now.

Actually the facts are that the world is composed of 190-odd sovereign countries and the US can't legally act as though it is the legal government over other countries. From the United Nations Charter, Article 1, Chapter 2: "The Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members." While in Iraq and Afghanistan there are no functional governments, they still have loyal citizens, nationalists, and the people in these countries (US enemies according to Bush) are resisting brutal US military occupations. Who among us wouldn't resist a foreign military occupation? A military that raids neighborhood homes, often in the middle of the night; harasses the inhabitants, including taking retina scans, round ups; handcuffs and blindfolds young males and carts them roughly off to prison (over 20,000 now) where they are tortured and detained for months without any sort of legal review. There is in each country, Iraq and Afghanistan, a corrupt and dysfunctional government, but the people, mostly, are not fighting (insurgency) against these governments, which being weak are not even factors. They're fighting the US military occupiers (and each other due to instability). No country, including our own, will ever tolerate an intensive occupation by a foreign nation.

The principal US strategy in both places is more time, more money and above all, more troops. The "COIN" part of this, the purported new and unique part, is the concept of using troops to secure the population, thereby fostering conditions conducive to reconstruction and reconciliation.

COIN is nothing new. In Vietnam it was "win their hearts and minds." Regarding Iraq, Petraeus described the effort this way in October 2003: "This is a race. This is a race to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. And there are other people in this race. And they're not just trying to beat us to the finish line. In some cases, they want to kill us." In other words these are old techniques for gaining acceptance from a hostile population enduring a brutal military occupation, which is an impossible task as has been proven many times. The US in Vietnam and the Russians in Afghanistan are the two most recent historical examples. The British in both places are earlier examples. All failed. The US is failing now in Iraq and Afghanistan as evidenced by the stumbling US attempt to obtain a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with Iraq, which after five years of warfare would allow continued US military sovereignty in that battered country. The Iraqis of all political persuasions are against it, but of course they may yet be bought off (or threatened). *The Independent* reports that under the terms of the new treaty, Americans would retain the long-term use of more than fifty bases in Iraq. American negotiators are also demanding immunity from Iraqi law for US troops and contractors and a free hand to carry out arrests and conduct military activities in Iraq without consulting the Baghdad government. Does this sound like a liberated country, or an occupied one?

Field Manual FM 3-24 essentially promotes an approach to dealing with "insurgents" (really occupation resisters) with a minimum of force so as not to alienate them unduly from the occupiers. "Ultimate success in COIN is gained by protecting the populace, not the COIN force." Deal with the populace with a minimum of force? Protect the populace? Obviously this was not the idea of the Petraeus surge, and it is not the course of action Petraeus pursued in Sadr City, resulting in a humanitarian crisis. The inability to move armored vehicles through the narrow slum streets of this poor city meant an increased use of indirect fire and air power which destroy hospitals, apartment buildings and entire blocks of buildings, where a lot of people are present. So there are more dead, more refugees and more hatred toward the US in direct contradiction to the "minimum of force" concept, which is supposed to be essential for "counterinsurgency" operations.

The *Washington Post* on the recent US attacks in Sadr City: "Since late March, the military has fired more than 200 Hellfire missiles in the capital, compared with just six missiles fired in the previous three months." The military says the tactic has saved the lives of ground troops and prevented attacks, but the strikes have also killed and wounded civilians, provoking criticism from Iraqis. So the COIN tactic of "protecting the populace, not the COIN force" is not being followed. This is not surprising when you think about it – the primary motivator of soldiers, after accomplishing the mission, is to stay alive.

Prior to Petraeus's arrival as Iraq commander, US military forces applied bogus "counterinsurgency" tactics to the utmost in the siege of Fallujah in 2004. From Tomdispatch: "Fallujah was gutted. Two months after the invasion, Erik Eckholm of the

JFK Jr. from pg. 1

John was following all landing approach rules and reported no confusion or difficulty. The plane crashed at 9:40:15, less than a minute after he contacted the tower. No MAYDAY was ever heard.

According to witnesses and the NTSB report, visibility was good – there was no cloud cover, the moon and stars were visible and one could see between 10 and 12 miles out. The NTSB report said there was no mechanical problem with the plane.

National reports implied that John was reckless, a spoiled rich kid who endangered the life of his wife and her sister in making the flight. But this was not so. He was known as a responsible pilot. All of his nine flight instructors over a period of 17 years said he was methodical about flight planning and was a conscientious, careful pilot.

Friends said he always kept his flight plans in an aquamarine flight bag. These plans are important: they show who is on the plane, in addition to the planned route. Local news reports said the aquamarine bag washed up intact on the Martha's Vineyard beach. The Pentagon spokesman later said that John hadn't filed a flight plan.

Other things were also missing from the wrecked plane, like the copilot's seat – the entire seat!

There was evidence that a flight instructor may have been on the flight. Previously when the weather was hazy, John had asked for a flight instructor, and it was hazy when John, Lauren and later Carolyn arrived at the Essex County, New Jersey airport for their short flight to Martha's Vineyard. John was observed talking to someone on his cell phone at the airport. (The NTSB had a record of this call, but it is missing.) The party of three sat around the airport for almost an hour before taking off, likely waiting for an instructor to arrive after John may have called for one.

John had invariably flown with an instructor on his new, sophisticated plane. He had a pilot's license and enough air hours to be an instructor himself. Although he had recently passed his instrument license written exam, he needed more hours with an instructor to obtain his instrument rating, so it would have been reasonable for him to have asked for an instructor on the July 16 flight.

Further, he had told a *George* magazine colleague, who was concerned about his flying while still recovering from an injured ankle (the cast had been removed but John was

Who Killed JFK Jr.?



Newlyweds JFK Jr. and Carolyn Bessette seen here at a party in NYC, Oct. 1996

still on crutches), "Don't worry, I'm flying with an instructor." In addition, family member Carole Radziwill, who was at Martha's Vineyard, was quoted as saying she thought a flight instructor was on board. She said John never flew his new plane without a flight instructor.

Since the flight log was missing, there was no record of who was on board, but there might have been a flight instructor in that missing seat.

But when would the seat and the instructor's body have been removed from the wrecked plane? Well, a search of the crash area was delayed for 15.5 hours after the plane went down, so there would have been time for such nefarious activity.

The plane was due at Martha's Vineyard at 10 pm When it didn't arrive, friends called the FAA. Senator Ted Kennedy called the FAA at 11 pm. The FAA ignored the calls and later denied having received them. At 2:15 am Ms. Radziwill thought to call the Coast Guard. Senator Kennedy later awakened President Clinton, and Clinton ordered a search.

At 12:30 am Coast Guard Petty Officer Bergun was removed, and local reporting on the missing plane went silent. After that, all questions were referred to the Pentagon, even though the missing plane was a civilian matter. Navy Lieutenant

Colonel Steve Roark answered questions. He stated, "I only know for certain they didn't contact the tower at Martha's Vineyard." But the local news had already reported that John had contacted the tower.

Finally, the Air Force had the Coast Guard search 100 miles from the crash area. From 2 am until 7:30 am search vehicles flew everywhere over a 20 square mile area except the area a few miles off Martha's Vineyard, where the crash was known to have occurred. At 12:15 pm on July 17, a local person reported seeing helicopters over the crash area. By 1 pm the search focus was narrowed to 17 miles off Martha's Vineyard.

The N-Tap Radar Analysis of the flight (N529JK), which showed exactly where the plane had flown and dropped from the sky, was available from the FAA at 5 am on July 17. When reporter Martha Raddick asked Lt. Colonel Roark why they weren't searching the area suggested by the radar analysis, Roark said the analysis couldn't determine where the plane went down. But it could, and Roark, a former director of the Air Force Rescue Center, knew that it could.

To aid in a search for a missing plane, the FAA requires all civilian planes to have an emergency locator transmitter (ELT), which is crash-activated. Satellites receive the

signal and can locate a crash within a few feet. Both the Coast Guard and the local news station had this information.

When the plane was recovered five days later, in addition to the missing seat, the battery from the cockpit recorder was missing. Also, according to the NTSB report (page 321), an important instrument – the fuel selector valve – was found in the "off" position. This would have shut off the fuel and caused the plane to drift for five miles to a safe landing. To turn the valve off, one has to simultaneously turn the valve lever while pushing down a separate button. It cannot be done accidentally. In addition, the steering wheel was pushed far down, indicating that the pilot may have deliberately crashed the plane into the sea.

These facts raised the question: did John deliberately crash the plane, taking his own life and the lives of Lauren and his wife, Carolyn, who may have been pregnant with John's child?

But John was not suicidal. Shortly before his death, he had indicated to Toronto businessman Keith Stein that he was upbeat about his marriage and looking forward to fatherhood. Stein said, "He talked about having kids as if it were imminent in their future." He was upbeat about *George* magazine, having recently told his staff, "As long as I'm alive, this magazine will continue."

The magazine was infotainment, but it carried smart, real information. It had run two especially controversial stories: one by Oliver Stone, who had directed the movie "JFK", about the assassination of John's father and one by the mother of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in which Ms. Rabin said her son's assassination was an "inside job."

JFK, Jr. refused to accept that Oswald was the sole "lone nut" assassin of his father. He had information on JFK's death, and there were indications he was planning to use the magazine to publish that information. He was smart, talented, responsible, decent, good-hearted, wealthy and exceedingly handsome. He indicated to close associates that he might some day go into politics. Those with secrets to hide had reason to fear – and to assassinate – John F. Kennedy, Jr.

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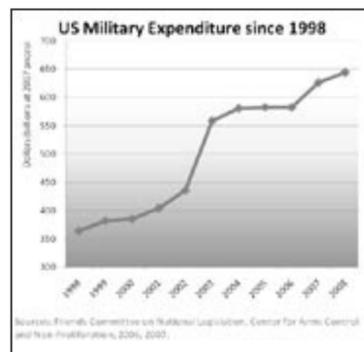
This article is based on the video, "Who Killed JFK Jr.?" produced and narrated by John Hankey. The video is available at <http://www.jfkii.com>.

were severely damaged. Blown out windows, wrecked furniture, three-foot blast holes in walls, and disintegrated doors demonstrated that American troops had relentlessly applied what they jokingly called the "FISH" strategy (Fighting in Someone's House), which involved "throwing a hand grenade into each room before checking it for unfriendlies." Since (in the words of Lt. Gen. Sattler) "each and every house" was searched, very few remained livable.

"The civilians who stayed during the fighting found themselves in a kill-everything-that-moves free-fire zone. When the first medical teams arrived in January they collected more than 700 unburied and rotting bodies (reputedly including those of 550 women and children) in only one-third of the city; and these obviously didn't include the dead already buried during the battle or hidden under the debris."

It is the policy of the US government to conduct preemptive strikes on potential threats (think Iraq), so how could we expect less of soldiers and Marines? From the

who throws a fragmentation grenade into a room before entering, a soldier who shoots a man carrying a shovel and a soldier who turns his machine gun on an approaching car. The room and the car might only contain



innocent adults and children or they might contain potential killers, and the guy with the shovel might intend to implant a mine. Therefore the basis of COIN – "Ultimate success in COIN is gained by protecting the populace, not the COIN force" – is what we used to call in the army "eyewash," for civilian consumption only. The operative tactic is to kill them so they won't kill you – this is the tragedy of a brutal military occupation. Even in wanton revenge killings of old men, women and children, like the Haditha massacre, soldiers (or in this case Marines) are not punished.

In the Haditha massacre (also prior to Petraeus's command), where 24 Iraqi men, women and children were killed in a mindless fit of revenge after a Marine died from a convoy mine, Lt. Gen. James Mattis dropped the charges against one Marine who had been accused of failing to investigate the incident. The reason? Marines are trained to kill and they can't be punished for doing so. General Mattis is infamous for his remarks about the joy of killing people. Lt. Gen. James Mattis, who commanded Marine expeditions in Afghanistan and Iraq, made the comments during a panel

discussion in San Diego, California. "Actually it's quite fun to fight them, you know. It's a hell of a hoot," Mattis said, prompting laughter from some military members in the audience. "It's fun to shoot some people. I'll be right up there with you. I like brawling. You go into Afghanistan, you got guys who slap women around for five years because they didn't wear a veil," Mattis said. "You know, guys like that ain't got no manhood left anyway. So it's a hell of a lot of fun to shoot them." This is "protecting the populace?"

A secondary but important tragedy of this strategy of tormenting and killing the populace and not protecting them, of course, is the mental anguish brought upon the government operatives, actually "the boy next door," who must implement the terrible government strategy. The number of US veterans receiving disability compensation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has increased nearly threefold since 1999, rising from 120,000 to nearly 329,000, according to the Veterans Administration. The Army is losing its battle to stem suicides among troops serving in Iraq, with a new report showing that 32 soldiers killed themselves in the war zone last year (2007) – a record high since the war began five years ago.

The US military is in Iraq to fight insurgents who are attempting to overthrow their government? No. Recently Iraqis have taken to the streets protesting the American occupation and promoting their heroes, the anti-occupation nationalist Muqtada al-Sadr and the Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, while displaying the Iraqi flag and burning the American flag.

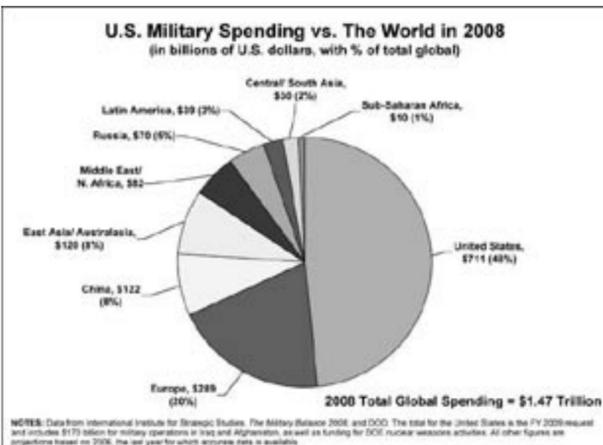
So toss the counterinsurgency "COIN" into the fountain of government propaganda. Don't use the word; use resisted occupation instead. Counterinsurgency doctrine is not

followed and anyhow it doesn't apply to foreign military occupations, which bring instability and hated occupation to a country. Counterinsurgency is a meaningless term when applied to military occupations except to try to put a legitimate face on a criminal act. After all, it does make the US look better to call our enemies insurgents (or terrorists) rather than occupation-resisters. But it's not accurate. Might as well put lipstick on a pig, or call the War Department the Defense Department.

The cure? End the brutal US military occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. As General Petraeus said in Iraq: "There are many here who regard us still as liberators. But there are also some that say, jeez, when are these guys going to leave? And inevitably, over time, even the best of liberators will become seen as occupiers." Petraeus for once got it right.

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Don Bacon is a retired army officer who founded the Smedley Butler Society several years ago because, as General Butler said, "war is a racket."



New York Times described the city as "a desolate world of skeletal buildings, tank-blasted homes, weeping power lines and severed palm trees." At least a quarter of its homes were fully destroyed, and virtually all the others

National Security Strategy. "America will act against such emerging threats before they are fully formed." The occupation equivalent to the US attacking a country considered to be potentially dangerous, is the Marine

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OKC Survivor Remembers

By WENDY PAINTING / RCFP
Oklahoma City — June 17, 2008
Amidst all the dirty details of the 1995 bombing of the Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, one can get lost. Recently I set out to uncover aspects of this story which have not been publicized or accounted for. The story of the cover-up cannot be separated from the effects which the bombing caused, the very real trauma of the survivors, to the families and to the country.



Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, Oklahoma City, April 19, 1995

Like so many others, Ruth Schwab was not only a victim but an eyewitness. She was gracious enough to talk with me recently. Her story, like so many others that day, is not detached from the maze of other details.

About a week before the bombing, Ruth was pulling up to work at the Murrah building. As she was going into the garage she saw three men standing around talking. The men were dressed in work clothes, but she did not recognize any of them. Ruth knew many of the people that worked there. The men were holding what seemed to be a large sheet of paper. At the time, Ruth thought that they were holding floor plans.

"You just don't assume that these men are there because they are planning to bomb your building," she said "but later, when I saw the news I remembered that morning...I can still see them standing there"

The Murrah building had always been on a list of targets. They had several bomb threats in the past. Usually, Ruth remembers, they didn't hear about them until much later, on the evening news. She remembers she had said to someone once, that if there was ever a real threat, they wouldn't know about it until much later.

A week later, on April 19, 1995 Ruth was heading to work again. This time her boss was out of town and had offered her parking spot to Ruth. The spot was on the middle floor of the parking garage. Although Ruth was pulling up as several Ryder trucks were seen outside the Murrah that morning, she did not notice any. She parked her car and went in the building.

The first person Ruth saw that day was V. Z. Lawton. Lawton, another survivor, is one of the leading figures among the survivors who have worked tirelessly, despite threats and harassment, to try and find out what happened to themselves and their loved ones that day.

Ruth turned on her computer and waited for it to boot up. Just as she did, she heard a horrible noise and then haze. "I felt like I was in a science fiction movie...I was falling down a hole, just falling and falling." Looking back, she says, the doctors think that she lost consciousness. As Ruth told me, the body protects itself. She does not remember pain, only the noise and the falling sensation.

The next thing she knew, she was conscious but she could not see anything. It was then that she realized that a bomb must have gone off. Immediately she thought "I have to get out of here. I don't know where I am or what's going on but I have to get out." She tried to sit up. She began yelling out, inquiring if anyone was there.

And that is when her guardian angel, V. Z. Lawton yelled out in response "Ruthy, don't move. I am here. Don't move." She told him not to worry. Ruth was not moving anywhere. She couldn't.

Later, she would remember the sounds of moaning and groaning around her, sounds which she could

not do anything about. The futility of not being able to help those around her haunted Ruth for years to come.

V. Z. came over to her and handed her a handkerchief. Ruth says that Lawton was a perfect gentleman. The handkerchief she says was like "trying to put a Band-Aid on a bullet hole," the damage to her face was that severe. She began to wipe her face. She felt no pain, but Ruth could not see anything. There was only darkness where her vision used to be.

V. Z. told her that he was going to try to find a way out. He moved enough of the debris around her, and with the help of another man, Ken, began to guide her out. Ruth remembers that she was on foot until she got half way down the stairs. It was at that point that someone carried her out. Ruth, incidentally, was able to meet the man who carried her out that day. Years later, at the OKC Memorial, he would be working as a guard and remember her.

Ruth was taken outside and laid down. A co-worker approached her, and in shock herself, gasped, and said to Ruth, "don't worry. They can do a lot with plastic surgery these days." This was not very comforting to Ruth. She did, though, make her co worker promise not to let them cut her clothes off in front of everyone. Her co-worker covered her up with a blanket while Ruth waited for the ambulance drivers to put her on a gurney.

Ruth was able to give enough information to rescue workers for them to contact her family.

She was rushed to the hospital. They took her into surgery, and after they had done some superficial stitching to her face, they moved her into another surgery, this time to try and save her eye. This was all done within an hour and a half after the blast, which had occurred at 9:02 am. When Ruth came to again, the doctors were trying to save her eye. This was around 4 in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Ruth's children, all five of them, were removed from their classes and told what had happened. Better this, than finding out through the grapevine, Ruth thinks now. Her father and step mother had heard on the news.

At some point, while Ruth was in the hospital that day, a photographer came in and wanted to take a picture of her. Ruth's sister fixed her hair the best she could and placed a recent picture of Ruth next to her head. "She wanted everyone to know what I had looked like before," Ruth says.

For years, the bloody shirt from that day and a piece of Plexiglas from the building sat in a bag in Ruth's garage. Later, she would bring it out for reporters.

Ruth said good things have come out of the bombing, that God had

a reason for her to stay on earth. Among these things is her ability to watch her five children grow up. A couple of her children were able to receive scholarship money set aside for victims and family members. One of her daughters was able to earn a law degree from these scholarships. As a mother of five, Ruth would not have been able to send her children to undergraduate college, much less graduate or law school. "So this," she says "is a blessing in some way.

And her co-worker was right; plastic surgeons can do miracles now. To look at Ruth, you would never guess that she has a fake eye or reconstructive surgery. Both Ruth and V. Z. were pulling glass out of themselves for years. Two years after the bombing, glass made its way through Ruth's eye. It had to be



Ruth Schwab, OKC bombing survivor, 2008.

removed. Another time, in the shower, glass pushed its way out of her body. "The body just pushed it out," she says "it hurts right before it comes out...I will always feel the effects...they will not go away." Ruth will have to have eye surgeries for the rest of her life.

Ruth says the bombing defines who she is. It also defines who her children are. It defines the people in Oklahoma City and it defines, whether they know it or not, the American people. It defines the country itself and beyond. It is central.

For years Ruth and her family would stay inside on the 19th of April. No travel. No leaving the house.

This year she did not attend the anniversary, but her family threw her a party on April 19th only days away from her birthday. "The 19th is my birthday, it's my day of life. I received 13 more years of life on this earth." Ruth, like other survivors I

have spoken to, does not take life for granted.

Ruth has a tree in her yard. The tree was grown from a seedling taken from the Survivor Tree which stands at the OKC memorial. She also has a piece of the building displayed in her garden.

Ruth speaks at churches and schools, "I speak as much as I can. I don't want it to go away. I want people to know the effects it has had." She shares this sentiment with V. Z. and others. "We want the truth out. I want my grandkids to know and pass it on. My children will not let anyone forget.

I asked Ruth how the bombing and the cover-up had affected her views of the country, the government and politics. Ruth says for years she tried to ignore it. While she wasn't a super patriot, Ruth loved her country and could not understand how her own government could be complicit in covering up the atrocity that happened to her and her friends that day. She focused much of her attention into raising her family, but eventually the information became too much to ignore. "The fact is that they knew there was going to be a bomb, EVERYONE KNEW...that blows me away. The day-care!! They could have done something... anything...they could have sounded a fire alarm, a fake one, they could have at least get the babies out...that was a heartbreaker."

She remembers how on the way to work that morning the radio was talking about the anniversary of Waco. She knows how every eyewitness saw others besides McVeigh. She remembers how fast the FBI and Justice Department dropped those leads. She also remembers how fast the trials for Nichols and McVeigh were.

Ruth says she tries hard not to be bitter, but she and her family do not take everything they hear on the news or read in the paper at face value anymore. How can they, when it is known now that not only was there prior warning of the bombing, but that officials knew down to the date that this would happen. April 19th 1995 was the date that a man named Richard Wayne Snell would be executed. Snell himself had previously tried to blow up the Murrah in the 1980s. Officials were also aware of the danger posed by the anniversary of Waco, and of another federal raid, which had angered so many people. The ATF, in fact, had been warned to avoid work that day. And they did. Of all the casualties to all of the federal agencies that morning, the ATF had none.

Ruth says she hates the fact that her children now have to suffer with the pain of knowing this could have been prevented.

She says she feels for people like Jannie Coverdale, who lost her two baby grandsons, Aaron and Elijah that morning. Coverdale had just dropped her loved ones off at the Murrah day-care center, on her way to work. She would only see them again in her troubled dreams.

On parting, Ruth, in her friendly and motherly manner, wished me good luck, telling me I had my work cut out for me. She told me to keep going in pursuit of this. I told her I was just stubborn enough to take her advice.

Wendy S. Painting lives in Rochester, New York. She just finished a Masters in Humanities, at the State University of New York at Buffalo and she is currently writing a book on the Oklahoma City Bombing.

NEWS BITES

Call to Prosecute George W. Bush for Murder

NEW YORK — Vincent Bugliosi, one of the most successful prosecutors in this country, puts together a convincing case in his new book, *The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder*.

Bugliosi finds it an amazing thing that although many people believe that George Bush lied to the American public in starting his war with Iraq, the liberal columnists who have accused him of doing this merely make this point and then go on to the next paragraph in their columns. Bugliosi goes on to point out that, "Only very infrequently does a columnist add that because of it Bush should be impeached. If the charges are true, of course Bush should have been impeached, convicted, and removed from office. That's almost too self-evident to state. But he deserves much more than impeachment. If the president takes the country to war on a lie where thousands of American soldiers die horrible, violent deaths and over 100,000 innocent Iraqi civilians, including women and children, even babies are killed, the punishment obviously has to be...severe. If Bush were impeached, convicted in the Senate, and removed from office, he'd still be a free man, still be able to wake up in the morning with his cup of coffee and freshly squeezed orange juice and read the morning paper, still travel widely and lead a life of privilege, still belong to his country club and get standing ovations whenever he chose to speak to the Republican faithful. This, for being responsible for over 100,000 horrible deaths? For anyone interested in true justice, impeachment alone would be a joke for what Bush did."

Conference Plans War Crimes Trials of Bush and Higher-Ups

ANDOVER — A conference to plan the prosecution of President Bush and other high administration officials for war crimes will be held September 13-14 at the Massachusetts School of Law at Andover. Lawrence Velvel, dean and co-founder of the school states, "This is not intended to be a mere discussion of violations of law that have occurred. It is, rather, intended to be a planning conference at which plans will be laid and necessary organizational structures set up, to pursue the guilty as long as necessary and, if need be, to the ends of the Earth."

"We must try to hold Bush administration leaders accountable in courts of justice," Velvel said. "And we must insist on appropriate punishments, including, if guilt is found, the hangings visited upon top German and Japanese war-criminals in the 1940s."

"For Bush, Richard Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, and John Yoo to spend years in jail or go to the gallows for their crimes would be a powerful lesson to future American leaders," Velvel said.

US hid detainees from Red Cross

By Warren P. Strobel | McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — According to documents that a Senate committee released on June 10 the US military hid the locations of suspected terrorist detainees and concealed harsh treatment to avoid the scrutiny of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The minutes of the Guantanamo meeting were among 25 documents released by Sen. Carl Levin, (D-MI) who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee and is leading a probe of the origins of cruel treatment of detainees in President Bush's "war on terrorism."

The administration overrode or ignored objections from all four military services and from criminal investigators, who warned that the practices would imperil their ability to prosecute the suspects. The objections from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines prompted Navy Capt. Jane Dalton, legal adviser to the then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, to begin a review of the proposed techniques. But the review was aborted quickly. Myers, Dalton said, took her aside and told her that then-Defense Department general counsel William Haynes "does not want this ... to proceed." Haynes testified that he didn't recall the objections of the four uniformed services.

Few of the Republicans at the hearing defended the Bush administration's detainee programs. Guidance provided by administration lawyers "will go down in history as some of the most irresponsible and shortsighted legal analysis ever provided to our nation's military intelligence communities," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, (R-SC).

Pentagon Targeted Iran for Regime Change after 9/11

WASHINGTON — Gareth Porter (IPS) reports that a document quoted extensively in Douglas Feith's recently published account of the Iraq war run-up, *War and Decision*, reveals that three weeks after the 9/11 terror attacks, former US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld established an official military objective of not only removing the Saddam Hussein regime by force but overturning the regime in Iran, as well as in Syria, Libya, and Sudan.

Feith, who was then Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, further indicates in his book that this aggressive aim of remaking the map of the Middle East by military force and the threat of force was supported explicitly by the country's top military leaders.

Feith's book provides excerpts of the paper Rumsfeld sent to President George W. Bush on Sep. 30, 2001 calling for the administration to focus not on taking down Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network but on the aim of establishing "new regimes" in a series of states by "aiding local peoples to rid themselves of terrorists and to free themselves of regimes that support terrorism."

"Worst Massacre in Argentine History" Goes to Trial

Sam Ferguson, t r u t h o u t | Report

BUENOS AIRES — Thirty-two years ago, in a federal police station, the Intendencia, the Argentine army and police maintained a clandestine torture center. What transpired at the Intendencia is now at the center of a case that victims' lawyers are calling "the worst massacre in [Argentine] history." On June 12, 2008 Argentine federal prosecutor Felix Crous delivered his three-hour closing statement asking the three-judge tribunal to sentence Juan Lapuyole, Carlos Gallone and Miguel Timarchi - all active policemen at the time of the incident - to life in prison for the kidnapping and murder of thirty people. The incident, known as the Fatima massacre, took place in 1976, during the height of the Dirty War, during which Argentina's last military government "disappeared" around 15,000 people.

For over two decades, the suspected perpetrators of the incident were free from prosecution, saved by an amnesty law passed in the wake of democratic transition. But the amnesty was held unconstitutional by the Argentine Supreme Court in 2005, opening the way for prosecutors to indict Lapuyole, Gallone and Timarchi for the massacre. All the men were officially in the chain of command of officers working at the Intendencia and carried decision-making authority.

The Fatima case is the sixth to begin since the amnesty was overturned. Of the six cases to reach oral trial since 2005, all have ended in guilty verdicts. Time has taken its toll on the case. Of the 10 people suspected of ordering the massacre, Lapuyole, Gallone and Timarchi are the only ones still alive. The defense will present its closing statements between June 24 and June 26. A verdict is expected in early July.

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