



Friday Open Thread

Posted by [Stuart Staniford](#) on April 14, 2006 - 10:22am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

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Have you seen all these retired Generals [ganging up on Rumsfeld](#) and demanding he be fired? Six of them now, most of them serving under him in Iraq.

Swannack is critical of Rumsfeld's management style.

"Specifically, I feel he has micromanaged the generals who are leading our forces there," Swannack said in the telephone interview.

"And I believe he has culpability associated with the Abu Ghraib prison scandal and, so, rather than admitting these mistakes, he continually justifies them to the press ... and that really disallows him from moving our strategy forward."

A quick tour of conservative blogs and news stories failed to turn up any conservative politicians or bloggers defending him. President Bush has said he's doing a fine job, but that's it.

Update [2006-4-15 4:23:54 by Stuart Staniford]:

While we're on the subject of Rumsfeld, there is an [extraordinary piece in Salon](#) (you have to watch an ad to read it), who have got hold of an Army inspector general report on prisoner abuse at Guantanamo Bay. More below the fold.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was personally involved in the late 2002 interrogation of a high-value al-Qaida detainee known in intelligence circles as "the 20th hijacker." He also communicated weekly with the man in charge of the interrogation, Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller, the controversial commander of the Guantánamo Bay detention center.

During the same period, detainee Mohammed al-Kahtani suffered from what Army investigators have called "degrading and abusive" treatment by soldiers who were following the interrogation plan Rumsfeld had approved. Kahtani was forced to stand naked in front of a female interrogator, was accused of being a homosexual, and was forced to wear women's underwear and to perform "dog tricks" on a leash. He received 18-to-20-hour interrogations during 48 of 54 days.

Little more than two years later, during an investigation into the mistreatment of prisoners at Guantánamo, Rumsfeld expressed puzzlement at the notion that his policies had caused the abuse. "He was going, 'My God, you know, did I authorize putting a bra

and underwear on this guy's head?" recalled Lt. Gen. Randall M. Schmidt, an investigator who interviewed Rumsfeld twice in early 2005.

The answer would appear to be "yes". Also,

Schmidt also saw close parallels between the interrogations at Guantánamo, and the photographic evidence of abuse at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. "Just for the lack of a camera, it would sure look like Abu Ghraib," Schmidt told the inspector general, in the interview that was conducted in August 2005. At the direction of Pentagon officials, Miller led a mission to Iraq in August 2003 to review detainee operations at Abu Ghraib -- a visit that critics say precipitated the abuse of prisoners there.

I am livid. It is deeply humiliating to live in a country where senior officials are this morally degraded. Fire him. Fire him now. And then hopefully some other country can eventually give him a fair trial for his crimes against humanity.



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