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Bush Screw-ups -- Those Missing Explosives Are Just The Latest

by Michael in New York on [10/29/2004 02:43:00 AM](#)

Paul Krugman of the New York Times does a nice [roundup of recent Bush screwups](#), reminding everyone that the massive pile of explosives Bush let fall into the hands of terrorists (who likely turned around and used it to attack our sons and daughters) is just the latest sign of incompetence.

He covers letting Osama get away, letting Zarqawi get away and needing to request another \$70 billion but waiting till after the election.

Jon Lee Anderson has an even better opinion column in the LA Times depicting [the looting and chaos he observed in Iraq](#) after the fall of Baghdad. It's clear the missing cache of explosives in Al Qaqaa are merely the tip of the iceberg and far, far from the only example of incompetence in this area.

"For myself and other reporters who were on the ground in Baghdad during those days, this oversight does not seem surprising. Coinciding with the arrival of the Americans, Baghdad succumbed to an orgy of looting and, eventually, to wholesale sabotage, all of which took place under the tolerant and overwhelmed gaze of the newly arrived U.S. soldiers," writes Anderson in the LA Times.

"That U.S. troops could have visited Al Qaqaa, inspected the explosives and then moved on without securing them — evidently unaware of the high-level importance of the site — seems completely in keeping with the extraordinary lack of coordination between senior commanders and their troops in the field that we witnessed on a daily basis." It's filled with fascinating, horrifying detail.

But even Krugman and Jon Lee Anderson fail to bring up the scandal from just two weeks ago: insurgents [stripped clean NUCLEAR FACILITIES](#) in Iraq, taking away equipment that -- much like the tons of explosives now missing -- took days to dismantle and cart off with heavy trucks to do the lifting. This needs to be repeated again and again. Those missing tons of explosives are just the tip of the iceberg. Because Bush refused to listen to his generals, there weren't enough troops to secure the many, many sites where we knew dangerous equipment and explosives were located. And there weren't enough troops to secure the borders so terrorists came into the country, teamed up with local insurgents and carted off equipment that had been under the watchful eye of the UN but was now missing and likely to cause havoc somewhere in the world.

The VERY REASON we invaded Iraq -- Bush claimed (It was reason now #17 I believe) was the danger of WMDs. And yet the basic materials that we knew about have been carted off on Bush's watch.



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