



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

US Intelligence Chief: Insurgency Is As Strong As Ever

by Michael in New York on 9/14/2005 04:49:00 PM

Everyone agrees the insurgency in Iraq is stronger than ever -- they're killing more people this year than last year and killed more people last year than the year before. But John Negroponte -- the intelligence czar -- tries to downplay that fact by narrowing his focus to the last few months and putting the least offensive spin on the facts that he can:

"Putting numbers on the size of the insurgency is probably a bit of a speculative business because nobody knows for sure. But I guess I'd say that based on what I've read and on my own knowledge of the situation in Iraq, that over the past several months I don't think the size or nature of the insurgency has changed appreciably."

How many ways can we slice this? Saying the "size or nature" of the insurgency hasn't changed appreciably is another way of saying Bush is completely failing in his attempt to attack and weaken the insurgency. Negroponte could have said the insurgency is as strong as it's ever been, but Bush wouldn't have liked that.

One thing is clear: an intelligence czar who tries to downplay or bland out clear and accurate estimates of threats to a stable Iraq is not one that inspires confidence.



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HuffPost Politics

Mark Joseph: Nice Try Mr. President; Hold The Beer & Get The Tape - So, President Obama wants the Prof and the Cop to come to the White House, have a beer and make nice? Not so fast. One... 7 minutes ago

Daily Kos

Open Thread and Diary Rescue - *Tonight's crew of Rescue Rangers were vcmv02, grog, dopper0189, shayera, and joyful. In the meantime, dadanation looked editorial. Oh yeah, a big shout ... 26 minutes ago

Think Progress

Report: Cheney wanted to illegally deploy American troops in U.S. cities. - The New York Times reports that in 2002, Vice President Cheney and his administration allies urged President Bush to deploy American troops into the suburb... 46 minutes ago

Crooks and Liars

Open Thread - Andy K here blogging about Andy Kaufman (no relation), who's on the same stage with Wolfman Jack? Whelp, there goes that theory. h/t to Ben Folds (yes, ... 1 hour ago

Eschaton

Late Night Thread - Enjoy 1 hour ago

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