

War hero?

Democrat Congressman Jack Murtha has been proclaiming himself as a war hero for a long time. The fact is that Murtha spent only two years on active duty while the rest of his 37-year career was in the Marine Corps Reserves. He claims to have been in the Korean War; however, he spent his time stateside and never was actually in Korea. To his credit, he did volunteer for a year's tour in Viet-Nam as a staff intelligence officer, but spent all of his time there in rear areas and never saw any combat. So much for being a war hero!

Just too scary

In Iraq U.S. troops recovered floor plans for schools in Virginia, Texas and New Jersey from terrorist safe houses. In Afghanistan confiscated videotapes showed al-Qaeda terrorists practicing the takeover of a school. Terrorist cells inside the U.S. may be planning to use school buses as a sort of Trojan horse to infiltrate school campuses and kill innocent students and teachers. These terrorists mean business, but the liberal Democrat leaders would rather play partisan politics and appeasement than protect our country against the next deadly terrorist attack.

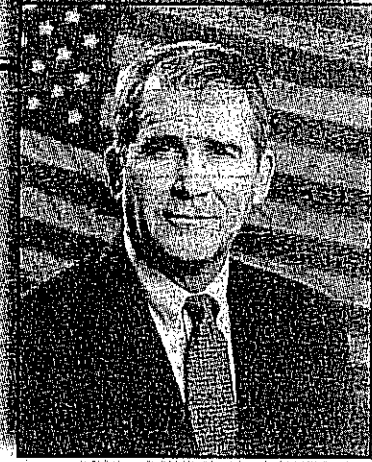
Afghan army

In the last two years the Afghan army conducted 10,224 operations that resulted in 2,822 hostile individuals being killed and another 1,324 arrested, while Afghan forces lost 331 killed and 861 wounded. The Afghan army currently has 46,000 troops on active service.

Anti-Americanism

Journalism professor Robert Jensen at the University of Texas in Austin said, "The United States has lost the war in Iraq, and that's a good thing. I welcome the U.S. defeat, it's essential the American empire be defeated and dismantled." He and thousands of professors and teachers like him are educating the young people of America what to think about their country.

Lt. Col. Oliver North, USMC (Ret)



Americans now love losers?

If Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is right, nearly 60% of Americans agree with him that the war in Iraq is already lost. And if he is correct in saying that losing the war will increase Democrat majorities in future elections, then it may be fair to conclude that Americans now love losers. I'm not buying any of it — and neither are the troops who are fighting this war.

In the days since Reid announced "this war is lost," I have heard from dozens of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, guardsmen and marines that I have covered in eight trips to Iraq and two to Afghanistan for FOX News. Some of those who correspond with me are there now, others are home. Some are preparing to deploy again. None of them agree with Reid's assessment.

One e-mail from Ramadi, Iraq observed: "Good thing this guy Reid wasn't around in 1940 when Winston Churchill promised the people of Great Britain nothing but 'blood, toil, tears and sweat.'" Another, a guardsman who recently returned from Mesopotamia with a Purple Heart, noted that Reid has become "Al Qaeda's most powerful ally." A Marine corporal I last saw along the banks of the Tigris River — now a Mississippi State University student — asked me, "Do those people who think we've lost this war have any idea what things will be like if we really do lose?" It's an important

question that none of the potentates on the Potomac who just voted to withdraw U.S. troops appear willing to address.

According to military folklore, Napoleon kept a corporal at his side to ensure that the orders issued in battle were understandable by the troops who had to carry them out. Whether true or not, it's time for Reid and Nancy Pelosi to find such a corporal who will ask them such questions, for if the Democrats continue their current course, we may well lose this war — and they will have embraced defeat and all that comes with it.

What would losing the war in Iraq mean? It's a picture so dark and depressing that it makes the collapse in Viet-Nam, 32 years ago, look like a Sunday school picnic. The fall of Saigon was horrific for the people of Viet-Nam and their neighbors in Cambodia and Laos. More than five million became refugees and by the most conservative estimates at least a million others perished.

For most Americans, the consequences were minimal. The vast majority of the 2.8 million of us who had fought and bled there mourned the loss of 58,253 of our comrades, swallowed the bitterness of defeat and got on with our lives. Our nation spent a few hundred million tax dollars on refugee relief and resettlement, and tried to forget what people in Reid's party called

"the long nightmare of Viet-Nam."

But classified U.S. intelligence assessments, military contingency plans and staff studies evaluating the consequences of a precipitous U.S. withdrawal from Iraq, coupled with the lack of funding for political reform measures, as contained in the legislation just passed by Reid's party, paint a far more dismal picture than anything that happened after Viet-Nam.

- Within months, an immediate upsurge in vicious sectarian violence fomented by Iranian intervention on behalf of Shiite militias and Wahabbi-supported, al Qaeda-affiliated terror groups. As U.S. forces retreat to a half-dozen staging areas for retrograde through Kuwait and Jordan, American casualties will dramatically increase as suicide bombers seek "martyrdom" in their victory.

- Inside of 18 months, the fragile democratically-elected government in Baghdad will collapse, precipitating a real sectarian civil war and the creation of Taliban-like "regional governments" that will impose brutal, misogynistic rule throughout the country. The ensuing flood of refugees into Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Turkey and Iran will overwhelm relief organizations, creating a humanitarian disaster making what's happening in Darfur pale by comparison.

- The Kurds in northern Iraq are likely to declare an autonomous region that could well result in Turkish, Iranian and even Syrian military intervention.

- In the course of withdrawing U.S. combat brigades and support units, billions of dollars in American military equipment and ordnance will have to be destroyed or left behind. More than \$40 billion in reconstruction projects for schools, health care facilities, sanitation, clean water, electrical distribution and agricultural development will be abandoned. Plans to exploit the new West Qurna oil field in south-eastern Iraq will be forsaken.

- The governments of Kuwait,

IVY HOUSE Publishing Group

Let us publish your book

Customized publishing packages

Comprehensive manuscript
evaluation

5122 Bur Oak Circle
Dept. MIL
Raleigh, NC 27612
919.762.0261

Lt. Col. Oliver North, USMC (Ret)

Jordan, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain, intimidated by Iranian boldness in acquiring nuclear weapons, will likely insist on the withdrawal of American military bases from their territories. Such a move will jeopardize U.S. naval operations in the Persian Gulf and logistics, intelligence collection and command and control facilities supporting operations in Afghanistan.

• As Iraq becomes a battleground for the centuries-long Sunni-Shia conflict, radical Islamic terror organizations will use the territories they control to prepare and launch increasingly deadly terror attacks around the globe against U.S. citizens, businesses and interests.

Reid and his cohorts in Congress who believe "this war is lost" have acted to ensure that it will be. No one asked them: "If we lost, who won?" The answer should be obvious. ✪

Terror, Inc.

In early May the State Department published its annual Country Reports on Terrorism. For those who want facts about the radical Islamic jihad being waged against the West, it's fascinating reading. For simpering solons in Congress, slithering back up Capitol Hill with their vetoed "surrender supplemental," it is bad news. And for those with any grasp of history, it's déjà vu.

Twenty years ago this summer, a joint select committee of Congress convened to investigate certain activities of the Reagan Administration. In the midst of what became a nationally televised circus, one of the witnesses observed: "If you can't convince those who sponsor terrorism to desist from their support, then you are left to either protect yourself close in or to reach out to prevent and deter the act."

In the two decades since those hearings, radical Islamic terror has become the most serious threat to U.S. citizens, property and interests since the collapse of the Soviet empire. For years it was "someone else's problem" because it only hap-

pened "over there." Then, on Sept. 11, 2001, radical Islamic terror blew up in our midst — "close in" was how I put it in 1987. Clearly we had not been doing all we could to "convince those who sponsor terrorism to desist from their support." And according to the data in this year's report, we still aren't.

Since it is prepared by the State Department, the report puts it a bit more diplomatically: "five years after 9/11, the international community's conflict with transnational terrorists continues." Though "cooperative international efforts have produced genuine security improvements," the report says, "major challenges remain."

"Major challenges" is the mother of all understatements. The table of incidents of terrorism worldwide shows that between 2005 and 2006, the number of terror incidents increased from 11,153 to 14,338 — a 25% rise. Worse still, 20,494 people died at the hands of terrorists — 5,800 more than the previous year — a 40% increase.

Digging into the reports reveals other disturbing indicators. Bombings are up by 30% and casualties from explosive devices have increased by 39%. Individual suicide bombing attacks, where a terrorist wears or carries an explosive device rather than driving a bomb-laden vehicle, are up 25%. More than 50% of the victims of these attacks perpetrated by Islamic radicals were other Muslims. Among those casualties were more than 1,800 children, an 80% increase from the previous year.

Despite these horrific trends, no Islamic leader or cleric has denounced those who recruit, indoctrinate, train and arm the suicide bombers who kill children. By contrast, in the aftermath of April's murders at Virginia Tech by a deranged Korean American student, the government of Korea, dozens of Korean American community groups and the killer's family all expressed remorse and condolences for the victims.

In a glaring indictment, the report again cites Iran as "the most significant state sponsor of terrorism." Governmental organs of the Tehran regime, specifically the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, are identified as "directly involved in the planning and support of terrorist acts." Both Iran and Syria routinely provide "safe haven, substantial resources and guidance to terrorist organizations."

The Syrian government is also implicated for providing "political and material support to Hezbollah and political support to Palestinian terrorist groups." The report contains a litany of offenses, including political assassination in neighboring Lebanon, providing assistance to terrorist organizations that have killed Americans, offering refuge to known terrorists and allowing "foreign fighters and terrorists to transit through its borders into Iraq."

Critics will use this year's Country Reports to "prove" that this upsurge in lethal terror is the consequence U.S. engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan, where slightly more than half of all attacks occurred in 2006. But such a claim ignores the global nature of the radical Islamic assault, and presumes that state sponsors such as Iran and Syria would desist if we simply pulled out.

Those who insist on removing U.S. troops from Iraq should clarify how such a withdrawal will alter the behavior of those who rule in Damascus and Tehran. While they are at it, critics of the current campaign in Mesopotamia should also

(Continued on page 49)

COLD WAR VICTORY MEDALS MADE FROM RUSSIAN NUCLEAR MISSILES!

The Cold War Campaign Medallion & the Cold War Star were stamped from Russian SS-11 ICBM & 16AS cruise nuclear missiles dismantled in Novgorod, Russia. These attractive handcrafted medals were made to honor all Cold War Veterans for their Cold War Victory.

For a unique piece of military history, send \$19.95 to: **FALLOUT PRODUCTS**
13566 Gold Run Dr. • Reno, NV 89521
reglee@abcglobal.net www.falloutproducts.com
Price includes set of two medals, display & S/H



explain how "disengagement" would have prevented the 9/11 attacks here in the United States.

Rather than using this year's Country Reports on Terrorism as a bludgeon for scoring domestic political points, policy makers should use the data and analysis to develop better tools for thwarting transnational Islamic terror. Despite a dramatic increase in radical Islamic attacks and casualties, the report makes clear that the strength and vulnerability of these terrorist organizations remains the need for state sponsorship.

"De-funding" Islamic terror must become a top priority. As Saudi authorities discovered this week when they prevented what could have been a devastating attack on their oil infrastructure, lip service to cutting off the flow of Wahabbi petrodollars to Sunni terror groups and turning a blind eye to Iranian terrorism is an invitation to catastrophe. The plot was apparently discovered by allied intelligence in Iraq. Good thing for those of us who already feel the pain at the pump. 