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- [DOD: No New Rules Needed](#)
 - [Today in DC: Commandos in the Streets?](#)
 - [Rumsfeld to Katrina: "Thanks"](#)
 - [The Pressure Cooker at Homeland Security](#)
 - [Documents Library](#)

- CATEGORIES**
- [Code Name of the Week](#)
 - [Disaster Prep](#)
 - [Documents Library](#)
 - [Domestic Role of the Military](#)
 - [Homeland Security](#)

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William M. Arkin on National and Homeland Security

Today in DC: Commandos in the Streets?

Today, somewhere in the DC metropolitan area, the military is conducting a highly classified **Granite Shadow** "demonstration."

Granite Shadow is yet another new Top Secret and compartmented operation related to the military's extra-legal powers regarding weapons of mass destruction. It allows for emergency military operations in the United States without civilian supervision or control.

A spokesman at the Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region (JFHQ-NCR) confirmed the existence of Granite Shadow to me yesterday, but all he would say is that Granite Shadow is the unclassified name for a classified plan.

That classified plan, I believe, after extensive research and after making a couple of assumptions, is **CONPLAN 0400**, formally titled Counter-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Concept Plan (CONPLAN) 0400 is a long-standing contingency plan of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) that serves as the umbrella for military efforts to counter the spread of weapons of mass destruction. It has extensively been updated and revised since 9/11.

The CJCS plan lays out national policy and priorities for dealing with WMD threats in peacetime and crisis -- from far away offensive strikes and special operations against foreign WMD infrastructure and capabilities, to missile defenses and "consequence management" at home if offensive efforts fail.

All of the military planning incorporates the technical capabilities of the intelligence agencies and non-military organizations such as the national laboratories of the Department of Energy. And finally, CONPLAN 0400 directs regional combatant commanders to customize counter-proliferation plans for each of their own areas of operations.

When that "area of operations" is the United States, things become particularly sensitive.

That's where Granite Shadow comes in. U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM), the military's new homeland security command, is preparing its draft version of CONPLAN 0400 for military operations in the United States, and the resulting Granite Shadow plan has been classified above Top Secret by adding a Special Category (SPECAT) compartment restricting access.

The sensitivities, according to military sources, include deployment of "special mission units" (the so-called Delta Force, SEAL teams, Rangers, and other special units of Joint Special Operations Command) in Washington, DC and other domestic hot spots. NORTHCOM has worked closely with U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM), as well as the secret branches of non-military agencies and departments to enforce "unity of command" over any post 9/11 efforts.

Further, Granite Shadow posits domestic military operations, including intelligence collection and surveillance, unique rules of engagement regarding the use of lethal force, the use of experimental non-lethal weapons, and federal and military control of incident locations that are highly controversial and might border on the illegal.

Granite Shadow is the twin to **Power Geyser**, a program I first

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and "render safe" in either a terrorist incident or in the case of a stolen (or lost) nuclear weapon. Render safe refers to the ability of explosive ordnance disposal experts to isolate and disarm any type of biological, chemical, nuclear or radiological weapon.

The obvious question is why there is a need for two plans. My guess is that Power Geyser and CONPLAN 0300 refers to operations in support of a civil agency "lead" (most likely the Attorney General for a WMD attack) while Granite Shadow and CONPLAN 0400 lays out contingencies where the military is in the lead. I'll wait to be corrected by someone in the know.

Both plans seem to live behind a veil of extraordinary secrecy because military forces operating under them have already been given a series of "special authorities" by the President and the secretary of defense. These special authorities include, presumably, military roles in civilian law enforcement and abrogation of State's powers in a declared or perceived emergency.

In January, when *The New York Times* reported on the Power Geyser name from my [Code Names](#) website, the Pentagon argued that "It would be irresponsible ... to comment on any classified program that may or may not exist."

I can't see how the Defense Department can continue this line of argument post-Katrina. We see the human cost of a system of contingency planning done in complete secret, with a lack of any debate as to what should be the federal government's priorities, emphasis, and rules.

As the Granite Shadow commandos and their federal brethren go through their paces today, some inside the system will lament that I have "compromised" their work. But the very fact that nothing in my writing damages the Granite Shadow effort should demonstrate that we can have a discussion of contingency planning priorities in the United States, and debate extraordinary special authorities granted to those in uniform, without compromising the details of the plans themselves.

There's still time. The full-scale exercise of Granite Shadow's capabilities and procedures doesn't start until April 2006.

A note to readers: Today begins a weekly feature of Early Warning, namely **code name of the week**. This will endeavor to discuss some secret program of the government, sometimes with an argument that the secrecy is excessive, sometime with far more questions than answers.

By William M. Arkin | September 21, 2005; 07:21 AM ET | Category: [Code Name of the Week](#) , [Domestic Role of the Military](#)
Previous: [Rumsfeld to Katrina: "Thanks"](#) | [Main Index](#) | Next: [DOD: No New Rules Needed](#)

Comments

Please [email us](#) to report offensive comments.

"And when combined with the tens of millions of discerning Republicans who see through the lies of the current Republican Party leadership...well,"
Yup, let's get the party started...

BTW: Nato-controlled Afghan regions record huge increase in opium production 23 Sep 2005 Massive increases in drug production have been recorded in regions of Afghanistan where Nato is operating. [Bush's motive behind the illegal invasion of Afghanistan is revealed.]

Lori Price

<http://www.legitgov.org/>

Posted by: Lori Price, www.legitgov.org | Sep 23, 2005 3:06:46 AM

Anyone fathom a guess on the code names? 'Granite Shadow' would signify a CoIntel IMO. I would say the timing with Saturday's anti-war protest might be key. This could quite possibly be one of the last protests in the US with the bogus "antihate" bill being forced through. A clear mark of the 'anti-semite oligarch beast a' la Canada and Germany.

'Power Geyser' could be a number of things. EMP, HAARP, a seismic trigger (nuke?) for an earthquake?

By the way, big thanks for writing real news.

Thank god I finally found some people making sense. Sorcha Faal has been dead on for months. With her perfect record of prediction, it seems her Russian Intel has been running circles around US intel when it comes to accuracy. How sad that we have a trillion dollar media machine and we can't even get a sliver of the truth.

Why is this information being suppressed? I am amazed to find this on the W. Post website. This should be front page news.

It's very obvious that they are gearing up for a huge False Flag. I say they'll hit Port of Los Angeles with a friggin nuke. They've been diverting ships to Mexico and they've already built many concentration camps in Southern California.

<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/pages/camps.html>

Also of interest is 'Operation Endgame', which is being managed by Fatherland Security and ICE(Immigration and Customs Enforcement) which details the internment of 5 million.

<http://www.ice.gov/graphics/dro/endgame.pdf>

These neocons are completely insane. I'm glad this is finally at least getting online print in 'mainstream media'. Which, by the way, when the 'Trails of the Century' begin, these brownshirt "journalists" and "editors" should be tried for treason and accessory to genocide.

Posted by: | Sep 23, 2005 2:07:41 AM

Good piece. Though your line of reasoning took a detour at the part where you questioned the military's ability to accomplish the mission "post Katrina". Couple of things here. The ONLY part of the government that was on the ball post Katrina was the military. The navy, marines and the army all had assets on station and conducting rescue operations either the evening of the levy breach or that following morning. Further more, there is a universe of difference between the cultures within the military bureaucracy and the civilian bureaucracy. That difference will always retard the efficiency and response of any civilian operation. And it can be best summed up by saying that within the civilian bureaucracy the primary operating principle isn't "how can the mission best be served".. Its "how best can I cover my a\$\$".

With your "post Katrina" statement. You imply that the military and the civilian establishments suffer the same problem. It is simply not the case. Maybe you should look at the reaction to Katrina again and ask yourself.. "Would I rather that FEMA take point in the event of a domestic nuclear event.? Or would the military be best suited to handle such an event? "

And believe me - the average American wont give a damn that in the process of neutralizing a domestic nuclear attack, The federal government and the military stepped on state or local toes. Or that in the process of doing so, acted outside the law. Not when the alternatives are untold thousands dead and hole in the ground where we used to have a city.

Laws are there to protect people and property. When those same laws stand in the way of doing that. They should be ignored. When standing firm on principle and or the law equates to a national suicide pact – such actions are neither principled nor legal.

Mike
Seattle

Posted by: Mike | Sep 22, 2005 11:45:05 PM

Why The Use Of A Nuclear Weapon,
Most Probably On A U.S. City,
Is Becoming Likely

(Note: Following a spread of this email three things happened. Admiral Keating first 'stood-down' (8/17/05) then canceled a 'terrorist nuking' exercise in South Carolina (8/22/05). But cut out of bag. Enemies now know how vulnerable we really are, even to simple threat of nuke. Next (Russian Intel source) the U.S. sent strong message to all other governments that the U.S. is experiencing an 'internal crisis' and that all other governments should stay out of this, even in 'jest'. This places Putin in danger too. He has, against all protocol, held for a period two U.S. Senators, Lugar and Obama, who were visiting Siberia regarding the nuke issue. Foggy Bottom had to raise hell to get them released, Putin emphasizing the importance of the message they are taking back. If we do not quickly agree to put the weapons down we will in all probability have an event, simple "threat" probability even higher.

The letters below will be hard for some to digest as the nuclear landscape is not what it has been presented for the past sixty years. In essence all bases had been covered through the Cold War. Following that all known terrorist groups have been infiltrated by one side or another. Rummy assumed the war would go easily, only a few 'brigades needed' and Iraq will fall into U.S. hands within a month or so. In the interim the U.S. have made, and are continuing to make, unknown enemies. Of course now they will use a nuke. To continuing to assume otherwise is now a gross delusion.

This is linked to background in the form of a play, A Spy In Time. With some

alteration to make it work it is essentially a 'history', the truth. The play gives far more detail as to what (as in letter) was passed to General Krulac in 96 leading to the shoot-down of Flight 800. . Letter follows:

December Seventh
By Michael Donovan, Camden, Maine

Dear enemies,

A few days ago I sent the following letter...:

Admiral Timothy J. Keating
Commander
Northern Command
northcompa@northcom.mil
Dear Admiral Keating,

Rummy is nuts. Your upcoming nuclear 'exercise', (response to a make-believe terrorist nuking), is now making the rounds of the alternative Internet news. I clicked to the Northern Command site from www.rense.com. Can't see how it would not as the false-flags of 9/11 and London had many concurrent military exercises..... (more, letter continues at...:)

<http://www.midcoast.com/~michael/webnukeletter.htm>

Background concerning letter at...:

<http://www.midcoast.com/~michael/aspvintime.htm>

Michael Donovan, Camden, Maine

Posted by: Michael Donovan | Sep 22, 2005 10:56:12 PM

"It will take time, but it's time to get more left-leaning liberals and outright leftists to at least POSE a threat, by getting organized and getting ARMED. It's time to get well past this liberal phobia and taboo about weapons and force. After all, our liberalism was won with a REVOLUTIONARY WAR! they used real guns in that war. The French Revolution was also a WAR and they used real weapons there too."

Lori,

There are tens upon tens of millions of liberal Democrats in America who own guns.

Where did someone get the bizarre idea that liberal Democrats don't own guns? Is it from the same people who state that "most" members of the military are Republican?

Won't the Fascist Republicans who have fallen for this "spin" be surprised when they presume they are facing an un-armed, soft-on-crime, weak-on-defense Liberal Democrat, only to discover too late that they are facing a patriotic, loyal and "armed" U.S. citizen who is uninterested in living under a totalitarian, neo-Communist, one-party ruled Fascist regime?

Such a pity. And yet, not all Republicans have been fooled by the far-rightwing "spin" machine. This is the reason Bush's polls are tanking. Many Republicans actually respect the separation of church and state, the checks and balances, the Bill of Rights and all those liberties that make America...well, America.

Unfortunately, the Republican Party leadership has been hijacked by a bunch of neo-Communist, religious-fanatic totalitarian thugs.

But discerning Republicans realize what has happened and are just as concerned as liberal Democrats and political independents in the Fascist turn our country has taken.

Of course, these discerning Republicans don't watch Fox News religiously, and actually do their own fact checking. I've spoken to a few of them. They are just as appalled as I am at the gross corruption and ineptitude of the current Republican Party leadership.

But to repeat, Lori, tens of millions of liberal Democrats possess guns in this country. And when combined with the tens of millions of discerning Republicans who see through the lies of the current Republican Party leadership...well, I actually really feel kind of sorry for the neo-con, neo-Communist Fascist Republicans who think they can glibly get away with murdering our democracy and our democratic institutions.

Posted by: The Oracle | Sep 22, 2005 10:36:52 PM

The only real threat to our Constitutional Republic is an enemy from within. For this reason our founding fathers wanted to avoid a powerful centralized government. With a limited federal government an enemy within would be incapable of posing a real threat to the liberties of the people. We were to avoid foreign entanglements. Now our military acts as the police of the world under the authority of the UN. Since 9-11 the constitution is a dead letter. Through the un-Patriot Act and numerous other laws enacted by a frightened Congress, enormous powers delegated by the people have been transferred to the executive branch. A monster out of control that even Congress dares not antagonize. This military serves this monster not the people; hence the considerable concern on the part of the people when the Pentagon conducts secret maneuvers or "planning" exercises on US soil. I seem to remember that on the morning of September 11th, the Pentagon was conducting an exercise that paralleled

the 9-11 attack. No wonder the people are alarmed when they read that the military is planning secret exercises in Washington, D.C. on the very date of a massive anti-war demonstration?

Posted by: Marge | Sep 22, 2005 10:29:54 PM

Re Constant's comment to Wyttenbach:
"So, why are you you using your military rank?"

I think Constant's comment is unfair. Wyttenbach was not referring to himself as Major Wyttenbach, he was simply noting that he had had the rank of Major in the Air Force.

As for the rest of Wyttenbach's comments, I don't know. Our law is supposed to be based upon the Constitution, but Supreme Court Judges on both the left and right seem adept at pulling half-baked sophistry out of thin air to justify whatever they want to do. Or at refusing to rule on something they don't want to address.

Posted by: Don Williams | Sep 22, 2005 8:29:45 PM

cover ups include

JFK,JFK jr, Iran Conta bty Roberts was involved. Flight 800, more flights have been covered up look BACK at all of them !!! Ruby Ridge, Waco, OK Bombing, Kosivo, Iraq, WMD's , UFO's (hint the disclosure project), Chemtrails. AIDs, REX-84, weather weapons, And last if not the most important of our life right now the cover up of 911. Do your research the info is out there...and for you looneys that believe the gov..

WAKE UP NOW!

Posted by: AB* | Sep 22, 2005 7:44:57 PM

cover ups include

JFK,JFK jr, Iran Conta bty Roberts was involved. Flight 800, more flights have been covered up look BACK at all of them !!! Ruby Ridge, Waco, OK Bombing, Kosivo, Iraq, WMD's , UFO's (hint the disclosure project), Chemtrails. AIDs, REX-84, weather weapons, And last if not the most important of our life right now the cover up of 911. Do your research the info is out there...and for you looneys that believe the gov..WAKE UP NOW!

Posted by: AB* | Sep 22, 2005 7:43:49 PM

Wyttenbach,

In your post you didn't say you were retired, just discharged.

So, why are you you using your military rank? You're only supposed to be using your status as "former military officer."

If you want to rely on your rank, you're free to rejoin the National Guard; if you don't want to serve, then don't use your rank. Got it?

Posted by: Constant | Sep 22, 2005 7:33:36 PM

Wyttenbach,

FEMA is designed to handle 4 disasters [whether they do so or not is another matter].

THus, your contention that the "trip wire" for some EO for martial law based on just TWO [2] natural disasters seems to lack credibility.

It would appear that you left the military with hopes that "life outside" would be an improvement. Welcome to reality: It's just the same everywhere, so don't use the "shock with reality" as an excuse not to use your head or rush to non-sense theories.

Posted by: Constant | Sep 22, 2005 7:31:13 PM

As an Honorably discharged, Major, USAF ; this natural living man was awestruck at the fully illegal and Unconstitutional activies at Eglin, AFB. It was, My God !!! how do they get away with this?

In my search for right action (doing that which is good just and true), I dug deep and found answers. At www.teamlaw.org they put out a challenge in their Open Forum of a 1,000.00 if teamlaw's educational information could be verifiably proved wrong. In 12 years from learning from them, I have not been able to find verifiable proof of what they educate and the services they provide.

If you check them out, read the Historical Timeline first (The truth NOT taught in Public Schools and Universities). Then go to the Free Open Forum and print off and read Land Patent 101. It will enlighten you and you will be less ignorant. (Like of knowledge)Next, Patriot Mythology is a great third choice, then their other site, www.wayofkings.com the absolute assest protection system I have ever researched

and found in my fifty years of age.

1.Fact: When the Southern Republic States succeeded from the Union, Congress was ineffective. There was not a quorum to legislate. The President L, ordered Martial Law, as the military is the only thing he could control and take action with. That Martial Law is still in effect today, and is the basis of Executive Orders today. Then Roosevelt under the authority of the same martial law from Pres.A.L. created the Emergency War Powers Act, making the American Citizens, the enemy. (The nation was bankrupt.) If you are a truthseeker, and your ego isn't a negative one,...you can read the rest on www.teamlaw.org.

If you think these Hurricaines are Natural? Go read: under Weather Wars, the latest posting found at www.stevequalyle.com

If what is posted at www.whatdoesitmean.com is true, that Bush has signed an EO (Operation Ophelia), several months ago, if more than two natural disasters occur in America within 6 months, he is activating overt martial law of the entire Nation. In my opinion if this were to occur, it would be the start of Civil War in our United States of America. Our Constitutional Republic is hanging by a thread, and I believe www.teamlaw.org has the answers and solutions if enough Americans are willing to educate themselves as to the truths of what is happening,...stop being ignorant and apathetic. If you can't do it for yourself, then do it for our children,...what will you choose for them and you,...Sovereign or Slave. We are at major cross roads,.....Always pick the choices that bring the most freedom, with harm to none.

WilliamWytenbach@hotmail.com

Posted by: William H Wytenbach, M.D. | Sep 22, 2005 7:20:21 PM

www.votetoimpeach.org

590,000+ of my best friends have signed this petition :)

www.impeachnow.org

www.impeachbush.tv/

www.impeachcentral.com

Visualize IMPEACHMENT of BUSH & CHENEY~

Bless us ALL & make it SO!

Posted by: madgimom | Sep 22, 2005 6:50:19 PM

To LA Steel I did notice that the "commando" exercise was conveniently going on at the same time as the peace rally.I'm from the Viet Nam era and when I first read of this commando thing it sent chills up my spine--the 60's and 70's revisited.This action may result in far more dangerous outcomes then in the Nam era because king George's puppeteers are more dangerous.I tried to contact anyone connected to the peace march and warn them--don't know if any of my communications got to the right people.Fortunately there will be some politicians at the rally which may help protect the people participating.

Posted by: busyhands | Sep 22, 2005 5:39:38 PM

To PeacePerson: Gandhi never had Faux News and Karl Rove to fight. Joseph Goebbels would tip his hat to *this* regime, trust me.

Oh, btw. Notice that Bush's New Orleans body count is being suppressed, as in Iraq. How many thousands have died, due to Dictator Bush's policies?

The treason trials of Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and Rove need to begin... with all possible penalties for treason on the plate.

Cheers,

Lori Price

Gen. Mgr.,

Citizens For Legitimate Government

<http://www.legitgov.org/>

Posted by: Lori Price, www.legitgov.org | Sep 22, 2005 4:56:35 PM

I've reviewed the article and most of the comments and it seems that everyone has failed to mention the one reason why a commando operation would be taking place today and the rest of the week in D.C.
THE ANTI WAR DEMONSTRATION IS TAKING PLACE
SEPT 21-27 IN D.C. WHY hasn't the Post or any other main stream media mentioned the rally. Expected turnout of over 500,000 people. All available hotel and housing is filled up in D.C and surrounding areas. Thousands of buses filled to capacity from every state in the country. A revolution is taking place right before your eyes and like everything else of importance in this country the Post doesn't report it. Or

misses the event all together. Absolutely amazing.

It is simply amazing how blind deaf and dumb this paper and the rest of main stream keeps themselves. To become enlightened please go to ANSWER.org and get the facts.
L.A.STEEL
lasteeltv@yahoo.com

Posted by: L.A. Steel | Sep 22, 2005 4:48:47 PM

Sorry. Forgot to include the link to the John Millis Washington Post article. Here it is:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn?pagename=article&node=&contentId=A4896-2000Jun6¬Found=true>

It was a one day story by the way. See
http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1571/is_30_16/ai_64426325

Posted by: Don Williams | Sep 22, 2005 4:30:46 PM

Re CSM-H's comment "it is people like you with your apparent intellect that convince people of a grand scheme; the "Black Hand"."

hee hee hee.

Actually, I can't convince people of anything.
But I can point out a few "observables".

For example, Congress is obviously unable to perform detailed oversight of the huge Intelligence Community, DOD, and Homeland Security. It therefore must depend upon the patriotism of the millions of ordinary Americans working in those worlds to serve as its eyes and ears.

You would think that any American would be encouraged to go and talk with his Congressman if he saw something unsavory going on. Yet , strangely enough, he cannot. For one thing, his COngressman is not cleared for SCI information.

Yet Congress has Intelligence Committees whose members are cleared. Yet our American with the security clearances cannot even go speak to those Members of Congress without first telling the Executive Branch -- 30 days in advance -- that he intends to become a snitch. Doing so, of course, ensures that he will eventually lose his job and ultimately his life savings.

This requirement was imposed by the Orwellian-named Intelligence Whistleblower's Protection Act of 1998. Who wrote and proposed that Act? Would you believe Porter Goss, currently Director of CIA, while he was Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee? Reeemarkable foresight.

The 30 days gives the Executive Branch time to investigate our American's complaint and ..er.. allay his fears. Via various means no doubt.

When Porter Goss was Chairman, his Director of Staff was John Millis. I would direct you to Mr Millis for more background on this Act but Mr Millis is no longer with us.

From the Washington Post , June 6, 2000:

"Intelligence Staffer Dies
Former CIA Officer's Body Found in Motel
Tuesday, June 6, 2000; Page A10

John I. Millis, staff director of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and a former CIA operations officer, was found dead Sunday night of an apparent gunshot wound in a Fairfax City motel, officials said yesterday.

City police found Millis, 47, in a room at the Breezeway Motel, 10829 Lee Hwy., after receiving a report that a guest there was threatening suicide. Officers tried and failed to contact the room's occupant by telephone before entering and finding his body in the bathroom. An investigation is continuing. "

Posted by: Don Williams | Sep 22, 2005 4:27:01 PM

Exercise your 2nd amendment. You may have to as our founding fathers intended for it to be.

Posted by: CityZen X | Sep 22, 2005 3:17:51 PM

I think this fits in with that paper Col Dunlap wrote about a coup in 2012 [<http://tinyurl.com/avwmn>]. When I read the above information, and looking at what's going on with Katrina/Rita, it looks like the momentum is dovetailing.

Posted by: Constant | Sep 22, 2005 3:14:00 PM

As a former military guy I find it quite interesting what some of you are saying.

specifically Mr Williams, of all the comments about this and that of what our government is doing I would worry more about YOU than the government.(I'm sure that makes you feel more important than you really are) it is people like you with your apparent intellect that convince people of a grand scheme; the "Black Hand". This government is still by the people, but you and others here would have us believe that if we are not questioning everything our government is doing that there is going to be some kind of coup! get a grip. I for one sleep pretty well knowing some of those folks out there doing there job so that folks like you can continue to enjoy free speech.

Posted by: CSM-H | Sep 22, 2005 2:54:32 PM

Posse Comitatus is long gone...

Posted by: Amanda Lang | Sep 22, 2005 1:44:47 PM

The 'checks and balances' idea in governance was what set our country aside from all of the dictators and fascist ideologies of the past. The idea that no one branch of government could 'control' another and that there were limits to the power and basically the amount of damage that could be wrought ARE what made this country great and have kept us 'free'!

All, or at least well over 90% of that has just about disappeared. Replaced by laws and proclamations and presidential decrees that enforce it's demise, let alone the blatant and bold stealing of elections. There is no 'justice' in America unless you are a corporation or very well connected and funded. ALso there is no true opposition party. Greed and cowardice have kept what remains of the Democratic core cowed to the rulers. And someone wondered whatever happened to the Anthrax attacks of post 9/11 fame... That apparently worked wonders for opposition control. We can find the perps of the first bombing of the WTC, and can't find who did those Anthrax laced letters? Come on...

Executive branch control reaches out into the so called 'main stream media' and the other purveyors of information for our society.

Some very interesting quotes pop into my head at this point:

If you cannot create war then at least continue to propagate the idea that war is coming. Never leave people in peace, because when they are in peace, you are nobody. Then they don't need you; your very purpose is gone. They need you only when there is danger; so create danger. If there is not real danger, at least create the climate of a false danger. -Adolph Hitler. (Paraphrasing Plato(?): Wars remind people that they need leaders)

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it.

The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."

-- Joseph Goebbels, German Minister of Propaganda, 1933-1945

"Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peacemakers for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country." -Hermann Goering

Posted by: Gonzoid | Sep 22, 2005 1:15:53 PM

attn: Lugo, re: accountability

Who's been prosecuted for abuse, anyway? As far as I know, only one Sergeant, and nobody above that rank. I don't want to see the Lyndie England trial, I want to see who in her chain of command is responsible. Trying a PFC does not demonstrate accountability, and what has happened at Abu Ghraib & elsewhere demands accountability.

Justice demands full accountability by those in power, both civilain government and military. Without rule of law, there is no United States to defend.

Posted by: B | Sep 22, 2005 1:12:26 PM

Stop questioning YOUR governement! Now go home and enlist your children for the next preemptive war!

Posted by: doug | Sep 22, 2005 12:48:57 PM

Read about a true war hero

http://judicial-inc.biz/tibor_rubin.htm

Posted by: Mark Twain | Sep 22, 2005 12:38:52 PM

I used to watch old WWII movies and wonder why the German citizens didn't see Hitler coming. Well, now I know; for the same reason we don't see Fascism coming here. People just can't believe that their government could change so rapidly. You cannot suspend the Bill of Rights for 'some people' and have it hold for yourself. If Jose Padilla can be held for years with no charges and no trial, so can you or I. If the army can take over police work in New Orleans, it can do so in New York or Podunk. Everyone is waiting for this New World Order to affect them personally. Folks, by that time it will be way too late. We need to get rid of this administration NOW! They have committed enough crimes to be impeached several times over.

Posted by: Melissa Shutta | Sep 22, 2005 12:27:24 PM

Hey, Lori, you don't happen to work for the ATF or FBI do you? heh heh heh

Just kidding.

Take a look at the Democratic Convention. Do you really want to give those people firearms? Talk about a circular firing squad. I don't think even Che Guavara could do much with these people.

Actually, however, you do have a good underlying point. The bumbling, timid incompetence of the Democratic leadership does greatly resemble the craven behavior of the Social Democrats in the Weimar Republic --behavior that allowed the Nazis to grow without challenge. (It was the hard core leftists --the Communists -- that fought the Nazis in the streets and held them off for years before being overwhelmed.)

The Democratic leadership has the same beliefs as the Social Democrats of Weimar. They think that they don't really have to show courage, fight for principles, or even make much of an effort. Just look at John Kerry's Presidential campaign.

Democratic leaders think that all they have to do is show up, make a few cheap gestures, and "when the tide turns" power will flow back into their hands. The Social Democrats thought that even as they were being herded into the concentration camps in the mid 1930s and exterminated.

Posted by: Don Williams | Sep 22, 2005 9:49:45 AM

I am one that is deeply suspicious of any government, and since I live in America, especially the American government. And this Bush administration gets me tied in knots every time it tries to push the conservative agenda. However, I was totally taken aback by the administration's signing public law 108-447 designating "Constitution Day" on Sept. 17 where schools are encouraged to teach, without any guidance from government, about the Constitution. This is not something a government bent on taking away our civil liberties would do, so I take heart in it. But then again, it could have been just another screw up by an administration that has a hard time getting anything right. Another thing I take heart in. :^D

Posted by: Sully | Sep 22, 2005 9:31:01 AM

I just love the way the comments get more and more loony in this blog as time goes on. Shouldn't there be a rule that the first time Nazis or coups d'etat are mentioned, no further comments are permitted?

Posted by: Lugo | Sep 22, 2005 9:05:10 AM

Responding to Lori Price's comment about the need to be armed--NOT!

Gandhi, up against all the repressive might of the British Empire (and no, they were not very "civilized" in their genocidal antics in India), rejected violence not only on moral but also on practical grounds. Revolutions that are won in battle first of all leave a lot more people dead, second, create the same kind of dangerous concentration of power in the victors (look at Mugabe's Zimbabwe, for which we had such hope in the late 70s), face a much stronger force that is "justified" in attacking because of the threat of destabilizing violence--so they initiate it.

I strongly recommend reading Gene Sharp's three volume set on the power of nonviolent action. It's a slow read but extremely illuminating.

Posted by: PeacePerson | Sep 22, 2005 7:00:09 AM

When there are no plans in place to react to a situation people complain. Then in perfect hindsight they can label officials incompetent.

When there are plans in place to react to a situation people complain. And then accuse officials of trying to "takeover or be covert".

Have a beer and get over it.

Posted by: Tom | Sep 22, 2005 6:00:38 AM

If the military doesn't want us to know about it, we won't.

Posted by: Mary Ramirez | Sep 22, 2005 3:35:42 AM

I hate to be a sooth sayer! But, with all these SOG Types running around with Live Ammo and tanks, Force Recon,SEAls,Rangers and Blackwater types!
There is going to be a large Anti Iraq War Rally this Weekend!

Is DC to be our new KENT STATE?

Posted by: Ron | Sep 22, 2005 2:15:50 AM

People need to understand the link between so called "terrorism exercises" and real terrorism. There were exercises running at NORAD and other domestic agencies on 9/11, and also in London on 7/7.

There is an unstoppable Weimer style global hyperinflationary economic breakdown crisis coming (of which the oil shock is just the leading edge). Cheney and his backers in the Wall-St-London financial crowd are going for a dictatorsip to avoid forms of US constitutional response that would be unfavourable to their economic interests.

This is serious folks. The enemy is very much wihin. I advise you all to prepare for coming economic and physical emergencies, wherever you are in the US.

Posted by: John | Sep 22, 2005 1:45:10 AM

The timing of "Granite Shadow" is interesting.Isn't the peace march scheduled for this weekend in D.C.? Couldn't possibly be that our up right and lawful government is planning on throwing a wet blanket on a peaceful demonstration,could it????????

Posted by: busyhands | Sep 22, 2005 12:42:54 AM

Arming the Left: Is the time now? --by Charles Southwell

http://www.legitgov.org/essay_southwell_arming_the_left_is_the_time_now_102203.html

As long as we pose no REAL threat to the powers-that-be, to what is shaping up into a dictatorship, we will continue to be ignored. Right now, we are ignored because we present no organized power to fight this onslaught of anti-democratic, totalitarian government that we are up against.

It will take time, but it's time to get more left-leaning liberals and outright leftists to at least POSE a threat, by getting organized and getting ARMED. It's time to get well past this liberal phobia and taboo about weapons and force. After all, our liberalism was won with a REVOLUTIONARY WAR! they used real guns in that war. The French Revolution was also a WAR and they used real weapons there too.

http://www.legitgov.org/index.html#breaking_news

Posted by: Lori Price, www.legitgov.org | Sep 22, 2005 12:40:19 AM

The timing of this "Granite Shadow" is interesting.Isn't this the weekend of the peace demonstration in D.C.?? Couldn't possibly be that our up right and lawful government is planning to throw a wet blandet on people legally assembled for a peaceful demonstration could it????????

Posted by: busyhands | Sep 22, 2005 12:39:54 AM

The tone that runs through many comments reminds me of the tone of administration spokes people during the Cold War and Vietnam. The spokes people told us that there were many secrets that had to be kept from us so that the administraion could protect us. Many years later, we learned that the secrets protected the malfeasance of administration officials.

Our intelligence community greatly underestimated the capabilities of the North Vietnamese, and greatly overestimated the strength of the Soviet Union. The results was a waste of thousand of lives and billions of dollars.

From that experience, I learned that any administration that that keeps secret general policy information is attempting to cover up its incompetence and crimes.

Thos who protest the loudest against the unveiling of such "secrets" are usually either complicit in the incompetence and crimes, or sycophants for the perpetrators.

In that vein, I wonder about those who state or imply that Arkin is aiding the "enemy": what do these people have to hide?

Posted by: Unpatriotic | Sep 21, 2005 10:31:13 PM

It is my fear that when these jackals leave office, or if they leave office considering that these plans 0300 and 0400 are only a short step from a coup d'etat, that there will be nothing left of the Constitution. Are we becoming the new Nazi state all in the name of security? Are we really sure of what the intentions of these men are?

Posted by: Al Havermann | Sep 21, 2005 9:51:00 PM

Excellent articles. I would suggest that in the future, in addition to criticizing the way some in the the military is seeking to use incidents like 9/11 and various other disasters to gather more power, it would also be good to point out how civilian agencies could do the same sorts of things both more effectively and openly and why that is better.

The military is very good at certain things. I know that most of them want to do the right thing for the country. I also know that the experts in the military who could help the country fight terrorism, etceteras, could do so just as (or more) effectively from a civilian organization within the rule of law. The FBI or a similar organization could quite easily do all these things without secret plans, explicit "commandoizing" of the efforts, and the assumption that somehow the majority of American's can't be trusted with a role in their own countries defense.

Not involving citizens post 9/11 is just plain stupid considering that the sole successful resistance to the terror attacks on 9/11 came from civilians who formed a sort of "militia" on the spur of the moment to deal with their hijacked plane.

Posted by: Chris Holte | Sep 21, 2005 7:56:50 PM

I don't have much to say about this. I spend most of my time struggling to make a decent living at work and pay very little attention to the political sides of things but ...

How did we let the Government end up like this? Am I the only person left thinking that a government is a set of people entasked with looking after us all and doing all those little things that we would forget ourselves, or don't have the time for over the average day? I always thought the government was supposed to be the representation of our thoughts and wishes of our country, what we want for ourselves as a whole.

Instead, it seems we have a bunch of people with ties to all sorts of businesses and corporations, trying to make huge personal fortunes for themselves, ignoring their "job descriptions" and not caring for the very people that got them in their positions of power to begin with.

I don't like the fact that people I may very well have voted for, are giving people the "authority" to do all manner of things, some of which may directly affect me as a person.

Posted by: Andy | Sep 21, 2005 6:50:44 PM

Matt, I do NOT want to know what the government is doing in the sense of being privy to the operational details of military plans for the simple reason that if I know these plans, then our enemies know them too. Oh yeah, I forgot those enemies are "ephemeral". Seem to recall they ephemerally collapsed some buildings and killed a few thousand people a few years ago...

Posted by: Lugo | Sep 21, 2005 5:57:49 PM

Why do so many of you not want to know what the government is doing? Don't you think it is important to know that our military is making plans to take over the civil role of our goverment under certain circumstances? Don't you think we should be privy to such plans that are a total departure from past precedents? So much that is happening is very unusual. Gas costs have doubled in a year, milk, fruit and groceries likewise, housing costs are absurd yet our goverment worries about some ephemeral enemy and if anyone points to the absurdity of this they are labeled a traitor. Maybe Katrina revealed more of what we are than we like to believe.

Posted by: Matt Connolly | Sep 21, 2005 4:17:40 PM

I can't tell you how happy I am to see some decent reporting in the Post! What a refreshing change. Keep up the good work!

I'm an English teacher at a local university (as well as a low-level civilian bureaucrat) and my students and I spent last evening examining some advertisements for military "consultant" companies, trying to determine what, if anything, they were actually selling. In one case, we found a company whose ad says "We save Lives" over a picture of a GI with an M-16, suggesting that perhaps the ad is for the gun, or something on the gun. The ad is actually selling military training services! Isn't the military supposed to train its own people?

I did just finish some private sector training of my own, where I learned about the special procurement rules for "contingency operations" allowing the purchase of millions of dollars of goods and services without competition. And we used to worry about \$300 toilet seats at the Pentagon. How innocent we were.

Anyway, thanks for the excellent reportage. I'll keep my eye out for the commandos.

Posted by: Lisa Mitchell | Sep 21, 2005 2:57:02 PM

In Soviet Russia brownshirts were required to drink New Orleans flood water if they

were caught divulging the unclassified names of secret names of unclassified programs.

Posted by: Ted Sbardella | Sep 21, 2005 1:49:22 PM

Having worked for the military in a Civil Service managerial position for over twenty years, I note that the military loves secrets perhaps even more than it loves undeserved power. Military organizations also tend to be woefully inefficient, primarily because they are generally commanded by officers with no managerial or human relations skills, and it is perhaps this characteristic that has preserved our representative democracy from military takeover for two centuries. Unhappily, it is quite obvious that the highly successful terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center (which made a far greater emotional impact than did the attack on the Pentagon) have upset the balance of the country, allowing the military far more leeway to intrude upon civilian affairs and authority than it has formerly had. This, combined with inept political creations such as the Department of Homeland Security, has become the terrorists' greatest, longest lasting, and most injurious achievement. We ourselves, through these destructive reactions, have enabled the terrorists of 9/11 to become far more successful in destroying our democratic institutions than anything they themselves could achieve. Anyone who is brave enough to see what we are doing to ourselves has only to read "That Hideous Strength" written by C. S. Lewis in 1945. But then, if people actually read, they would not be so easily and foolishly panicked as they are, nor would they be so quick to cry "traitor" to those who labor to open their eyes.

Posted by: Bill Fuller | Sep 21, 2005 1:47:12 PM

Re Bobby's comments:

" If for a second people like Mr. Arkin start to believe that there are truly people living in this country who mean us mortal harm, then maybe you would not be so suspicious and accusatory of the people who are fighting to keep you safe. "

Actually, I would be more receptive to this claim if Bush took some effective measures to control our Mexican border so that several thousand Al Qaeda agents couldn't just walk over. But then, that might lose a few Hispanic swing voters in California, Texas, and Florida in the next election and we can't make that big a sacrifice for national security, can we??

"You cant win the game if the other team already knows the plays."

This shows a lack of knowledge of military operations. While there is operational secrecy, the enemy can often identify many of your possible actions via analysis. Military leaders don't depend upon total secrecy. What they do is keep multiple options open up till the very last minute and leave the enemy confused as to which way they're going to jump.

Besides, most general plans -- as opposed to actual case details -- are not secret. Homeland Security's National Response Plan --including ESF#13 and the Catastrophic Incident Annex -- is available from HS's web site.

Posted by: Don Williams | Sep 21, 2005 1:24:37 PM

Hmmm, domestic operations kept secret by those trying to save our lives: MK-ULTRA, CHAOS and MOCKINGBIRD. Now why would we have reason to suspect our government of not always having our best interests at heart?

Posted by: Scott | Sep 21, 2005 1:07:05 PM

Mr. Arkin seems to be convinced that preparing for any type of WMD attack is a waste of time.

Maybe he could shed some serious light on why this is an undertone in his blogs?

Posted by: CWS | Sep 21, 2005 1:06:35 PM

Ok, I think we need to distinguish between "need-to-know" and the belief of a far reaching conspiracy to deprive of us of all our inalienable rights. We are all fishing in the dark in some respects in regards to how to conduct ourselves after realizing that we are after all very vulnerable to attack. However, what remains to be crystal clear is that secrecy in these types of operations must be maintained. Perhaps the everyday citizen see these activities as nefarious or as actions in which to further usurp our freedoms, but we must ask ourselves Mr. Arkin, what good would it do for the majority of citizens to know the EXACT plans that are in motion to save their lives? We must also ask ourselves, what are the consequences to this country if those plans are discovered by the enemy, and then become ineffectual? The quest to discover the plans of the government is a ridiculous action taken by people who do not believe that we as a society and culture are in danger. If for a second people like Mr. Arkin start to believe that there are truly people living in this country who mean us mortal harm, then maybe you would not be so suspicious and accusatory of the people who are fighting to keep you safe. You cant win the game if the other team already knows the

plays.

Posted by: Bobby | Sep 21, 2005 1:00:56 PM

Re sabre 6's comment "

The sooner we hang you for treason, the better "

Note how this illustrates the arguments Aristotle, Polybius, and James Madison made against pure democracy --i.e., rule by the Many. The problem is that the rabble --especially viewers of Fox News --have to be restrained by force of law from destroying the lives, property, and rights of others. They are a far worse threat to this country than Bin Ladin could ever hope to be.

Posted by: Don Williams | Sep 21, 2005 12:44:38 PM

Sieg heil, Sabre!

Posted by: Scott | Sep 21, 2005 12:38:17 PM

The sooner we hang you for treason, the better

Posted by: sabre 6 | Sep 21, 2005 12:34:16 PM

It seems to me that ~ 90% of the time, one can assume that one is going to hear a lie or a half truth whenever a sentence is uttered by a politician or a spokesperson for the Pentagon that includes the term "matter of national security."

Posted by: Scott | Sep 21, 2005 12:29:24 PM

Re Lugo's comment "B, if there were a WMD emergency, you'd be wanting to evacuate pronto anyway, whether or not there were Federal troops on the scene. What those troops would do is ensure that the evacuation is somewhat orderly "

Unless, of course, the WMD emergency is a biological agent attack or a natural pandemic (avian flu, etc) . In which case, the mission of those soldiers would be to shoot anyone trying to escape from the area/city under quarantine. Which is understandable -- sacrificing 1 million to save the other 389 million.

What would not be understandable would be creating the WMD incident as an excuse to mount a coup under martial law. Look at what the Nazis did with the Reichstag Fire.

By the way, did they ever catch the person who scared the shit out of Congress a few years ago -- in the days leading up to the vote on the Patriot Act? You remember -- the person who mailed packets of bio grade anthrax to Democratic leader Tom Daschle and others ??

Posted by: Don Williams | Sep 21, 2005 12:23:20 PM

I applaud the military conducting such operations. The better prepared we are, the safer I feel. I would, however, like to see more training demonstration by DHS and the first responders (Fed,State, Local). As Katrina pointed out, we had very poor tactical communications. No one could communicate. If we cannot communicate effectively, we will fail miserably in protecting our homeland.

Posted by: JW | Sep 21, 2005 12:06:52 PM

B, if there were a WMD emergency, you'd be wanting to evacuate pronto anyway, whether or not there were Federal troops on the scene. What those troops would do is ensure that the evacuation is somewhat orderly - i.e. it is less likely that someone will kill you and take your vehicle.

How anyone can look at the events of the past few years and say the Pentagon will have "no accountability for its actions" is a mystery to me. How many soldiers have been court martialed and punished for abusing prisoners? A lot. We bend over backwards to be "nice" to people who are trying to destroy us, it's ridiculous.

I just wonder if people who are complaining about this plan are the same ones who moaned that the Feds didn't get troops on the ground fast enough in New Orleans. Geez, there's just no pleasing some people.

Posted by: Lugo | Sep 21, 2005 12:06:49 PM

On a more serious note, military operations within the USA is not the problem. George Washington led armies across the countryside during the Revolution.

The major issue is Congressional control and whether Congress is populated by men of honor. George Washington always showed great deference to the Continental Congress. He would be the first to denounce the Imperial Presidency we seem to be creating today.

The Founders knew that there were 3 major threats to the Constitution and to the County: Foreign invasion, illegal insurrection, and a Presidential Dictatorship.

To deal with the first two threats, they created a strong Executive to decisively lead the militia and whatever professional army cadre existed.

The third threat was a tough nut to solve. Looking at 5000 years of history, that saw that most of mankind had lived under dictators of one name or the other for most of the time. At the Constitutional Convention, James Madison presented his "Notes on Confederations Ancient and Modern" in which he noted that weak democracies did not survive and were quickly replaced by dictatorships.

The one form of government in which the people had a vote -- and which was strong enough to survive -- had been the ancient Roman Republic. The reason for this had been clearly explained by the Greek Polybius circa 130 BC -- and Polybius's explanation was an elaboration of Aristotle's analysis stated circa 350 BC in his Politics. Basically, all governments consist of rule by the One (President/King/Dictator), the Few (Aristocracy/Senate), or the Many (Rabble, Mob/Democracy). Each form, by itself, will degenerate into tyranny and will eventually be overthrown by another Form when it becomes too terrible to tolerate. The strongest and most stable of governments, therefore, is a mixed Form -- in which the power of the One, the Few and the Many check and balance one another.

The US Constitution is designed to be the mixed Form. To keep the One (President) from becoming Dictator, the Few (Congress) controls the command of the militia. As James Madison explained in the Federalist, no economy can support more than 2% of its population as full time warriors. If the other 98% have arms and are led by the state governors, then no leader can use the 2% of warriors to conquer the other 98%.

For most of our history, the US military was largely made up of the militia -- the Founders rightfully having a strong fear of standing armies.

The last 10 years, however, have been an anomaly in our 225 year history. In the past, we've always disbanded our large armies after wars were over. But the huge military built up over 50 years of the Cold War still remains, even though there is no foreign enemy to fix and focus its power. That's not a good situation.

There is still a balance, of sorts. The National Guard militia -- under command of the state governors unless Congress gives command to the President -- makes up roughly 35% of our fighting combat arms units (The Army Reserve are Combat Service Support units -- logistics, etc.)

Defense of the North American airspace is done by fighters in the Air National Guard, NOT by the US Air Force.

Congress is supreme -- we did not even have a President or Supreme Court during the Revolution or the first 7 years after the Revolution under the Articles of Confederation. The Congress can impeach and remove the President and any Executive Branch/military officer -- the opposite is not true.

Any President contemplating a coup would realize that Congress is well protected by militia units on the North American continent. Plus there are those 100 Million+ male civilians owning 200 million+ firearms.

However, divide and conquer is an old tactic. The wealthy elites who run this country must look at Iraq and realize what even 1 million native terrorists in this country could do to their wealthy properties. All of which make the creation of Northcom and Homeland Security an interesting development.

Posted by: Don Williams | Sep 21, 2005 12:05:26 PM

May be a stupid question, but how is a highly classified demonstration taking place in the WDC area without a single person outside of the demonstration noticing it? Meaning, how can the military conduct an effective classified demonstration without anyone noticing????

Posted by: PM | Sep 21, 2005 12:04:04 PM

This seems like irresponsible journalism on your part. It does not take a rocket scientist to see the reaction of our enemies to this. There are some government operations that must remain TOP SECRET. In conclusion, North Vietnamese General Giap once told the media that they could not have forced the US out of Vietnam had it not been for the American media taking the side of the reds. There seems to be a repeat in the present war on terrorism, by American media moguls.

Posted by: Sam | Sep 21, 2005 11:40:41 AM

There's hardly anybody more paranoid than the US government, particularly its military and intelligence arms. It's offensive and wrong to plan military actions on US soil without some public disclosure. It would not harm the integrity of the plans to discuss the scope and powers of military ops, without addressing operational details.

"a hysterical public would be mighty glad to see Federal troops on the scene" No way!!! Speak for yourself, Lugo. I'd be extremely frightened to see US troops on the streets, and I'd be looking to evacuate immediately to get away from them.

Because their powers and missions are being developed in secret, we have no way of

knowing how they may act, and we can expect that they have NO accountability for their actions. We already know that a US citizen can be indefinitely detained without charge and without recourse if the Executive branch says so. So why believe the Pentagon when they say, "just trust us"?

Posted by: B | Sep 21, 2005 11:29:33 AM

Re EOD's comment

"It's illegal and morally and practically wrong to reveal classified plans. It, as J. pointed out, is one thing to discuss generalities from open sources and quite another to discuss details and classified material. Now, DOD has a blank check to investigate and destroy everyone connected to your blog. All contributors who made a comment will be ruined while you escape, as "a journalist." The witch hunt is on, and your contributors will be burned at the stake by DOD and the IC."

=====

This comment is hysterically funny. EOD has a wicked mean sense of humor.

Posted by: Don Williams | Sep 21, 2005 11:09:56 AM

Re Charli's comment: " Your obvious liberalism to the point of hatred for the country & it's administration & security is frightening to those who strive to protect."

1) I think our loyalty should be to the people of this country and to the land --NOT necessarily to whatever administration is in power. The concern is that measures taken for defense of the country have adequate checks and balances to ensure that they are not misused for evil purposes sometime in the future. The Founding Fathers had similar concerns as the most lightly educated knowledge of US history would show.

2) Those checks and balances are badly needed today -- and I say that as someone who has worked decades on military and intelligence systems and who has had clearances for 4 areas of Sensitive Compartmented Information. (And yes, I know that "areas" is not the right term, but I don't want to use the right term)

3) Unfortunately, a large chunk of our citizens are easily frightened/manipulated children looking for a daddy surrogate to tell them what to do. Sometimes that surrogate daddy is a husband. Sometimes it is the church, a political leader, or --God help us -- a fat man with a reported addiction to strong narcotics.

4) To gain the illusion of "security" these children are willing to create a police state, even if that police state is a far greater danger to the country in the long run. Just look at the "Good Germans" supporting Hitler in 1933. Remember the Brownshirts denouncing anyone who questioned Nazi actions as "traitors to the Fatherland"?

Posted by: Don Williams | Sep 21, 2005 11:00:53 AM

Cheers to the Post for starting "Early Warning"; unfortunately, we could have used an earlier warning so as to prevent perhaps the most secretive and extremist administration in history from decimating the Bill of Rights. To those who would say "how dare you discuss classified plans!" I say to them that they are fools to ever (in the wake of the incompetence and corrupt cronyism laid bare by Katrina) trust this pathologically deceitful crew again; you could ask them for the time of day and not get a straight answer. Personally, I want to know when the government is developing plans for the imposition of martial law and further shredding of the Constitution. Keep up the good work -- someone has to do it.

Posted by: Pete | Sep 21, 2005 10:46:49 AM

It's illegal and morally and practically wrong to reveal classified plans. It, as J. pointed out, is one thing to discuss generalities from open sources and quite another to discuss details and classified material. Now, DOD has a blank check to investigate and destroy everyone connected to your blog. All contributors who made a comment will be ruined while you escape, as "a journalist." The witch hunt is on, and your contributors will be burned at the stake by DOD and the IC.

Posted by: EOD | Sep 21, 2005 10:44:22 AM

Do you honestly think it would be prudent to advertise whatever plans are in place to counter terrorism? As a 20 year (retired) military wife, I'd be horrified to learn that the very plans intended to save lives were made public so that the terrorists would know who, what, when, where, and how everything would happen should they attack again. Your obvious liberalism to the point of hatred for the country & it's administration & security is frightening to those who strive to protect.

Posted by: Charli | Sep 21, 2005 10:23:04 AM

The idea that military contingency plans in response to a WMD attack should be "open" and discussed in public is preposterous. If ANYTHING should be extraordinarily secret, that should be. The "security reason" for this is obvious - if the bad guys knew what the plan was, they would have a better idea how to defeat it.

As for "validating the legitimacy of the operation", in the event of an actual WMD emergency, a hysterical public would be mighty glad to see Federal troops on the scene, maintaining order and taking control. I say this as a resident of DC myself!

Posted by: Lugo | Sep 21, 2005 10:11:48 AM

John - both CONPLANS are post-Cold War, not in existence during. Oscar - extraordinary secrecy for war plans is not crazy, it's practical, so the military doesn't advertise its vulnerabilities or assumptions. Come on guys, don't paint pictures of govt conspiracies, every now and then the military does have a real mission to do.

William, CONPLAN 0300 appears to be combating terrorism, while CONPLAN 0400 is combating WMD. The former aims US military resources at non-state terrorist groups (both conventionally and WMD-armed) operating in the US and overseas, primarily using SOCOM. The latter is for COCOMs to counter nation-states' WMD programs, relying on both SOCOM and STRATCOM. That's a big difference.

I would bet that the exercise has something to do with STRATCOM being designated as a combating WMD center and being told to refine the US military cbt WMD mission. As you say, we should be able to discuss generalities and policies without knowing the classified portions of the exercises.

Posted by: J. | Sep 21, 2005 10:05:08 AM

For John. My concern is not with the existence of such a plan. You are right that such plans are necessary. But its extraordinary secrecy is both scary and stupid.

I can see no security reason as to why the bulk of the plan could not be made public and discussed and debated. It is scary-that our leadership wants to avoid that.

It is stupid to keep it this secret because if an emergency came, how would the legitimacy of the operation be validated to the civilian population (or even to "outsiders" in the military)?

Posted by: Oscar | Sep 21, 2005 9:40:08 AM

It would be insane to not have such a plan in place. Look what happened in New Orleans after the government broke down. Then imagine this on a nationwide scale. You, liberal idiots, do you really think that such a plan wasn't in place during the Cold War? Don't you think that JFK had authorized such a plan? Can't you EVER evaluate anything without bashing Bush? Hypocrites. Fools!

Posted by: john | Sep 21, 2005 9:07:29 AM

This would seem to render Posse Comitatus a moot point. While there are honorable men in charge of the military (see Honore in New Orleans, refusing to let his men carry out involuntary evacuations), we can only assume that there are elements there who are comfortable with a military usurpation of civilian authority. It seems logical, when viewed in the light of Getmo and CIA kidnappings around the world. After 9/11, the Bush Administration has sent a clear message to the military over and over again: the law does not apply to you.

Posted by: Terry Southern | Sep 21, 2005 8:29:43 AM

It's a good bet that Vice President Cheney has a strong hand in a lot of this secretive military contingency planning such as Granite Shadow.

Nothing wrong with that, of course. And who knows? Next time we're attacked, maybe this time he'll get the chance to successfully usurp the power of the entire Executive Branch and maybe more.

Cheers, Dick.

Posted by: Gus Gonzales | Sep 21, 2005 8:17:10 AM

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