



THE BLOTTER

Produced by Simon Surowicz
Compiled by Krista Kjellman

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U.S. Special Forces Engaged in Operations on the Ground in Somalia

January 09, 2007 1:59 PM

Alexis Debat Reports:



U.S. special forces are working with Ethiopian troops on the ground in operations inside Somalia today, senior U.S. and French military sources tell ABC News.

The sources declined to describe details of today's mission but said U.S. special forces, including a significant CIA presence, have been involved in numerous such missions, operating from a large American base camp known as "Camp Le Monier," established in the French protectorate of Djibouti following 9/11.

There are approximately 3,000 American special forces and U.S. military soldiers based at "Camp Le Monier," which has become a major reconnaissance and staging base in the fight against al Qaeda in the region.

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It is from this base the CIA flies predators over Yemen and Somalia and from which recent air attacks over Somalia were launched.

Alexis Debat is an ABC News consultant.

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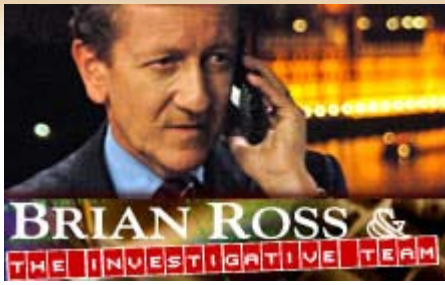
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WEDNESDAYS
10 PM ET



Brian Ross reports.

Click here to go to ABC News' Chief Investigative Correspondent Brian Ross' website.

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User Comments

Why, why, why would you share this information publicly? Have you ever considered that you are undermining the war on terror and endangering the American troops and operatives attached to this mission?

Posted by: Jon | Jan 9, 2007 3:26:52 PM

Who knows if this is true or not. Remember when the Gulf War started Rumsfeld said he was creating a whole new branch of the military for nothing but misinformation? It seemed to work fine on Bush...

Posted by: Don L. | Jan 9, 2007 3:32:56 PM

Jon is right on point. For that matter, how absurd is it that we forecast improved troop strenght in Iraq? Has the media become a traitorous enemy?

Posted by: moose | Jan 9, 2007 3:33:17 PM

Some people just can not keep their mouth shut.

Posted by: Bill SMith | Jan 9, 2007 3:36:31 PM

Why doesn't ABC just make a full commitment here and strap bombs to themselves and blow up our operatives instead of taking the cowards way out and just doing whatever you can to put them in danger?

I'm sure Osama would love you a lot more if you did!

Posted by: moleary | Jan 9, 2007 3:37:53 PM

Maybe the point is that our government is working with Ethiopian troops inside Somalia. Sounds like we're potentially interfering with a conflict when we've stated no public intention to do so. I think we have a right to know that sort of thing.

Also, do you really think al Qaeda doesn't assume the CIA is trying to be everywhere they are?

Posted by: Brad Engler | Jan 9, 2007 3:41:57 PM

Jon, I'm not so sure that the fact that US forces are working with and backing Ethiopian and IGAS troops is a secret. Also, the Dwight D Eisenhower group isn't invisible. I'm pretty sure that people know these forces are there....Shake Djibouti...

Posted by: Jazz | Jan 9, 2007 3:54:19 PM

I wouldn't underestimate the bad guys. I'm sure they already know this; it's their full-time job. It's hard to hide 3000 personnel and their vehicles from the neighbors and keep it a secret for long. That's probably why "...senior U.S. and French military sources tell ABC News..." these sort of things.

Posted by: 'Los | Jan 9, 2007 4:22:32 PM

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You have just committed treason.

Posted by: former SF | Jan 9, 2007 4:25:46 PM

I agree 100%....why is this necessary now...we aren't on the armed services cmte on intelligence...don't share it.

Posted by: joe | Jan 9, 2007 4:29:52 PM

Way to go media! Screw up the mission!

Posted by: kim | Jan 9, 2007 4:33:09 PM

In spite of the airheads in the Democratic party, thank God George Bush continues to fight a vigorous war against Al Qaeda. Pelosi, Reid, Biden, Kennedy, et al remind me of ostriches with their head in the sand.

Posted by: Ed from SoCal | Jan 9, 2007 4:33:56 PM

Why don't I sense any support for our American servicemen? Please put a positive spin on the story.

Posted by: Jaime Cantu | Jan 9, 2007 4:38:06 PM

Its an open secret over there.

Posted by: Patriot | Jan 9, 2007 4:41:28 PM

If you bothered to click the investigate link (and do some investigating) you would have noticed that the source is an ABC news page. Get over the uninformed indignation before you embarrass yourself further.

Posted by: Bat Guano | Jan 9, 2007 4:51:08 PM

The media cares neither for the safety or security of this country - just generating sales and grabbing headlines. Anything is publishable if it might get someone to look at it and catch the eye of an advertisement or two.

Posted by: Chris | Jan 9, 2007 4:55:25 PM

Jon, the news media has an obligation to give us the news, this is news. It is not the job of the news media to cover up our governments secret actions, if these things leak, blame your government.

Posted by: Patrick | Jan 9, 2007 5:03:53 PM

Totally agree. I don't understand it.

Posted by: antijihadmilitia | Jan 9, 2007 5:04:35 PM

Jon,

Perhaps you think that all small wars and actions should be secret? I think that broadcasting troop movements and plans IN ADVANCE of an attack is a treasonous act, but reporting accurately on actions WHILE or AFTER they happen is necessary if we want to continue living in something like a democracy.

Posted by: Doug | Jan 9, 2007 5:05:20 PM

Effect



Saddam Executed; An Era Comes to an End

Jon, the news media has an obligation to supply the citizens with all news available, this is news. It is not the job of the news media to cover up the secret actions of our government, if things like this leak, blame your government.

Posted by: Patrick | Jan 9, 2007 5:06:10 PM

Sometimes the media's "right to know" does not always a right to inform the public. I believe you have threatened our soldiers, sailors and airmen lives by publishing this information. Do you remember what happened 16 years ago in Somalia? I haven't!!!! Before publishing this information did you ask about the security of the people on the ground in Somalia? Did you even care if you jeopardized their lives?

Posted by: Jomo | Jan 9, 2007 5:06:34 PM

Another front in America's imperialist war against Islam-- and another front in the endless battle to feed both the military-industrial complex AND the bottom line of the oil industry.

Troops out! Stop the wars!

Posted by: John Seal | Jan 9, 2007 5:33:05 PM

Jomo,

Do you know that ABC did NOT clear this with the Pentagon? Are you guessing that they did not?

This report will NOT be new information to 'al-qaida'. They know already that the US is kicking their ass in Somalia. The ONLY ones that DON'T know are we US citizens here at home.

Telling us what our soldiers have already done, with or without Pentagon approval, is not 'treason', as the right-wing extremists so love to accuse anyone that criticizes the worst president the US has ever seen...

Posted by: Robin | Jan 9, 2007 5:34:47 PM

Is there a republican anywhere that REALLY believes in the constitution, Bill Of Rights and the laws our country, or is money the God of all republicans...

I am so sick of the stupid a.. comments and supports for this " illegal " idiot we have in the White House I could throw up. The average IQ of a Bush follower has to be least then 70.

I never knew until Bush, the republican and the news media started publishing the stupid statements and comments from Bush followers, there were so many idiots in this country. Of course there are 10% or more, which includes the Oil Companies, Global Corporations, the wealthy and Bush's family are laughing at their followers all the way to the Bank .

It might be around 20% now, but to hear the news media you would think they were many more.... They must

have drank the same water or used the same educational system as our " illegal " idiot Bush.....

You hear the comments about Gore and Kerry being losers of the last two elections (2000 & 2004), but they are the real presidents that have had they presidency stolen by the suppression of American citizens votes, the illegal use of the electronic voting machines, the deceit and corruption that is a daily policy and agenda Bush, Cheney and the republican party....

Posted by: PeteSea | Jan 9, 2007 5:36:08 PM

There is no right, no democracy, freedom or rule of law at all under the decider. Our decider will tell you what to think, what to read and what you can or can't do. But, of course his followers don't think anyway...

Posted by: Pete Sea | Jan 9, 2007 5:40:39 PM

You right-wing extremists, that love to accuse anyone to the left of Pat Robertson to be traitors, should blame the source, not the messenger:

*"senior U.S. and French military sources tell ABC News."
"The sources declined to describe details of today's mission"*

Where is there ANY treasonous activity?! The Pentagon called up ABC and said 'publish this', and they did so.

Did any of you think for a second that the Pentagon WANTS this info to get to AlQaida? To let them know what they are up against, the greatest military power the world has ever seen?

All of you that toss serious accusation around like candy need to re-read what this great country is all about. This news report does not even begin to get even remotely close to 'treason'.

All of you that toss this serious accusation around like garbage in a trash can are diluting what treason actually means.

You want to see examples of what could be contrued as treasonous activity, just look at the republican presidencies for the last 45 years.

Posted by: Robin | Jan 9, 2007 5:42:43 PM

"The average IQ of a Bush follower has to be least then 70."

Least than 70? Eye thank you ment to sai LESS.

Where does that put your iq?

Maybe you feel better after you pitched a little fit...now go to your room.

Posted by: Mike | Jan 9, 2007 5:51:41 PM

Um, military/government sources acknowledged the

operations. They wanted it in the media. For those criticizing the media on this one: please get a clue.

Posted by: Ian | Jan 9, 2007 5:52:39 PM

I can't believe so many of the above posters are blaming the media!? The media didn't leak this Somalia info. Would that the CIA had been allowed to use al Sadr's militia and the Kurds to overthrow Saddam, like they did in Afghanistan against the Taliban.

"You have just committed treason," Former SF? Who appointed you judge and jury? What about Dick Cheney spilling the blood of 3000 of our best and bravest so a "stable" Iraqi government can issue 75% PSA shares to Exxon, Shell and BP, using our tax dollars to boot?? Would that then be treason? Think about that when you grandkids are trying to buy a house with double-digit mortgage rates.

Posted by: Joe | Jan 9, 2007 5:52:45 PM

The pulling down of the statue of Sadam in Iraq was a special ops publicity operation (read Molly Ivins column of last week). Guess as citizens we can pay to be the audience for theatrical politics - I for one thank ABC. If FACTS had been evident before the invasion of Iraq we wouldn't be wondering about an exit strategy that may last 15 years and into another generation.

Posted by: Chapin | Jan 9, 2007 5:55:57 PM

Well, Im a liberal and I agree that these leakers should shut up. Killing al Qaeda guys is a good thing believe it or not. Giving them a few weeks more secrecy after the strike wouldnt hurt that much would it?

Posted by: bubba | Jan 9, 2007 5:58:35 PM

Camp Lejeune is a USMC base in North Carolina. The CJTF-HOA base in Djibouti is Camp Lemonier. Please fix this and be more diligent in checking your facts in future reports. Thank you.

By the way, for those of you that are concerned about operational security, none of this information is/was classified. Not paying attention does not make something secret, it simply makes you uninformed.

Posted by: J. Clark | Jan 9, 2007 5:58:43 PM

What I find more interesting than the article is the "threat to our troops" spin on killing the freedom of the press. Nice try guys, we all know that anything the military wants to keep secret, stays secret. The goal is to keep America free and a freedom of press is one of those components, so love it or leave it.

Posted by: Cletus | Jan 9, 2007 6:08:14 PM

Ditto Cletus on this.

Posted by: Joe | Jan 9, 2007 6:26:39 PM

All that's missing from this report is a map showing the bad guys how to get there, a schedule of when the guards rotate, and fake passes to get in. Oops, sorry, the fake pass thing would likely be done by the New York Times. I miss the old days when Jayson Blair would just make up stuff at the NYT. At least he wasn't giving away any operationally important information.

Posted by: Bob D. Bilder | Jan 9, 2007 6:40:44 PM

I love it - any time I want to read some "Psycho Babble" I just look at the blotter.

Posted by: Gene | Jan 9, 2007 7:03:14 PM

Please, it's important that the US insert itself into more and more foreign wars. Hopefully we can get some grunts on the ground in Syria, Iran and North Korea before Bush leaves.

Then we can have a draft and we can become Kings of the World!

Hail Ceasar.

-GSD

Posted by: GSD | Jan 9, 2007 7:06:31 PM

Bob,

How do you know what is "operationally important"? If the Pentagon is leaking "operationally important" secrets to ABC we all have much bigger problems than the FNC/Rush/Hannity white noise machine.

Posted by: Joe | Jan 9, 2007 7:07:07 PM

Loose lips, sink ships! ! !

Posted by: Stephen Turner | Jan 9, 2007 7:24:56 PM

How small does your brain have to be to say "Oh, it's OK, Bush should be given free reign." Everything he's done so far has strengthened Iran.

Let's look where we're going now Iran thinks it's winning and so has no wish to back down. Israel will probably bomb Iran this year. Iran will cut off its oil. Saudi will increase their oil supply to compensate. Iran (or terrorist proxies) will bomb Saudi oil refineries. We'll end up fighting with the Saudis against Iran. It's fine not to love Iran, but didn't the Saudis fund Bin Laden? It sure as hell wasn't the ayatollahs in Iran or the Ba'athists in Iraq.

I'm not a Democrat (I hate tax), but geopolitical common sense seems to be missing from the current administration ("Hey, I don't like Iraq, let's invade. It'll probably split into three, strengthening Iran and weakening our ally, Turkey, but at least we'll get a chance to hang Hussein.") There's no excuse any more for sitting there and trusting Bush.

Posted by: Claire | Jan 9, 2007 8:29:48 PM

Ditto to J. Clark

"Not paying attention does not make something secret, it simply makes you uninformed."

Robert D. Kaplan wrote a good article about this base and it ops for the Atlantic Monthly about a year ago (maybe more) - and he included it in his book "Imperial Grunts."

Posted by: J. R. | Jan 9, 2007 8:45:08 PM

The U.S. Constitution authorizes only the Congress to declare war. I suspect that, just like most Americans, most members of Congress didn't even know we are fighting in Somalia, let alone authorize it.

The Bush-Cheney cabal has brought fascism to American.

U.S. presence in Somalia is no secret to the Somalians or any of the groups fighting there.

The right wing pseudo-patriots who are calling ABC treasonous for reporting what "senior U.S. officials" told them about our military actions in Somalia are truly delusional.

Perhaps they would feel more comfortable someplace where everything is kept secret like North Korea, as they clearly don't agree with the U.S. Constitution.

Posted by: Justina | Jan 9, 2007 8:52:24 PM

It frightens me that a man named Bubba is the most intelligent sounding person on this entire list... I doubt anyone in Somalia could escape the fact that 3000 jarheads were vacationing in a small fenced in area of thier nation. Or that small highly guarded planes were flying in and out of said base. Please people...it doesn't take a genius to figure out the CIA is playing patty cake with the Simolies!!!!

Posted by: Ryan | Jan 9, 2007 8:55:10 PM

What a joke! Always find a way to blame Bush at Big Bad Oil! What about Big Media (Soros), Big Silicon (Gates), Big Wall Street (Goldman Sachs), Big Government (Clinton, Pelosi, Kennedy). They are the real criminals here. I agree that this information was not classified. The liberal pacifists would throw a huge fit if they ever found out what is really going with some of the covert missions.

Posted by: Joe Bauer | Jan 9, 2007 10:03:43 PM

We've come back to the "stabbed-in-the-back" theory. America is so wonderful, the only reason we're not winning in Iraq is because the media/liberal/dirty-atheistic-red-commie-bastards are stabbing us in the back...

Posted by: Talapus Pete | Jan 9, 2007 10:04:21 PM

Tom Vaitys- I'm glad to see that we have operatives in

Somalia- with any luck we can kill capture or dispose of terrorist operatives. Go Team!

Posted by: Tom Vaitys | Jan 9, 2007 10:09:24 PM

Dude, the Pentagon approved this news release. If it's treason, it's not ABC news committing the crime.

Posted by: B Bob | Jan 9, 2007 10:15:02 PM

people seem angry... but I doubt the somali's watch ABC regularly. You accuse the media and then hound it with comments on their web pages? Ridiculous... People need to use the internet for what it was designed for... Porn... and just relax... Instead of having their afternoon ruined by a three paragraph article referring to nothing... Become truly creative and use your time pursuing something else... But nope... you'd rather bitch at others for transgressions that don't even involve you... Like you are personally affected...

Posted by: drew | Jan 9, 2007 10:33:48 PM

What a bunch of morons... Do you really believe that the Islamic Courts Union wouldn't be able to tell that three thousand troops were in Somalia?

Stop accusing the media of treachery and think for just a half a second for once in your life, people.

Geez, these Shelly Malkin fans are about as sharp as Nerf...

Posted by: Wisco | Jan 9, 2007 10:41:16 PM

Thank You ABC ! Bush needs to Know that WE hold Him accountable!

Posted by: Jim | Jan 9, 2007 10:45:33 PM

You all sound like whiners to me! Those troops over there know if they should be there or not, that is there choice. If it is the wrong choice then that is there problem!

Posted by: Jim | Jan 9, 2007 10:54:09 PM

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

I spent 25 years in the military defending the constitution and our country. For those that blame the media for all the ills of the U.S., please remember the 1st amendment and the rest of the constitution is what makes this country great.

Posted by: Frank | Jan 9, 2007 11:16:55 PM

To all those insisting its treason, endangering troops

yedayaada... If they actually paid any attention to a news source outside of America, they would have known about the US presence in the region last year. Including reports of breaking the arms embargo. Still, I guess some people only listen to what they want to hear... Stop shooting the messenger. And just because someone says something you dont approve of doesnt mean they are your enemy. Your either with us, or your going to be killed huh??? Some option

Posted by: runningdog | Jan 9, 2007 11:19:32 PM

Those who hate Bush will do anything to make him into a loser! Even sacrifice a nation!

Posted by: Christine | Jan 9, 2007 11:46:17 PM

Bob D Builder (ah ha a little joke) and other Bush supporters who are anti free speech one question: Why do you hate America so much?

Posted by: Steve | Jan 10, 2007 12:16:40 AM

Reading the comments as a Canadian gives one a could clue to myopic world of some Americans. The posters who posted comments yelling for charges of treason need to calm down.

Outside of America where the media is much more likely to publish world realities, the people know that America is already involved inside Somalia to varying degrees for some time now. This is no surprise, but if you read the comments of some you would think this is the first time such revelations have hit the air waves.

What's not being mentioned is that once again America is in a new undeclared war in foreign country. For a country that proclaims to uphold the rule of law - as exemplified by the yahoos yelling for treason charges - you sure do go around breaking it at will.

Posted by: Kyle Lerr | Jan 10, 2007 12:21:17 AM

Jon asked, "Why do we have these things made public?"

Because Jon, we live in a democracy whose foundation states freedom of the press. And no amount of fear-mongering of "security threats," should ever stifle the only political and governmental watchdog institution we have.

I have always believed if the media wasn't so cowardly post 9/11 and pre-Iraqi invasion that they didn't challenge Bush and the neocons, the Iraqi debacle would NEVER have been allowed to happen by the majority of Americans (of course the Southern Bible thumping, FoxNews watching hickies would still support it. Heck they'd buy the argument that "night is day" is Bush et al. sold it to them!)

US gov't and military OUT of Somalia and Iraq where Iraqis see foreign fighters everyday... and they are us.

Posted by: Nazim | Jan 10, 2007 12:23:15 AM

A clear indication of Barbarism and Murders that USA does around the world with impunity. May GOD curse them for eternity.

Posted by: Maryrose | Jan 10, 2007 12:24:40 AM

I can't believe how stupid the majority of you posters are. I bet most of you still think what is being done in Iraq is legal and Saddam was linked to 9/11. I guess the fact that we are breaking international law as well as our own laws by being in Somalia is not found on you? Ethiopia invaded another country. Ethiopia's leader is a dictator but I guess it's OK when his master is Bush. Why are we there again? We want a repeat of 1993? The people there support the Union of Islamic Courts because it brought the only order they have seen in 15 years.

You assume "Islamic" means supporters of Bin Laden. You are so dumb...oh we are there because it's got oil (just discovered) and its strategic location at the Horn of Africa.

Posted by: Sean | Jan 10, 2007 12:31:13 AM

there must be oil there

Posted by: frank | Jan 10, 2007 12:32:23 AM

J Carter's 2nd paragraph is perfect. All the outrage posted against the media by people who went online and read the media report - it is its own punch line.

I'm guessing Al Q in Somalia had a pretty good inkling there was US military nearby when they started getting "all blown up" in their hideouts.

Way to go, US Military! Too bad your commander has you umpiring a 1,000 year old fight instead of doing more of this against the fascists who declared war on us.

Posted by: Dave | Jan 10, 2007 12:50:15 AM

C'mon! The terrorist-lovin' left cannot contain their loathing of any real success against their brethren. They feign disgust about Bush not getting OBL and when we DO get a few key AQ evillites they moan about that much louder. Democrats would sell out millions of Iraqis for political points just like they sold out the South Vietnamese via cutting their needed military funds. The North Vietnamese sent six divisions and wiped out the south in 6 weeks; please note how the Dems have a hotline straight to Tehran! Even their own party heads declare it "folly" to wage war by legislation, but watch they'll repeat history, destroy all efforts, watch it disintegrate into anarchy and AQ camps, and then foist blame on Reps. They admit their party suffered for 3 decades as a result, known as the party of wimps who blame every international problem on the US. Not that they didn't deserve such a reputation, because they're working on earning it all over again.

The New York Times front page spelled out CLASSIFIED Fed efforts to investigate seedy-terrorist-linked financial transactions, and when confronted said "everybody knew it already" (please note that's what ABC and other traitorous news organizations always say as seen above).

Posted by: sosoggyinseattle | Jan 10, 2007 12:52:52 AM

This is so amusing. US officials TOLD ABC. This means WH wants it out. They dont tell news anything they dont want told. I even suspect a lot of these so called "leaks" from WH. Why is it "Al Qaeda" always pops up lately where there's oil? First Iraq, now Africa. Will the Al Qaeda boogey man pop up in Iraq, the next oil country Bush and Cheney want to take? Think about it. Think a lot. And think about the so called info the WH spoon feeds you using the media

Posted by: Vinnie | Jan 10, 2007 1:05:09 AM

Gung-ho Americans bombing villages and murdering civilians all over the world in the name of 'The War on Terror'

Posted by: sam | Jan 10, 2007 1:38:32 AM

Are you kidding. Why would they tell the media if it needed to be that secret. Also to put writing a news story at the same level as bombing people shows a lack of understanding for the whole situation to begin with. Obviously we have been there , that is why there is a base there. I think the Al Queda people know that we are chasing them. the real question here is why did it take 8 years...hmmm canyou say distracted by Iraq.

Posted by: just cause you didn't know doesn't mean they didn't | Jan 10, 2007 2:31:20 AM

Oh, c'maaan! As if they didn't know what they were doing by releasing this info!!! (Not that one should trust their competence after the Iraqi disaster). The third front for Al-Qaida, a bit of relief in Iraq - probably, some of the resources will be re-directed to Somalia now that EVERYBODY got the message - Americans are in Somalia (it looks like initially it was a little too subtle and did not produce enough uproar). And who is going to suffer? African Union (if they ever bring themselves up to send troops) and the UN, and CNN will get some more footage to prove that bad guys are bad guys. And who gives a damn about Somalis...

Posted by: Rooster | Jan 10, 2007 2:53:48 AM

Right wing Republicans remind me of the very strange and paranoid KGB during the Cold War. The KGB insisted so strongly on secrecy that if you wanted to find your way around Russia, you bought a map from the Americans because Russian maps deliberately obscured where everything was.

Guys, get a grip.

Posted by: Craig | Jan 10, 2007 3:10:48 AM

Thank you America

Posted by: Osama | Jan 10, 2007 4:18:21 AM

This information was released by the military at a PRESS CONFERENCE. You guys accusing the media of spreading secrets are totally off base here.

Posted by: idjut | Jan 10, 2007 5:07:41 AM

War on Terror? What nonsense! This is just another in the war to control global energy resources.

That's all Somalia is. Just another front for the Elitists.

Posted by: Chad | Jan 10, 2007 5:16:14 AM

Give a rest you hysterical loons.

Once the military confirms that a gunship was used, it's hardly a secret that there would be special forces on the ground to 'mark up' targets. They just don't send these things in to pepper whole neighbourhoods in the hope of hitting their target. That's why these missions are called 'targeted assassinations'. You know, because there's a TARGET.

Anybody who thinks the Islamists aren't aware that special forces are inside Somalia needs to read a few books, or trawl through the Defence Department's own website, before they accuse any media of "Blowing The Mission".

You might also notice that the story quotes military sources for the confirmation.

This story isn't an exclusive, it's not even breaking news. It's pointing out the bleeding obvious.

Posted by: Darryl Mason | Jan 10, 2007 7:28:35 AM

Obviously, the only way to cleanse ourselves is to outlaw all form of government secrecy and abolish all secret agencies and spies, and their loathsome "security clearances," that violate free speech. These things are the actual source of the ongoing destruction of the U.S.A. Just get rid of this horror, come clean, and begin to live responsibly.

Posted by: blues | Jan 10, 2007 8:24:54 AM

Just so armchair generals know, the enemy isn't stupid...they have people on the ground who know in infinite detail what troops they're fighting and where. The presence of US troops is common knowledge in most areas we operate in...the big silver aircraft and guys with Brooklyn accents rather give it away. While in Korea, the locals knew when our exercises started and stopped before we did. All without media leaks. The media isn't the enemy and we better start treating the bad guys as the foes they are...not the bumpkins many believe them

to be.

Posted by: Tim | Jan 10, 2007 8:38:02 AM

Those posting comments who are "shocked" and believe that this info "undermines the war on terror" need a dose of reality. Pull out a map of the globe and take a look at where Somalia is located. One of the world's chokepoints, BAM, is right up the coast, as is Suez. And across the way is Saudi, Yemen, et al. Perhaps those whining about broadcasting CIA-SOF-USN activities should understand that a reasonably intelligent high schooler can easily figure out where the US military/intel is operating. On that note, this Somalia gig is also part of the USN's Littoral Warfare plans that are at least 15 years old. CIA-SOF guys operate in every potential hotspot on the globe particularly where easy access to resources, sea lanes is required. The War on Terror is nothing of the sort. Let's recognize it for what it is: a fine story to whip up fear in the US, justify ongoing military action, and cleverly maneuver the US into positions where, in the future, China, Russia, India can be held in check (not possible though). Welcome to another Iraq and Afghanistan. And guess who is in charge now in Somalia besides the bloodthirsty Zenawi? Aideed's son. You know the father who brought us Black Hawk Down. Ahhhh, but at least he'll be our monster: a former member of the USMC, raised in California. His first name is Hussein--that does not bode well for his future.

Posted by: John | Jan 10, 2007 8:39:26 AM

Are some of you people for real? The enemy in Somalia knew that US troops were there before ABC did, so who exactly do you think ABC are telling?! Seriously, if anyone in charge of the war on terror is as mentally challenged as some of you guys are, we're in more trouble than I thought!

Posted by: Frog of War | Jan 10, 2007 9:45:15 AM

No one in history has won a two front war little alone a four front war. Our president can't even win a one front war. This is about his wounded ego-mania for power and his legacy. After all he is the worst president in American History!

Posted by: wil | Jan 10, 2007 10:09:05 AM

Hmm...you guys are assuming it's OK to send troops into a sovereign nation? It's our right to do so? What if another country did that to us? We do export cigarettes, which is a proven deadly drug, to many countries. This would be part of their "war on drugs." Do they have that right?

Posted by: Tommy | Jan 10, 2007 10:18:29 AM

I can't believe that there are individuals still so blind that they pillory the media for informing the benighted public regarding continuing neo-con debacles(or new ones a-borning as in the Horn of Africa)-----why don't some of

you get yourselves in a time machine and get back to the Berlin 1933-45 or Moscow 1918-c.1995----then you could have all the controlled news and national security you want.

Posted by: soren kierkegaard | Jan 10, 2007 10:48:13 AM

I see not many people here have any concern or respect for international law.

The attacks were a targeted assassination, which is illegal under international law.

"The U.S. military attacks against al-Qaida leaders in Somalia were based on credible intelligence and are proof of America's ongoing commitment to hunt down terrorists, a Pentagon spokesman said Tuesday."

This exact same excuse was used yesterday by the Basque terrorist group in Spain to define the 2 Ecuatorians killed in the recent massive terrorist attack on Madrid airport. Collateral damage.

It appears Americans agree with Basque terrorists...

Posted by: David Sketchley | Jan 10, 2007 11:26:34 AM

The story is a big yawn, but the comments woke me the heck up. Whatever your perspective, you've got to admit that the war on terror has made Americans about as divided as they can be without shooting at each other. You know, the enemy we face today likes to credit itself with bringing down the USSR. Not by invasion. Not even by terrorism. But in exactly - friggin' EXACTLY - the same way they're bringing down the USA. Not with a bang, you know...

And the longer this war drags on, the more like the USSR we seem, to me at least. The situation in Afghanistan looks virtually indistinguishable from that the Soviets faced. The US economy, like the Soviet economy, is increasingly a matter of smoke and mirrors, a matter of FAITH - communism fails everywhere. We have given up almost all of our freedoms for the sake of security - thus deserving neither - and feel not a whit more safe for it.

Our enemies have set us on a course that is RAPIDLY undermining the legitimacy of our government, both perceived and real. Again: read the other comments here. Our ideology is poisoning us. Half of America, it seems, wants to hang Bush - the other half wants to hang all the journalists.

May God help America.

Posted by: cincinnatus | Jan 10, 2007 11:30:19 AM

I sure am glad my tax dollars are being used to kill the bad guys in Somalia. Wait! Oh! I hear there's another one in Ishmaelia. Quick! Build a better battleship!

Posted by: TS Longchamps | Jan 10, 2007 11:37:12 AM

It is really a lot of fun to read some of the comments here. I travel a lot in Ethiopia and Djibouti. All what the US is doing there at the moment is creating the terrorists of tomorrow. Do you really think that Supporting the brutal regime of IHADIG in Ethiopia and their puppets, the so-called Transitional Government in Somalia will make the US more safe? If you had the chance to talk to ordinary people in that region you could sense how the support for Al-Qa'ida is growing with each action like the one we could witness the past few days. For the people in that region the US is seen as an arrogant country which thinks it can hit everywhere in the world at any place and kill innocent people without fearing any consequences.

Posted by: Andreas | Jan 10, 2007 12:14:31 PM

Wow, the delusional followers of Neoconservatism just can't crawl out of the Fox News bubble! You guys should love ABC. ABC/Disney made that horrible "Path to 9/11" blame Bill Clinton for everything movie just for you! They even signed up Glenn Beck to spread GOP talking points! No matter how much they pander to this corporate neocon abomination, radical right wingers will not be satisfied until every channel becomes Fox News.

Posted by: corky | Jan 10, 2007 12:15:20 PM

This whole operation was timed to precede the Presidents speech about how he plans to ignore the 60 percent of Americans who oppose his Iraq plans...again. More PR from Karl Rove.

Posted by: corky | Jan 10, 2007 12:17:57 PM

Will someone please explain EXACTLY how reporting this news endangers the troops.

I don't even understand how anyone can perceive this as a negative story - there's nothing about civilian casualties or the like and the reporter even uses the phrase "in the fight against al Qaeda in the region".

You whining fake-conservatives are completely unhinged from reality.

Posted by: shingles | Jan 10, 2007 12:22:17 PM

Ed Murrow would disagree with all you retreatocrats who are excusing treason in the name of Freedom of the Press.

The press has a right to report news.

They do not have a right to expose state secrets!

They are citizens of this country and any citizen who makes war or supports this county's enemys via giving them intelligence is a spy and should be prosecuted as one!

Posted by: moleary | Jan 10, 2007 12:50:42 PM

Moleary,

Yes, I agree with you one hundred percent.

This ABC article does NOT reveal ANY secrets at all!

This ABC article reports exactly what the Pentagon told them to report.

This ABC article is authorized and written by the Pentagon.

When the media is reporting what the Pentagon tells them to report, how is that treason?

I have yet to see anything that comes close to actual, real-life treason. I have seen stories embarrassing to the GOP leadership labelled as 'treason' but that obviously does not mean that it is.

Posted by: Robin | Jan 10, 2007 1:04:49 PM

Umm Robin.... Sandy Berger??? Theft of classified documents from the National Archives?

Oversight and Government Reform Committee Ranking Member Tom Davis said. "It is now also clear that Mr. Berger was willing to go to extraordinary lengths to compromise national security, apparently for his own convenience."

I would include 'Bill Clinton's' convenience as well...

Nope, no treason there. Nothing political there.

Call it 'Berger-Gate'

Posted by: JelloB | Jan 10, 2007 1:26:53 PM

How do we know that Al Queda is in Somalia? All we have is their word. I don't believe everything that comes out of the White House or the Pentagon.

This is news, not treason because IF this guy that supposedly blew up our embassies in Africa is not in Somalia and IF Al Queda does not have a presence in Somalia then our involvement in Somalia is more of the same thing we are doing in Iraq.

I believe that the next war for the US will be in Africa. Our government will make up some story about our security is in jeopardy because of what is happening in Africa and bingo we send in troops. This war on terror is not about Islamofacists. It's about controlling oil. Africa has several countries beside Nigeria that have oil.

Darfur is about oil. I wouldn't be surprised to find out that there are large oil reserves in Darfur that belong to oil rich Sudan.

Posted by: monstruo | Jan 10, 2007 1:56:50 PM

This blog is full of a bunch of statist morons! Where does the US government get off violating someone's airspace and indiscriminately firing away with a weapon like the Spectre gunship just to waste 4 alleged "terrorists"? This while the military is stretched thin already with

innumerable other foreign follies. Stupid President, stupid government, stupid military, stupid statist interventionism... I say report it all, there should be no such thing as secret missions. A government w/ secrets is a government that can't be trusted.

Posted by: DAK | Jan 10, 2007 2:08:33 PM

Our troops are a worthless bunch of uneducated highschool dropouts who couldn't make it in to college. All the morons in highschool have transitioned to the military. I am glad those SOB's are getting killed and maimed in Iraq and elsewhere. If they weren't they would be here robbing and raping people. I am saddened by the casualty reportsonly 3K ...hopefully this year it will double. Get rid of some losers. War on terror my butt.

Posted by: Worthless | Jan 10, 2007 2:26:11 PM

"No one in history has won a two front war little alone a four front war. Our president can't even win a one front war. This is about his wounded ego-mania for power and his legacy. After all he is the worst president in American History!"

Your knowledge of history and warfare is extremely limited. The US fought in Europe, the Pacific (from Hawaii to Japan), Africa and many other fronts in WWII, oh yea, we won all those conflicts. Your take on the current administration will be proved wrong with the passing of time.

Posted by: Teddy Salad | Jan 10, 2007 2:29:06 PM

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