

Bush's Defense/ Foreign Policy Team Rates an



A+

... which is just what we'll need to clean up the mess the Clinton years created.

Bush's team, even the Post acknowledges, is known for its 'intellectual range and bureaucratic dexterity.' Expect a swift, dramatic change from eight years of Clinton mismanagement.

I WROTE, BEFORE THE ELECTION, HOW MUCH *REAL* military folks — not the Joint Chiefs' Syncophants-in-Uniform — despise Bill Clinton and the rest of the Clintonistas ("Something is Amiss," *CPR*, Sept./Oct. 2000). Their loathing is merely a normal, natural response to the hatred the president and his gang have showered on the

Leon McKinney is an engineering consultant in St. Louis, Missouri.

L E O N M c K I N N E Y

military from Clinton's first week in office, which featured executive orders blessing gays-in-the-military and one of Hillary's feminazi staffers informing the highly-decorated General Barry McCaffrey, "we don't talk to uniforms."

Now, with the end of the Clinton-Gore era, suddenly administration types and Bill's Joint Chiefs figureheads have begun talking like men injected with truth serum. JCS head General Henry Shelton *now* complains about a "strategy-force mismatch" (funding shortfalls). The service chiefs have found, to their professed astonishment after years of saying everything was fine, that they actually need an additional \$48 to \$58 billion *per year* for procurement and other needs. Replacing the current inventory of fighter aircraft, of which many entered service 25 years ago (the last time Donald Rumsfeld was Secretary of Defense), will cost at least \$340 billion — more than the entire annual defense budget.

OUR WAY OR THE HIGHWAY

Recruiting is still a real problem," says Pentagon's force-management policy chief Alphonso Maldon. Officers are leaving the military at a record pace, as are skilled enlisted men and women. Part of the reason is that, under Bill Clinton, the military's attitude towards its people, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Cheryl Perry, has been: "it's either our way or the highway." Sgt. Perry is leaving the military to go to medical school. "Some of us chose the highway."

The truth is also beginning to shine on Clinton's foreign policy. In a January 3 article headlined "Clinton's Foreign Policy Proved Toothless," even the *Los Angeles Times*, long a Clinton cheerleader, declared that policy's central principle (that "promotion of free trade and globalized markets would, over the long run, promote democracy and human rights") a failure: "China, for example, is as intolerant of open political dissent as it was eight years ago." Not to mention that Communist Party thugs still rule in Beijing while Chinese Army generals threaten to nuke Los Angeles and write that within five years they will attack Taiwan.

Russia is moving tactical nuclear weapons into a military base in Eastern Europe for the first time since the Cold War in an apparent effort to increase military pressure on NATO. The arms were deployed last June to the Russian enclave of Kalingrad, a Baltic Sea port located between Poland and Lithuania that is the headquarters of the Russian Baltic Fleet. U.S. officials say Moscow was following through on its threats to respond to NATO's expansion with the forward deployment of nuclear weapons. The Russian navy will send warships into the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and the Mediterranean for the first time since the 1991 Soviet collapse. Russia and Iran, thumbing their noses at Clinton's request to Moscow to stop shipping nuclear technology and other goodies to the Tehran's megalomaniac mullahs, have signed a new military and security partnership. As for Russia's top man, Vladimir Putin, he is busying himself trying to abolish NATO in favor of some vaguely-defined new European Defense Force. Once a KGB man, al-

ways a KGB man, to paraphrase our Marines.

Meanwhile, among Third World barbarians, Cuba and China signed an agreement to "strengthen cooperation between their armed forces," according to Cuban state media. For all of Clinton's globe-spanning photo-ops, now almost twice as many countries - 68, up from 65 last year — suffer from civil unrest, drug wars, and other skirmishes than did so when Clinton took office. While the assertion by John Hulsman, the conservative analyst tapped as a Bush adviser, that once Bush takes office, "after four years there will be no American ground troops in the Balkans" prompts anguished shrieks by Clintonites like current Secretary of State Madeline Half-Bright, one of her own Balkan "experts" confesses, "Our objective in Kosovo? I don't know what it is." And there is growing evidence that Islamic militants like Osama bin Laden are no longer simply dedicated to fighting "infidels" (everyone except Muslims) in Muslim lands, but are perhaps out to conquer the world in the name of Allah.

Facing the mess Clinton is leaving us, Bush has a team even the *Washington Post* says is "known for their



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intellectual range and bureaucratic dexterity” that will be “expected to pursue his conservative agenda with gusto and discipline.” Soon-to-be Secretaries of State and Defense Colin Powell and Donald Rumsfeld are praised by consummate Washington insider William Safire as “nobody’s pushovers.” Creating a third leg of a stable stool will be Dick Cheney.

THE TEAM’S REAL STAR

While some call Rumsfeld, Powell, and Cheney reactionary “cold warriors,” let us remember that we never had a real war with the Soviets and that Powell and Cheney were present when the Evil Empire fell.

At first blush, Colin Powell seemed the star-in-waiting, but now I predict Rumsfeld will be the Bush team’s real star. Early handicapping for Secretary of Defense favored former Senator Dan Coats, a stalwart conservative, well versed in military matters. But Coats’ eagerness to roll back the “social experimentation” in the military (homosexuals, lowering performance standards so women can be certified as combat-capable, and so on) was his undoing. Bush is clearly wary of anyone who comes with an agenda other than his own and isn’t looking for confirmation fights with the Democrats for their own sake. While Don Rumsfeld says he has “other priorities,” make no mistake: Rumsfeld knows the importance to an effective military of maintaining a military culture. And he is well aware of the hash liberals have tried to make of that culture since 1992. Rumsfeld is a master at managing the Pentagon’s and the Hill’s bureaucratic processes and will be able to find plenty of ways to repair the damage — without the liberals, tuned out to the military as they are, even finding out.

A Rumsfeld-headed 1998 blue-ribbon commission demolished Clinton’s claim that “rogue nations” (or, as Secretary Half-Bright calls them, “states of concern”) would not obtain long-range missiles until 2015. Rumsfeld’s nine-member commission was unanimous in recommending continuing and expanding research into missile defense programs, even though four of them were on record as opposing deployment. One of those

members, Richard Garwin, a notorious left-wing critic of missile defense, says Rumsfeld is “a man of great energy, fairness, and effectiveness.” While maintaining that the missile defense system Rumsfeld favors would be ineffective, and that therefore the new defense secretary should analyze alternatives, Garwin still says Rumsfeld has “the stuff” to do his job effectively. Having butted heads with Garwin myself over missile defense during the 1980s, I can attest that Rumsfeld’s having won Garwin’s praise proves Bush’s man at defense possesses the leadership skills required to succeed at this difficult job.

Nonetheless, Rumsfeld is more than tough enough for the job. Rumsfeld likes to quote fellow Chicagoan Al Capone: “You get a lot more with a kind word and a gun than you do with a kind word alone.”

At the top of Bush’s and Rumsfeld’s to-do list will be moving aggressively to deploy missile defenses and transforming the military by “skipping a generation” of other weapons such as the Pentagon’s \$200

billion Joint Strike Fighter.

Bush, say several Republican lawmakers, will conduct a quick internal review of the Pentagon’s national missile defense program and then unveil a plan to overhaul the current land-based approach to include sea and space components. This horrifies the left, because the Clinton Administration’s current plan for a purely land-based system, solely on US soil, is difficult to make work and thus is an easy strawman for missile defense critics. That’s why Clinton picked it.

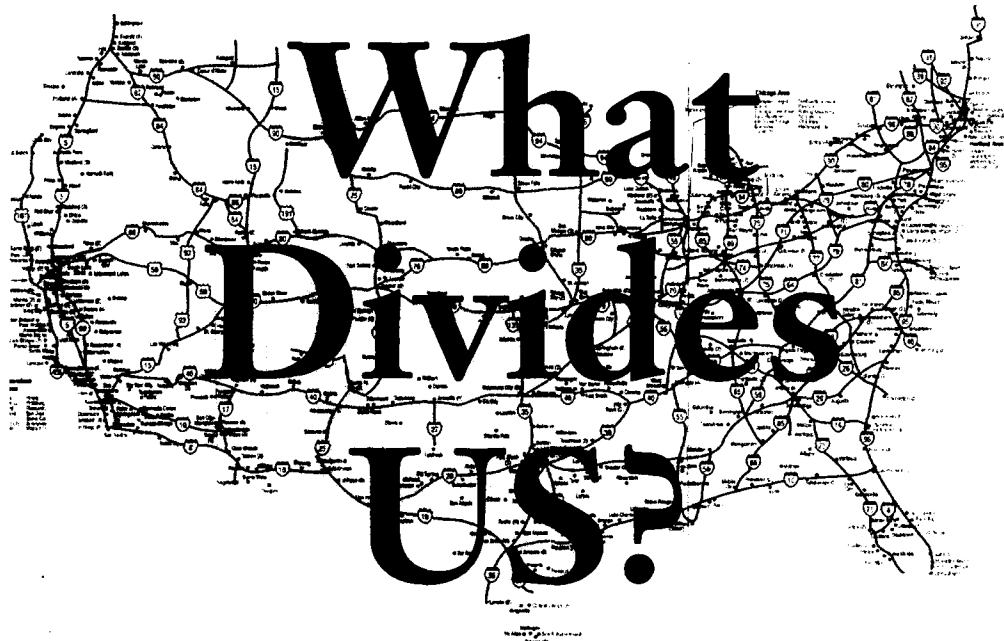
Besides leading the effort to deploy a national missile defense system, Rumsfeld will also expand US efforts to take control of outer space by developing technologies to attack and defend satellites, as well as projecting US power anywhere in the world within a few hours. Rumsfeld is said to be strongly interested in advanced weapon systems under study such as hypersonic aircraft traveling at Mach 7-12 or even faster and “global reach” aircraft and spaceplanes.

After January 20, conservatives should be able to sleep at night knowing that, after eight long years, our national security is finally being tended to.

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Bush's mandate is clear to see, and so is the source of American division.

John Kurzweil

The media is full of talk of the division of the country, most of it, as usual, superficial and dishonest — that is, designed not, as advertised, to enlighten, but to achieve political ends by confusing people. For instance, every day's Washington news reports mention “...a House and Senate more narrowly divided than at any time in decades” following Bush's razor-thin election victory. The political purpose is to weaken the resolve of already weak-kneed Republican leaders by scaring them into believing their program lacks popular support and legitimacy and into forgetting the interests of their millions of constituents by also forgetting their mandate to govern as a *republican* party — supporting freedom and free institutions. They are supposed to look upon the election as some sort of “tie” that robbed them of any basis on which to fight for tax cuts, social security reform, or any other significant diversion from the left's continuing efforts to diminish individual freedom. The ultimate objective is to trick George W. into repeating, by faltering on his campaign promises, his father's catastrophic breach of faith with the voters, which really *did* destroy Bush Sr.'s mandate and led to his 1992 defeat.

John Kurzweil is CPR's editor.

Some points to remember: during 32 of the 50 years between 1953 and 2002, our national government will have been *more* divided than now, with *neither* Party controlling the presidency and both congressional houses: that is 64 percent of the time. Republicans held the White House for 30 of those 50 years, while *also* holding the House and Senate for only four of them, 1953-54 and 2001-02. If degrees of “divided government” are to be the measure of Republicans' mandate, then George W. Bush, for at least the next two years, has a stronger mandate than did Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Bush Sr., and, for most of his term, Eisenhower. As a technical matter, “W” enjoys a level of power as leader of a political Party with a political, governing program stronger than any Republican president in half a century. Throw in the sometimes tenuous, but still quite real (as Gore's ultimate defeat showed), conservative majority on the Supreme Court, and Bush's position as leader of a political movement directly opposing Clintonian leftism is more secure than that of any Republican since before World War II.

Beyond the bald facts that Republicans won the presidency, the House, and the Senate, it is also significant that Gore's minuscule popular vote victory was achieved during the final three days of the campaign. According to national poll-