

Chemical Cluster Bombs Discrediting UNMOVIC

- UN weapons inspectors in Iraq recently discovered a new variety of rocket seemingly configured to strew bomblets filled with chemical or biological agents over large areas, U.S. officials say. - *New York Times News Service*, March 10, 2003
- Inspectors discovered cluster bombs and sub munitions that appeared designed to deliver chemical or biological agents. Contrary to initial Iraqi statements, a number of bombs and over 100 sub munitions were found. State Department, March 10, 2003
- Another is a videotape showing Iraq testing a cluster bomb that could disperse chemical weapons over a wide area. - CNN, March 10, 2003
- Administration spokesmen said that chief inspector Hans Blix did not give details...of the possible existence of a cluster bomb that could deliver deadly poisons. - *Boston Globe*, March 11, 2003
- The U.S. is also aware of UNMOVIC's discovery of Iraqi production of munitions capable of dispensing both chemical and biological weapons... - Ari Fleischer, March 11, 2003

Certainly, the information operation or strategic influence effort included attacking and discrediting. Attack or discredit those who did not support the story.

Chemical Cluster Bombs: Assessment

- Quick turn response to Blix report that got carried widely by print and broadcast media.
- Good example of the concept of responding within the news cycle although it lacked consistency.
- The cluster bomb story did not have legs because it was rather weak, but it still served its purpose at the time.
- Probably worth the minor negative impact of the Blix statement in June that it was part of a campaign to discredit him.

Again, the cluster bomb story fits the pattern and methods.

We were told Iraq had a major program for computer network attack in a White House paper. Wolfowitz gave the warning in a presentation to the Council on Foreign Relations.

Intended to Mislead Yes	False X (No Attacks)	Engineered
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Information Warfare

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAMS
Middle East/North Africa | **Iraq** Arabic Version

23 January 2003

White House Report Details Iraq's Efforts to Block U.N. Inspections

□ According to Iraqi defector Dr. **Khidhir Hamza**, **Iraq's** Babylon Software Company was developing cyber warfare capabilities on behalf of the Iraqi Intelligence Service as early as the 1990s. People assigned to Babylon initially worked on information security technologies and techniques, but some of the programmers were segregated into a "highly compartmented unit" and tasked with breaking into foreign computers in order to download sensitive data or infect the computers with viruses. Some of the programmers reported that they had accumulated enough expertise to break into moderately protected computer systems.

...also Wolfowitz to the Council on Foreign Relations

The Deputy Director of Information Operations on the Joint Staff announced at a conference in London in early July that the United States experienced no major attempts to penetrate its systems during the war. What happened to the "highly compartmented unit" of the Babylon Software Company?

There was the story about the bad guys using US uniforms:

Iraqi in US Uniforms

- March 7th. Iraq is acquiring military uniforms "identical down to the last detail" to those worn by American and British forces and plans to use them to shift blame for atrocities, a senior U.S. official said Thursday. Jim Wilkinson, Tampa Florida.
- March 26th. Soldiers in the U.S. 3rd Infantry moving north toward Baghdad say they believe they have been attacked by Iraqis wearing American uniforms. And they say they're worried that some of the uniforms were stolen several weeks ago while the U.S. troops were in Kuwait. David Bloom, NBC.

We were told Iraq had acquired US and UK uniforms. There was one report from an embedded reporter that a unit "thought" they had seen American uniforms; their fear was partly driven because some of their laundry had been stolen while they were in Kuwait.

There was also an item from an embedded reporter that his unit had found and

Iraqi “soldier” who had been blown up by his own explosives.

We have no reports of Iraq trying to shift the blame for atrocities. The way it was put by Jim Wilkinson, a name that keeps appearing in these questionable stories, it seems to fit a pattern of pre-blaming Iraq. It has the feel of being a created story.

Iraqi in US Uniforms

- **March 26th Clarke:** Well, I remember several weeks ago out here talking about we knew they were acquiring uniforms that looked like U.S. and U.K. uniforms. And the reporting was that they planned to use them, give them to the thugs, as I call them, to go out, carry out reprisals against the Iraqi people, and try to blame it on coalition forces. So just recently we have seen reports again that they may be wearing or using what looked like U.S. uniforms to confuse people, to confuse our forces, to confuse the Iraqi people.
 - **Q:** Have you seen specific reports about them wearing U.S. uniforms accepting the surrender of Iraqi troops, and then executing them?
 - **Clarke:** I have seen -- I have seen at least one report.
 - **Clarke:** I want to caution that and caveat that and say I have seen one report like that
- **March 28th Rumsfeld:** They put on American and British uniforms to try to fool regular Iraqi soldiers into surrendering to them, and then execute them as an example for others who might contemplate defection or capitulation.

The story got turned into Iraqi wearing uniforms to get others to surrender, but even Tori Clarke cautioned about its validity. Two days later, Rumsfeld announced it as if it were true.

We were going to be fighting children. The State Department put out a paper in December warning that we could see fighting from some as young as 10.

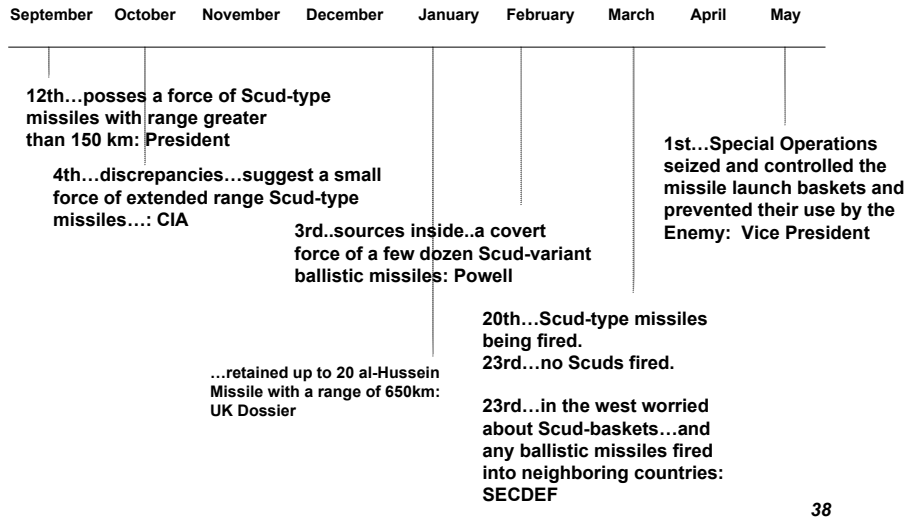
Children Soldiers

- **December 2002**
 - ***Iraq: A Population Silenced*** by State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.
 - Could have to fight children
 - Training classes for ages 10 to 15
- **Surfaced again during the conflict in some press reports.**
- **Assessment: An exaggeration probably part of the strategic influence campaign.**

There were no reports of units encountering units of fighting children soldiers.

Before the war, we were told Iraq had some number of Scuds left over. It was a story consistent on both sides of the Atlantic. This was important because it would have meant the capability to attack Israel.

Scuds



For the first three days of the war, spokesmen were using the term Scud-type missiles to describe the missile attacks. They, of course were not Scuds, and we have found no Scuds, but for three days, they kept the story alive.

Scuds: Assessment

- **CIA made the point with the October report that there were accounting discrepancies which could mean some hidden missiles.**
- **By the Powell speech to the UN the missiles became a fact for both the US and UK.**
- **The “Scud” storyline was carried through the war, probably part of the strategic influence campaign.**

Once the story had been created, it was hard to let go, but no Scuds.

We were supposed to be threatened by Remotely Piloted Vehicles that could deliver chemical or biological weapons:

Remotely Piloted Vehicles



In October in the CIA report, these were airplanes. By the time of the Powell presentation to the UN, they had gotten much smaller.

Remotely Piloted Vehicles

- **October CIA Report:** “...attempted to convert some of its J-29 jet trainer aircraft into an RPV... that can be fitted with spray...”
- **President in Cincinnati in October -** drones that could be used to attack the U.S.
- **June 15th, *LA Times*,** “They quickly found the ‘drones’: five burned and blackened 9-foot wings dumped near the front gate. ‘It could have been a student project, or maybe a model,’ the team’s expert, U.S. Air Force Capt. Libbie Boehm, said with a shrug.
...from an investigation of a reported drones with sprayers by the 75th Exploitation Group

The President even said these drones could reach the United States. An Air Force captain who went to the location with the WMD Exploitation Group said they looked like a “student project.”

More recently, a USAF team has done further analysis and concluded the remotely piloted vehicles were for reconnaissance. Their mission was to take pictures.

There is still a great deal we don’t know about the Jessica Lynch story, but there are some insights we can get once we have gotten the pattern of how engineered or manufactured stories were handled during the war. It certainly has the characteristics of strategic influence campaign.

Private Jessica Lynch

March

April

June

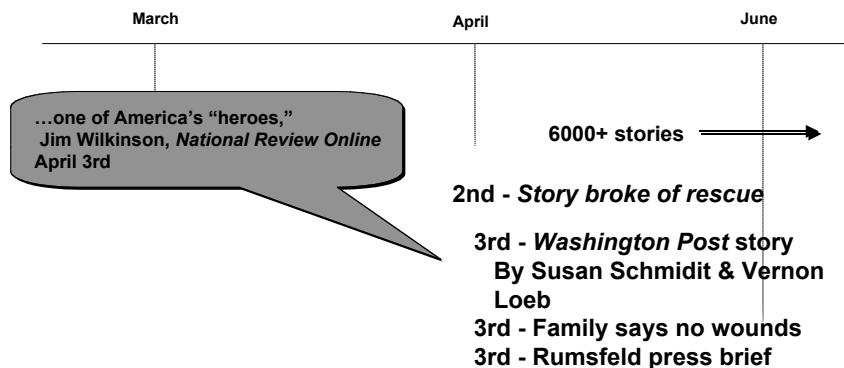
"In the Joint Operations Center, Air Force Capt. Joe Della Vedova followed the raid as it happened, and as soon as Lynch was in the air phoned Jim Wilkinson, the top civilian communications aide to CENTCOM Gen. Tommy Franks. 'She is safe and in our hands,' he reported. The whole operation, expected to take 45 minutes, was over in 25. Next Della Vedova called Gen. Vince Brooks.."
Newsweek, April 14

In the early hours of April 2, correspondents in Doha were summoned from their beds to CENTCOM. Jim Wilkinson, the White House's top figure there, had stayed up all night. ..."The president had been briefed, as had the Secretary of Defense."

The first and unexplained part of the story is that just after she was returned to US custody, the first call was to Jim Wilkinson, CENTCOM Director of Strategic Communications. This is very strange for a military operation. When I tell military friends, they often respond, "Do you suppose they staged it?"

I don't have any information about it being staged, but we do know from Wilkinson that the President and Secretary of Defense were briefed immediately.

Private Jessica Lynch



Truth got off track on the morning of April 3rd with a story in the *Washington Post* that completely exaggerated what had happened. I have been told by a source that the *Washington Post* got the story from people in the Pentagon who were quoting communications intercepts from Iraq. In retrospect, the Iraqi reports were probably about the action of someone else in the convoy.

The question of releasing classified information has to be mentioned at this point in the Lynch story. If the my source is correct, the information given to the *Washington*

Post would have been very highly classified, with special handing, limited only to those who had a need to know. This was a major pattern from the beginning of the marketing campaign throughout the war. It was okay to release classified information if it supported the message.

On the afternoon of the 3rd when Rumsfeld and Myers gave their press briefing, the story on the street was that she was America's new Rambo. We know. However, that they had been briefed. We know he would have been aware of her injuries. When asked, he pulled back. He left the *Washington Post* story as possibly being right. Again, we see the pattern. When the story on the street supports the message, it will be left there by a non-answer. The message is more important than the truth.

Private Jessica Lynch

- April 3, *Washington Post*... "sustained multiple gunshot wounds" and also was stabbed while she "fought fiercely and shot several enemy soldiers ... firing her weapon until she ran out of ammunition." The paper cited an unnamed U.S. military official as saying "she was fighting to the death."
 - NYT also reported she had gunshot wounds.
- April 3, Rumsfeld, "We are certainly grateful for the brilliant and courageous rescue of Sergeant -- correction -- Pfc. [Private First Class] Jessica Lynch, who was being held by Iraqi forces in what they called a "hospital."
 - Question: Rumsfeld: Gen. Myers and I get briefed on these types of things and there's an orderly process for debriefing and discussing them. And I have no intention of discussing it piecemeal.
- ...April 5, CENTCOM briefing "... in coordination with conventional forces from the Marine Corps and the Air Force and the Army were able to successfully rescue Private First Class Jennifer (sic) Lynch out of a hospital and irregular military headquarters facility that was being used by these death squads in Nasiriyah and successfully return her to U.S. hands..."

My friends who are graduates of the Air Force Academy agree that General Myers would have been taken before an honor board if he been a cadet during this press briefing and did not speak up when he knew an untruth was being let stand.

Even Central Command kept the story alive by not giving out details.

Private Jessica Lynch

- April 5, Armed Forces Information Service... "There were no firefights inside the hospital, but plenty of action outside, Brooks said."
- April 5, Brig Gen Brooks, "There was not a firefight inside of the building, I will tell you, but there were fire fights outside of the building, getting in and getting out."
- No reports on her condition.
- April 6, *Washington Times*, "The hospital where Pfc. Lynch was held was reported to be a stronghold of the Fedayeen Saddam, a guerrilla force sworn to martyrdom for Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. The rescuers arrived by helicopter, secured the building by gunfire and forced their way inside, CNN reported."
- April 14th, *Time*, "According to the *Washington Post*, Lynch, an Army supply clerk with only minimal combat training, shot several advancing Iraqi soldiers, emptying her weapon of ammunition and possibly incurring a series of gunshot wounds."

The exaggerated story was allowed to stay, and even appeared in the April 14th *Time Magazine* article about her.

On March 23rd General Pace, Myers' deputy, got a little carried away with his making Iraq evil.

Hanging of a Waving Woman

- **March 23rd - "In once case, and Iraqi woman was hanged after she waved to Coalition forces." General Pace, CNN**
- **No other reports of an incident like this and no verification of this story.**

A very strange part of the strategic influence or information of integrity would have allowed themselves to be spokesmen for very weakly supported stories. Even if there were a single report of something like this happening, my expectation would have been that someone like General Pace would have wanted more details before going on national television to make such a statement.

Punishing the French - The Stories

September October November December January February March April May



The evidence points to the French being the focus of punishment in the strategic influence campaign. There are at least eight times when false stories or engineered stories were aimed at them, the majority appearing after their lack of support in the UN for US and UK actions.

well put together. The production line for the Roland 2 shut down in 1993.³
We were told the French were helping Iraqi official escape to Syria:

Punishing the French - Passports

May 6 - Washington Times

“An unknown number of Iraqis who worked for Saddam Hussein’s government were given passports by French officials in Syria, U.S. intelligence officials said.”

“...said officials familiar with intelligence reports.”

“...revealed through sensitive intelligence-gathering means angered Pentagon, State Department and intelligence officials in Washington.”

“...one official said. “...a second Administration official said.”

This story had some legs, and the *Washington Times* kept getting fed information to keep it alive.

Punishing the French

May 6

May 7

**Ireland on Line
Australian Broadcasting Corp.
Expatica, Netherlands**

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**Fox News
“The reports add fuel to the fire that Paris had been colluding with Baghdad before and during the coalition invasion of Iraq.”**

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**Washington Times
“US intelligence officials are intensifying the search in Europe for officials of the Saddam Hussein government who fled Iraq with French passports, US officials said yesterday.”**

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Many newspapers carried the story, and it even generated an official inquiry.

³ It is hard to explain, but this Roland fabrication keeps surfacing. It came up again in early October when a Polish unit was reported to have found recently manufactured missiles. After it bounced around for couple days, a Polish spokesman announced that it was not true.