

PERSONAL

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MAY 14 2004

TO: President George W. Bush
CC: Vice President Richard B. Cheney
FROM: Donald Rumsfeld 
SUBJECT: Rumsfeld's and Myers' Trip to Iraq – May 12-14, 2004

For the past three-plus years, I have sent you a two-page memorandum reporting on each of my overseas trips. As I return from Iraq, I am sending you a somewhat shorter report.

We met with the key military, intelligence and detainee leadership. Dick and I believe they are on top of their assignments.

We spoke to the troops at Abu Ghraib prison and later at the First Cavalry Division in Baghdad. They fully appreciate the importance of their assignments. They are convinced they are succeeding militarily. Volunteers all, they are upbeat and proud to be serving our country. One cannot help but be impressed with their remarkable skill, courage and patriotism.

On the way over, I read that a US Senator's website quotes his press release saying, "Shamefully, we now learn that Saddam's torture chambers reopened under new management – US management." That US officials are saying such things is a downer for the troops.

Fortunately, the troops I met in Iraq "get it." Several said that they now refer to Washington, DC as "the Sunni Triangle West," equating our Capitol to the gravest threat area they face here in Iraq.

The next time you feel you would like a "sanity check," get out of Washington, DC and make another surprise visit to Iraq. Being with the troops is an inspiration.

Respectfully,

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