

BOLTEN'S 5-POINT PLAN, 75 DAYS LATER

It's a testament to how messy my desk is that I just came across Mike Allen's article, from a week after Josh Bolten ascended to the Chief of Staff role, describing Bolten's plan to right the sinking ship of the Bush Administration. But the benefit of rediscovering it now is that what once appeared as an earnest plan now reads like humor.

☒ So how has Bolten's five-point plan fared?

1 DEPLOY GUNS AND BADGES. This is an unabashed play to members of the conservative base who are worried about illegal immigration. Under the banner of homeland security, the White House plans to seek more funding for an extremely visible enforcement crackdown at the Mexican border, including a beefed-up force of agents patrolling on all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

A great idea, Bolten, if only the National Guard weren't already so taxed as a result of long deployments in Iraq. As of last week, Bush was far short of his goal to have 2500 Guardsmen and women deployed by now (though Fox News says they're not). It seems a bunch of Governors saw the devastation of Katrina last year, and want to make sure their Guard is available for any summertime disasters in their own states.