

HOEKSTRA'S LEAKS/CHENEY'S LEAKS

Steven Benen writes most of the post I was going to write (thanks Steve!) in response to the news that Pete Hoekstra is a big fat hypocrite about intelligence leaks. Steve links to Justin Rood's coverage of Hoekstra leaking details about the supposedly secret intelligence budget; RawStory first noticed Hoekstra's leak. And then Steve provides a chronology (how could I not love that?!?!?!?) of Hoekstra's wingnuttery:

Given Hoekstra's hackish history, this week's alleged disclosure is par for the course. After all, Hoekstra has had a series of recent intelligence-related embarrassments.

- *In November 2006, Hoekstra pushed the administration to publish online a vast archive of Iraqi documents captured during the war. The idea was to let far-right bloggers "prove" that Saddam had WMD, but Hoekstra's plan led to the accidental release of secret nuclear research, including a basic guide to building an atom bomb.*
- *In October 2006, Hoekstra "stripped the credentials of a Democratic committee*

aide he believed may have leaked a then-classified document to The New York Times. A month later, he quietly reinstated the aide's access."

- *In July 2006, Hoekstra called a humiliating press conference to announce, "We have found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq"—despite failing to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.*
- *In June 2006, Hoekstra and Rick Santorum wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed, alleging that some officials in the intelligence community are attempting to destroy the Bush administration — and America itself.*

I would add just one event to this chronology: In July 2006 Hoekstra wrote what was perceived as a critical letter—but was actually one solidly supporting some of the Cheney-Rummy moves to keep DOD in charge of certain areas of intelligence.

I raise that—and link to Steve's post—because I think it important to understand Hoekstra as more than just an unmotivated hack. Rather, each step of his hackery can be understood largely as a move in a Neocon chess game over information,

largely doing the bidding of Cheney.