

WAR AND PROPAGANDA COUNCIL

BushCo says that—since they haven't seen Petraeus in a week—they clearly couldn't have given him a script for today's hearing.

The White House and its allies on Capitol Hill have pushed back hard at this critique. Administration officials said they are not directing or reviewing the testimony of Petraeus and Crocker. A senior military official close to Petraeus said the general's congressional testimony has not been provided to the White House or the Pentagon "and the first time all will hear it will be in the hearing Monday."

White House officials acknowledge that they know the key elements of the Petraeus-Crocker assessment and recommendations. President Bush heard Petraeus and Crocker outline their main points in two lengthy sessions – one by videoconference on Aug. 31, **the other when he met the two at an air base in Anbar province on Labor Day.** Bush and Petraeus have not spoken since then.

"We're not by any means in the dark," said one senior administration official, who would only speak on background. [my emphasis]

To which I'll just recall what Pat Lang had to say about the trip to Anbar.

I note that the president's travel party to Assad Air base in Anbar Province includes; Gates, Rice, Pace, Fallon, Lute, Hadley.Â There, he will, of course, see Petraeus and Crocker as well. Anyone else of note? Any AEIers? Sounds like a council of war to me. Nice and isolated, minimal press interference

and possibility of operational security
planning breach.Â Well thought out.Â
This will be a good place to get everyone
"on board" and to coordinate tactics
for the Petraeus/Crocker show to come.

So all it means is that BushCo went to Anbar to
decide on a plan before they heard all the other
reports.