

BACK TO WAR AGAINST EASTASIA...

It seems like just ten days ago that I was reporting that ~~we weren't at war with Eastasia~~ the Pentagon had announced that Iran had stopped providing Iraq with EFPs (though click through to read the Shachtman update). But ten days is a long time when you're already two weeks into "Legacy Year," and so it's time to announce that we are, once again, at war with Eastasia.

Attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq with bombs believed linked to Iran – known as explosively formed penetrators (EFPs) – have risen sharply in January after several months of decline, according to the top U.S. commander in Iraq.

Iraqi and U.S. officials indicated just a month ago that Iran was using its influence to improve security in Iraq by restraining cross-border weapons flow and militia activity. The U.S. military had said in recent months that the number of EFP attacks had gone down.

Gen. David Petraeus disclosed the reversal to reporters **after a meeting with President Bush** who was visiting troops in Kuwait.

"In this year, EFPs have gone up, actually, **over the last 10 days by a factor of two or three**, and frankly we're trying to determine why that might be," Petraeus said. [my emphasis]

Two things to note in this story. First, General Petraeus can count as well as I can: ten days. I wonder if Petraeus is at all embarrassed by his sudden reversal? Particularly when you look at the timing: General Petraeus makes this announcement directly after meeting with George Bush, just after Bush has visited Israel, and not before. You think maybe Bush ordered

Petraeus to ratchet up the propaganda?

Because, after all, there's no other sign
they're ratcheting up the propaganda. Hammered
copper ashtrays and Filipino Monkey, that's what
this great country has stooped to.