

# YOU DON'T INTRODUCE NEW PRODUCTS IN AUGUST

How nice of Andy Card to call Karl Rove on his bullshit claim that the Democrats pushed the Iraq war before the 2002 elections.

Karl Rove asserted on the Charlie Rose show recently that it was Congress that pushed the Bush administration into war with Iraq. "The administration was opposed" to voting for a war resolution in the fall of 2002, Rove claimed.

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## NO, PAKISTAN WAS THE LAST BIG TEST. AND WE FAILED IT.

"Serious Person" Michael O'Hanlon and escalation surge architect Fred Kagan end their op-ed with the following words.

There was a time when volatility in places like Pakistan was mostly a humanitarian worry; today it is as much a threat to our basic security as Soviet tanks once were. We must be militarily and diplomatically prepared to keep ourselves safe in such a world.

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## MORE ON THE FBI'S

# OWN FALAFEL

There's a bit of a squabble over how important Nada Nadim Prouty, the FBI/CIA agent who got unauthorized access to Hezbollah information at the CIA, was to the agency. Via Laura, NBC reports that she was very important.

Current and former intelligence officials tell NBC News that Nada Nadim Prouty had a much bigger role than officials at the FBI and CIA first acknowledged.

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## **"THIS PROBLEM WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC"**

I do intend to return to my planned series on Matt Bai and the Serious People. But for now, David Sanger asks a question that really needs to be asked: what is going to happen to Pakistan's nukes? Before I look at the answer Sanger offers, let me point to this one line in the story.

“It’s a very professional military,” said a senior American official who is trying to manage the crisis

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## **COMPARTMENTALIZATION, SYRIAN AIRSTRIKE STYLE**

Apparently, Crazy Pete Hoekstra's been complaining again that the Bushies are keeping

secrets from Congress. He co-authored a WSJ editorial several weeks ago to complain that only senior leaders in Congress (including Crazy Pete) knew the truth about the Syrian bombing. In the op-ed, Hoekstra sounded like he had found another casus belli.

It has briefed only a handful of very senior members of Congress, leaving the vast majority of foreign relations and

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## **STATE LOSES ITS ARMY**

I've imagined (and it's largely imagination) that Condi's little PR campaign of the last week was a desperate attempt to stave off DOD control over State's bodyguards—an attempt to retain an army for the exclusive use of the State Department. Condi went to (for her) unheard of lengths to try to play nice and pretend that State could manage a very large band of mercenaries.

Is it just coincidence that that effort

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## **BLACKWATER GUARDS GIVEN IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION**

I pointed out the other day that several of the Blackwater guards involved in the September 16 shooting have left Iraq. Now bmaz points to this AP story revealing that all the guards have been given immunity from prosecution.

The State Department promised Blackwater USA bodyguards immunity from prosecution in its

investigation of last month's deadly shooting of 17 Iraqi civilians, The Associated Press has learned.

[snip]

Three senior law enforcement officials said all the Blackwater bodyguards

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## UPDATE ON GAMING INTELLIGENCE TO JUSTIFY WAR

I wasn't so disturbed by the news that DNI Mike McConnell had decided to reverse the recent practice of producing unclassified Key Judgments from an NIE ... until I read Scott Horton's take on it.

Michael McConnell started his first two months on the job with a solid record for candor and accuracy.

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## RAZED

Okay, I mean this to be an honest question. The NYT has scary pictures up—courtesy of William Broad, who was glued to Judy's hip on Mobile Bioweapons Lab stories in summer 2003—showing that the purported nuclear reactor the Israelis took out in Syria has been razed to the ground.

That offers proof, the accompanying article states, that the Syrians were up to no good, and that the bombed site was a nuclear

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# **SHORTER GOP: IT'S OKAY IF MALIKI'S GOVT SUPPORTS INSURGENTS, SO LONG AS IT'S NOT OUR MONEY**

I'd like to return to an interchange between Waxman and Condi from the hearing today. Condi made a very generous offer to let Waxman's committee review documents pertaining to corruption. Waxman pointed out that that offer did not allow the committee to discuss what it discovered in those documents publicly.

He raised the example of whether Iraqis were laundering money for use in militias.