

CATO: How Bush lost bin Laden

by John Aravosis (DC) on 5/10/2011 10:45:00 AM

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Malou Innocent at CATO:

Whatever one thinks about Musharraf, my problem lies primarily with Bush. The article explains:

A few months after Tora Bora, as part of the preparation for war in Iraq, the Bush administration pulled out many of the Special Operations and CIA forces that had been searching for bin Laden in Afghanistan, according to several U.S. officials who served at the time.

Even the drones that U.S. forces depended on to track movements of suspicious characters in the Afghan mountain passes were redeployed to be available for the Iraq war, Lt. Gen. John Vines told The Washington Post in 2006. Once, when Vines's troops believed they were within half an hour of catching up to bin Laden, the general asked for drones to cover three possible escape routes. But only one drone was available — others had been moved to Iraq. The target got away.

That's right folks! The Bush White House lost whatever opportunity it had to get bin Laden by diverting scarce resources to Iraq. Of course, it should go without saying that even if America hadn't gone into Iraq, it would've been difficult for Bush to have captured or killed bin Laden. But what really "grinds my gears" is to hear members of the Bush team claim credit for bin Laden's recent demise—torture was "critically important"—while simultaneously ignoring their culpability for not helping to capture bin Laden when they had the chance.
