

<u>A Well-Kept Secret</u>

Christopher Preble <u>applauds</u> the zipped lips of government officials:

This episode demonstrates that the government still can keep secrets, even from Pakistani officials who learned of the raid only after it was over. The Wikileaks imbroglio might have convinced some people that such secrecy is impossible. This should put that to rest, at least for a while.

Much of the secrecy surrounding U.S. counterterrorism operations is unnecessary, but not all of it. As I noted last night, it is a credit to the prowess and professionalism of our military, and our intelligence and law enforcement officials, that this operation went off without a single American killed, and with no harm to anyone outside of the compound. That can be explained, in part, by the operational security that was maintained throughout the long period when this location was under surveillance, and as the operation was nearing execution.