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# Did waterboarding work?

by Bill Hayes

David H. Rittgers, the legal policy analyst at the Cato Institute, argues that the question [Did waterboarding work?](#) is no longer relevant because we will never know for sure.

The legal framework underlying waterboarding collapsed during President George W. Bush's tenure. The White House Office of Legal Counsel in 2004 withdrew the memoranda that authorized waterboarding. The Detainee Treatment Act of 2005, sponsored by former POW and torture victim Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), barred "cruel, inhuman, and degrading" treatment of any detainee in military custody. There may be an argument that waterboarding isn't torture, but there's no argument that it's not cruel, inhuman and degrading. [\[more\]](#)

June 22nd, 2011 in [Current Events & Issues](#)

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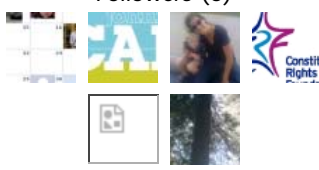
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