

National News

General Batiste 'Mad As Hell' at Rumsfeld

Maj. Gen. John Batiste (ret.), who resigned last year after having spent a 12-month tour of duty in Iraq's Sunni Triangle, has escalated his public campaign for the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"I'm as mad as hell," he told London's *Daily Telegraph* in an interview published on May 28. "I'm not stopping. They can hand wave me off, dismiss me, but I'm coming back, again and again and again, until there is some accountability." Batiste said he had "growing support on both sides of the Congress." He charges that Rumsfeld went to war with too few troops, then refused to listen to commanders who demanded more. "There were insufficient troops on the ground by a factor of two-and-a-half to three," he said. Rumsfeld's "contemptuous, arrogant, and dismissive attitude" led him to ignore competent military advice, said Batiste.

On the basis of his experience as the senior military aide to then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Batiste stated: "You can't tell that man [Rumsfeld] anything because he knows it all."

Bush-Man in Ohio Pleads Guilty on Election Fraud

Ohio Republican fundraiser Tom Noe, a former Maumee coin dealer and one of 19 Ohio Bush-Cheney Pioneers, pled guilty May 31 to illegally using friends and associates to funnel \$45,400 to President Bush's reelection campaign. Noe, facing up to 15 years in prison and fines up to \$950,000, had previously denied his guilt and was set for trial July 24, but decided to plead guilty to three federal charges and hope for a reduced sentence for accepting responsibility.

Noe still faces 53 state felony counts related to his handling of \$50 million in rare coins and other items for the Ohio Bureau of

Worker's Compensation. His trial on those charges is scheduled for Aug. 29.

In a related development, the head of the Ohio Workmen's compensation fund, Terence Gasper, pleaded guilty on state charges to money laundering and ethics violations. He took \$25,000 from Tom Noe. Gasper is also facing Federal charges.

Did U.S. Forces Use Beam Weapons in Iraq?

The Italian national TV network Raitre broadcast on June 1 a documentary film on the suspected use of directed-energy weapons by U.S. forces, during the decisive "battle of the airport," for the control of Baghdad, in April 2003. The film was produced by Sigfrido Ranucci, who last year reported on the use of phosphorus bombs in Fallujah.

The beam-weapon story has not been confirmed by *EIR*, and is reported here as an investigative lead. It is based on eyewitness reports, including from doctors at the Baghdad hospital, and Geerd Ven Moorter, a volunteer doctor who has worked in Iraq for the Belgian organization Medical Aid for the Third World.

All of these witnesses report that they saw civilian victims in a bus whose corpses were burnt and reduced in size; some of them were mutilated on the head or arm. Eyes were missing and teeth were burnt. The bus itself looked as though it had been melted down and was reduced in size. Only the driver survived, apparently without injuries, although people around him were slaughtered by something that did not leave any sign of explosive or objects driven by kinetic energy. The Belgian doctor recalled that he had seen a U.S. Humvee with a strange "blue eye" mounted on top, on the streets of Baghdad, and connected the two experiences, under the hypothesis that some sort of beam weapons had been used during the battle.

Ranucci's film interviews several U.S. specialists on beam weapons, and shows a clip from a press conference with Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and Gen. Richard Meyers prior to the Iraq War, in which a

journalist asked whether the U.S. Army would experiment with new kinds of weapons in the upcoming war. Rumsfeld appeared destabilized by the question and deferred to Meyers, who said: "I think that General Franks has been willing to use new 'things,' if any of them are available; and he was intending to use them in battle, even before they were fully tested. And I think that this . . . without referring in particular to directed-energy and high-power microwaves, but, sure, . . . we will go on in this direction" (retranslated from Italian).

After the broadcast, producer Ranucci received a death threat, in the form of a bullet in a mailed envelope.

'Grover Norquist Dem' Smears Webb in Va. Race

Harris Miller, the "Grover Norquist Democrat," is spending big for smear mailings and calls against Jim Webb, his opponent in the June 13 Virginia Democratic primary for the seat of Senator George Allen. That and his other attributes have earned him the backing of the "liberal" Synarchist *Washington Post*.

Some have called Miller the "anti-Christ of outsourcers." From 1995 to 2006, Miller was President of the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), the trade association of the giant corporations in telecommunications, electronic commerce, and systems integration.

The national AFL-CIO condemned Miller as anti-union in a pre-primary letter to the Virginia AFL-CIO.

Miller was a leading lobbyist for Diebold in its campaign for touch-screen voting. He and his trade association gave major contributions to Republicans.

As a globalization-fanatic "Democrat," Miller is smearing Webb, the former Secretary of the Navy under Ronald Reagan, for having been a Reagan Republican and only a recent anti-war convert to the Democrats.

A *Washington Post* editorial June 2 endorses Harris Miller and attacks Jim Webb's "strident populism on trade policy . . . xenophobic sloganeering and business-bashing."