Iraq Since 2003 - The Media & The Military © 2011 - 4th in a series by Michael Keehn mhkeehn@gmail.com mhkeehn.tripod.com

We continue a hard look at the main stream media through their relationship with the military. General Tommy Franks' last assignment was as *Commander of "The United States" Central Command*. In this position Franks was overseeing military operations in about 25-countries which included the middle east. Franks led the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

It is interesting to note that General Franks did not refer to the main stream media as *the watchdog of America*, as would be appropriate if the media were doing their job. Instead, General Franks referred to the media as the "fourth front." When the media accepted this identity, they became integrated into the war effort and lost all objectivity in their reporting of information to the American people.

The media now had an *assigned role*. Journalists were actually trained by the military and assigned to military units, sleeping in the same quarters as the grunts of the unit. Journalists had become *embedded* in the military and it's quite possible we could accurately say they were in bed with the military and government.

Although Bush was not able to find *weapons of mass destruction* in Iraq, he was able to create *weapons of mass deception* and successfully use embedded journalists to kill thousands upon thousands of innocent civilians and children without the American people being the wiser.

Remembering recent history, economic sanctions were issued against Iraq. If we remember WWII and the attack on Pearl Harbor, we might remember that the United States had placed economic sanctions on Japan which was destroying their economy. They had no honorable option other than to attack the United States, which is what Roosevelt was hoping for and ultimately knew was going to occur. Washington had intercepted coded Japanese messages, which they decoded and knew when the attack was going to occur and where – (Admiral H. E. Kimmel's testimony). The economic sanctions against Iraq were likely the toughest and most comprehensive in history.

Madeleine Albright, at the time United States Ambassador to the United Nations, appeared on a 60-Minutes segment on May 12, 1996. Lesley Stahl asked Ms. Albright, "We have heard that half a million children have died. I mean, that's more children than died in Hiroshima. And, you know, is the price worth it?" Ms. Albright replied, "we think the price is worth it."

"WE think the price is worth it." Who the hell is WE? I do not think my fellow Americans agree that a half million dead children is worth it, at least I hope not. This type of U. S. behavior just begs the question, who is really the terrorist in this world? Who is responsible for the most loss of life? Who is the most efficient killer the world has ever known? And once again, explain to me why so many people of this world don't like us very much.

'Duh, it's because we have a better life style than they do!'

Yeah, right. I'm an idiot, I believe that other people get up and hate me because I have a better life style. I'll bet a lot of us get up hating our neighbor because he has a swimming pool, nicer car and nicer home. Makes perfect sense if I'm an idiot.

For well over a hundred years we've had a much better life style that the majority of the world, but many years back we were not hated, and that was because we didn't go around the world killing indigenous people and enslaving nations. There was no terrorism against the United States.

A half million children dead and we did not find *weapons of mass destruction* after invading the country and blowing it to bits. Now we have our contractors in there rebuilding, not Iraqi contractors, not Iraqi people, our contractors, our people, and our corporations. We use billions of American dollars to blow the place up, then we use billions of American dollars to rebuild it. And it's our productivity that pays for it all. Makes perfect sense, and some of us may wonder why were are slowly but surely becoming destitute.

With the main stream misleadia embedded came the next launching of the weapon of mass deception, *Saddam almost certainly has mobile biological weapon laboratories roaming the country*. But after invading, none of these were found either.

Should we take a look at who owns the media? If we do, we will find that over eighty-percent of the media is owned by five major corporations. They are Disney, Vivendi, VIACOM, News Corporation, Time Warner. Therefore, five corporations have a vested interest in the *news* entertainment industry and benefit from the military-industrial complex that Eisenhower warned about in his departing speech. Therefore, eighty-percent of what we see and hear in the arena of news is controlled by five major corporations who have vested interest, unless we are using the independent media on the internet.

Main stream media news departments no longer provide simple basic truth and accurate information, which would help Americans think things through and evolve to a higher level, a level where we have greater compassion for our fellow man in this world. Where are the Christians? The news media of today must have *consumers*, which loosely defined, is non-thinking individuals who buy the rubbish presented and do not engage in analytical thinking. Thus, the main stream media does our thinking for those consumers.

Leadership says "weapons of mass destruction", the news media parrots "weapons of mass destruction", then we parrot "weapons of mass destruction" believing we have some sort of secret, behind the scenes high level knowledge. In reality we have just been brainwashed to buy and accept a worthless product.

Do we think the main stream misleadia is interested in truth when we respond to their presentations like we are watching a ball game or soap opera?

Has anyone noticed that the main stream media never sees a connection between terrorism and U.S. foreign policy, economic policy and globalization?

Our nation's soul is what's at stake. If we can't think of the plight of people in other cultures, it's very unlikely we will be able to think of the plight of our fellow countryman. Tune in next week for more insight and information to consider.