

GITMO: P-BOB's "HOT POTATO"

Stephen L. Bakke – June 22, 2009

(Take a peek at the GLOSSARY of GOVSPEAK near the end of this report – it'll help.)

Is it Really Awful There?

News Item: GITMO Legal Documents Must Be Public

News Item: Interrogation Memos Clarify Hard Decisions

News Item: Poll Finds U.S. Split on Closing GITMO

Credible reports indicate that the U.S. has consistently erred on the side of more, rather than less, flexibility and leniency in handling of the GITMO detainees – particularly during the last several years. This followed the much reported interrogation of one important terrorist. That terrorist was KSM (GLOSSARY), from whom important information was obtained during interrogations conducted several years ago.

Andrew McCarthy argues in the National Review that GITMO has probably become the most scrutinized prison in modern history, and arguably has now become one of the most humane prisons in existence. Inmates have clean rooms, excellent medical care, access to books and writing materials, and decent “halal” (?) meals that offer 4,000 calories a day. They even have cable TV and are permitted to watch U.S. news channels and the Arab news channel. They have very nice recreational facilities. They even have the Koran delivered to each detainee by white gloved Muslim U.S. soldiers. And they receive visits from the International Committee of the Red Cross and have regular consultations with their attorneys. Detainees are allowed to pray six times a day and their cases are reviewed six times a year. These case reviews have resulted in the majority (several hundred) of the original detainees being released.

Rehab and Release?

News Item: First Guantanamo Hearing of Obama Era

News Item: CIA to Close Secret Overseas Prisons, End Security Contracts

Proponents of “friendly rehab” are foolish. This isn't a civil or criminal legal case we are dealing with. It is coming to grips with the international war on terrorism and the incarcerated terrorists who are taught to hate the U.S. in particular, and the western world in general. Several hundred detainees have been released during W's administration. It has been documented that approximately one in seven have returned to terrorists groups or related organizations – some serving in important positions.

And now the first GITMO detainee has been transported to the U.S. to face trial for bombing U.S. embassies. Is this because P-BOB feels he has no choice, is he sending up a trial balloon, or is he really trying to start putting the terrorists into the U.S. criminal justice system – in spite of his proclamations to the contrary.

Where's This Going?

News Item: Detainees Receiving Miranda Warnings

If you throw a grenade into a crowded hen house, there's going to be lots of "loose ends". Our President keeps trying to create "a new order" to somehow tie together the many loose ends he keeps finding dangling in front of his nose. He may be thinking: "I must close GITMO since I promised it in my campaign ... but why, since I need to keep most of the prisoners somewhere? ... oh, yeh – it's because GITMO has become a symbol of U.S. excesses and is now a terrorist recruitment tool ... but what facts support that? ... none, but so what, they'll believe me anyway ... but if I bring the prisoners to the U.S. for incarceration and trial, won't they come under the U.S. civil and criminal justice system? ... probably so, whether I want that or not ... so as not to appear a fool, I better make sure they are treated in a way that they can be convicted ... hmmm – that means that Miranda thing ... but during the campaign I was on "60 Minutes" and promised that Miranda wouldn't apply to terrorist detainees ... well, nobody will remember that ... and if I extend more privileges than they are entitled to under the Geneva Conventions, maybe I will appear generous and I will be more popular in the Muslim world." And so it goes. **P-BOB must learn that these "loose ends" are really "unintended consequences" that he now has to deal with!** I guess learning that is just part of growing up.

Geneva Convention provisions don't apply to unlawful combatants – those not in uniform or in an organized military force. Why extend rights beyond Geneva? Geneva treats unlawful combatants worse than it does uniformed soldiers in order to create a clear distinction between them. Our A-GOTUS said in 2002 that members of al-Qaida are not entitled to the Geneva Conventions. Nevertheless, somehow all of this has come down to transferring many unlawful combatant prisoners to the U.S. for incarceration and trial. And it can be anticipated that the courts could apply U.S. civil and criminal procedures to the trials. Why else would the military now be told to give Miranda warnings to many new detainees in the war? And I must point out that good ol' W started this regrettable trend?

What were once procedures dealing with unlawful combatants, morphed into something similar to Geneva Conventions, and now once again may be treated like a criminal matter in the U.S. justice system. Isn't that where we were after the first attempt at bombing the World Trade Center in the early '90s? Yes it is, and subsequently we realized we should deal with international terrorism as the unconventional war that it is. I'm GITin' dizzy.

But Would That Really Happen?

News Item: The GITMO Conundrum – Where Are You Going to Send Them?

News Item: Obama Says Prisons Tough Enough for Detainees

The reason we sent them to "that place that P-BOB just don't GIT" wasn't for security reasons. We certainly could adequately handle security concerns in the U.S. W's administration feared that if the detainees were in our federal prisons in the U.S., federal judges would be more likely to assume that their pleas for constitutional rights should be taken very seriously. And, because

they were obviously unlawful combatants, it makes perfect sense that we didn't take care to be sure the evidence was admissible in civilian courts. Obviously, it makes perfect sense that these terrorists/unlawful combatants were not treated as U.S. citizens upon arrest and incarceration.

According to Brook Goldstein, a practicing attorney and director of the Legal Project at the Middle East Forum (Philadelphia-based think tank dedicated to promoting U.S. interests in the Middle East) said: "If Guantanamo prisoners are moved to a domestic prison, they will be subject to U.S. law and will be afforded the same rights and constitutional protections of an American citizen. Based on the succession of past cases, it is certain that after they are tried in the U.S., some of these prisoners will be released."

It Makes No "Bleepin" Sense!

News Item: The First Guantanamo Prisoner Arrives in the U.S. For Trial

Let's set aside the argument about interrogation techniques. Picture P-BOB doing his FA-FLITTER (check the GLOSSARY) across the WH grounds, or down a WH hallway, to a press conference. He arrives with his HUGS (GLOSSARY) and chants an O'benediction to his waiting minions. "Not to worry!" he says. "Changing the rules of prosecution for illegal combatants is not what we're about."

But if P-BOB is confident the situation is now fixed and no techniques are used that violate his definition of propriety, then why close the place? If these characters need to be incarcerated somewhere, why not GITMO!! It would cost BILLIONS to relocate the facility! But cost isn't a big deal in this administration. And if we put them in the general prison population, there's the terrorist recruitment issue – it does happen. Why not stay with GITMO?

I'm left with the only remaining explanation – P-BOB needs to make this symbolic move merely to satisfy the most naïve of his J-STRAPS.

I must offer a full blown, ranting **GOOD GRIEF!!**

GLOSSARY of GOVSPEAK (Language of the Government)

Da' Prez

POTUS – President of the United States

P-BOB – President Barack Obama

MESSIAH – Another name for P-BOB

THE ONE – One more name for P-BOB

W – Former POTUS, George W. Bush

Da' Rest

A-GOTUS – Attorney General of the United States (say: "a goat t'us)

BIPPY – That place that many in STAM'FORM sometimes put their brain containers

CHA-FED – Chairman of the Federal Reserve

COS-E – Chief of Staff (Rahm) Emanuel (pronounced "cozy")

COTUS – Congress of the United States
DA-VEEP – Vice President Joe Biden
DA-VEEP(-1) – Dick Cheney
DA-VEEP(-2) – Al Gore
DO-P-OTUS – Daughters of the President of the United States (say: “dopy Otis”)
FA-FLITTER – P-BOB ‘flits’/prances like Fred Astaire(**FA**)(separated at birth?)(say: fay-flitter)
FIDO-TUS – First Dog of the United States – FFOTUS’s pet (say: “fido t’us”)
FFOTUS – First Family of the United States (pronounced with an opening “flutter”)
FLOTUS – First Lady of the United States
GITMO – That place that P-BOB just don’t ‘git’
HE-SINGN – Conveys the “head swiveling” while at the TOTUS (pronounced “he singin”)
HORTUS – House of Representatives of the United States (pronounced “whore t’us”)
HUGS – Conveys P-BOB’s huge smile (**HUGe Smile** – GIT it?)
J-SECOTUS – Joint Session of Congress of the United States (say: jay secotus)
J-STRAPS – Another name for P-BOB’s “supporters” (you know how to pronounce it)
KSM – Khalid Sheikh Mohammed – the senior terrorist enjoying time at GITMO (say: “kiss ’im)
M-BOB – Michelle Obama
PATOTUS – P-BOB’s position at the Teleprompter of the United States
PEP – Precipitous Environmental Programs (pronounced “pep”)
POTUS(-1) – Same as W
P-PPPPP – P-BOB’s Penchant for Pushing Precipitous and Peculiar Programs (say: “pee pep”)
SCOTUS – Supreme Court of the United States
SECS – Secretary of State (would that be Hillary?) (pronounced “sex”)
SHORTUS – The (Loud) Speaker of HORTUS, Nancy P
SOTUS – Senate of the United States
STAM’FORM – Stable of the Misinformed (i.e. all members of P-BOB’s administration)
TOTUS – Teleprompter of the United States
T-SEC – Treasury Secretary what’s his name
T-SEC(+1) – Whoever replaces the T-SEC
T-SEC(-1) – The former T-SEC
WB – Popularly known as “waterboarding” – the technique P-BOB just don’t ‘git’
WH – P-BOB’s current residence (the White House)

I extend thanks, as always, to the many writers, commentators, researchers, and others, from both political extremes, whose hard work helps me greatly. They gather details and individually present so much information. About all I do is gather, organize, summarize, and then attempt to fill in with additional comments – commonly referred to as my frequent “**RANTS**”.

More comments will follow on important topics and personal thoughts as our President battles through tough territory. I want to join other conservatives in recognizing and respecting our new President – and supporting him when we should. When we oppose our President’s policies, we should act in accordance with values of decency – but that doesn’t preclude a healthy dose of sarcasm and satire, which are valuable tools for political commentary.