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Military and the Media

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Abstract

Terrorist are determined to destroy the infrastructure and economy of America. Worst of all, terrorist are determined to maim, torture, and execute the great citizens of the United States of America. My job and responsibility as a Solider is to ensure the terrorist completely fail their mission.

From what I read in papers and view on television, it seems most American media outlets do not share my view of ensuring the terrorist fail their mission. I continuously ask myself "Are the media on the same side as the Soldiers that fight for their freedom?" Sadly, in most cases, the answer is "No."

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Military and the Media

Like any other organization, the Army has challenges and problems that can be identified. Some Soldiers may recognize multiple combat deployments as the leading problem. Others may determine that inadequate pay is the prevailing issue. Both of those issues are legitimate concerns for all Soldiers and their families. However, there are greater problems that are having a devastating effect on the Army.

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From what I read in papers and view on television, it seems most American media outlets do not share my view of ensuring the terrorist fail their mission. I continuously ask myself “Are the media on the same side as the Soldiers that fight for their freedom?” Sadly, in most cases, the answer is “No.”

The majority of the media zealously provides classified information to our enemy (and anyone else who chooses to view their product). Consequently, terrorist organizations worldwide can simply read the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, or view CNN, CBS, or MSNBC (just to name a few) to become aware of the intelligence programs that America uses against the terrorists. When the decision to publish classified information is made, most media will provide any terrorist organization access and information regarding American classified programs. These are the same programs that detect and prevent terrorist attacks against the United States...Good job comrades (severe sarcasm intended)!

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In my opinion, major Newspapers such as The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, and The Washington Post have become more “political opinion” than a credible news source. In addition, I honestly believe that each one of the papers listed above have become detriments to the safety and security of the American people. In my humble opinion, the above listed Newspapers are more interested in divulging national secrets and playing games of political “gotcha” than reporting the actual news.

Some examples of how the media embolden terrorists, endanger American lives and fail to report legitimate information are listed below:

- The New York Times published segments of the classified National Intelligence Estimate (NIE). The NIE referred to classified global terror trends.
- The Cable News Network (CNN) aired video of a terrorist sniper team assassinating an American Soldier (A Soldier that protected CNN’s freedom of the press with his life). This type of video emboldens terrorist organizations.
- The New York Times and Los Angeles Times spearheaded the release of classified information concerning The National Security Agency (NSA) ability to monitor terrorist organizations’ phone calls in and out of the United States (Terrorist Surveillance Program). The divulgence of this program alerted all terrorist organizations to America’s surveillance techniques. In turn, it allowed the terrorist to change their tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs).
- The New York Times and Los Angeles Times published leaked information regarding the Treasury Departments secret program designed to monitor terrorist financial transactions. This is another notice to the terrorist which allowed them to change their TTPs.
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average has recently achieved historical highs. The unemployment rate has fallen to an incredible low of 4.4 percent (a statistic that considered 100% employment). Add the facts of 11 September 2001, Hurricane Katrina, and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and you will notice that the economy is still far superior to other countries around the world. This information is remarkable for any nation’s economy. It is even more astounding when you factor in the aforementioned facts. But, most news media do not report the great economic data.
- John Kerry, the junior Senator from Massachusetts, insulted all military members by stating, “You know education, if you make the most of it, you study hard, you do your homework, and you make an effort to be smart, you can do well. If you don't, you get

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stuck in Iraq.” This major political news story was not printed on the front page any of the major newspapers (however, because it was a major story, it was buried on the interior pages of the newspapers).

<http://www.zaman.com/?bl=international&alt=&hn=37889>

Even though some media are eager to frequently provide terrorist with America’s national secrets, these same media outlets were terrified (pun intended) to display the political cartoons of Allah that was published in a Denmark newspaper. This failure to publish legitimate news is complete negligence of the cowardly news media. Could the media possibly be afraid to report the news when they will be held responsible by the terrorist? It is disgraceful that media do not have the same concern for safety when an American Soldier’s life is involved.

Each media outlet gave their own “politically correct” excuse of why they did not feel the need to display the Allah cartoons. Some said it was out of respect of the “Islamic religion”. However, some media feel it is “newsworthy” to display disrespectful and disgusting images of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary under the guise of “art”. Isn’t the Allah cartoon considered “art”? An artist drew it...right?

In addition, these same news establishments are more than willing to announce (with front-page treatment) any American Soldier’s discrepancy or misconduct. I understand why these hypocritical intuitions are losing subscribers and money. Perhaps if they begin reporting actual news again, and not what they wish was news, they will increase their subscription requests and viewer-ratings.

From my perspective, some American media are enabling the enemy (the very same enemy that would gladly slit the throat and decapitate any American “infidel”). If these media possess the ability to regulate themselves when they fear retaliation from the terrorists (i.e. the “Allah cartoons”), can they implement the same self-regulation regarding the disclosure of classified information?

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I believe freedom of the press does not grant the media the freedom to furnish classified information to America's enemies. The media fully understand they should not publish the cartoons when the Islamic radicals were involved. I believe they should use the same standard of reporting when there is the potential for any member of the American military to be slaughtered.

Legitimate news is what should be reported, not national secrets. Providing details of classified programs and distorting the news into "what news organization want to report" help the terrorist in the "court of public opinion". This negligent and foolish behavior by the American media and it is utterly unacceptable.

Most Americans obtain information from one or two sources (i.e. their local paper and news stations). There are many sources of information. One quick way to access numerous newspapers and other media is to examine them online. People should make an attempt to obtain information from numerous sources (e.g. radio, internet, television, etc).

Conclusion

Some of these media provide data that is subjective, erroneous, and biased. I encourage all Americans to read more than one Newspaper and watch more than one television news channel. Keep yourself informed. If an individual receives all their information from one news source, most likely, that person becomes the victim of deceit, propaganda, and misinformation.

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