THE BLOG

Why The Hell Won't We Have To Fight Them Here Even If We Beat Them There?

By Marty Kaplan
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Can some of you trolls and wingnuts please help me out with this?

Tony Snow was just on the air, repeating what his boss, and all the Republicans running around the country, are saying about Iraq: We're fighting the terrorists over there, so we don't have to fight them here.

Wait a minute. The whole point about Islamic extremists - the point Bush and Cheney and Rummy and Condi keep making - is that they're stateless. They're not just in Iraq; they're all over the place. Even if we jail or kill every one of them in Iraq, what about the ones in Pakistan, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Council Bluffs?

The whole point about terrorism is that it's a game of numbers. Even with a crackerjack Homeland Security operation, one nuclear bomb can ruin your whole day. Even if we demoralize 90 percent of the violent jihadists in the world by making Iraq a vibrant democracy, what about the 10 percent who will inevitably redouble their efforts to spread sarin in the subway? There's nothing about a next 9/11 that a victory in Iraq would rule out.

Bush says that the hardest part of his job is making the connection between victory in Iraq and victory in the war on terror. I can see why.

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