

**September 29, 2004**

**SUBJECT: Military Advice to POTUS**

- By law, CJCS is the principal military advisor to the President and the NSC.
- By law, CJCS has another responsibility -- to see that the President is aware of the views of the Chiefs, particularly if there are any differences between their views and CJCS, SecDef or POTUS.
- CJCS met repeatedly during that period with the Chiefs and the Combatant Commander, as did SecDef.
- Neither CJCS nor SecDef recall CJCS ever raising any differences of views of any of the Chiefs with POTUS on Iraq. The reason no differences were raised is, very simply, because no differences existed. Therefore, any suggestion that the President overrode his military advice is not correct.

DHR:ss  
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