

# Mission Ready

Volume 6, Issue 9

October, 2004

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## The Key to Stopping Terrorists

We hope the fans of Mission Ready will forgive a non-business topic digression, but, as we are all witnessing an unprecedented assault on our national values, this departure from our usual leadership and management themes seems justified.

As we write this, Americans Eugene Armstrong and Jack Hensley were butchered alive, as they knelt sobbing in terror in front of video cameras, by Islamic terrorists. Another American, Nick Berg, was similarly beheaded a few months ago. And, British citizen Ken Bigley is running out of time. It is clear to us that this pattern will be repeated again and again, as long as it is the policy of the US government to “bring those responsible to justice.”

As much as we support the President in his courageous stand against international terrorism, the policy of searching for those who are directly responsible for the atrocities against Americans does not protect our citizens from harm; sadly, it only encourages more horrific acts. The actual killers of these three Americans are, for all practical purposes, irrelevant, just as the literal perpetrators of the attack on Pearl Harbor—the Japanese pilots, themselves—were irrelevant to the goals of the American war planners. Our generals back then did not vow to hunt down each pilot responsible for Pearl Harbor; they went after those who made the attack possible, the Japanese war machine. Similarly, our generals did not proclaim victory after the Pearl Harbor pilots had been (hypothetically) shot down; Victory had to wait until the sponsors of the Pacific war had capitulated—and that only happened after the war-making infrastructure had been destroyed for all time. Our pilots in

1945 were not concerned with precision strikes.

The killers of Nick, Jack and Eugene are like the Pearl Harbor pilots, ready to be replaced by innumerable volunteers, who know full well the Americans will not attack as long as they hide behind the skirts of society. There will be no end to these atrocities as long as our government has a “hunt and peck” policy to root out the terrorists.

Mr. President, the average American citizen does not want to see the terrorists “brought to justice.” The term “justice” does not even apply to those who worship death. The terrorists must be exterminated like dangerous animals, without regard to collateral damage. When those who harbor the terrorists begin to pay the price, they will take their survival into their own hands, and point the terrorists out.

The same holds true for the sponsors of terrorists. If the government of Syria knew that, upon the instant of Eugene Armstrong’s beheading, its capital buildings, power plants and military infrastructure would have been paid a visit by the American Air Force, there would have been no beheading. If the Mullahs of Iran knew, in their hearts, that upon the beheading of Jack Hensley, their nuclear facility, their bridges and water filtration plants would be destroyed, Jack would be alive today. And, yes, if the princes of Saudi Arabia had known that American foreign policy had a zero tolerance for duplicity, Nick Berg might be at home with his family. This war will only be won by punishing those who actively or passively abet terror—because they are the only ones who can, if sufficiently motivated, stop the terrorists.