

Donald Rumsfeld Quotes Secretary of Defense of the United States

<u>ATTACK ON FREEDOM</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>WAR ON TERROR: ADVANCING AMERICAN FREEDOM IN THE WORLD</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>THE WAR ON TERROR: SELF DEFENSE/PRE-EMPTION</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>THE WAR ON TERROR: A UNIQUE, LENGTHY, FAR-REACHING WAR</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>THE WAR ON TERROR: WE WILL DESTROY THE ENEMY</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>THE WAR ON TERROR: COALITIONS</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>THE WAR ON TERROR: MULTI-DIMENSIONAL</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>DEAD OR ALIVE</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>SURPRISE</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION</u>	<u>7</u>

Attack on Freedom

The terrorists who attacked our country on September 11th did more than blow up our buildings or murder thousands of our people—they declared war on our nation and our way of life. They attacked us because of who we are—Americans—free men and women, proud of our country and proud of our country’s cause—the cause of human freedom.¹

We have two choices: Either we change the way we live, or we must change the way they live. We choose the latter.²

¹ *Remarks Prepared for Delivery by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, Address to the Men and Women of Whiteman Air Force Base Friday, October 19, 2001, (Check Against Delivery).* :

<http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011019-secdef.html>

² *Remarks Prepared for Delivery by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, Address to the Men and Women of Whiteman Air Force Base Friday, October 19, 2001, (Check Against Delivery).* :

<http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011019-secdef.html>

We intend to win the war, to deal with the problem... [Applause] And I would say that we have no choice but to win the war. [Applause] Because it strikes at our very way of life, what we are as people, free people.³

The terrorists struck us because of what we represent—freedom, religious toleration, and justice.⁴

We are gathered here to remember, to console and to pray.

To remember comrades and colleagues, friends and family members -- those lost to us on Sept. 11th.

We remember them as heroes. And we are right to do so. They died because – in words of justification offered by their attackers – they were Americans. They died, then, because of how they lived -- as free men and women, proud of their freedom, proud of their country and proud of their country's cause—the cause of human freedom.

And they died for another reason – the simple fact they worked here in this building -- the Pentagon.

It is seen as a place of power, the locus of command for what has been called the greatest accumulation of military might in history. And yet a might used far differently than the long course of history has usually known.

In the last century, this building existed to oppose two totalitarian regimes that sought to oppress and to rule other nations. And it is no exaggeration of historical judgment to say that without this building, and those who worked here, those two regimes would not have been stopped or thwarted in their oppression of countless millions.⁵

Those who worked here – those who on Sept. 11 died here – whether civilians or in uniform, -- side by side they sought not to rule, but to serve. They sought not to oppress, but to liberate. They worked not to take lives, but to protect them. And they tried not to preempt God, but see to it His creatures lived as He intended – in the light and dignity of human freedom.

Our first task then is to remember the fallen as they were – as they would have wanted to be remembered – living in freedom, blessed by it, proud of it and willing – like so many others before them, and like so many today, to die for it.

And to remember them as believers in the heroic ideal for which this nation stands and for which this building exists—the ideal of service to country and to others.⁶

³ Remarks as Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald A. Rumsfeld , Center for Security Policy "Keeper of the Flame" Award Dinner. Washington, D.C. , November 6, 2001.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011106-secdef.html>

⁴ Statement as Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld , NATO North Atlantic Council (NAC-D), Brussels, Belgium, December 18, 2001 . <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011218-secdef1.html>

⁵ Donald H. Rumsfeld, Memorial Service in Remembrance of Those Lost on September 11th.

The Pentagon, Arlington, VA, Thursday, October 11, 2001 (Check Against Delivery).

[http://www.defenselink.mil/cgi-](http://www.defenselink.mil/cgi-bin/dlprint.cgi?http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011011-secdef.html)

[bin/dlprint.cgi?http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011011-secdef.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011011-secdef.html)

⁶ Donald H. Rumsfeld, Memorial Service in Remembrance of Those Lost on September 11th. The Pentagon, Arlington, VA, Thursday, October 11, 2001 (Check Against Delivery). <http://www.defenselink.mil/cgi-bin/dlprint.cgi?http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011011-secdef.html>

But current events say something more -- that America's greatest advantage, asymmetric or otherwise, is the same one she's always had since the beginning of the Republic -- the strength, the power of a free people, especially when fighting to defend their nation and their families from fear and from terror.⁷

War on Terror: Advancing American Freedom in the World

And in Afghanistan today, our fighting forces are teaching the al Qaeda terrorists a lesson, a lesson not taught in the camps that trained them to murder and to terrorize. They're teaching them and all enemies of freedom that, as President Ronald Reagan put it, "No weapon in any arsenal in the world is as formidable as the will and the moral courage of free men and women."⁸

The War on Terror: Self Defense/Pre-emption

The September 11th attacks were acts of war.⁹

We have no greater responsibility as a nation, than to stop these terrorists—to find them, root them out, and prevent them from murdering more of our citizens.¹⁰

This is not a law enforcement action. It is war.¹¹

The war we are in is not optional. We did not ask for it, but we cannot fail to respond. We were attacked on our soil. Thousands of innocent American citizens were murdered, and citizens from several dozen other countries.

We continue to be threatened by those terrorist networks.

Failure to act in this case would not be viewed as restraint, but as weakness to be exploited.

Weakness that would only invite further attacks on the innocent of all countries, races and religions.¹²

⁷ *As Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld , Address to the Men and Women of Fort Bragg/Pope AFB, Bragg, North Carolina , Wednesday, November 21, 2001 .*

<http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011121-secdef.html>

⁸ *Remarks as Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and General Richard Myers, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Ceremony for Remembrance, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C., Tuesday, December 11, 2001.*

<http://www.defenselink.mil/cgi-bin/dlprint.cgi?http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011211-secdef.html>

⁹ *Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz , Prepared Statement: Senate Armed Services Committee "Military Commissions," Wednesday, December 12, 2001. <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011212-secdef.html>*

¹⁰ *Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz , Prepared Statement: Senate Armed Services Committee "Military Commissions," Wednesday, December 12, 2001. <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011212-secdef.html>*

¹¹ *Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz , Prepared Statement: Senate Armed Services Committee "Military Commissions," Wednesday, December 12, 2001. <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011212-secdef.html>*

But we are at war with an enemy that has flagrantly violated the laws of war. They do not wear uniforms. They hide in caves abroad, and among us here at home. They target civilians—innocent men, women and children of all races and religions. And they intend to attack us again. Let there be no doubt.

They are not common criminals—they are war criminals. We must—and we will—defend this country from them.¹³

And the message is clear: that we will root out and destroy the terrorists in whatever camp or cave or tunnel or country they may lurk.

On September 11th, the terrorists came to us, and now we are taking the battle to the terrorists.¹⁴

And what we need to do is recognize that you cannot defend against terrorists. You simply must go after them. You have to find them where they are and root them out and stop them.¹⁵

There is no way to defend against terrorist acts, because a terrorist can attack at any place at any time using any technique, and it's physically impossible to defend it every time at every place against every technique.

The only way it can be done is to take the battle to those people who are determined to try to kill large numbers of human beings.¹⁶

The War on Terror: A unique, lengthy, far-reaching war

President Bush is rallying the nation for a war against terrorism's attack on our way of life. Some believe the first casualty of any war is the truth. But in this war, the first victory must be to tell the truth. And the truth is, this will be a war like none other our nation has faced.¹⁷

¹² *Remarks as Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald A. Rumsfeld*, Center for Security Policy "Keeper of the Flame" Award Dinner. Washington, D.C., November 6, 2001.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011106-secdef.html>

¹³ *Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz*, Prepared Statement: Senate Armed Services Committee "Military Commissions," Wednesday, December 12, 2001. <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011212-secdef.html>

¹⁴ *Remarks as Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld*, Naval Training Center Great Lakes Graduation, North Chicago, Illinois, Friday, November 16, 2001.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011116-secdef.html>

¹⁵ *As Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld*, Address to the Men and Women of Fort Bragg/Pope AFB, Bragg, North Carolina, Wednesday, November 21, 2001.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011121-secdef.html>

¹⁶ *Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld*, Pentagon Auditorium Defense Department Town Hall Meeting With Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld (transcript and question and answer period) Thursday, March 7, 2002. <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2002/s20020307-secdef.html>

¹⁷ *Donald H. Rumsfeld*. "A New Kind of War.", as published in *The New York Times*, Thursday, September 27, 2001. <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20010927-secdef.html>

Forget about "exit strategies"; we're looking at a sustained engagement that carries no deadlines.¹⁸

The War on Terror: We Will Destroy the Enemy

The terrorists who visited this violence on America have made a terrible mistake—the have awakened our nation to a new kind of evil. And in causing this awakening, they have assured their own destruction. Out of this act of terror—and the awakening it brings—here and across the globe—will surely come a victory over terrorism.

What do we mean by victory? Victory means liquidating the terrorist networks and putting them out of business. Victory means crippling the ability of terrorist organizations, and the states that sponsor them, to coerce our nation, intimidate our people and disrupt our way of life. Victory means ensuring that Americans can continue to live as a free people.¹⁹

The War on Terror: Coalitions

This war will not be waged by a grand alliance united for the single purpose of defeating an axis of hostile powers. Instead, it will involve floating coalitions of countries, which may change and evolve... In this war, the mission will define the coalition — not the other way around.²⁰

The War on Terror: Multi-Dimensional

This war will not necessarily be one in which we pore over military targets and mass forces to seize those targets. Instead, military force will likely be one of many tools we use to stop individuals, groups and countries that engage in terrorism.

Our response may include firing cruise missiles into military targets somewhere in the world; we are just as likely to engage in electronic combat to track and stop investments moving through offshore banking centers. The uniforms of this conflict will be bankers' pinstripes and programmers' grunge just as assuredly as desert camouflage.

This is not a war against an individual, a group, a religion or a country. Rather, our opponent is a global network of terrorist organizations and their state sponsors, committed to denying free people the opportunity to live as they choose. While we may engage militarily against foreign

¹⁸ Donald H. Rumsfeld. "A New Kind of War.", as published in *The New York Times*, Thursday, September 27, 2001. <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20010927-secdef.html>

¹⁹ Remarks Prepared for Delivery by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, Address to the Men and Women of Whiteman Air Force Base Friday, October 19, 2001, (Check Against Delivery). : <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011019-secdef.html>

²⁰ Donald H. Rumsfeld. "A New Kind of War.", as published in *The New York Times*, Thursday, September 27, 2001. <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20010927-secdef.html>

governments that sponsor terrorism, we may also seek to make allies of the people those governments suppress.²¹

Dead or Alive

Q Secretary Rumsfeld, do you want to catch him dead or alive or either way?

SEC. RUMSFELD: Well, the president's policy is dead or alive. And, you know, I have my preference – [laughter, applause] -- but that's not a government position. That's a personal position.

Q What is that preference, sir?

SEC. RUMSFELD: [Laughs.] I'll just leave it to your imagination. [Laughter.]²²

Q Do you have any report on your knowledge of the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden? Are you getting a better idea? Can you give us an idea of where you think he might be, or how close you are, that type of thing?

SEC. RUMSFELD: The question is, how close are we to finding Osama bin Laden. And I honestly have tried to answer that question and I don't know how to answer it well. My feeling is, until you have something, you don't have it. And things can look close, and then all of a sudden they don't look so close. And the only way I can characterize it is it's kind of like, as I said, running around the barnyard chasing a chicken; until you get it, you don't have it. And they keep trucking and dodging and bobbing and weaving, and we're looking.²³

Surprise

The experiences of September 11th remind us that enemies of freedom seem always with us. And if we are to defend freedom, we must remain constantly on guard—ready for surprises—ready to fight today's wars even as we prepare to defend our people and our way of life from new and different and unexpected threats.²⁴

²¹ Donald H. Rumsfeld. "A New Kind of War.", as published in *The New York Times*, Thursday, September 27, 2001. <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20010927-secdef.html>

²² As Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld , Address to the Men and Women of Fort Bragg/Pope AFB, Bragg, North Carolina , Wednesday, November 21, 2001 .
<http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011121-secdef.html>

²³ As Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld , Address to the Men and Women of Fort Bragg/Pope AFB, Bragg, North Carolina , Wednesday, November 21, 2001 .
<http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011121-secdef.html>

²⁴ Statement as Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld , NATO North Atlantic Council (NAC-D), Brussels, Belgium, December 18, 2001 . <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011218-secdef1.html>

It would be a grave mistake for us to conclude, in the wake of September 11th, that terrorism is the new threat to our democracies. Just as none of us expected terrorists to attack New York and Washington, other unexpected threats will surely emerge to surprise us in the years ahead.²⁵

Weapons of Mass Destruction

It should be of particular concern to all of us that the list of countries which today support global terrorism overlaps significantly with the list of countries that have weaponized chemical and biological agents, and which are seeking nuclear, chemical and biological weapons—and the means to deliver them.²⁶

We need to face the reality that the attacks of September 11th—horrific as they were—may in fact be a dim preview of what is to come if we do not prepare today to defend our people from adversaries with weapons of increasing power and range. President Bush is committed to addressing all asymmetric threats.²⁷

²⁵ Statement as Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld , NATO North Atlantic Council (NAC-D), Brussels, Belgium, December 18, 2001 . <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011218-secdef1.html>

²⁶ Statement as Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld , NATO North Atlantic Council (NAC-D), Brussels, Belgium, December 18, 2001 . <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011218-secdef1.html>

²⁷ Statement as Delivered by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld , NATO North Atlantic Council (NAC-D), Brussels, Belgium, December 18, 2001 . <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2001/s20011218-secdef1.html>