



McChrystal's 'strategery' gets us nowhere

2:19 PM EDT, October 2, 2009

For more years than most care to remember, the preponderance of top American military strategists have proven their worth with their counterinsurgency "strategery."

While official Pentagon and State Department reports continue to describe Iraq and Afghanistan as fragile and failed states respectively, strategists and decision makers alike astound American troops on the ground with what is perhaps best described as savant syndrome. For in order to successfully employ a counterinsurgency strategy, an insurgency must exist. And a successful counterinsurgency strategy requires having a functional government.

Come again: Fragile and failed states with functional governments?

Learning to eat soup with a knife will continue to get us as far as we've gotten if our generals and diplomats continue to think that South Vietnam actually had a functional government with which "clearing and holding" could lead to "building."

So, let's do it General Stanley McChrystal's way and just keep eating soup with a knife! Pour on the troops, general! We're sure to get Iraqis and Afghans self-governing that way.

General McChrystal must think at some point we'll get full on all this soup. Or perhaps some other American general will think again and look at the situation wearing spectacles and a brain.

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