



Qwest Dex.

online yellow pages

Find a Local Business





Top terrorist hunter's divisive views



General casts military, anti-terror efforts in religious terms

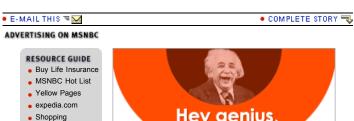
Click "Play video" to watch the report by Lisa Myers and the NBC Investigative Unit.

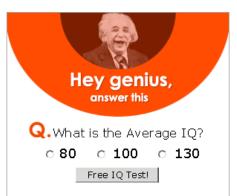


By Lisa Myers and the NBC Investigative Unit

Oct. 15 — A highly decorated general who is one of the leaders of a secretive new Pentagon unit formed to coordinate intelligence on terrorists and help hunt down Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein and other high-profile targets has a history of outspoken and divisive views on religion — Islam in particular, NBC News has learned.









SPONSORS

Wireless Traveler

Lisa Myers NBC CORRESPONDENT

HE'S A HIGHLY decorated officer, twice wounded in combat a warrior's warrior

The former commander of Army Special Forces, Lt. Gen. William "Jerry" Boykin has led or been part of almost every recent U.S. military operation, from the ill-fated attempt to rescue hostages in Iran to Grenada, Panama, Colombia, Somalia.

This summer, Boykin was promoted to deputy undersecretary of defense, with a new mission for which many say he is uniquely qualified: to aggressively combine intelligence with special operations and hunt down so-called high-value terrorist targets including bin Laden and Saddam.

But that new assignment may be complicated by controversial views Boykin - an evangelical Christian - has expressed in dozens of speeches at churches and prayer breakfasts around the country. In a half-dozen video and audiotapes obtained by NBC News, Boykin says America's true enemy is not bin Laden.

In June 2003, Boykin spoke to a church group over a slide show:

Related stories Boykin apologizes for giving offense

"Well, is he [bin Laden] the enemy? Next slide. Or is this man [Saddam] the enemy? The enemy is none

Nightly News with Tom

- Prescription drug addiction
- . The road to sainthood
- Experts fear al-Qaida strike in Iraq
- 22 Historic Days in Words, **Pictures**

TV News

- · Dateline: Looking back
- with Barbara Bush
- · Dateline: Different role for Meg Ryan
- NBC News Special Report: White Collar High
- Dateline: Saving Private

MSNBC's Top News

- 10 killed in Israeli airstrikes in Gaza
- Iran says ready for nuclear transparency
- APEC calls for terror crackdown
- . S. Korea says North tested missile

- General rebuked for talk of God
- Top terrorist hunter's divisive views
- Quotes from Gen. Boykin's speeches
- Boykin's bio

showed you here. The enemy is a spiritual enemy. He's called the principality of darkness. The enemy is a guy called Satan."

Why are terrorists out to destroy the United States? Boykin said: "They're after

us because we're a Christian nation."

NBC News military analyst Bill Arkin, who's been investigating Boykin for the Los Angeles Times, says the general casts the war on terror as a religious war: "I think that it is not only at odds with what the president believes, but it is a dangerous, extreme and pernicious view that really has no place."

During a January church speech in Daytona, Fla., Boykin recalled a Muslim fighter in Somalia who bragged on television the Americans would never get him because his God, Allah, would protect him: "Well, you know what I knew, that my God was bigger than his. I knew that my God was a real God, and his was an idol."

The Somali was captured, and Boykin said he told the man: "Mr. Atto, you underestimated our God."

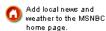
In a phone conversation, Boykin tells NBC he respects Muslims and believes the radicals who attack America are "not true followers of Islam."

Boykin also routinely tells audiences that God, not the voters, chose President Bush: "Why is this man in the White House? The majority of Americans did not vote for him. Why is he there? And I tell you this morning that he's in the White House because God put him there for a time such as this."

Boykin tells NBC News that, given his new assignment, he is curtailing such speeches in the future. He says, "I don't want ... to be misconstrued. I don't want to come across as a right-wing radical."

Lisa Myers is NBC News' senior investigative correspondent.





TODAY'S TOP NEWS STORIES

(STORY 10 killed in Israeli airstrikes in Gaza

(STORY Sniper suspect defends himself

STORY New al-Qaida video threatens U.S.

(STORY Iran says ready for nuclear transparency

(STORY) WashPost: Europeans seek uranium deal in Tehran

MSNBC Cover Page

OTHER TERRORISM AND SECURITY STORIES

(STORY New al-Qaida video threatens U.S.

Student charged with putting box cutters on two airplanes

(STORY New tape bolsters Bush's message

U.S.: Taliban commander captured

(STORY D.C. choppers go to 24/7 coverage

MSNBC Cover Page

Advertisement



Rumsfeld - Midge Decter \$24.95 Sale \$14.69 16% below Amazon! \$1.40 S&H! Description not available. Overstock.com 70% off your favorite brands

SPONSORED LINKS

Diversity News by DiversityInc, The Magazine

All of today's diversity news and analysis is at DiversityInc, the magazine. Corporate diversity issues, affirmative action and more. Subscribe today at 15 percent off the newstand rate. http://read.diversityinc.com/

The Wall Street Journal - Save Up to 34% Off

Get 4 weeks free and save 34% on the Wall Street Journal. Full 5-day delivery for only \$3.30 a week. Start the Wall Street Journal today. Special intro offer for new orders only. Click for details. http://www.discountednewspapers.com/

Need Checks? Over 450 Designs - Up to 50% Off

Need checks? Buy online and save up to 50% off bank prices. Search from over 450 personal check designs from numerous check sites. It's fast, secure, and easy. Why be limited by one site? http://www.4checks-a.com/

MSNBC READER'S TOP 10 Would you recommend this story to other readers? not at all 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 highly ■ BACK TO TOP ■ MSNBC is optimized for - Microsoft Internet Explorer - Windows Media Player ■ MSNBC Terms, Conditions and Privacy © 2003

Cover | News | Business | Sports | Local News | Health | Technology & Science | Entertainment Travel | TV News | Opinions | Weather | Comics

InfoCenter | Newsletters | Search | Help | News Tools | Jobs | Write Us | Terms & Conditions | Privacy

MSN - More Useful Everyday

MSN Home | My MSN | Hotmail | Search | Shopping | Money | People & Chat

©2003 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Terms of Use Advertise Truste Approved Privacy Statement GetNetWise