

Re: H: Q's military strategy. Sid

Mar 26 2011

Confidential

March 26, 2011

For: Hillary

From: Sid

Re: Shock & Awe

Here's a possibly counter-intuitive notion and option: That aspects of the Bush war plan for the invasion of Iraq, now verboten for planning or even thinking, might be applicable, in particular shock-and-awe. Though Libyan air defenses have been degraded under the no-fly zone directive, Qaddafi's army's morale and cohesion might be conclusively shattered by another round or two of ferocious bombing targeting concentrations of his military assets. This might just be the ideal moment for it. The situation does not appear to be similar to that of Germany in World War II as studied by the Strategic Bombing Survey that found bombing hardening support for the regime. Pulling back now might allow Qaddafi's army, on the precipice, to restore its steadiness. Wars are usually won when one army breaks in the field, or a major power previously outside the conflict imposes its will--US entry into World War I, Russian withdrawal of support for Milosevic. There's no such power hovering in the Libyan situation to enter one way or the other. It's hard to know how lengthy a war might be, or how suddenly it might end. This one could go either way, long or short. The handoff to Nato, if accompanied by an intense air attack, not the end of attacks, might break Qaddafi, those around him and his army.

BLU-053