

Rethink the mission in Afghanistan

Osama bin Laden had a calculated percentage for the amount of soldiers killed in action that it would take to change U.S. policy in the Middle East. This information comes to us from the intelligence gathered during the raid in which SEAL Team 6 killed him.

What does this information really mean for the future of America and the war on terror? It means we now have a vital piece of psychological information about the mind of a mass murderer.

In his own way, bin Laden was taking into account the very natures of the societies that are locked in this battle and using them strategically to his advantage, very much in the way he fought a 13-year war of attrition with Russia during which he bankrupted the country and brought the Red Army (and nation) to its end.

Bin Laden understands that the Afghan people are and always have been a warrior culture. They have endured many generations of hardship and war, making them one of the most difficult enemies to fight.

On the other hand, America has one of the most professionally trained, technologically equipped and financially backed military forces in the world. So, just how are we losing this war with poorly armed insurgents in the hills of Afghanistan?

The reasons are plenty, but with this new information we can clearly see the intent of al-Qaida is not to outmaneuver, outwit or outfight us. They will outlast us in another war of attrition, and attempt to tally a body count that becomes so intolerable to the American public that it becomes political suicide to suggest continuing the war.

I am a veteran, and my husband is an active-duty officer in the Army. As many times as I have seen the intelligence and strategy reports, I can't help thinking "to defeat your enemy is to know your enemy." It feels like we haven't learned all that much from the British or Russian defeats in this region. Sun Tzu said, "No nation has ever benefited from a protracted war."

I think now is an appropriate time to consider exactly what the correct course of action is for U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Wendy Bednar

Hudson