

Yahoo! My Yahoo! Mail

Search:

Web Search



Sign In  
New User? Sign Up

News Home - Help

Home U.S. Business World Entertainment Sports Tech Politics Science Health Travel Most Popular

White House Elections Congress U.S. Government World Supreme Court Press Releases Judy Woodruff

Search:

All News

Search

Advanced

# Rumsfeld lashes out at Bush's critics



By ROBERT BURNS, AP Military Writer

Tue Aug 29, 5:48 PM ET

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Tuesday the world faces "a new type of fascism" and likened critics of the U.S. war strategy to those who tried to appease the Nazis.

In unusually explicit terms, Rumsfeld portrayed the Bush administration's critics as suffering from "moral or intellectual confusion" about what threatens the nation's security. His remarks amounted to one of his most pointed defenses of [President Bush](#)'s war policies and was among his toughest attacks on the president's critics.

ADVERTISEMENT

Yes  No

Yes  No

Yes  No

Get Quotes!

Speaking to several thousand veterans at the American Legion's national convention, Rumsfeld recited what he called the lessons of history, including the failure to confront Hitler in the 1930s. He quoted Winston Churchill as observing that trying to accommodate Hitler was "a bit like feeding a crocodile, hoping it would eat you last."

"I recount this history because once again we face similar challenges in efforts to confront the rising threat of a new type of fascism," he said.

"Can we truly afford to believe that somehow, some way, vicious extremists can be appeased?" he asked.

"Can we truly afford to return to the destructive view that America — not the enemy — is the real source of the world's troubles?"

Rumsfeld spoke to the American Legion as part of a coordinated White House strategy, before the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, to take the offensive against administration critics at a time of doubt about the future of [Iraq](#) and growing calls to withdraw U.S. troops.

Addressing the same audience later Tuesday, Secretary of State [Condoleezza Rice](#) said the Bush administration is countering extremism with hope and democracy, and that history will bear out that strategy.

AP Photo: Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld gestures as speaks at the 107 annual Veterans of Foreign Wars...

Slideshow: [Defense Secretary Rumsfeld](#)

### RELATED VIDEO



**Rumsfeld: Americans Have Steel and Grit**  
Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld spoke at

the Veterans of Foreign Wars national convention in Nevada. (Aug. 29)

[Play video](#) | [» More AP video](#)

[» Show all news video](#)

Add headlines to your personalized My Yahoo! page  
([About My Yahoo!](#) and [RSS](#))

White House News - AP



U.S. Military



» [More News Feeds](#)

#### NEWS ALERTS

Get an alert when there are new stories about:



- President Bush
- Iraq
- Condoleezza Rice
- Abu Ghraib
- Afghanistan

Add Selected Alerts

» [More Alerts](#)

#### ELSEWHERE ON THE WEB

##### CNN.COM

AFL-CIO to spend \$40 million on elections

##### ABC NEWS

The Note Futures Calendar

##### USATODAY.COM

Housing plan for victims retooled



#### NEW IN YAHOO! NEWS



##### Talk to power

This week's guest:  
Louisiana Senator  
Mary Landrieu

#### KEVIN SITES IN THE HOT ZONE



##### Clean up the mess

A Vietnam vet returns to clear old munitions and stays for years.

#### FEATURED IN YAHOO! NEWS

[CQPolitics.com](#)

"If we quit before the job is done, the cost of failure will be severe, indeed immeasurable," Rice said.

"If we abandon the Iraqi people before their government is strong enough to secure the country, we will show reformers across the region that America cannot be trusted to keep its word," she added.

Bush was scheduled to speak here later in the week.

Rumsfeld recalled a string of recent terrorist attacks, from 9/11 to deadly bombings in Bali, London and Madrid, and said it should be obvious to anyone that terrorists must be confronted, not appeased.

"But some seem not to have learned history's lessons," he said, adding that part of the problem is that the American news media have tended to emphasize the negative rather than the positive.

He said, for example, that more media attention was given to U.S. soldiers' abuse of Iraqi prisoners at [Abu Ghraib](#) than to the fact that Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith received the Medal of Honor.

He did acknowledge that the U.S. military has its own "bad actors — the ones who dominate the headlines today — who don't live up to the standards of the oath and of our country." But he added that they are a small percentage of the hundreds of thousands of troops who have served in Iraq and [Afghanistan](#).

"Those who know the truth need to speak out against these kinds of myths and lies and distortions being told about our troops and about our country," he said.

On Monday, Vice President [Dick Cheney](#) and Rumsfeld made separate addresses to the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Reno, Nev.

Rumsfeld made similar arguments in Reno about doubters of the administration's approach to fighting terrorism, saying too many in this country want to "blame America first" and ignore the enemy.

Rumsfeld's remarks ignited angry rebukes from Democrats.

"It's a political rant to cover up his incompetence," said Sen. Jack Reed ([news](#), [bio](#), [voting record](#)), D-R.I., a former Army officer and member of the [Senate Armed Services Committee](#).

Reed said he took particular exception to the implication that critics of [Pentagon](#) policies are unpatriotic, citing "scores of patriotic Americans of both parties who are highly critical of his handling of the [Department of Defense](#)."

Rep. John Murtha ([news](#), [bio](#), [voting record](#)), the hawkish Pennsylvania Democrat who voted in favor of the war but recently called for troops to withdraw, said in a statement: "It's interesting to me that they generalize the support for the war. They're not realistic with the fact that there's no progress."

Sen. Christopher Dodd ([news](#), [bio](#), [voting record](#)), D-Conn., chimed in that Rumsfeld's remarks were trying to "shoot the messenger" rather than examine failed policy.

Election coverage and analysis from Congressional Quarterly.  
» More from Congressional Quarterly

AP Diplomatic Writer Anne Gearan contributed to this report from Washington.

[Email Story](#)   [IM Story](#)   [Discuss](#)   [Printable View](#)

**RECOMMEND THIS STORY**

Recommend It:

Average (1001 votes)



» Recommended Stories

**Full Coverage: U.S. Military**

**OFF THE WIRES**

[US base sealed off after false alarm in Netherlands: police](#) AFP, 2 hours, 51 minutes ago

[Rumsfeld warns against appeasement](#) AP, Wed Aug 30, 7:40 AM ET

**NEWS STORIES**

[Marine Who Led Haditha Attack Was Recommended for a Medal](#) at The Washington Post (reg. req'd), Aug 30

[In Iraq, fewer killed, more are wounded](#) at Christian Science Monitor, Aug 29

**FEATURE ARTICLES**

[In Iraq, fewer killed, more are wounded](#) The Christian Science Monitor via Yahoo! News, Aug 29

[On YouTube, Charges of Security Flaws](#) at The Washington Post (reg. req'd), Aug 29

**OPINION & EDITORIALS**

[Soldiers die, CEOs prosper](#) at Boston Globe, Aug 30

[Don't Strong-Arm Recruits](#) at Hartford Courant (registration req'd), Aug 28

**Politics News**

[Bush takes rhetorical aim at war critics](#) AP

[Warner urges broader Democratic strategy](#) AP

[Democratic candidate blasts Rumsfeld](#) AP

[Rumsfeld warns against appeasement](#) AP

[Republicans target 'Islamic fascism'](#) AP

**Most Viewed - Politics**

[Democratic candidate blasts Rumsfeld](#) AP

[Bush takes rhetorical aim at war critics](#) AP

[Average daily commute is getting shorter](#) AP

[Republican Kemp to campaign for Lieberman](#) Reuters

[Iraqi forces to take over in 12-18 months: Gen. Casey](#) Reuters

Search:

All News & Blogs

Advanced

[Yahoo! - My Yahoo! - Mail](#)

[Home](#) | [U.S](#) | [Business](#) | [World](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Sports](#) | [Tech](#) | [Politics](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Travel](#) | [Most Popular](#) | [Odd News](#) | [Opinion](#)

Copyright © 2006 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. The information contained in the AP News report may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without the prior written authority of The Associated Press.

Copyright © 2006 Yahoo! Inc. All rights reserved.

[Questions or Comments](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Copyright/IP Policy](#) - [Ad Feedback](#)