

Clinton's War with the Military

By HAL SIEMER

The war with Yugoslavia has brought the question of our military preparedness the forefront. President Clinton, who was once quoted as saying "I loathe the military," has seriously eroded our military capabilities. Clinton avoided marching off to Vietnam by dodging the draft, although he did march on the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to protest against America. When he first assumed the Presidency, his counterculture staff would not permit senior military officers to wear their uniforms at the White House. Such has been his attitude toward our armed forces.

Although liberals contend that we no longer need a large military because the cold war is "over," the facts argue differently. The Russians still have thousands of nuclear weapons pointed at us; and because of Russia's political and economic instability, we may be facing a nuclear threat unwitnessed since the Cuban missile crises. Moreover, the deteriorating Russian economy and the breakup of the Soviet Union have made sales of nuclear weapons to terrorists a growing menace. But of greatest concern is the overall drop in morale and the combined combat readiness of our armed forces.

Clinton's alleged popularity is based on our country's economic health, an area where the President is not necessarily the primary player. But in the field of foreign affairs, the Executive branch is uniquely powerful. The President negotiates treaties and is Commander in Chief. In his role as Commander, Clinton has done great harm to our armed forces, at a price that unfortunately may be paid in blood.

While Clinton may finish last in moral leadership and support for our troops, in some areas he is the undisputed champ. In over 90 percent of the cases that Clinton has exercised his line item veto, he has used it to cut defense spending. Since the end of the Gulf War, our military has shrunk by more than 40 percent. The Navy can't adequately man its aircraft carriers, and the Army has been forced to reduce its ranks by more than 630,000 soldiers and civilians. Army divisions have dropped from 18 to 10, and over 700 installations at home and overseas have been closed. Nonetheless, under Commander Clinton, the U.S. Army has been called into action 26 times, racking up an incredible eleven-fold increase over just 10 such "operational events" that were conducted by the Army between 1960 and 1991.

Since 1990, the Air Force has declined from 36 active and reserve fighter wings to 20, downsizing 44 percent while experiencing a simultaneous four-fold increase in operational commitments. As this article is being written, U.S. pilots are flying missions over Yugoslavia in planes as old as their parents. In many cases they are paying for spare parts out of their own pockets. Meanwhile, our government spent several hundred thousand dollars so Hillary and Chelsea could fly to the Middle East.

Well aware that the majority of men voted for his Republican opposition in both '92 and '96, Clinton has used the military as a political pawn to further increase his support among women. Clinton's politically correct, 60's social engineering of the military includes such ludicrous things as coed boot camp and sensitivity training. Maybe Hillary could invite Jean Houston back to the White House to conjure up the spirit of Eisenhower for tactical advice.

If our troops lives weren't at stake, it would be laughable. When the likes of Patricia Schroeder claim that women pass the military's physical requirements, she forgets to mention that there is a HUGE difference between the requirements that male members of our armed forces must meet and those required of females.

The one possible exception to the decline of our armed forces is the Marine Corps, whose motto, "semper fidelis," is Latin for "always faithful" -- a phrase that is obviously Greek to Bill Clinton. The Marines are the only service to resist Clinton's politically correct feminizing of the military.

None of the "reformers" mentioned have ever worn a uniform. Their one concern is getting the vote, not the welfare of our troops. Bill Clinton's amoral style of politics, where just about any action with poll appeal is justified, sadly will continue to cost American lives.