

Dan Rather Reports

Episode Number: 235

Episode Title: Into Africa

Description: With little fanfare and even less notice, the U.S. Military will now have a new command dedicated to Africa. Also, an inside look at the American security company called Blackwater.

INTO AFRICA:

DAN RATHER (ON CAMERA)

GOOD EVENING FROM NEW YORK. ONE OF THE GOALS OF THIS BROADCAST IS TO BRING YOU STORIES WE THINK ARE NOT ONLY IMPORTANT, BUT ARE ALSO UNDERREPORTED IN NEWSPAPERS AND ON TELEVISION. WE HAVE A CLASSIC EXAMPLE TONIGHT. THE U.S. MILITARY IS RAMPING UP A NEW COMMAND AND A NEW STRATEGY IN WHAT IS BECOMING A KEY PART OF THE WORLD: THE 53 COUNTRIES THAT MAKE UP THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WHILE MOST OF THE REST OF THE WORLD WAS SPENDING ANOTHER WEEK DISCUSSING THE WARS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ, A LITTLE COVERED HEARING WAS ALSO UNDERWAY ON CAPITOL HILL.

SENATOR CARL LEVIN, CHAIRMAN, SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
General Ward will be the first commander of a brand new command, US Africa Command.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IT WAS THE CONFIRMATION OF FOUR STAR GENERAL WILLIAM WARD TO LEAD A NEW MILITARY COMBATANT COMMAND CALLED AFRICA COMMAND, OR – IN MILITARY PARLANCE, AFRICOM. AFRICOM IS TO FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON AFRICA. PREVIOUSLY THE CONTINENT HAD BEEN DIVIDED UNDER THREE DIFFERENT U.S. COMMANDS.

GENERAL WILLIAM WARD, COMMANDER, AFRICOM

The creation of U.S. Africa Command will allow the Department of Defense to view all of Africa through a single lens of a single unified command, allowing us to maximize our participation as a partner in pursuit of our mutual interests for peace, prosperity, and stability.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

GENERAL WARD IS THE ONLY AFRICAN AMERICAN FOUR STAR GENERAL CURRENTLY IN THE U.S. MILITARY. HE HAD BEEN SERVING WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMAND IN GERMANY. WE SAT DOWN WITH THE GENERAL FOR HIS FIRST AMERICAN TELEVISION INTERVIEW AFTER BEING OFFICIALLY SWORN IN TO LEAD AFRICOM.

RATHER

What is AFRICOM?

GENERAL WARD

The U.S. Africa Command is the Department of Defense's initiative to reorganize how we as the Department of Defense look at our military to military activities on the continent of Africa.

RATHER

Now, why and why now?

GENERAL WARD

Well, that's a great question. And I kind of ask, well, why not now. But I say I'm glad it's now because it is an important recognition that our country has said that, you know, the continent of Africa is important to us. It's important to the world, and one of its premiere activities, that is how we look at it militarily, is now being-- will now operate in a way that recognizes the continent of Africa. And pretty much look at Africa as Africa looks at Africa.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE U.S. HAS, IN TRUTH, ALREADY BEEN INCREASING ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFRICA OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, QUIETLY TRAINING TROOPS FROM SEVERAL FRIENDLY AFRICAN NATIONS TO SECURE THESE COUNTRIES AGAINST CIVIL UNREST, ETHNIC STRIFE AND TERRORISM. HERE, ON THE SHORES OF LAKE VICTORIA IN THE HEART OF AFRICA, TROOPS FROM ONE OF AMERICA'S CLOSEST ALLIES, UGANDA, ARE RECEIVING TRAINING YOU MIGHT NOT EXPECT. THEY ARE STORMING A BUNKER SUPPOSEDLY FILLED WITH INSURGENTS: CROSSING RAZOR WIRE, CRAWLING THROUGH THE GRASS, FANNING OUT TO COORDINATE THEIR ATTACK AND ADVANCING ON THEIR TARGET. AND ALL THIS IS TAKING PLACE UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF AMERICAN TROOPS. THAT'S STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL RYAN FROM THE THIRD U.S. INFANTRY REGIMENT OUT OF FORT MYER, VIRGINIA. STAFF SERGEANT RYAN AND HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS AND MARINES ARE HERE TO TEACH THE UGANDANS ABOUT MODERN WARFARE.

STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL RYAN, THIRD U.S. INFANTRY REGIMENT

We're not doing war back like in the Revolutionary War where everyone was spread apart and on line shooting. It's in buildings in cities, and in building in cities people can jump out in front of you at any time. They might be able to knock your weapon out of your hand, you might drop your weapon, anything might happen. And you have to be able to defend yourself still being able to apprehend the enemy, knock them to the ground, choke them out, anything like that just to subdue him.-

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THESE U.S. SOLDIERS IN UGANDA ARE PART OF A FIRST WAVE OF TROOPS SENT TO AFRICA. THOUGH NOT OFFICIALLY PART OF AFRICOM, THEY REPRESENT A MASSIVE RE-THINK WITHIN THE PENTAGON ABOUT DEALING WITH A CONTINENT THAT THE MILITARY ALL BUT ABANDONED MORE THAN A DECADE AGO. GENERAL WARD AND HIS NEW COMMAND ARE BRINGING THE U.S. MILITARY BACK ...HE SAYS...AT THE INVITATION OF AFRICAN NATIONS:

GENERAL WARD

We are there to work on the continent from the north, the Sahara, west, Gulf of Guinea, Central Africa, Southern Africa, Eastern Africa to help the nations who are there to prove, be able to have the sorts of securities structures. That will help bring stability to the continent, and thus be support of the development they want to see.

RATHER

Do you or do you not worry: we're already stretched to the limit, some people say beyond, in Iraq, a very big combat operation in Afghanistan. What about, the argument goes, and this sounds wonderful on paper, There are limits to power, and by setting up this AFRICOM, that we're going beyond the reasonable limits of power?

GENERAL WARD

I'm not worried that it would cause a stretch in what we're doing from the standpoint of our global operations. And as Nelson Mandela says-- and I love this quote, you know-- "We as Africans want to take care of our own issues, situations, challenges," and I'm paraphrasing, but "with the help of our friends."

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

GENERAL WARD SAYS THAT WITH AFRICOM, THE U.S. WILL BE ONE OF THOSE FRIENDS. BUT IN AFRICA, THERE HAS BEEN SOME CRITICISM THAT THIS BIG ANNOUNCEMENT HAS COME WITH FEW SPECIFICS.

RATHER

Let's talk about a mission statement. Not sure whether you have a regular mission statement. But what is the basic mission?

GENERAL WARD

Well, there is no mission statement just yet. The Secretary of Defense has charged me with taking some time to develop a mission statement that he will ultimately approve in a few weeks. And so, the mission statement has not been approved as of yet. But I will give you what I think are the central components of it.

RATHER

Please.

GENERAL WARD

For sure, we want to work with the Africans to help them increase their capacity to bring stability to the continent. And by so doing, that will hopefully enhance development, it will enhance the ability of Africans to cause them to take better care of themselves, and their populations.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT FOR SOLDIERS LIKE MICHAEL RYAN, THE MESSAGE IS PRETTY SIMPLE.

STAFF SARGEANT RYAN

If we combat, terrorism, extremism here, that's one less place in the world it is. Simple as that. That's one less place to harbor terrorism and extremism, one less place for it to grow and affect America and any other places in the world where people live in peace.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THERESA WHELAN IS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS. SHE SAYS THE PENTAGON LEARNED THE HARD LESSON FROM AFGHANISTAN THAT THERE CAN NO LONGER BE ANY FORGOTTEN CORNER OF THE WORLD.

THERESA WHELAN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS

On 9/11 you had a dozen, two dozen individuals operating out of a state that was not very developed. Was very far away from the United States. That we really didn't care much about, or hadn't cared much about since the early '90s. And they did more damage to the United States in a couple of hours than the entire Japanese Imperial Navy did in World War II. Now all of a sudden, a least developed nation, and even not the nation itself, but people simply using it as a base can do a tremendous amount of damage to the United States.

RATHER

What is the most important thing for people to know, for Americans to know about the American presence in Africa at the moment?

WHELAN

I think prior to 9/11 and actually even prior to the fall of the wall, our focus in Africa was in the context of the Cold War. So Africa was not a security end in itself. It was a means to an end. After the fall of the wall we, I think, began to see security issues in Africa as primarily being humanitarian in nature. We didn't see Africa as posing a serious threat to the United States in the same way that other major military powers might be able to pose a threat. All of a sudden, though, on 9/11 I think all of that changed.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THERE HAS BEEN A RISING TIDE OF EXTREMIST ATTACKS ON AFRICAN SOIL IN RECENT YEARS THAT STARTED EVEN BEFORE 9/11. STRETCHING FROM TANZANIA AND KENYA IN THE EAST. TO EGYPT AND TUNISIA IN THE NORTH. TO ALGERIA AND MOROCCO IN THE WEST. 1998, EAST AFRICA: AL QAEDA TARGETS TWO U.S. EMBASSIES, IN KENYA AND NEIGHBORING TANZANIA, WITH MASSIVE CAR BOMBS THAT KILL 264 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 12 AMERICANS. 2002, ALSO IN KENYA: THIRTEEN PEOPLE ARE KILLED IN THE BOMBING OF AN ISRAELI-OWNED HOTEL. JUST MINUTES EARLIER, A SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE NARROWLY MISSED HITTING A PASSENGER JET TAKING OFF FOR TEL AVIV. NORTHERN AFRICA HAS WITNESSED A STRING OF BLOODY ATTACKS. FROM CAIRO TO CASABLANCA, STRIKES AGAINST WESTERN INTERESTS, INCLUDING TOURIST DESTINATIONS, HAVE CAUSED NEARLY ONE HUNDRED DEATHS AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER CASUALTIES. A SELF-PROCLAIMED AL QAEDA AFFILIATE HAS BOMBED ALGERIA A DOZEN TIMES THIS YEAR. AND LAST YEAR, THE NOTORIOUSLY UNSTABLE COUNTRY OF SOMALIA FELL UNDER THE SWAY OF AN ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST GROUP THAT ALLEGEDLY GAVE SAFE HAVEN TO WANTED AL QAEDA TERRORISTS.

WHELAN

We've already seen Al Qaeda gain a bit of a foothold on the continent. We've seen it in East Africa and where they have a small but persistent presence. And we—

RATHER

That would be Somalia?

WHELAN

They primarily operate in the Somalia and also in the Kenyan areas. They move. They move quite frequently. They don't-- they try not to stay in one place for too long.

RATHER

What are the concerns besides straight out security have caused the US government to, let's say, re-engage below the Sahara?

COLIN THOMAS-JENSEN, POLICY ADVISOR, THE ENOUGH PROJECT

Well, I think there's a couple of big ones. One is energy.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

COLIN THOMAS-JENSEN IS AN AFRICA SCHOLAR WHO HAS TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY IN THE REGION. HE SAYS THE REASONS THE U.S. CARES ABOUT AFRICA GO WELL BEYOND TERRORISM.

THOMAS-JENSEN

The US, by 2015, it is estimated that we are going to be getting 25% of our imported oil resources from Africa. Um, this is a growing market for energy, companies going in are finding new reserves all the time-- they're engaged in a lot of off-shore drilling. And-- geographically, you know, importing oil from-- the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa-- you know, you-- from an off-shore oil rig, you simply put it on a boat and-- and, you know, bring it to the US for refining. It's a very attractive place-- for the energy sector-- to be investing and that's -.

RATHER

So, oil and energy supplies are one reason.

THOMAS-JENSEN:

Yeah. Another I think is from an economic perspective as well. Africa, you know, soon will be a billion people. And it is a large market. And there is, you know, in the media, you usually, you almost exclusively get the bad news stories in Africa. And there are a lot of them. But some of the most vibrant, dynamic and fastest-growing economies in the world are in Africa.

RATHER

Your answer to those-- some in Africa, some outsiders -- listen: what this is about is protecting U.S. economic interests and using the-- the Army as the point of the spear-- sword-- sword."

GENERAL WARD

I think there's no question that the continent of Africa is rich in resources. And to be sure, the United States would be a consumer. But not the sole consumer. Not the monopolizing consumer. But be able to compete in a global environment in ways that will allow those resources to be used, and to have the return for the use of those resources to benefit the people of Africa the countries of which those resources reside that's in all of our interests.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT TO UNDERSTAND THE OPPORTUNITIES AND PITFALLS OF U.S. MILITARY RE-ENGAGEMENT WITH AFRICA, ONE NEEDS TO LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THE TRAGIC FAILED STATE OF SOMALIA OVER THE LAST YEAR. IN DECEMBER 2006, THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY, FRESHLY TRAINED BY U.S. TROOPS, INVADED NEIGHBORING SOMALIA TO OUST FUNDAMENTALIST ISLAMISTS THAT HAD TAKEN POWER THERE.

KENNETH ROTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Because these Islamists allegedly were also tolerant of Al Qaeda, they became impossible for the Ethiopians to stomach. And so Ethiopia came in and decided to out them with active US backing.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

KENNETH ROTH IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH. HE SAYS THE AMERICANS SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ACTIONS ETHIOPIA TOOK IN SOMALIA.

ROTH

They indiscriminately fired across Mogadishu. They would arrest people. They would conduct summary executions, attacking hospitals and killing hundreds and hundreds of people. This is the principal U.S. ally. This is the government that the United States has thrown its weight behind in fighting terrorism. And you can imagine how this goes over with the hearts and minds of the people.

RATHER

How much has the United States military been involved with the Ethiopians' move against the Somalians? Is it a case of giving advice, having Special Forces trained people? Or is it much more than that?

ROTH

There have been at least two instances, one in January, one in June, in which U.S. gun ships attacked supposed al-Qaeda members who were found by the Ethiopians. So, there has been an active partnership on the ground by both the U.S. military and U.S. intelligence agencies that goes well beyond just training and actually is an on-the-ground partnership.

WHELAN

We provided no direct military support to the Ethiopians. They did it all on their own. They're a fairly capable military force in their own right. We did conduct a separate operation. To go after a target in Somalia that was a supporter of the Al Qaeda cell. And—

RATHER

This was a US military operation on our own you said.

WHELAN

That's correct. It was—

RATHER

Directed at targets in Somalia.

WHELAN

Right. And it was-- we coordinated it with the Ethiopians obviously because they were on the ground. We were sharing information with them at the time about what their situational awareness was. So we did coordinate with the Ethiopians. But that was our operation.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE PENTAGON MAINTAINS ITS SUPPORT OF ETHIOPIA'S INVASION OF SOMALIA WAS IN U.S. STRATEGIC INTERESTS. DESPITE WHAT SOME CALL A COST TO AMERICA'S IMAGE.

RATHER

In general, what's the read: are Africans eager for the United States to broaden its influence in Africa?

ROTH

Africa is one of the few places where America still has a decent reputation, where many people look at America as a beacon of political or economic promise. And so the almost reflexive anti-Americanism that certainly exists in the Middle East and South Asia that is ascendant in Europe and other parts of the world has not as deeply affected many parts of Africa. So given the poverty, given the huge need in Africa, there is I think a willingness on the part of many Africans to accept greater American involvement, perhaps even to welcome it. But, you know, with a big caveat: it depends on what kind of involvement. If the involvement is simply to back up dictatorships because they happen to provide a military base or to be allies in some military venture, that is going to turn Africans against America very quickly.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

MEANWHILE, BACK IN UGANDA, IT'S GRADUATION DAY FOR THIS CLASS OF TROOPS, A SYMBOL OF THE GROWING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITS AFRICAN PARTNERS.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

COMING UP NEXT... WE TAKE YOU TO THE LARGEST BASE ON THE CONTINENT.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

THE U.S. MILITARY'S NEW AFRICA COMMAND, FROM ITS VERY CONCEPTION, IS A CONSCIOUS EFFORT FOR A NEW APPROACH TO THE PROJECTION OF AMERICAN POWER AROUND THE GLOBE. FOR ONE THING, IT WILL NOT BE A PURELY MILITARY ENTERPRISE: ONE OF THE SENIOR POSTS WILL BE FILLED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH MAKES AFRICOM DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER TRADITIONAL MILITARY COMMANDS. IN ADDITION, THE PENTAGON IS CAREFUL TO SAY THAT AFRICOM WILL BE MODEST IN THE NUMBER OF TROOPS ON THE GROUND, BUT AMBITIOUS IN WHAT IT HOPES THOSE TROOPS CAN ACCOMPLISH. AND ON A DISTANT CORNER OF AFRICA THERE IS A PLACE WHERE THE U.S. ARMED FORCES ALREADY HAVE BEEN PUTTING THIS NEW APPROACH INTO PRACTICE.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE U.S. MILITARY'S CURRENT ROLE IN AFRICA, WE TRAVELED TO DJIBOUTI, A COUNTRY THE SIZE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. THIS IS CAMP LEMONIER, A FORMER OUTPOST OF THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION THAT IS NOW HOME TO 1800 AMERICAN TROOPS. IT'S A BARE-BONES BASE. AND IT'S LOCATED NEXT TO DJIBOUTI'S ONLY AIRPORT. THE CLIMATE IS TOUGH: TEMPERATURES HERE ROUTINELY REACH 120 DEGREES – A BLACK FLAG WARNS PERSONNEL WHEN IT IS TOO HOT TO ENGAGE IN MOST OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE U.S. HAS COME TO THE HORN OF AFRICA, YOU JUST NEED TO LOOK AT THE MAP.

DJIBOUTI IS IN THE CORNER OF A VERY VOLATILE NEIGHBORHOOD. ACROSS THE RED SEA IS THE ARABIAN PENINSULA, AND THEN COMES IRAQ, IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN.

ADMIRAL JAMES HART, COMMANDER,
COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE HORN OF AFRICA

The mission started here in 2002. And it was an outgrowth of operation of Enduring Freedom.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)
NAVY ADMIRAL JAMES HART COMMANDS THIS BASE.

ADMIRAL HART

There was a lot of concern back in the 2002, 2001 timeframe that as the operations in Afghanistan unfolded, the Taliban, Al Qaeda could come to the Horn. So the military set up a task force here.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)
BUT THE EXPECTED FLOOD OF MILITANTS NEVER ARRIVED ON DJIBOUTI'S SHORES AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO TERRORIST ATTACKS HERE. BUT THIS US TASK FORCE HAS LAUNCHED ATTACKS AGAINST AL QAEDA. IN LATE 2002, A PREDATOR DRONE FLEW TO YEMEN AND FIRED HELLFIRE MISSILES AT A CAR CARRYING A SUSPECT IN THE BOMBING OF THE U.S.S. COLE. THE MISSILES KILLED SIX ALLEGED AL QAEDA MEMBERS. BUT THE MILITARY WON'T COMMENT ON THESE CLASSIFIED OPERATIONS. THEY SAY DJIBOUTI IS NOT A BASE FOR TRADITIONAL WAR CAMPAIGNS, BUT RATHER A TESTING GROUND FOR A NEW MILITARY PHILOSOPHY.

ADMIRAL HART

We defined our mission as trying to prevent conflict. So keeping, keeping things reasonably calm so we don't have additional conflicts across borders, or between the tribal ethnic groups and so forth. Promoting stability is, is about, is about good governance. It's about allowing these countries to be able to secure their borders, their coastlines, be able to contribute to peacekeeping for other operations across uh across Africa. Protecting our interests as well as theirs and our interests lie in, in places like Somalia becoming, becoming governable and stable and so we can move on. And prevailing against extremism is really about trying to develop ways through capacity building, to give people of these countries options other than violent extremism to uh to try to move their, their issues forward.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)
THIS BASE HAS ALWAYS FALLEN UNDER CENTRAL COMMAND, THE SAME PEOPLE RUNNING THE WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN. BUT THE BASE SOON WILL BE PART OF AFRICOM. THIS PRESENCE OF U.S. TROOPS IS A SYMBOL OF WHAT AFRICOM CAN BE, SAYS ITS NEW COMMANDER, GENERAL WILLIAM WARD.

GENERAL WARD

This is not the first time that we have military men and women on the continent of Africa with the creation of this command. Activities are going on today, as we speak, throughout the country where Africans have come to us and have said, "Can you help us do these sorts of things." And where those lines mesh, i.e. their request for assistance, and our means to provide that assistance, and where we come in and do it, I think is the type of thing that when Africans see that, they say, "Ah, I understand what they're saying now. And this is something that to us makes sense.

RATHER

Is there or is not the current plan-- okay, the headquarters would be in Stuttgart, Germany for now. Down the road, maybe headquarters moving into Africa, to set up other Djibouti like places in Africa? Or not?

GENERAL WARD

The plan does not include setting up other Djibouti like places. To establish another facility like Djibouti elsewhere in the continent is not envisioned in the current plan. In fact, there is no plan to establish, you know, large bases of troops on the continent.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WHILE THE PENTAGON SAYS THERE WON'T BE A MASSIVE TROOP INFUSION INTO AFRICA, THE U.S. HAS JUST SIGNED A 15-YEAR LEASE FOR ITS BASE IN DJIBOUTI. DJIBOUTI IS THE KIND OF COUNTRY THE U.S. NEEDS TO WIN OVER... AND THAT AFRICOM WAS SET UP TO HELP. IT IS WHERE AFRICA MEETS THE MIDDLE EAST. 94 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY IS MUSLIM, AND FRIDAYS REVOLVE AROUND PRAYER AT THE LOCAL MOSQUE. RELIGIOUS LEADERS HERE SAY THEY DO WELCOME FOREIGNERS.

IMAM (TRANSLATED FROM ARABIC)

Our people have immigrated from Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea and Ethiopia into Djibouti. Whether you are American, or French or British, we have no problem in our hearts for you. Anyone who comes to our country, we like him.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IN THIS KIND OF ENVIRONMENT, THERE IS OPTIMISM ABOUT THE LONG TERM EFFECTS OF THE US MISSION HERE. AND SO, THE PENTAGON HAS PRODUCED THIS VIDEO... TO PROMOTE A SOFTER SIDE OF MILITARY MIGHT. THE FOCUS IS ON HUMANITARIAN OUTREACH.

ADMIRAL HART

What we were looking at is how do we build capacity across the region? How can we make the positive effects that we're looking for. It's clean fresh water for people. Sanitary conditions. Basic schools for their kids. Those kinds of elementary building blocks if you will.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUILDING BLOCKS INCLUDING THOSE AT THIS SCHOOL, IN A REMOTE DJIBOUTIAN VILLAGE CALLED HOL HOL, SEVERAL HOURS DRIVE FROM THE MAIN BASE. HERE, A TEAM OF NAVY CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS – SEABEES – ARE RENOVATING CLASSROOMS FOR THE LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL WHILE THE CHILDREN ARE OFF ON SUMMER BREAK. SMALL STEPS IN A VAST DESERT OF NEED. LIEUTENANT BEN MILLER IS OVERSEEING THE PROJECT.

LIEUTENANT BEN MILLER, US NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE

Right now we're doing classroom renovations on both these two buildings here. We're constructing a new conference room as well as eventually on the other side of the, the compound we're going to build a latrine facility. What we bring in is American standards of construction so we know that what we build will be safe for the children.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

ALTHOUGH HOL HOL DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THE BATTLEFIELDS OF IRAQ, THE MILITARY SAYS IT IS ALSO A FRONTLINE OF THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR. BUILDING SCHOOLS MEANS BUILDING ALLIES, SAYS BUILDER FIRST CLASS KARL KIEFFER.

BUILDER FIRST CLASS KARL KIEFFER, US NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE

Our sole job is to make life better for people. Whether it be to improve the US image, to gain support for military operations, being someplace where we can build a school for children. It feels good. It, it's real good. Being able to support our country, support our military, but doing it at the end of a hammer, not at the end of a rifle.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

STILL, THESE KINDS OF HUMANITARIAN OUTREACH PROGRAMS ARE MILITARY OPERATIONS... AND ARE HEAVILY GUARDED. MANY RESIDENTS WE TALKED TO SEEMED FAIRLY INDIFFERENT TOWARDS THE U.S. PRESENCE IN THEIR TOWN. WHILE THEY APPRECIATE THE EFFORT THE AMERICANS ARE MAKING, THEY WISH FOR SOMETHING MORE, ACCORDING TO THIS LOCAL YOUTH LEADER.

DJIBOUTIAN YOUTH LEADER (TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH)

We expected many things of them: that they would recruit workers, unemployed youths; they haven't done it. Sometimes they come to the village and support the economy: they buy bread, Coke, Fanta, cigarettes, that's fine. But what we ask for is to get work from the Americans in Hol Hol.

ADMIRAL HART

We think that this is a small investment that'll pay off that if we can keep this region, by working with our, with our partner nations, from turning into another hot spot, a real hot spot where we have a lot of troops and a huge concentration of force that this is worth doing.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

DJIBOUTI'S HOT AND DUSTY LANDSCAPE HAS AN OTHERWORLDLY QUALITY. IT PROVIDED THE LUNAR BACKDROP FOR CHARLTON HESTON IN THE ORIGINAL PLANET OF THE APES. EVERYDAY EXISTENCE HERE IS HARD AND LIFE EXPECTANCY BARELY REACHES 43 YEARS OF AGE. A DEEPWATER PORT PROVIDES THE MAIN SOURCE OF THE NATION'S INCOME, BUT THERE ISN'T MUCH ELSE IN TERMS OF WORK. MANY RESIDENTS SPEND MUCH OF THEIR INCOME ON A MILDLY NARCOTIC PLANT CALLED KHAT WHICH IS CHEWED MOST AFTERNOONS. DJIBOUTI IS ALSO A CAUSE FOR CONCERN AMONGST HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS. A STRONG PRESIDENT, ISMAIL OMAR GUELLEH, SUPPRESSES POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND THE MEDIA. MANY GOVERNMENT CRITICS, LIKE ALI ABDILLAHI IFTIN, LIVE IN EXILE OVERSEAS.

ALI ABDILLAHI IFTIN, DJIBOUTI MOVEMENT OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

If you try to criticize Ismail Omar or his political system, you will have problem. In Djibouti, really Djibouti is a dictator. So, you know, how's the climate of a dictator. The people, they can't talk. They can't, they have not any right. The human right is not. Everything is sacrificed.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT DJIBOUTI'S PRESIDENT WAS ONE OF THE ONLY MUSLIM LEADERS THAT OPENLY SUPPORTED THE U.S. INVASION OF IRAQ. AND, SENSING A WIN-WIN SITUATION, INCLUDING A FOUR THOUSAND PERCENT INCREASE IN AID, HE WELCOMED AMERICAN TROOPS IN 2002. ON ANY GIVEN DAY, YOU'LL SEE A REMARKABLE SIGHT IN DJIBOUTI: A GROUP OF U.S. TROOPS, OUT OF UNIFORM BUT STILL IN SOME WAYS ON DUTY. HERE THEY ARE VISITING A LOCAL ORPHANAGE FOR SOME TIME WITH VERY YOUNG HEARTS AND MINDS. NAVY PETTY OFFICER CASINO EATMON COMES HERE BECAUSE HE MISSES HIS OWN KIDS FAR BACK HOME. BUT HE SAYS HE ALSO HOPES THESE KIDS WILL REMEMBER HIS VISIT.

PETTY OFFICER CASINO EATMON

It will show years later that America was here for us, they really helped us in a time of need. As we see, a lot of children need help here.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AT NIGHT, YOU WILL ALSO FIND U.S. TROOPS CONDUCTING ENGLISH DISCUSSION GROUPS WITH LOCAL YOUTH. FOR MANY OF THESE YOUNG STUDENTS, IT IS THEIR FIRST INTERACTION WITH AMERICAN AND IT SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL.

BASHIR, DJIBOUTIAN STUDENT

I've never gone in America to United States I live in Djibouti but when I'm listening to America to US military who always share with us conversation night, I think American people are very nice people.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THIS ISLAMIC PART OF AFRICA WILL IN THE END ACCEPT THE MESSAGE OF PEACE-BRINGING AMERICANS WHO ALSO CARRY GUNS. BUT SOME HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS WORRY THAT THERE'S A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT BEING SET BY ALLOWING TROOPS IN UNIFORM TO DO THE WORK ONCE SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DIPLOMATS AND DEVELOPMENT WORKERS. KENNETH ROTH OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH:

ROTH

This military presence was supposed to represent the smart fight against terrorism. This was where the Bush administration had learned its lessons that a purely militaristic approach wouldn't work. And it was going to focus on hearts and minds. They talked about the three Ds: not only defense, but also diplomacy and development. They were going to build wells. They were going to build alliances. And they were going to, in a sense, make the area immune to Islamic fundamentalism and to terrorism by showing an alternative that would attract the people of-- of the region.

RATHER

We see them in uniform, the US military personnel in uniform, out trying to dig a well, build a, build a school. Is there or is there not conflict in people's minds when they see a soldier or somebody training to fight, doing this?

ROTH

I think there are profound problems when the U.S. military becomes a development agency. I don't quarrel at all with the importance of development, the importance of a hearts-and-minds strategy as part of an effective counterterrorism or an effective military strategy. But that should be done through civilian development groups. To have uniformed soldiers assume this development function, I think first of all, is a misuse of the army. It-- there are other things they could be doing, clearly. But second, it's a militarization of what should be a civilian function. If the U.S. government wants to fund these efforts, by all means there are a lot of very good development and humanitarian groups out there that would willingly accept the money. There's no need for the U.S. military to be doing this.

RATHER

You're a trained fighting man. Is there a conflict between asking our young soldiers and other military people, and for that matter those in positions such as yours to on the one the hand be trained warriors and at the same time, engage in whatever way it is in quote, "nation building and humanitarian work?"

GENERAL WARD

I don't think so. And in fact-- I'm as sure as you can be without being absolute because there's no absolutes. I think that they're very supportable and very mutually interdependent activities. And one of the things that in my almost-- well, over 36 years of military experience has demonstrated to me is that if other things aren't also working, then the security piece of it, that comes from the purely, or the strictly the military aspects of it, don't last over time.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND EVEN CRITICS OF RECENT U.S. ACTIONS ON THE CONTINENT ARE THEMSELVES HOPEFUL THAT AN INCREASED AMERICAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA, EVEN A MILITARY ONE, CAN BRING REAL CHANGE AND ERASE THE LEGACY OF DISTRUST THAT FOLLOWED THE 1993 BLACK HAWK DOWN TRAGEDY IN SOMALIA.

RATHER

In Somalia we went in originally to help feed the children; gangs and thugs had taken over the place. It ended badly. What, if anything, should prevent that from becoming our destiny time and again in Africa?

ROTH

You know, for every Somalia which did end badly, you can point to other kinds of international interventions that have ended relatively well. And I think for example of-- the British role in Sierra Leone or Liberia, which very successfully stabilized those war-torn governments. I think about the French role today in the Ivory Coast, which has at least succeeded in imposing a ceasefire and-- and building the beginnings of a government of national unity. I think about the emerging international presence in Darfur, which is frankly the only hope that the people of Darfur have to be able to return to their homes in security. And so I'm not one who feels that every African venture is going lead to another Somali debacle. There are ways to do it right. And just because the U.S. didn't do it right one time, doesn't mean that we should forsake Africa, that there is no right way to do it.

GENERAL WARD

There are goals, there are wishes and dreams of the African people, just like any other. And when you get to know people, and you establish relationships, those relationships build trust, and they help to foster confidence. And by so doing, you see common objective. And when you talk to anyone, they want something better for their children or their grandchildren than they had for themselves. And we want to be able to do things on that continent so that ten, 20, 30 years from now it is the type of place that is a contributor to world development, as opposed to not. And I think that's the point that we have in the creation of this command. And that's our objective.

RATHER (ON CAMER)

COMING UP NEXT ... A MAN WHO WENT BEHIND BLACKWATER'S PUBLIC FACE.

BLACKWATER:

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

AND NOW AMERICAS SURROGATE WARRIORS. THE CONFLICTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ ARE AMERICA'S FIRST WARS TO BE FOUGHT AT LEAST PARTIALLY BY AN ARMY FOR HIRE. AND THE NAME LINKED MOST OFTEN TO THESE WARRIORS IS A SECURITY COMPANY FROM NORTH CAROLINA CALLED BLACKWATER. THE COMPANY IS KNOWN FOR DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PROTECT THEIR CLIENTS. IN BAGHDAD LAST MONTH, THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT ALLEGES THAT MEANT MURDERING 17 CIVILIANS. BLACKWATER FLATLY DENIES THAT. BUT BLACKWATER IS NOW SUDDENLY THE FOCUS OF CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS AND IS BEING ASKED BY THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. WHAT IS BLACKWATER AND WHO ARE THESE HIGHLY TRAINED PRIVATE SOLDIERS? ROBERT PELTON PROBABLY KNOWS AS MUCH ABOUT BLACKWATER AS ANY JOURNALIST. HE'S WRITTEN A BOOK CALLED LICENSE TO KILL AND IS ONE OF THE FEW REPORTERS TO INTERVIEW BLACKWATER FOUNDER ERIC PRINCE.

ROBERT YOUNG PELTON, AUTHOR OF LICENSED TO KILL

Blackwater is the soul possession of Erik Prince, who is a young man-- a very enthusiastic young man, who is the son of a well known automobile industrialist. Erik Prince- in his early 30's was faced with a number of dilemmas-- the death of his father, the transfer of his family fortune to his control, and also he was in the SEALS at the time. And-- he wanted to do something-- not just make money, he had lots of money. But he wanted to set up a training facility. Well, about that time, 6,000 acres in North Carolina, and he has an idea.

RATHER (VOICEOVER)

THE IDEA WAS TO BUILD THE WORLDS PREMIERE POLICE ACADEMY, WHERE THOSE INTERESTED IN BECOMING BLACKWATER GUARDS COULD LEARN ADVANCED PARAMILITARY AND POLICE TACTICS WITH FIRST RATE EQUIPMENT.

PELTON

Blackwater Academy feeds into his machine. In other words, all these personal or private security contractors need training, and not only that, but he provides training for the CIA, for FBI, for law enforcement. He has 7,000 acres of shooting ranges, sniper ranges-- kill houses. He's got ships you can blow, he's got aircraft you can blow.

RATHER

How does it compare what the U.S. military has? Shooting ranges—

PELTON

It's much, much better. This is where Erik's business genius came about. Because one of the biggest shortages we have is training. The ability to fire weapons at long distances. I don't know if you know what it's like to go out for training, but if you're in the military, you have to fill out a raft of forms. Blackwater you just show up. You just clean up your brass, that's all you have to do.

RATHER

How is this different from say, the French Foreign Legion?

PELTON

French Foreign Legion is where people go to serve the needs of the French government. You can be a foreign citizen-- you can be a quasi criminal, but essentially you serve your five years and you fight wherever they tell you to fight. When you come into Erik's facility, you-- you pay for the training. His-- the academy costs almost 20,000 dollars, but—if you go into the Blackwater Academy, you take this intensive five to eight week course on how to be a personal security guard. You get hired, and they take it outta your salary. And if you fail, you don't pay. So, it's the PhD. in violence. It's-- it's-- it's the way for every military guy to get the skills that's gonna make him 500 dollars a day.

RATHER

How difficult is the training? Is it like Marine boot camp?

PELTON

They don't mess with your mind. I mean, it's-- it's basically skills. I mean, they're not tryin to inculcate anything to you. They're just-- wanna know, "Okay, how many pull-ups can you do? How-- how good is your shooting on the range?"

RATHER

So there's not an ethos that's taught.

PELTON

No. It's skills—

RATHER

Skills—

PELTON

Raw skills, driving skills. You know, small-- small team-- how do you-- how do you move and shoot? Just the things that let them know that you can now work in a security detail.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND SECURITY IS BIG BUSINESS. BLACKWATER CONTRACTS IN IRAQ ARE SAID TO BE WORTH HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS...WHICH HAS TRANSLATED INTO A PRETTY GOOD LIVING FOR ANYONE WILLING TO TAKE THE RISK OF WORKING IN IRAQ.

RATHER

Tell me who these security contractors are.

PELTON

The modern day security contractors, typically someone with a military background-- they tend to be between the ages of, let's say, 30 and 50. They come from either rural or areas where there aren't a lot of industry, and they work over in Iraq. Essentially security jobs, and they work for, let's say, three months to six months. And it's a-- nomadic career, a nomadic lifestyle. They tend to be sort of right of center, in terms of their political views. And they tend to be, sort of, God fearing, hard working people.

RATHER

And why do they do it?

PELTON

Well, you know, in my book I know that's-- that's the number one question. Why would somebody go to Iraq, or Afghanistan, put their life at risk-- when they've got family, wife. You know, they're not young guys. What I found was financial desperation. The stories-- once these guys have a couple of beers, and you're sitting alone with them, is that they gotta pay a mortgage. They really can't get similar quality wages with their experience. Now, they'll mix it in with patriotism. They'll mix it in with the fact that I'm-- I'm missing the action. I want to get back with the guys. Which is all legitimate. But there is no other line of work in which these guys can make \$500 to \$600 a day.

RATHER

Now, you said the profile for most of 'em is 30 to 50. When they were in the service, typically what did they do?

PELTON

The industry would like you to believe that these guys all jump out of planes at 50,000 feet and strangle people with dental floss. No. The-- the typical security contractor is a Marine. Is a slightly better than average soldier-- who goes through a PSD class, in other words, a Private Security Detail class. Has basic levels of physical fitness, but other than in the Navy SEALs and Special Forces, there is really no personal security detail training within the military. Or was, at the time. There is a certain kind of person that-- that likes that. There-- there's a certain person that misses the intensity, and focus, and drama of an area of conflict and danger. And-- and I won't deny them this, because-- I've interviewed many, many people. And I've-- and I've been in the field with many people, and they can't hack it back home. You know? Yes, they've got a wife and kids. Yes, they've got two cars. Yes, they've got a job. But it drives them nuts. So, this is a chance at age 30, age 35, age 40 to get back into the scene, to get all jocked up and-- and do something that you were trained to do. It's surprising to see how happy some of these people are over there. Even though they live in sort of a frat house with guns, and even though the-- the conditions are terrible, they like being with the guys. It's almost like being back on the football team. It is a male dominated market. It's a-- testosterone driven market. And if I had a nickel for every shaved head, Fu Manchu moustache, and tattoo I'd be a wealthy man. The next big thing is we will fight our wars by proxy. By using private security contractors to do our dirty work. And right now they're very civilized, nice people. But they're slowly transitioning into people we don't recognize.

For example, two years ago I would've said to you that the typical security contractor is a good ole boy from the southeast part of the U.S., ex-military. I would say, now, it's more likely he worked in the death squad in El Salvador. Or that he worked in the Nigerian army. Or that he was in Colombia doing drug operations. In other words, the face, and the shape and the pay rate of these people that do our bidding is changing. It's basically out-sourcing.

RATHER

This may be an important point. Shou--this is the way that "warrior for hire" if you can put it that way has changed. And it's morphed into hire people who used to be in death squads in Salvador—

PELTON

It's a business.

RATHER

--pr-- protecting pipelines in Colombia—

PELTON

Well, I'll-- I'll—

PELTON

--working in Niger—

PELTON

--give you an example. You want to go to Iraq. You're say, "I need protection. So I want the best. I want 12 guys, what they call tier one guys, SAS, Delta Force, I want the top. I want the best. They're gonna charge you \$700, \$1200 a day. That's what they're gonna get paid. They're gonna double that, and charge you that. You're gonna say, "Woo, you know, our budget's a little tight. What've you got? We'll take two of those guys, and we'll take-- LNs, local nationals. Ahhh, well, we don't want the Iraqi guy with one eye and a-- and a beat up AK. What's above that? TCNs, third country nationals. Okay, that's good. What are they-- the Colombians, you know, Ugandans. How much are they? \$250 a day. Okay, I can handle it." So, in other words, the business shapes what happens here. It's not patriotism. It's not because we need to hire Americans to defend reconstruction. It's, "How much does it cost? I can't pay that." So then we go out further and further to find people who fit that role

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND SOME PEOPLE WHO FIT THAT ROLE HAVE BEEN GIVING BLACKWATER A BAD NAME.

PELTON

For example, there was a shooting in a Christmas party on December 24th by a Blackwater employee. He shot an Iraqi. Now, under normal circumstances, he would be arrested by Iraqi police, and he would be put in jail and tried with murder. He was put on a plane and sent out of the country. When you call Blackwater and say, "Hey, que paso?" Nothing. When you talk to the U.S. government, they say, "Well, we can't really confirm or deny. We really don't want to comment on it." And you're thinking, "Wait a second. There was a murder committed by a U.S. citizen in a country, and somehow it doesn't seem to matter." Now, that is unique to contractors.

RATHER

If you've been in the U.S. military, you've been facing court martial.

PELTON

Instantly. Instantly. And it's-- and his cohorts would turn him in. This is the key. Because the standard of accountability makes everyone stronger. In other words, the-- the weak, as they get trimmed out, makes the rest better. In this particular case, these guys are disposable. Now, there are some fantastic guys working as contractors, and there are some absolute sleaze bags working as contractors. Do you know the difference? I don't. You know, if I look at their quals, if I look to their files, maybe I could find out that this guy used to be an alcoholic. But, you as a taxpayer, cannot figure out behind those sunglasses whether that guy is an ace or whether he's a crasher.

RATHER

But what does this do to-- one of the tenets of fighting insurrections-- guerilla warfare, that you're supposed to win the hearts and minds of the people? If an independent contractor shoots my son, for whatever reason, and then high tailed it out of the country, and everybody sort of covers over it, I'm going to feel infuriated about that.

PELTON

First of all, they don't care, because they're not working for you. They're not working for the government. They're working for the client. And if the client needs to get from Point A to Point B, and this client's going from Point A to Point B, and they meet at an intersection, they shoot at each other. I mean, they use guns like horns. It's-- it's getting different these days. But the bottom line is that you are charged with the protection of your cargo. Your-- your client, the guy that pays your check, needs to get from here to there alive. Now, if an Iraqi's in your way, boom, off the road he goes. If a guy looks suspicious, brrrt, you zipper his hood. If a guy keeps coming at you, and he doesn't stop, one in front of him, one in the engine block, one into the head. So, the bottom line is that you are judged on the ability to keep your client safe. Now, you may say, "Well, I'm sorry, I'm a taxpayer. I-- I obliquely pay your salary. This doesn't look like hearts and minds. It looks like, sort of, thuggism. It looks like a war lord going to work in the morning. They say, "I don't care. That's not what I do here. We're here to protect our clients." Because it's the client, getting from Point A to Point B. Can you imagine if, in New York City, your job was to get from downtown to uptown, and you had 12 guys leaning out the doors with M4s, popping off at people, how long people would be happy about you going to work every day.

RATHER

Well, Police Commissioner, Ray Kelly, would have them all arrested.

PELTON

Well, guess who's in those cars? State Department officials. That's who Blackwater protects in Iraq. So the point is if-- if your local representative gets to work by shooting at people every day, you're gonna have problems. It is quite normal around the world to see private security. If you live in South Africa, and if you-- do business with diamonds in-- you know, sort of dodgy places like Kazakhstan or whatever-- Colombia-- people have private guards. They-- they have people that sit on either side of them in armored cars with guys with machine guns. It's the normal way of doing business in most of the world. It's only Americans with their sort of Pollyanna view that somehow when we travel around, we don't need that. And-- and we are now targets. You know, after 9/11, it was very clear to all Americans that wherever we go, we are a very attractive target either for kidnapping, murder, terrorism, extortion or whatever. And these companies are filling that void, because I can't call up George Bush and say, "Hey, I'm going to Nigeria next week. Can you send me five Marines or ten Marines, 'cause I'm a little nervous?" So, these companies fill that gap. And it is a natural evolution of what is going on in the world.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

TONIGHT WE REPORTED ON THE UNITED STATES ' COMMAND FOR AFRICA, A CONTINENT THAT HAS SUDDENLY GAINED IMPORTANCE AMONG PENTAGON PLANNERS. WE ALSO TALKED ABOUT A CORPORATION HIRED TO DO THINGS THAT, IN OTHER WARS, WOULD HAVE BEEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY. EXPANDING THIS COUNTRY'S ROLE IN THE WORLD REQUIRES NOT JUST TECHNOLOGY AND INGENUITY, BUT MEN AND WOMEN ON THE GROUND. AND ONE WAY TO FIND THEM IS TO SIGN UP VOLUNTEERS; THE SOLDIER'S LIFE HAS ALWAYS ATTRACTED THE DAREDEVIL, THE PATRIOT, AND THE POOR MAN. ANOTHER WAY TO FIND THEM IS TO LEAVE THE HIRING TO PRIVATE COMPANIES AND THEN PAY THOSE COMPANIES, AS WE HAVE SEEN TONIGHT. A THIRD WAY, OF COURSE, IS TO REQUIRE SERVICE. AFTER THE SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT CREATED A NATIONAL DRAFT IN 1917, TWO GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS RESPONDED TO THE CALL TO NATIONAL SERVICE, FIGHTING AND WINNING WORLD WARS I AND II. THOSE WARS HAD MASSIVE POPULAR SUPPORT, AND THE UNITED STATES SAW THEM THROUGH TO THE BITTER END. BUT IN VIETNAM, THE DRAFT GALVANIZED A GENERATION IN PROTESTS THAT EVENTUALLY LED TO AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CONFLICT. A MILITARY COMPOSED "OF THE PEOPLE" IS A MILITARY CONTROLLED "BY THE PEOPLE." TRUE CIVILIAN CONTROL OF THE ARMED FORCES REQUIRES A COMMON EXPERIENCE AND LANGUAGE. NOW WE FIND OURSELVES IN ANOTHER CONTENTIOUS WAR, AND YET THE ONLY SACRIFICE ASKED BY OUR PRESIDENT OF CIVILIANS IN THE WAKE OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF 9/11 IS "CONTINUED PARTICIPATION . . . IN THE AMERICAN ECONOMY." EVEN THE IMPACT OF THE WAR ON AMERICANS WHO DO CHOOSE TO SERVE IS MASKED WHEN FIGHTING IS OUTSOURCED TO PRIVATE CONTRACTORS LIKE BLACKWATER.

AS WE BECOME MORE ACTIVE AROUND THE WORLD, THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS ARE SEEING LESS OF THE BLOOD AND SWEAT THESE MISSIONS REQUIRE. WHO, THEN, WILL PARTICIPATE WHEN WE START THE NATIONAL DEBATE ABOUT OUR PROPER ROLE IN YEARS TO COME? FOR HD NET, DAN RATHER REPORTING. GOOD NIGHT.