

CNO & G. Gordon Liddy Discuss SEALs & Riverine Force

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Presenter: Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen April 19, 2006

(Excerpt)

Radio Interview with Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen on the G.

Gordon Liddy Show

“LIDDY: Admiral Mike Mullen, he is the Chief of Naval Operations, and as you might imagine he is a Naval Academy Graduate — of the music — and admiral, thanks so much for joining us.

ADM. MULLEN: How are you?

LIDDY: Well, thank you, and I've got a question for you.

ADM. MULLEN: Sure.

LIDDY: Last year in the Pentagon, my son, Commander Jim Liddy retired. He was at the time assigned working with the Assistant SECDEF for counter terrorism and low intensity warfare. So I knew he was doing that, but for the 20 years prior to that as a SEAL he was in 37 different countries, and all he will tell me is that he was working in the war on terror. Will you please tell me what you were doing with my son for 15 years?

ADM. MULLEN: Well, I can say that your son served exceptionally well and he served in a wonderful part of our Navy with our Navy SEALs who are heavily involved — one of the parts of the Navy they're heavily involved in, the current effort of what we call the long war, this global war on terror, and they're having a great impact. So I'm proud to say that I am able to associate myself with young men and women like your son.

LIDDY: Well, thank you, sir. Now I was last on extended active duty in the army, sorry about that, but 53 years ago, so I'm not really up to speed on what you all are doing these days, especially in the Navy, but I understand that you have ordered the establishment of a new Riverine Force for the Navy, and I know that in Vietnam those people played a very vital role. Can you tell us what these days you can use that force for?

ADM. MULLEN: Yes, sir, I can. Actually, we have put in place a new Riverine Force to initially, to actually create a squadron that will go to Iraq and relieve the Marines in a critical dam there called Haditha Dam, but that'll be the initial squadron that will go out in about a year. They will be part of what is today, almost 4,000 Sailors that we have on the ground in Iraq and in that theater what we call the CENTCOM theater that we've got almost 10,000 Sailors on the ground throughout the theater, including the 4,000 that I mentioned in Iraq. So in the Riverine Force that will be an initial place that we'll go, but down the road it will not be unlike the force that we had in Vietnam. It's to provide the kind of security and capability in the rivers and in the waters close to shore, in ports and harbors and countries all over the world with whom we think we need to engage both, in particular, in a friendly way....”