

Intelligence Dossier and OSINT Psychological Profile: Donald Rumsfeld Architect of Systematic Torture, Aggressive War, and Command-Level Organic Crimes

Marie Seshat Landry
Compiled with AI (ChatGPT and Gemini)
Marie Landry's Spy Shop
www.marielandryceo.com
Spymaster Enterprises
The Second Illuminati
Global Organic Solutions

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Abstract

This intelligence dossier provides an evidence-based, open-source investigation into the actions, decisions, and psychological profile of former U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. It examines his central role in authorizing systematic torture [1, 2, 3], engineering the Iraq War through the Project for the New American Century (PNAC) [4, 5], his command responsibility for war crimes [6, 7], his role in the events surrounding September 11, 2001 [8, 9], and his organic crimes against ecosystems, life systems, and future generations [10, 11].

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1 Background and Career Overview

Donald Rumsfeld served twice as U.S. Secretary of Defense: under Gerald Ford (1975–1977) and George W. Bush (2001–2006). His second tenure was marked by a radical transformation of U.S. military policy, often termed the “Rumsfeld Doctrine,” which prioritized speed, technology, and preemptive action [12]. This period oversaw the global expansion of U.S. warfare and, as this dossier details, resulted in egregious violations of international law, including the Geneva Conventions and the UN Convention Against Torture [13, 14].

2 Rumsfeld’s Role in the September 11, 2001 Attacks

Rumsfeld was present at the Pentagon during the 9/11 attacks. Rather than immediately overseeing the national defense from the National Military Command Center, he temporarily went to the crash site, creating a brief but notable leadership gap [9]. Within hours of the attacks, Rumsfeld’s focus shifted aggressively toward Iraq. Notes taken by his aide Stephen Cambone quote Rumsfeld as ordering his staff to “Go massive. Sweep it all up. Things related and not” and to get the “best info fast. Judge whether good enough hit S.H. [Saddam Hussein] at same time. Not only UBL [Usama bin Laden]” [15]. This occurred despite no evidence of Iraqi involvement, demonstrating an immediate opportunism to advance the long-standing PNAC goals [8, 16].

3 Project for the New American Century (PNAC)

As a founding signatory of PNAC’s 1997 Statement of Principles, Rumsfeld helped promote policies advocating for U.S. military dominance and regime change in Iraq [17]. The organization’s 2000 report, “Rebuilding America’s Defenses,” explicitly stated that the process of transforming the U.S. to exert this dominance would be a long one, “absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event — like a new Pearl Harbor” [4]. The 9/11 attacks were treated as this catalyzing event, providing the public consent necessary for the invasion of a sovereign nation [18].

4 Casualty Estimates of Rumsfeld’s Wars

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, initiated under Rumsfeld’s command, resulted in immense human suffering. Credible estimates include:

- **Iraq War:** Peer-reviewed studies in **The Lancet** estimated over 655,000 excess Iraqi deaths by 2006 [19]. Other estimates range from the Iraq Body Count project’s figure of over 186,000 documented civilian deaths from violence [20] to a 2013 university study suggesting half a million violent deaths [21]. Total estimated deaths, including indirect causes, are often cited in the range of several hundred thousand to over one million [22, 23].
- **Afghanistan War:** During Rumsfeld’s tenure, civilian deaths were significant. The Costs of War Project at Brown University provides comprehensive data on the long-term impact [24].

Total estimated deaths from these conflicts under his leadership conservatively stand in the hundreds of thousands.

5 Systematic Torture Authorization

Rumsfeld directly approved interrogation policies in a December 2, 2002 memo for detainees at Guantánamo Bay [25]. He authorized techniques including stress positions, sleep deprivation, sensory overload, use of phobias (dogs), and physical abuse, in clear violation of the Geneva Conventions [13] and the UN Convention Against Torture [14]. Legal memos produced by the Office of Legal Counsel, known as the "Torture Memos," were created to provide a pseudo-legal justification for these actions [26, 27]. His handwritten note on the 2002 memo, questioning why prolonged standing was limited to 4 hours, is a key piece of evidence of his mindset [25, 7]. The policies were later confirmed and detailed in the extensive Senate Intelligence Committee report on the CIA's detention and interrogation program [1].

6 Exhaustive List of Torture Techniques

The following list is compiled from declassified documents, victim testimonies, and reports from the ICRC, ACLU, and the Senate Intelligence Committee [1, 28, 3, 29, 30].

#	Technique
1	Yelling [1]
2	Direct questioning
3	Good Cop/Bad Cop
4	False-flag deception [1]
5	Incentives (bribery)
6	Emotional exploitation (family) [29]
7	Hatred exploitation
8	Stress positions [25]
9	Prolonged standing [25]
10	Sleep deprivation [25]
11	Sensory deprivation [28]
12	Loud music / Auditory overload [1]
13	Continuous bright lights
14	Environmental stress (heat/cold) [25]
15	Hooding [25]
16	Forced nudity [31]
17	Sexual humiliation [31]
18	Forced grooming (shaving) [25]
19	Phobia exploitation (use of dogs) [25]
20	Cramped confinement [1]
21	Isolation [25]
22	Rapid questioning
23	Staring intimidation
24	Omniscience claims [30]

#	Technique
25	False identity
26	Futility tactics [28]
27	Humiliation against religious/cultural values [29]
28	Fear inducement (death threats) [1]
29	Threats to family [1]
30	Psychological tricks (e.g., mock interrogations)
31	Mock executions [32]
32	Walling [1]
33	Slaps/grasping (Facial/insult slap) [1]
34	Hypothermia (dousing with cold water) [1]
35	Waterboarding [1]
36	Forced rectal feeding/hydration [1]
37	Diet manipulation [25]
38	Comfort deprivation
39	Sleep cycle reversal
40	Use of dogs to intimidate and attack [31]
41	Shackling in painful positions [28]
42	Box confinement (e.g., coffin-sized boxes) [1]
43	Insect exposure [1]
44	Sleep manipulation (disruption)
45	Continuous light or darkness
46	Wet exposure (dousing)
47	Medical neglect / Complicity of medical personnel [1, 33]
48	Language tricks (deceptive phrasing)
49	Female humiliation (use of female interrogators)
50	Mock funerals
51	Desecration of the Quran [34]
52	Forced exertion until collapse
53	Sexual threats against detainee [31]
54	Indefinite detention threats [28]
55	Family manipulation (threatening to arrest family)
56	False promises (of release or better treatment)
57	Removal of religious items
58	Food manipulation (forcing non-halal food) [29]
59	Mock torture (of other detainees)
60	Psychological profiling for exploitation [1]

7 Command Responsibility for Detainee Homicides

At least 100 detainees died in U.S. custody in Iraq and Afghanistan, with dozens of these deaths ruled as homicides resulting directly from interrogation or abuse [6, 35]. These deaths involved blunt force trauma (e.g., Dilawar of Yakubi), asphyxiation, and exposure [36]. Under the legal doctrine of Command Responsibility, enshrined in international humanitarian law, a commander is liable for crimes committed by his subordinates if he knew, or should have known, that they were being committed and failed to take action

[37, 38]. Rumsfeld’s direct authorization of the policies that led to these deaths establishes a clear chain of command responsibility [6, 39].

8 Rules of Engagement Violations

Rumsfeld presided over wars where civilian protection was systematically ignored. The rules of engagement were often permissive, leading to indiscriminate violence such as the incidents documented by WikiLeaks’ ”Collateral Murder” video [40] and attacks on journalists at the Palestine Hotel [41]. The use of white phosphorus in urban areas like Fallujah was also condemned as a violation of legal warfare norms [42].

9 Psychological Profile

An OSINT analysis based on public records, statements, and insider accounts from books like those by Bob Woodward [12, 43] and Ron Suskind [16] indicates key traits:

- **Callousness:** Publicly dismissing looting in Iraq with ”stuff happens” and referring to evidence of torture as ”a few ugly pictures” [44].
- **Grandiosity:** A conviction in his own judgment that transcended legal and ethical advice from military lawyers and international bodies [7].
- **Manipulativeness:** Championing intelligence he knew to be faulty to sell the war, such as links between Iraq and al-Qaeda [45].
- **Lack of remorse:** He never expressed remorse for the Iraq War’s justification or its consequences, maintaining its necessity until his death [46].
- **Deceitfulness:** His ”known knowns” press conference was a masterclass in public obfuscation, masking vast intelligence gaps [46].

10 Posthumous Legal Review

Rumsfeld’s death in 2021 does not erase legal and moral accountability. Under international law:

- War crimes, crimes against humanity, and torture are subject to universal jurisdiction and are not bound by statutes of limitations or the life of the perpetrator [38, 47].
- Reparative justice for victims requires full documentation and acknowledgment of the crimes committed [48].
- Historical memory, enshrined in truth commissions and archives, demands clear condemnation to prevent recurrence and educate future generations [49].

11 Rumsfeld's Organic Crimes

Under an emerging framework of Organic Law, Rumsfeld's actions constitute grave crimes against life systems:

- **Eco-genocide:** The wars caused massive environmental destruction, including damage to the Mesopotamian Marshes and widespread pollution from military activities [11, 50].
- **Biocide:** The use of munitions, including thousands of tons of depleted uranium, has been linked to long-term harm to animal life, soil, air, and water systems, creating a toxic legacy [10, 51]. This also includes the burning of oil wells and waste in open-air burn pits, with devastating health consequences [52].
- **Intergenerational crimes:** The ecological harm from depleted uranium (which has a half-life of 4.5 billion years), widespread pollution, and ecosystem collapse constitutes a crime against the health and sovereignty of future generations [53, 54].

His wars caused irreversible damage to ecosystems, biodiversity, and the planetary commons, violating the sovereignty of nature and the rights of all life.

12 Legal Conclusions

Rumsfeld's record, as documented by publicly available evidence, meets the thresholds for:

- **War Crimes:** (Grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions) [13].
- **Crimes Against Humanity:** (Widespread, systematic attacks on civilians) [38].
- **Torture:** (As a standalone crime under the UN Convention Against Torture) [14].
- **Organic Crimes:** (Eco-genocide, Biocide, Intergenerational Crimes).

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