

Think Progress » Bush May Fire CentCom Chief Adm. Fallon, Replace With Commander More 'Pliable' To War With Iran - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://thinkprogress.org/2008/03/05/fallon-bush-fire/ Admiral Fallon Resigns

Hot topics: Iraq Ethics Media Radical Right Global Warming Military

[Register | Login]

A SECURE AMERICA

Bush May Fire CentCom Chief Adm. Fallon, Replace With Commander More 'Pliable' To War With Iran

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has called CENTCOM commander Adm. William Fallon "**one of the best strategic thinkers in uniform today.**" Fallon **opposed the "surge" in Iraq** and has consistently battled the Bush administration to avoid a confrontation with Iran, calling officials' war-mongering "**not helpful.**" Privately, he has vowed that an attack on Iran "**will not happen on my watch.**"

Unfortunately, this level-headed thinking and willingness to stand up to President Bush may cost him his job. According to a new article by Thomas P.M. Barnett in the April issue of *Esquire* magazine (on newsstands March 12), Fallon may be prematurely "relieved of his command" as soon as this summer:

[W]ell-placed observers now say that it will come as no surprise if Fallon is relieved of his command before his time is up next spring, maybe as early as this summer, in favor of a commander the White House considers to be more pliable. If that were to happen, it may well mean that the president and vice-president intend to take military action against Iran before the end of this year and don't want a commander standing in their way.

In the *Esquire* article, Fallon also said that he was in "hot water" with the White House for meeting with Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak. Fallon noted that such meetings are his job, and essential to making sure that regional leaders don't get "too spun up" by the administration's war rhetoric.

In today's White House press briefing, a reporter asked spokeswoman Dana Perino about the *Esquire* piece. Perino refused to say whether Fallon's position is secure until the end of his tenure, instead attacking "rumor mills that don't turn out to be true." Watch it:

SUBSCRIBE TO THE PROGRESS REPORT

It's the daily newsletter from the writers of Think Progress. Featuring hard-hitting research and analysis you can't find anywhere else.

Enter your e-mail address

THINK PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- + Architects of The Iraq War: Where Are They Now?
- + Coalition of the Defeated
- + No Good Military Options in Iran: The Experts Agree
- + REPORT: The Right Wing Domination Of Talk Radio And How To End It
- + Timeline Of The Iraq War

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

ARCHIVES

TOPICS

LINKS

ABOUT THINK PROGRESS

CONTACT US

Transferring data from video.thinkprogress.org...

Now: Sunny, 67° F Wed: 69° F Thu: 58° F

start Inbox - Microsoft Out... Think Progress » Bus... Microsoft FrontPage -...

4:54 PM