

## Correspondence with Tom Ricks

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Ricks [mailto:rickst@washpost.com]

Sen ovember 01, 2008 6:02 PM

To: (b)(3), (b)(6) MAJ Media Operations Chief

Sub news from my security guys on scheduling (UNCLASSIFIED)

Thank you for the offer, but I can't do it--under the ceasefire agreement with my wife that permits me to go to Iraq (and negotiated after a bombing in 2004), I obey all security rules, and that includes moving around on Route Irish in the dark. It would be a shame to mess up on my 14th and I hope last trip to Iraq.

No worries--if I find there is something essential I need from General Austin, I will follow up with an e-mail to you.

By the way, it looks like my day at Camps Victory/Liberty is Nov. 5/6, right? So I think I need to JVB just one night, the night of Wed. Nov. 5.

Thanks,  
Tom

" (b)(3), (b)(6) MAJ Media Operations Chief" < (b)(3), (b)(6) (b)(2) > wrote on 11/01/2008 10:59:56 AM:

> Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

> Caveats: NONE

>

> Sir -- the CG's schedule is very tight on the 5th and 6th. Would really

> like to keep the 1900 appointment on the 6th if at all possible.

>

> I'll drive you to ECP13 at 4am the next morning if need be.

>

> (b)(3), (b)(6)

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Tom Ricks [mailto:rickst@washpost.com]

> Sen ovember 01, 2008 3:28 PM

> To: (b)(3), (b)(6) MAJ Media Operations Chief

> Sub s from my security guys on scheduling

>

>

> My security guys say I can't do the LTG Austin interview at 7 pm on

> Thursday because they need me back in the buro that night so they can

> get me to the commercial side of the airport early the next morning.  
>  
> I could do it the night before.  
>  
> This also obviously changes my JVB request--I don't need it Thursday  
> night, but would need it Wednesday night, if LTG Austin can move the  
> interview to then.  
>  
> Thanks,  
> Tom  
>>  
>  
> " (b)(3), (b)(6) MAJ Media Operations Chief"  
> (b)(3), (b)(6) (b)(2)  
>  
> 10/31/2008 09:49 AM To  
> "Tom Ricks" <[rickst@washpost.com](mailto:rickst@washpost.com)>  
> cc  
> Subject  
> RE: Checking In for 6 Nov (UNCLASSIFIED)  
>  
> >  
> Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
> Caveats: NONE  
>  
> Sir --  
>  
> When would you like to check in to/out of the JVB?  
>  
> Also, do you have a bio you can share?  
>  
> s,  
>(b)(3), (b)(6)  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Tom Ricks [mailto:[rickst@washpost.com](mailto:rickst@washpost.com)]  
> Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2008 9:04 PM  
> To: (b)(3), (b)(6) MAJ Media Operations Chief  
> Subject: Re: Checking In for 6 Nov (UNCLASSIFIED)  
>  
>  
> This looks good. BG Alllyn may remember me from a pre-deployment  
> meeting we both attended at Quantico.  
>  
> Yes, I will need to stay at the JVB, as my bureau's security rules don't  
> permit to travel after dark.

>  
 > If you could hook me up with the C-2, and with some planners, I'd  
 > appreciate it. I'd especially like to talk to them about a. the state of  
 > the Sons of Iraq and b. what the provincial elections look like.  
 >  
 > Best,  
 > Tom  
 >  
 >  
 > Military Correspondent  
 > The Washington Post  
 > [rickst@washpost.com](mailto:rickst@washpost.com)  
 >  
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 >  
 >  
 >  
 > " (b)(3), (b)(6) tions Chief"  
 > (b)(3), (b)(6) (b)(2)  
 >  
 > 10/30/2008 04:52 AM To  
 > "Tom Ricks" <[rickst@washpost.com](mailto:rickst@washpost.com)>  
 > cc  
 > Subject  
 > Checking In for 6 Nov (UNCLASSIFIED)  
 >  
 >  
 > Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
 > Caveats: NONE  
 >  
 > Sir --  
 >  
 > I'm the Media Relations Officer for MNC-I and am lining up your  
 > interviews for 6 Nov.  
 >  
 > So far, I have:  
 >  
 > 10:30am BG Dan Allyn, MNC-I Chief of Staff  
 >  
 > 1:30pm LTC (b)(3), (b)(6) MNC-I Chief of



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Cc: Buckne I CORPS PAO; Boylan, Steven COL MNF-I CMD GRP  
(CG PAO); (b)(3), (b)(6) LTC MND-B PAO  
Subject: Tom Ricks Interviews

All,

I am rescheduling Tom Ricks interviews. I have the MNC-I and MNF-I CG's scheduled. I have inverted the schedule locations, CV first and then the IZ to meet these two CG's schedules. (See Schedule attached) The days in the IZ and CV are the only fixed dates, the activities can be adjusted inside those two periods.

This trip is a continuation of the project Tom began a bit over a year ago, with the blessing of General Petraeus. Since then, Tom has done trips in May and November 2007, and January-February 2008. On each trip he conducted about two dozen interviews.

He is looking at how the conduct of Surge operations is being executed.

In the past, he'd start on Camp Victory with General Odierno, and then usually also see his chief of staff, his chief of plans and the planning staff, and some other people (sometimes guys in the reconciliation cell, sometimes whoever Odierno had asked him to see to follow up and get details on things he had said to him). While there He will also see some of Petraeus's staff, such a members of his CIG. Finally, he'd go over to MND-B and do a day of interviews there, usually with the CG, the ADC, the chief of plans, the intel guys, and the ops guy.

The ground rules for the interviews generally were the same as originally laid down for the project: Everything said is embargoed for use until after mid-November 2008. (In reality, it looks like the book will be published in late January 2009, and excerpted in the Washington Post at that time.) The exception to this ground rule has been with MND-B, where we generally have put everything on the record for use in the newspaper now, mainly so he can write an article for the newspaper to make them happier about the paying expense of these trips.

Since for some this would be the first round of interviews he'll would begin by getting some contextual information:

--How did you prepare for this deployment? Was it different from preparing for earlier deployments?

--What was your thinking coming in?

--(For Austin): What was the best advice General Odierno gave you?

--What have been the surprises since you came in? (That is, things different from what you expected.)

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Generally, his questions for this round of interviews will focus on Jan-Feb-March 2008, because he has found that backward-looking interviews are the most productive in this project. (It's easy to understand why: Current events are fuzzier than the past, which develops for us like a photograph as you come to see the meaning and consequences of events.)

On his previous trips, the corps interviews have been terrifically helpful to him, and this project is supported by GEN Petraeus

The requests on the schedule are guides, if people have been replaced then please try to find a suitable replacement. If there is someone you want to add feel free to recommend. I'll keep the master schedule, just to avoid conflicts. This is the group I will be working with, if you want me to add someone to the distro list please ask.

Thanks

Joe

Joseph M. Yoswa  
LTC, U.S. Army  
MNF

Cell: (b)(2)

COM (b)(2)

DSN: (b)(2)

SVOIP: (b)(2)

[www.mnf-iraq.com](http://www.mnf-iraq.com)

[www.booksforsoldiers.com](http://www.booksforsoldiers.com)

[joseph.yoswa](mailto:joseph.yoswa) (b)(2)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

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-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Ricks [mailto:rickst@washpost.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2008 8:16 PM

To: Yoswa, Joseph M LTC MNF-I CMD GRP (

Cc: Buckner, Bill J COL MNC-I CORPS PAO; (b)(3), (b)(6) LTC MNC-I PAO  
Chief of Media Relations

Subject: RE: MNC-I Interviews (UNCLASSIFIED)

Just to clarify: Most of the Odierno interviews were embargoed, in keeping with the project ground rules. But after each of the interviews I'd pick one or two quotes that I would like to use in a news story, and e-mail

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them to him and his PA, and they would clear for usage in a newspaper story, which usually would appear within a few days.

Cheers,  
Tom

Military Correspondent  
The Washington Post  
rickst@washpost.com

Read articles at:  
<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/staff/articles/thomas+e.+ricks/>

"Yoswa, Josep (b)(2) D GRP (Deputy PAO)"  
<joseph.yoswa (b)(2)  
05/14/2008 11:

< (b)(3), (b)(6) MNC-I PAO Chief of Media Relations"  
(b)(3), (b)(6) (b)(2) >  
C-I CORPS PAO" <bill.buckner (b)(2)  
Subject: RE: MNC-I Interviews (UNCLASSIFIED)

(b)(3), (b)(6)

He is currently scheduled with GEN Petraeus, AMB Crocker, LTG Dubik and I also have confirmations from most of the CG's personal and supporting staff. I know TF 134 would like to spend half a day with him at Camp Cropper on Victory base complex, but that needs to be de-conflicted with other parts of the schedule.

I also believe LTG Odierno did his interviews on the record, at least that's what James told me. That was his preference.

Joe

Joseph M. Yoswa  
LTC, U.S. Army  
MNF-I CG, Dep PAO  
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joseph.yoswa (b)(2)

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Ricks [mailto:rickst@washpost.com]  
Sent: 14, 2008 6:13 PM  
To: (b)(3), (b)(6) LTC MNC-I PAO Chief of Media Relations  
Cc: MNC-I CORPS PAO; Tom Ricks  
Subject: Re: MNC-I Interviews (UNCLASSIFIED)

Colonel (b)(3), (b)(6)--

Thanks, and good to hear from you.

This trip is a continuation of the project I began a bit over a year ago, with the blessing of General Petraeus. Since then, I have done trips in May and November 2007, and January-February 2008. On each trip I have conducted about two dozen interviews. Usually I start downtown with Petraeus and his aides. I also try to see Ambassador Crocker. Then, after about three days of IZ interviews, I move out to Victory and see people at Corps. In the past, I'd start with General Odierno, and then usually also see his chief of staff, his chief of plans and the planning staff, and some other people (sometimes guys in the reconciliation cell, sometimes whoever Odierno had asked me to see to follow up and get details on things he had said to me). While at Victory, I'd also see some of Petraeus's people who were based there, such a members of his CIG. Finally, I'd go over to MND-B and do a day of itnerviews there, usually with the CG, the ADC, the chief of plans, the intel guys, and the ops guy.

The ground rules for the interviews generally were the same as originally laid down for the project: Everything said is embargoed for use until after mid-November 2008. (In reality, it looks like the book will be published in late January 2009, and excerpted in my newspaper at that time.) The exception to this ground rule has been with MND-B, where we generally have put everything on the record for use in the newspaper now,

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mainly so I can write an article for the newspaper to make them happier about the paying expense of these trips. (The RT air ticket alone is now more than \$3,000.)

As for what I would like to ask about. With General Austin and others, since this would be the first round of interviews with the new corps headquarters, I would begin by getting some contextual information:

--How did you prepare for this deployment? Was it different from preparing for earlier deployments?

--What was your thinking coming in?

--(For Austin): What was the best advice General Odierno gave you?

--What have been the surprises since you came in? (That is, things different from what you expected.)

Generally, my questions in this round of interviews will focus on Jan-Feb-March 2008, because I have found that backward-looking interviews are the most productive in this project. (It's easy to understand why: Current events are fuzzier than the past, which develops for us like a photograph as we come to see the meaning and consequences of events.)

On my previous trips, the corps interviews have been terrifically helpful to me, so I hope we can continue to do them. I like them especially because they help me connect what I hear from MNF-I to what is happening on the ground. Keep in mind that I am flexible: If there are people you

think I should see, please go ahead and put them on my schedule. It is no problem that some people have rotated out--I simply would like to see their successors, as I have done with MNF-I, as when MG Fastabend was replaced by MG Barbero (both GREAT interviews, by the way).

If you have any questions, or there is anything else I can do to help set this up, please do let me know.

Thanks for your help,  
Tom

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Military Correspondent  
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" (b)(3), (b)(6) LTC MNC-I PAO Chief of Media Relations"  
< (b)(3), (b)(6) (b)(2)  
0

To: <rickst@washpost.com>  
cc: " MNC-I CORPS PAO"  
<bill.buckner (b)(2)  
Subject ws (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Tom,

It's good to hear that you will be back in country...we look forward to having you here. To assist with the MNC-I interviews, I wanted to ask if we could get more details about what you would like to discuss. Particularly for your request to speak with LTG Austin, we will need to pass along to him a fairly detailed outline of what you would like to speak about. Reference the C2 and C3 interviews, I believe the majority of the people you listed in your schedule have redeployed. If you can give me better detail of the content areas you would like to discuss with those staff offices, that will assist with pulling together the best subject matter experts.

Thanks

Lt. Col. (b)(3), (b)(6)  
Chief, Media Operations Division  
Multi-National Corps - Iraq  
Camp ad  
VOIP: (b)(2)  
DSN: (b)(2)

IRAQNA Cell: (b)(2)  
MCI Cell: (b)(2)

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Caveats: NONE