Denial And Deception Strategy

- **Denial**
  - Conceal key personnel/equipment
  - Mask leadership movements

- **Deception**
  - False bombing targets
  - Divert strikes to civilian targets
  - False bomb damage

**Disinformation and Propaganda**

- Ensure leadership survival
- Generate opposition to US strikes
- Cause a “strategic incident”
- Discredit US air campaign
How to Recognize Manipulated Bomb Damage

- **Type of “bomb damage”**
  - Linear = collapsed wall/building
  - Scattered wreckage more likely to be actual damage

- **Real or set fires/scorching**
  - Tires or smoke pots would suggest staged incident
How to Recognize Manipulated Bomb Damage

• View entire area
• New or old damage
  – Afghanistan at war for 20+ years
• Bona fides of “spokesperson”
  – Real NGO representative?
  – Taliban official?
  – Unidentified person?

Scenes shown on TV may be a small part of the overall picture

Scene of incident
Staged crowd
Actual target
Actual target
How Disinformation Can Be Spread

Intelligence service makes covert press placement

Article/story published in sympathetic paper/media

Replayed by wire services/state media

Picked up by mainstream US media

- Agents of influence
- Trusted contacts
- Sympathetic journalists
Learning by Example?

Baghdad, 1991

Afghanistan, 16 October 2001
Possible Taliban Staged Tour for Journalists

12 Oct 01

- Sudden Taliban tour for 15 Western journalists
  - All previously refused entry to Afghanistan
- Staged visit to purported mass casualty site
  - Taliban vehicles
  - Night convoy
- Possible deliberate attempt to expose journalists to airstrikes